

LAA 22 — Access to rare books

A mighty bibliographic project links a Dickensian warren of rooms atop the old British Museum building in Bloomsbury and the University of Adelaide. Dr Alan Brissenden is chairman of the Early Imprints Project in South Australia, which is currently compiling a list of all printed items published before 1801 and located in South Australia — an estimated 16,000+ items to be recorded. The EIP which is of much significance to Australian bibliography, has taken the problem of reader access to rare books into the community, and effective cooperation between libraries, scholars and the general public has produced a ready and concerned response.

Private collectors have shaken the dust off treasured volumes with an enthusiasm equal to that of the guardians of rare books in major academic and state libraries. It is a project to fire the imagination — to link collectors and the collections of books printed in an era before modern mechanical processes superseded the ancient craft of printing. The Project, which began in South Australia in 1976, now embraces all Australian states and New Zealand. Its link with Bloomsbury is through its close connection with the *Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue* which is centred there and which is listing titles and locations of materials printed in English between 1701 and 1800 wherever produced, and all material printed in Britain and North America in that time.

The EIP will be one facet of the LAA22 parallel session discussion on *Access to Rare Books* between Dr Brissenden and Mr Ian

Cook on Monday, 23 August.

Ian Cook is currently Principal Conservator of the National Library. Heading a staff of five conservators, he is responsible for a wide range of preservation services provided by the conservation laboratory within the National Library. After studying conservation under William Boustead at the Art Gallery of NSW, Mr Cook later graduated Bachelor of Applied Science (Analytical Chemistry) at CCAE.

In complement, Alan Brissenden's infectious enthusiasm is for the intellectual content of rare books and as a scholar rather than as a collector — as Reader in English,

critic of drama and dance in journals and the press, and author of articles and books on writers as diverse as Rolf Boldrewood and William Shakespeare. His most recent publication *Shakespeare and the Dance* follows a period as research fellow at the Huntington Library, one of the world's greatest repositories of Shakespearean and Renaissance material.

Early settlers brought many of our rare books to Australia, Bibles, children's books now ragged with use, educational books — a part of their cultural heritage that has become ours, and has become increasingly important to us.

Sheena Grant

Resource Centre Complex



The Resource Centre Complex at Wattle Park Teachers Centre is a large air-conditioned centre housing a wide range of materials and equipment.

The Resource Centre, one part of the complex, contains a collection of book and non-book materials closely related to new publications of curriculum guidelines in specific subject areas.

As well as materials for loan, there are publications for sale, including a section of the Education Department curriculum guidelines in Mathematics, Language Arts, R-7 Science and Health Education, and a number of booklets written by teachers about their current classroom practice. Prices range from 50 cents to \$7.00.

The Curriculum Ideas Exchange, the second section of the Resource Centre Complex, contains a collection of materials developed by teachers to assist children in learning. There is a display room, a work room and storage space for teacher-made materials in many curriculum reference files. Generally, the materials in this area are not for loan but may be discussed, adapted or modified in the workroom. A cover charge of 50 cents is paid for the use of pens, glue, scissors, etc., and cardboard is provided at 40 cents a sheet.

Teachers, student teachers and interested members of the community may visit the Resource Centre Complex to browse, make, buy or borrow on weekdays from 9.00 am — 12 noon, 1.00 pm — 5.00 pm, including school holidays.

Noeline Hormann

Shared facilities — Aberfoyle Park

At Aberfoyle Park Primary School Campus, opened in March this year, six attractive buildings house four separate and autonomous primary schools: the Education Department's Heysen and Spence Schools, the Catholic School of the Nativity and Pilgrim School, the first school to be built by the Uniting Church in South Australia. The two remaining buildings, the activity hall and the administration/resource centre, along with the grounds and sporting facilities are shared by the four schools.

The Resource Centre, part of the shared facility, is staffed by one full-time teacher-librarian and one part-time library aide. It aims to serve the needs of both students and staff in each of the four schools, each with its own policy, philosophy and educational program. The Resource Centre faces a challenge in developing a library program to support and reflect the individuality of each of the schools' educational programs. To this end the teacher-librarian is involved in developing close working relationships with teachers and in curriculum development.

A Resource Centre Committee has been established to assist with communication between the Resource Centre and the schools. It consists of library staff, a staff representative from each school and a member of Campus Conference. This is the overall administering body for the shared facilities and from next year it is expected to include student representatives as well. This committee will decide Resource Centre policy, plan Campus events such as Children's Book Week activities and assist in selection.

This year the Resource Centre has been funded by School's Commission grants — over \$20,000 has been spent so far. In the future, though still applying for some grant money, funding will largely be through Campus fundraising activities.

Sylvia Vale



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