

Dr Egon Kunz 1922 – 1997

Professor Jerzy Zubrzycki

Egon Kunz — librarian, historian and a prominent student of refugee movements world-wide — died on Saturday 19 July 1997 at Calvary Hospital in Canberra. He had had cancer for some time.

Dr Kunz, known as Frank to his friends, was born in Budapest in 1922. After Soviet occupation of his native Hungary, he escaped to Austria and as a refugee he became eligible for migration to Australia in 1949. About fifty years later, in *Displaced persons: Calwell's new Australians* (1988), he was able to give a dispassionate account of the refugee experience in which he himself was once involved.

For seventeen years Dr Kunz worked in the Mitchell Library in Sydney, where he organised the first historical map collection in Australia and became senior librarian in charge of the manuscript room. Appointed in 1976 to the Senior Research Fellowship in the Research School of Social Sciences of the Australian National University, he took charge of the major research project designed to study the occupational integration of about 170 000 former displaced persons who came to Australia between 1946 and 1952. His book *The Intruders: refugee doctors in Australia* (1975) caused considerable controversy when it focused on the exclusionist attitude of the Australian Medical Association in the 1950s to the refugee doctors who were then seen as aspiring to the 'extraordinarily elevated status enjoyed by the Australian medical profession' committed to the 'preservation of scarcity' of doctors both for pecuniary and status reasons.

Several journal and encyclopedia articles followed on the topic of the former displaced persons culminating in the 1988 book.

The refugee experience, so central to Dr Kunz's academic work, led to field studies in Europe, Canada, the United States and then in the Pacific at the height of the boat people exodus from Vietnam. Much of this work was synthesised in a series of seminal articles on refugee theory published in the renowned *International Migration Review*.

As a senior librarian at the Australian National University and later (1980–84) while in charge of the library of the then Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Dr Kunz also continued the work on the history of Hungarian refugees, which had been launched in 1969 with the publication of *Blood and gold: Hungarians in Australia*. Another volume *Hungarians in Australia* was published in 1985 and an updated Hungarian language version was prepared during Dr Kunz's busy retirement. It will be published later in the year and has been recognised by the Hungarian government through a Cross of Merit award.

Dr Kunz is survived by his wife, Elsie, a professional librarian, cartographer and a co-author of their *A continent takes shape: Australian history through maps* (1975), and three sons, Peter, Chris and Stephen.

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up; 13/10 — informal post-conference at Cafe (TBA); 10/11 — bring a Library Technician; 8/12 — AGM and Christmas lunch (venue: TBA). Contact: Heather Gray, ph 07 3226 6184.

30/9–2/10 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (30/9), Business (1/10), Update (2/10). Brisbane contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **Oct Qld Branch** *Demystifying telecommunications.* Half day. Contact: Jenny McCarthy, ph 07 3864 3373, j.mccarthy@qut.edu.au.

• **2/10 Qld Cataloguers section** *Dewey 21: new numbers for an old game.* Audiographic teleconference linking Brisbane, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville. 1.30–4.30pm, \$35 ALIA members, \$40 non-members, \$30 students. Contact: Erhard Dehmelt, ph 07 3840 7848.

2/10–11/12 1997 Internet Destinations for Business. Hands-on training for business people, better search techniques, use of search engines, and an introduction to the best sites. (2/10; 13/11; 11/12) Conducted by BRISQ (State Library of Qld) and Sylvia Edwards, Associate Lecturer, QUT. 8.30–12pm, \$150. Contact: BRISQ, ph 07 3840 7787.

21–22/10 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. DIALOG Web Workshops (21/10 pm), Introductory DIALOG (22/10). Adelaide contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **12/11 Qld Branch.** Evening seminar — Kerry Smith, President ALIA. Contact: Janice Rickards, ph 07 3875 7134, j.rickards@ins.gu.edu.au.

SA

• **9/9–4/12 SA Health Libraries section meetings dates.** Meetings are held at SAHC at 1pm. (9/9; 5/11 — Conference report; 4/12 — AGM). To add items to the agenda or for apologies contact: Juliet Marconi, secretary, ph 08 8226 8157, or Anne Fricker, president, ph 08 8222 3224.

TAS

• **10/9–9/12 Tas Branch meetings dates.** State Library, Morris Miller Room, 91 Murray Street, Hobart, 4.30pm. (10/9; 14/10; 12/11; 9/12) Contact: Patsy Jones, ph 03 6233 7049, fx 03 6233 7845, Patsy.Jones@central.tased.edu.au.

• **24/9 TAS Special Libraries section.** Lunch meeting at Tatt's cafe, Murray St, Hobart. Contact: Jill McBride, ph 03 6233 6418, fx 03 6224 0884, jillmc@delm.tas.gov.au.

• **25/9 TAS Branch.** Internet sessions at TAFE, Hobart, with Greg Robinson. Search engine capabilities. Contact: Meredith Newman, ph 03 6232 5258, fx 03 6232 5103, newmandk@acslink.aone.net.au.

• **9/10 Tas Branch lunch meeting.** Kerry Smith, ALIA President, who will be speaking about Mentoring. Woolstore Restaurant, 11.30am. Kerry Smith's presentation 12.15–2pm. Cost: \$20 ALIA members, \$25 non-members, includes lunch. Contact: Meredith Newman, ph 03 6232 5258, fx 03 6232 5103.

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