



Magnificent Jones and his efficient machine

The Australian librarian's manual, Volume 3, Glossary. David J. Jones. Sydney: Library Association of Australia, 1985. 388 pp. \$5; LAA members: \$45 ISBN 0 86804 028 2

With this volume David J. Jones concludes an important contribution to the Australian library and information world and to all those, whether part of it or not, who seek information about it. *The Australian librarian's manual*, of which the *Glossary* is the third volume, has special significance as a pioneering work, and the blessing is that the new ground has been broken so well, with professional skill and within a short time span. *Volume 1, Documents*, appeared in 1982, and *Volume 2, Legislation*, in 1983.

The *Glossary* is not a book about the technical terms of librarianship and allied areas of work and knowledge, addressed to Australian librarians. It attempts to give information about 'a wide range of terms of Australian origin', as stated in the Preface, these terms including libraries, librarianship publications, societies, services and much more. There are (save glossarian) some biographical entries as well. The majority of entries are for proper names, names of organisations, institutions, collections and so on, but there are also some not so particular, for example, Legal Deposit, State Libraries, Taxation Incentives. The length ranges from a single line to a number of pages. The book, then, is not limited to the mere definitions which are one aspect. There is much meaty information which in the result could justify as an alternative to glossary, the description: subject encyclopaedia.

not about technical terms

The author expresses the hope that readers will help with the next edition. In this one there are, not at all surprisingly, omissions (one the Lady Cutler Award); errors (one is the name of the Chair succeeded to the Chair he occupied at the University of Sydney, another mis-naming in two ways the Board of Examination, Certification and Registration of Librarians) — but these are few in any reckoning, and against the mass of valuable and previously unorganised information, infinitesimal.

Someone once wrote that a reference book is a machine for answering questions, and this volume is a very efficient machine indeed. The entries are numbered and arranged in a sensible style of alphabetical order. Some are direct references to the form of name where information is given. Many an entry includes with a list of readings. Within the next mention is made of relevant material in the other volumes of the *Manual*. A detailed index facilitates access to all parts of the *Glossary* where a topic is dealt with. Print and paper are suitable, but not the binding. For the heavy use this book will receive in many places, a hard-cover edition would be justified and re-binding initially will often occur.

While I can't say I found the *Glossary* hard to put down, because it's too heavy to hold for long, it compelled continued reading, just as a good quotation book does. In trying to proceed in an orderly fashion from one topic to another, one is distracted by interesting by-paths, some ancient and hoary, some newly made, all well sign-posted. In breaking new ground, David J. Jones has put the kibosh on the pre-existing maze.

a permanent feast

The *Glossary* will be bought by libraries, library schools, various corporate bodies. It should be bought by individuals in the library and information world, including students, as a personal desk-book at work or at home. Foregoing a restaurant meal or two would give a permanent feast.

The style of writing is interesting when compared with the same author's 'The Source' in *InCite*. There he writes in what might be described as a Dancer and Prancer vein, but in the *Glossary* all is controlled, impersonal, factual, non-critical. The work provides a tremendous amount of information, wide-ranging but consistently focused, in a manner sometimes brief but always adequate. In what he has described in the Preface as 'in many ways the most ambitious volume of the set', David J. Jones has produced a block-busting trail-blazer.

Wilma Radford
Roseville, NSW

Australian Librarian's Manual

Compiled by David J. Jones

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NEW DIRECTIONS IN AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHING

First symposium by State Library of NSW friends

The Library Society, the friends' group of the State Library of NSW, has arranged its first symposium 'New Directions in Australian Publishing' to be held at Tattersalls Club, Sydney, during Australian Library Week, 17-24 October, 1986.

An exciting programme of speakers will address vital and varied topics of great Australian publishing interest. These include Richard Walsh (formerly of Angus and Robertson), Pat Woolley (Wild and Woolley), Ian Templeman (Fremantle Arts Press, publishers of A.B. Facey's *My Fortunate Life*), Sylvia Hale (Hale and Iremonger), Diana Gribble (McPhee and Gribble), Laurie Muller (University of Queensland Press) and Ric Sissons (Pluto Press). A question and answer session with a panel will conclude the day.

For writers, publishers, librarians, booksellers, researchers and bookish people in general this will be the opportunity to catch up with the latest trends as well as to air a wide range of views.

'New Directions in Australian Publishing' is the first literary symposium arranged by the Library Society's new programming committee whose members are Margaret Jones, Literary Editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*; Myfanwy Horne, writer; Joy Storie, the State Library's Education Officer; and Rosemary Block, Executive Director, The Library Society. Planning is also underway for a second symposium on book collecting to be held early in 1987.

'New Directions in Australian Publishing' will be held from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturday 18 October, 1986, at Tattersalls Club, 157 Elizabeth St, Sydney. Cost for the day, including morning tea and lunch, is \$25 for non-members of the Library Society, and \$16 for members. Detailed programmes and registration forms are available from Rosemary Block, Executive Director, The Library Society, Level 8, Legal & General House, 8-18 Bent St, Sydney, or phone 230 1500.

Rosemary Block

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