

# Letters

## Import duty

IN REPLY to a letter sent by Dietrich Borchart, Chairman Standing Committee of ACCOBS, the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, R.V. Garland, states:

I refer to your letter to my predecessor, the Hon Wal. Fife, MP, received on 1 November 1979 about the importation of goods covered by the 'Florence Agreement'.

Australia, although not a signatory to the 'Florence Agreement' has generally adhered to the general policy of not impeding, by the imposition of Customs duties, the free flow of material covered by the Agreement.

Specific measures were taken at the time the 2 percent revenue duty was introduced to maintain the situation whereby printed books, newspapers, music, maps, etc, would continue to be entered for home consumption without payment of duty.

I am unable to make any comment on your claim that various interpretations are being applied in different States without specific knowledge of particular importations. If you or your members provide information on importations of eligible goods which have not been admitted duty free, enquiries will be undertaken. Information should be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary, Tariff Branch, Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, Canberra, ACT 2600.

## LAA/NZLA *continued from p 1*

and researchers. Anyone interested in early Canterbury history and genealogy would find a visit to the Canterbury Museum Library fruitful. Its collection contains early archival material and manuscripts, shipping lists and immigrant records as well as an extensive photographic collection.

New Zealand's Country Library Service, which was established in 1938, and the School Library Service, are sections of the National Library providing support services for public and school libraries as well as supplying loan collections of books to these libraries. Country Library Service bookvans based in Christchurch travel throughout the South Island taking books to 50 public and 400 small community, hospital and prison libraries. In the past year, 200,000 books were issued in bulk loans to public libraries and 780,000 to schools. The Christchurch headquarters of the Country Library Service is located at the corner of Peterborough and Madras Streets, and is well worth a visit from overseas librarians who would like to see the type of service which was pioneered in New Zealand.

These are some of the libraries which will be open to visitors during Conference week. The librarians of Christchurch will be very pleased to meet colleagues from across the Tasman, and hope that you will find time to visit their libraries during the Conference.

R. W. Hlavac, University Librarian  
University of Canterbury

Members who have not yet enrolled for the Conference should do so without delay. The closing date for registration is 31 October 1980.

## TAFE and UCLS

IN *Incite*, (no9, 6 June), Colin Cayless asked whether UCLS and TAFE are compatible. I do not intend debating that subject here but I would like to outline those steps that have encouraged TAFE librarians to recognise their unique role in an education/library situation. This is the breakaway movement referred to by Colin.

At the 'TAFE it from here' seminar in Newcastle in 1978 it was decided that a national body of (heads of) TAFE Learning Resource Centres be formed. A Steering Committee of this national body, consisting of one representative of each state and territory, was formed to plan the direction the national body should take. The structure of TAFE in NSW precluded the formation of a national body in this form.

A meeting of more than 80 TAFE librarians from all Australian states, NT and ACT was held on 31 August 1979 and the following motion was carried:

'That we form a Special Interest Group within the LAA to be sponsored by Headquarters'.

The meeting chose to form a Special Interest Group rather than a Section in the expectation that TAFE librarians will remain active participants in UCLS and at the same time emphasising the broader nature of technical and further education. This proposal was put to the LAA but rejected by the Executive Committee who believe it would be better for TAFE librarians to work through UCLS.

The question now is where do we go from here? Would TAFE librarians like to voice their opinions in *Incite* or else advise their state contact of their views - ACT: Barbara Mays (062) 89 7472; NT: Michael Friganiotis (089) 27 9233; QLD: Lesbia Dobson (07) 48 9414; VIC: Marian Taylor (03) 573 2069; WA: Jill Hocking (09) 321 8445; SA: Chris Barry (08) 266 0166; TAS: Anne Schafer (002) 34 3241; NSW: Bernice Burgess (02) 217 3632.

B. Burgess

Sydney Technical College Library

## Medical questions

I HAVE been requested by the Members of the Medical Librarians' Group (Victorian Branch) to write in connection with assignments set for students undertaking courses in librarianship in colleges of advanced education.

Several of our members have received letters recently from library students who are attempting such assignments. These are often accompanied by complex questionnaires on the library services provided by the hospital, and are difficult to complete, as the student has little idea of the information he/she requires.

Most hospital librarians work in small one or two person libraries, and operate under a great deal of pressure, so many of them feel they are unable to afford the time needed to co-operate adequately with these students.

We would like to draw this problem to the attention of the co-ordinators of courses in librarianship. We would suggest that more adequate supervision and direction be given to students, both to monitor the organisations the student approaches, and to ensure that the information needed can be supplied without difficulty by the institution concerned.

Patricia Nakouz

Chairman, Medical Librarians' Group

## Common humour

I WISH to take issue with M.E. Crawford (*Incite* no12, p5), for taking exception to a minor item in issue no10 quoting a reference to potential confusion which might be caused by a book entitled *British Tits*.

The item was so minor that I had to go back through my file to find out what M.E. Crawford was upset about, and although I agree that the humour was very slight, and not new, I must disagree strongly with the implication that *any* topic is so sacrosanct that it must be taboo to the humourist.

Of course there is nothing funny about the female anatomy *per se*, but the item employed a very common source of humour, the inadvertent use of an infelicitous phrase, and was not a slur on womanhood, nor ornithology for that matter, any more than a reference to James Laver's *Memorable Balls* would be a slur on men or masquerades.

John Cummings, Greenwich, NSW

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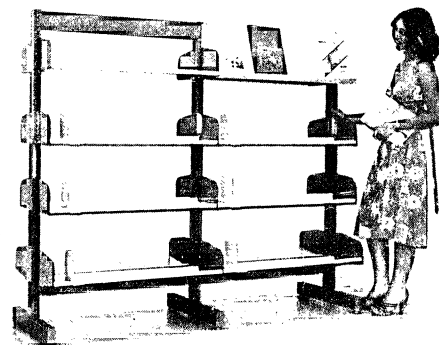
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