

The good old days . . .

A fascinating glimpse of the early Mitchell Library – and an early librarian – comes from *The Lone Hand*, 1 April 1912, in a column entitled 'The Dictates of Fashion' by 'Lynette'.

. . . And only one Sydney woman – so far as I know – has been trained abroad as a librarian. Miss Margaret Windeyer, now chief cataloguer in the (Sydney) Mitchell Library, turned a scholarly bent of mind towards the expert handling of literature. A daughter of the late eminent NSW lawyer, Judge Windeyer, as a mere girl she hankered for the (then) unusual feminine occupation of librarian. She had her way – first of all as a hobby – was trained for two years in the New York State Library school, Albany (NY) and afterwards eased off some of her enthusiasm as a volunteer in the famous Boston Public Library. Miss Windeyer took a degree, after a varied practical experience in US libraries. In 1901 she was appointed Library Assistant in the Public Library (Sydney), where her knowledge and experience made her a valuable addition to the staff. Since the opening of the fine Mitchell Library, Miss Windeyer's enthusiasm for printed matter – catalogued and classified – exudes from a cheery personality, that pervades those premises. In office hours it may be found robed in a large overall and surrounded by a brisk attention to business.

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Miss Margaret Windeyer

LAA Publications

Readings in Australian Librarianship

I. *The Library Association of Australia*
Compiled & edited by Harrison Bryan
\$3.50 (\$2.50 to LAA members)

II. *Australian Library Surveys*
Compiled by Eric Wainwright &
edited by Harrison Bryan
\$3.50 (\$2.00 to LAA members)

Available from
**LAA, 473 Elizabeth Street,
Surry Hills, NSW 2010**

DURING JANUARY, the ABC broadcast an excellent television documentary entitled *Goodbye Gutenberg*. This film will be available as a video cassette from July onwards to any non-commercial group (this means that admission fees may not be charged).

Bookings and further information from the Film Department, National Library of Australia.

News about children's books

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKS Officer of the National Book League in London has written to *InCite*, suggesting that our readers would like to hear what is happening in England in the field of children's literature, and inviting visitors to call at the Centre.

The Centre for Children's Books is the umbrella title for all the National Book League's activities relating to the promotion of, and information about, children's books.

In 1981 the Arts Council of Great Britain gave a special grant to the National Book League to create a Centre for Children's Books. It is hoped that as the Centre expands its work and information files, people will be able to find the answers to most, if not all, their questions about children's books.

There are a number of special collections and services at the Centre:

The Children's Reference Library was established in 1966 by the Children's Book Group of the Publishers Association and holds one copy of every children's book published in any twenty-four month period. The books are arranged as an ordinary children's library; picture books, fiction, story collections, non-fiction.

The Periodicals Collection contains nearly forty periodicals dealing with children's books. These include review periodicals, weekly educational papers, periodicals publishing articles about children's books and periodicals dealing with particular aspects of children's literature.

The Signal Poetry Collection was established through the efforts of Aidan and Nancy Chambers and plans to include copies of all poetry books for children currently in print with British hardback and paperback trade publishers; single poet collections, anthologies, nursery rhyme collections, song-books and appropriate picture books. The Collection aims to be fully operational by mid-1982.

The Reference Collection is a comprehensive selection of approximately 600 volumes, covering the reading habits of children, critical surveys of children's literature, advice on how to organise a small library, biographical and bibliographical works, and books suggesting ways of promoting children's books and reading.

The Hans Christian Andersen Collection is a gift of the British Section of the International Board on Books for Young People. It consists of a selection of Andersen's works published in Britain and will be added to as new editions are published. It also includes a Danish Album of Hans Andersen documents, drawings and photographs donated by a publisher.

The Centre also has a small collection of bibliographies, a small but growing collection of encyclopedias, and a reference collection of award-winning books.

Something rather special is the St Nicholas Collection. The St Nicholas Magazine flourished in the United States in the latter part of the nineteenth century and was the first publishing venue for many authors who subsequently became very well known. One such was Eleanor Farjeon. Through the generosity of Grace Hogarth, the National Book League is the proud possessor of Eleanor Farjeon's own bound collection of the magazines which can be seen on special application.

The National Book League is at Book House, 45 East Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18 and a visit is thoroughly recommended.

THE NOMA AWARD for Publishing in Africa is an annual book prize established in 1979 by Shoichi Noma, founder and now Honorary Chairman of the large Japanese publishing company Kodansha Ltd. Mr Noma has had a long-standing interest in

promoting books and readership in developing countries.

Meshack Asare, a Ghanaian author has been awarded the 1982 Noma prize for his picture book *The Brassman's Secret*, published by Educational Press and Manufacturers Ltd, Accra in 1981.

The winner will receive his prize of \$3000 at a presentation ceremony on the opening day of the Seventh Iife International Book Fair, to be held in March.

The selection panel considered this book to be outstanding, not only in its beautiful and imaginative illustrations, but also in its effective portrayal of important aspects of Asante culture. It was conceived, designed and manufactured entirely in Ghana.

In all, 97 titles in 11 languages from 42 publishers in 16 African nations were submitted for the 1982 award, covering all the categories of books eligible – scholarly and academic, children's books and creative writing.

The new edition of the complete catalogue of Faber Books for the Young has just been published, and will be invaluable for librarians and booksellers.

A number of the authors and artists on the Faber list have received or been short-listed for awards, including Dorothy Edwards (*The Witches and the Grinnygog*), Lucy Rees (*Horse of Air*), Michelle Nikly and Jean Claverie (*The Princess on the Nut*) and Susi Bohdal (*Selina, the Mouse and the Giant Cat*).

In this issue

In this issue you should receive a 'Presidential Card' brochure, an LAA22 Conference Circular, and if you live in Queensland you should also receive a green Qld Branch Newsletter.

If any of these are missing from your *InCite*, please contact this office and they will be sent to you.