

# Obituary

WALTER STONE, writer, editor, bibliographer, book collector, publisher and printer, died in Sydney on 29 August 1981. With his death the book and library community lost a champion and a worker, and, for those of us who were fortunate enough to be his friends, a warm bright light went out.

There is no entry for Walter Stone in *Who's Who in Australia*. Surely a reflection on the system, for his importance in the book world was great and his Australianism unadulterated. Earlier this year he was awarded the OAM for literature in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

His influence will not easily be assessed because, despite his gregarious and open nature, he was a modest man, quietly effective at making things happen.

The number of gifts that libraries have received at his suggestion, the number of librarians who have learnt, from him, about the importance of the copy as well as of the edition, the number of book collectors whose collections contain gifts from him and the number of publications whose authors acknowledge his help can never be told.

With Sir John Ferguson he founded the Friends of the University of Sydney Library (his 'Friends of the Fisher') and he was a founding member of the Friends of the LaTrobe Library and the Friends of the Fryer Library. *Bibliobooks* was his journal: The Book Collectors Society, The Fellowship of Australian Writers, The Neutral Bay Branch of the Australian Labor Party, the Christopher Brennan Society and the English Association his clubs.

Walter Stone loved to talk about books and their makers. His own collection, while mostly falling into the general category of Australiana, was by no means confined to that subject and it was his especial delight to collect the things that others might have thrown away. He liked to share his books and to see others enjoying them, and he thought that collections should go where they would be used as well as preserved.

The first production of Walter Stone, the printer, came from his treadle platen press under the Talkarra Press imprint in 1953. It was an edition of 100 copies of Dulcie Deamer's poem *Blue Centaur*. Subsequently, as the Wentworth Press, he and his sons



Walter Stone 1910-1981

became printers and publishers who were always conscious of their responsibilities in the transmission of the text, and he never lost his interest in the printer's craft.

It is indeed difficult to accept the fact that he is no longer there to comment on our printing, to encourage our collecting and to rejoice with us in the endless variety of books and the amusing diversity of humankind. He truly lived David Campbell's command 'Praise life while you walk and wake.'

Jean P. Whyte

## WA launches business awareness campaign

The LAA WA Branch has launched a 'business awareness' campaign. The Branch is writing to employer and employee organisations throughout WA advising them how to capitalise on their information requirements by using the services of professional librarians.

Mr André Mali, President of the Branch, says that institutions are becoming increasingly dependent on speedy access to accurate information in order to service both day-to-day and long-term requirements.

Employer and employee organisations as well as many commercial and professional bodies are aware that they exist in a society which is increasingly dependent on information. Some organisations are not as efficient as they could be because they are unaware of the extent of information resources open to them in WA. This may be because they do not employ specialists who can enable them to take advantage of these and provide rapid delivery and efficient storage and retrieval of information.

For further information contact: André Mali, Dept of Library and Information Studies, WAIT.

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## IBBY CONFERENCE

Planning has begun for an Australian group to attend the 18th IBBY Conference 'Story in the Child's Changing World' to be held at Cambridge University, England, on 6-10 September 1982.

Among the speakers at the Conference will be Bruno Bettelheim, University of Chicago, and Margaret Meek from the University of London.

The Conference will take place in Churchill College where delegates will also be accommodated. The Conference fee, including registration and accommodation (full board) will be \$350 (approx). Economy return air fare will be approximately \$1588, but this could be reduced if enough people join the group.

In order to be assured of a place at the Conference, a deposit of \$100 is required by mid October 1981 at the latest. On receipt of deposit further information will be sent including application form and conference brochure.

More information from IBBY Australia, PO Box 194, Edgecliff, NSW 2027.