

moved to its new building, she had become Cataloguing Librarian. Under Nancy Booker's direction, centralised cataloguing was extended to branch and department libraries, the resources of which were just beginning to be fully integrated into the total university library system. Significant inroads were made to arrears of earlier acquisitions. The Stewart collection of archaeological reports, books and journals was one of several special cataloguing projects during this period.

For several years she served as a member of the Association's Board of Examiners, besides being an examiner and lecturer. She initiated of a series of workshops in practical cataloguing in Fisher, to assist examination candidates to gain some brief experience in a functioning cataloguing department.

Children's literature was one of Nancy's great strengths throughout her life. She set out to spread an appreciation of it, through her own lectures and by encouraging others to read, teach, and (with undeniable determination, as Maurice Saxby recalls!) research the history of the subject. As Sarah (Walters) Dingwell wrote: '...her courses in Children's Literature, conducted as a WEA lecturer in the 50s, were a great source of stimulation both to budding young librarians as well as more mature parents, teachers and others, and...will be long remembered with enthusiasm and



Nancy (third from left) in Paris, 1961, with the ICCP Group. Other members here include Jean Arnot, Eugenie Grieg, M Lubetzky and Mme Lavrova.

appreciation'. Until 1971, she lectured on Children's literature in the TAFE Library Certificate course.

She was invited to deliver the inaugural Nancy Booker Honour Lecture, instituted in 1986 by the NSW Group of the Children's and Youth Services Section of the Australian Library and Information Association. She chose to speak on values in pre-20th century children's books. This biennial lecture has since been presented by distinguished children's and youth librarians, speakers concerned with the writing and promotion of high quality children's literature, and those supportive of

professional development in the field of children's and youth librarianship.

It is true that Nancy could sometimes appear daunting. She was driven by a sense of urgency to accomplish the unselfish goals she had set herself, and expected similar dedication from others. She worked unstintingly towards enabling the young to develop enjoyment of reading and, with it, skills to last them a lifetime.

With thanks to colleagues and Nancy's family for their contributions.

## Library History Seminar 2007 – Call for papers

**T**he State Library of New South Wales is calling for papers for the next Forum on Australian Library History, which it will be hosting in Sydney from 28–29 September 2007. In addition to an eclectic mix of papers on the history of library services, individual librarians and lay people, associations, library education and technical aspects of librarianship, some papers on benefactors and their impact on library development in Australia would be appropriate as 2007 is the centenary of the David Scott Mitchell bequest. Proposed papers from students undertaking higher degree research into some aspect of the history of libraries and information services in Australia are particularly welcome. Abstracts of up to two hundred words should be sent to the Forum organiser, Dr David J. Jones ([djones@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:djones@sl.nsw.gov.au)) by 15 January 2007.

### Jean Arnot MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP 2007

The annual Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship honours Jean Fleming Arnot (1903–1995) MBE, FLAA, who had a distinguished career of 47 years in librarianship and was a pioneer of equal pay and women's rights.

The fellowship is funded by a generous donation from the National Council of Women in New South Wales Incorporated and the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Associations Incorporated.

The fellowship is awarded to a female librarian or student of librarianship for an outstanding paper of no more than 5000 words on any aspect of librarianship. An award of \$1000 will be presented to the winner at the annual Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon to be held at Parliament House, Sydney, on 30 April 2007.

**Entries for the fellowship close on 1 April 2007** and should be submitted to:

Elizabeth Ellis, Assistant State Librarian  
Collection Management Services & Mitchell Librarian  
State Library of NSW, Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000

**Further information:**  
Ph: (02) 9273 1466  
Email: [eellis@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eellis@sl.nsw.gov.au)

For conditions of entry & application forms:  
[www.sl.nsw.gov.au/awards](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/awards)



PS/D 2297 10/2006