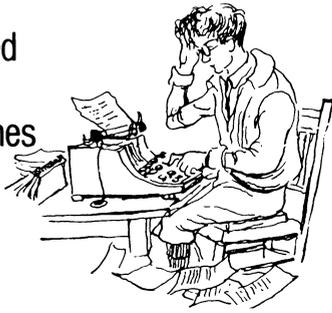


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Burmester #4 and last

The fourth and final volume of C. A. Burmester's useful *National Library of Australia: guide to the collections* was published last year by the National Library of Australia. Those who have used the earlier volumes will find the format comfortably familiar — entries under personal names, subjects, named collections — with brief details of selected individual items or groups of items in the NLA collection. The index to this volume covers volumes 1 to 3 also. It is very comprehensive.

Reprinted in this volume is a history of the NLA's collections, which was earlier published in *National Library of Australia: selection policy*. Burmester's *National Library of Australia: guide to the collections*, volume 4, was published by the NLA in 1982. It costs \$13.95. (ISBN 0 642 99286 X)

An agony of anagrams

Those who have suffered the brain-curdling teasers devised by crossword compilers can take some heart, at least as far as anagrams are concerned. Not just one, but two anagram dictionaries were published in Britain last year. Michael Curl's *The anagram dictionary* and Samuel C. Hunter's *Dictionary of anagrams* are both by experienced crossword compilers, both have about 20,000 entries and both have black covers. But there are actually substantial differences, even though their local prices are also identical.

Hunter lists only words with between 5 and 13 letters arranged, rather inconveniently some may feel, by the number of let-

ters. Presumably permutations of four or less letters are considered manageable for most mere mortals by the compiler. Curl, however, does include 2, 3 and 4-letter anagrams, so there is a comeback for words like ea and ae, dso and sod, lab and alb.

All of Hunter's anagrams are single words, some of them hyphenated. Curl lists in addition some outstanding examples of multi-word anagrams. Margaret Thatcher, for example, becomes 'Meg the arch Tartar', or 'That great charmer', as the mood may take you. T. S. Eliot becomes 'litotes' (or 'toilets' for those without a classical education). Florence Nightingale becomes 'Flit on cheering angel'. Neither Curl nor Hunter lists internationalism ('interlaminations') which figures in the good old *Guinness book of records*, nor Christo ('chorist'), nor Neville Wran ('Ill? Wan? Never!' — actually the inclusion of Mr Wran's middle initial makes an even more expressive slogan, but one which I doubt will ever be used on the hustings).

Either of these works will provide help for those desperate souls grappling with the cryptic anag. in their morning crossword. They may also be handy for training sessions with Scrabble. My preference is for Curl's compilation, which I found easier to consult. But the dictionaries, for all their similarities, are, alas, complementary.

Samuel C. Hunter's *Dictionary of anagrams* was published last year by Routledge and Kegan Paul and costs \$17.95 locally. Michael Curl's *The anagram dictionary* costs the same, but was published by Robert Hale. (ISBNs 0 7100 9006 4 [Hunter] 0 7091 9674 1 [Curl]).

Geosciences survey

The adequacy of major Victorian library collections in the geosciences came under close scrutiny last year. A detailed survey was conducted by Rosalind Walcott, Earth and Space Sciences Librarian at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

For the purposes of the survey the geosciences were defined as falling within the Dewey range 549-568. Ten libraries responded to a detailed questionnaire and each was visited by Ms Walcott. Holdings of monographs and of the most-cited geosciences serials are relatively strong, the survey found, although some important recent imprints were not yet held by any library. In the area

Australian Librarian's Manual, Vol 1 — Documents

Compiled by David Jones

Sydney: LAA, 1982.
ISBN 0 86804 009 6, 900 pp.

Price: \$80.00, \$60.00 LAA members, plus \$3.00 postage and packing.

Available from the LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007, or through Bennetts and Mannings.



chosen for special study, oceanography, there were some noticeable gaps in serials holdings.

Rosalind Walcott's *A survey of major library collections in the geosciences in the State of Victoria* was published late last year by AACOBS. Copies can be obtained from the Secretary, AACOBS, c/o National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600. It costs \$3 (\$2.50 to AACOBS members.) (ISBN 0 642 88756 X.)

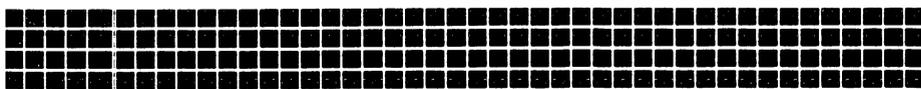
Easter parade

The origins of Easter and the way it is celebrated around the world are highlighted in *Easter for children*, a multicultural sourcebook published last year by Hodja Educational Resources Co-operative Ltd.

There are Easter recipes — Simnel cakes from Britain, Matzah brahn, a Jewish Easter dish, Mazanec from Czechoslovakia and so on. There are the words of Easter songs in English, Greek and Hebrew. There are games to play at Easter, such as egg-cracking, -dyeing and -rolling, and Easter lotto.

The second edition of *Easter for children* by Cavell Zangalis and Priscilla Clarke, revised by Alex Butler, is a bright, interesting and stimulating 64-page paperback, eminently suitable as an ideas-starter for teachers and parents. From the same authors comes *Christmas for children*, also now in its second edition, which follows the same pattern as the other work.

Both are good value at \$6.75 post free from Hodja Educational Resources Co-operative, 135 Church Street, Richmond, Vic 3121, phone (03) 429 6111. (*Easter for children* ISBN 0 949575 02 X; *Christmas for children* ISBN 0 949575 01 1.)



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