

Speculation on postal charges exaggerated: Staley

The Library Association of Australia wrote to the Minister for Post and Telecommunications expressing the Association's concern about possible steep increases in postal rates to Australia. The Minister responded as follows:

'I refer to your letter of 13 November 1979 in which you referred to a number of the possible consequences of the decision of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress to increase imbalance charges (terminal dues payments).

'As you say, Australia is a substantial net importer of mail and the new charges will more adequately cover the costs incurred by Australia Post in processing a large volume of excess international mail. It may be of some interest to you to know that over the years 1981-1985, which is the period of application of the new terminal dues rates, Australia Post expects that it will recoup only 68 percent of the cost it incurs in handling excess international mail.

'At this stage, Australia Post has not yet been informed by either of the postal administrations of the United States of America or Great Britain as to their intentions in regard to increased postal charges. No doubt, you have seen articles in some of the book trade journals, particularly *The Bookseller* which, in the view of Australia Post management, speculate in a somewhat exaggerated fashion, on the likely increases to be imposed on postage for books and periodicals as a result of the terminal dues decision.

'Without having any official knowledge of

the intentions of the Governments concerned, Australia Post believes that the UPU decision to increase rates of terminal dues need not lead automatically to increases in postal charges. If the international sector of the British Post Office business is profitable, the increased terminal dues could be absorbed either wholly or partly. From calculations made in Australia Post, based on information published in the British Post Office Annual Report and information available from the UPU, it would appear that the British Post Office would need to raise an additional 31p per kilogramme of printed papers to cover the increased terminal dues costs. The extent to which this amount is to be recouped is a decision for the British Government.

'It is the view of Australia Post that it is unlikely that the British Post Office would attempt to apply the full \$A2.04 terminal dues rate to printed paper traffic. Indeed, this would be contrary to the intention of Congress because a single terminal dues was set for letters and printed papers only as an operational convenience. It would be too expensive to require postal administrations to process letters and printed papers separately merely in order to determine their respective weights so that terminal dues rate could be applied.

'In fact, Congress recognised that a higher proportion of the terminal dues rate should be recouped from letter mails rather than from printed mails, and the reason for this is quite simple. A kilogramme of letter mails contains many more items than a kilogramme of printed paper mails and thus is far more

expensive to process and deliver. It has been calculated that, on average, the cost of handling a kilogramme of letters would be nearly 10 times the cost of handling a kilogramme of printed papers. It could well be then that the British Post Office and Government could adjust the letter rate to raise some of the additional revenue required for the printed papers mail.

'As I indicated earlier, Australia Post is not yet aware of the intentions of the two major exporters of printed papers mail - Great Britain and the United States - but as soon as these decisions are known, I will provide you with the information.'

A.A. Staley

Minister for Post and Telecommunications

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL'S NEW BUILDINGS ISSUE

The August 1980 issue of the *Australian Library Journal* will include a major feature on new, extended and remodelled archives and library buildings in Australia which were completed in 1979.

Data forms for the collection of details of eligible projects have been circulated to major archives and libraries and to a number of central agencies.

It is intended that the resulting data will be presented in a form which will allow a convenient reference point for future research and comparison. These details will be supplemented by comment on such matters as standards, costs, security systems, campus orientation, and furnishings.

The co-operation of all librarians associated with eligible projects will ensure that the *Australian Library Journal* becomes a definitive access point to the capital construction history of archives and library buildings in Australia.

Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure that either individual libraries, or state or central agencies have been approached for assistance, the *Australian Library Journal* invites any librarian who has not received a data form to contact the Features Editor, Warwick Dunstan at the State Library of Tasmania, 91 Murray Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000 telephone (002) 30 2445, telex 58222 as soon as possible.

Awards presented in Perth

A very special evening of the LAA's WA Branch was held on 26 March at the Park Towers Hotel, Perth.

The night began with the Branch AGM and was followed by the presentation of the Redmond Barry Award and the F.A. Sharr Medal.

The Redmond Barry Award was presented to Professor Fred Alexander by the LAA President, Denis Richardson.

Professor Alexander has been Chairman of the Library Board of WA since 1953 and in this capacity has made a major contribution to the development of libraries in WA.

The Redmond Barry Award is presented by the Library Association of Australia to a layman who the Association considers has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship in Australia.

The F.A. Sharr Medal was presented by Mr Sharr to Elizabeth Pattison, a student in the Department of Library Studies at the Western Australian Institute of Technology.

The F.A. Sharr medal is awarded to the most outstanding student of librarianship to complete an accredited course in WA in the year of the Award.

Miss Joanne Lagesse, Teacher Librarian at Katanning Senior High School and graduate from Nedlands CAE was the runner-up.

Left: Professor Fred Alexander receives the Redmond Barry Award from the LAA President, Denis Richardson; Right: Mr F.A. Sharr presents the Sharr Medal to Elizabeth Pattison
Photographs: Pauline Wicks



Hold a meeting, Meet an author

THE Literature Board of the Australia Council is encouraging public libraries to set up meetings between Australian authors, regular users of the library and members of the community.

The grants are to assist in meeting the author's travelling expenses, any speakers' fees and promotion costs. Grants of up to \$400 may be available to public libraries that organise such functions. These grants are available to any public library in Australia and must be used in 1980.

For more information contact the Executive Director, Australian Library Promotion Council, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000. Submissions close on 30 May.