

Prizewinner visits Perth



Du Ning-Wu, winner of the 1985 Sydney International Piano Competition, undertook a tour of the Alexander Library Building during his visit to Perth at the beginning of September, and inspected the Central Music Library, one of the services of the State Library of Western Australia.

Du Ning-Wu was presented with a book of Western Australian scenes, and he presented

the State Library Service with a cassette recording of 20 songs and choral works by the late He Luting, former Director of the Shanghai Conservatorium, where Mr Du studies. In the Theatre, the Chinese pianist tried out the baby grand piano, and gave a recital for a select group of staff, to demonstrate both his own exquisite style and the excellent qualities of the Alexander Theatre and the Yamaha piano.

Mr Du was accompanied by Rex Hobcroft, former Director of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, who was in charge of the arrangements by which Du Ning-Wu was able to give a full scale recital at the Perth Concert Hall on 3 September.

Forty years of microfilm

20 October was the fortieth anniversary of the Australian Joint Copying Project. Initially set up between the National Library and the State Library of NSW, the Project now also includes the State Library of Victoria and the Government of New Zealand as full partners. Two Project officers are based in London to select and copy documents.

'Forty active years and a growing use of more than 8000 reels of microfilm are a testament to the success of the Australian Joint Copying Project,' said the Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Mr Warren Horton. 'The first reels of microfilm were produced at the Public Record Office in London in 1948 and, since then, close to five million frames have been copied,' he said. 'This is equivalent to a strip of film reaching from Perth to Rockhampton.'

The official and private documents span four hundred years, from 1580 to 1975, although most records date from 1765 to 1945 with official records making up the largest group of documents copied so far. Filming also covers papers in private hands, in business archives and professional societies, and documents from the four National Libraries in Britain and Ireland and in 34 of the 44 County Record Offices.

Mr Horton said that historians and researchers were making an increasing use of the material on microfilm and that copies were frequently requested from overseas. Complete sets of the records were held in the National Library, the Mitchell Library, the State Library of Victoria and in New Zealand. Reels are made available to other libraries through the National Library's Inter-Library Loan Scheme.

About 250 rolls of microfilm are added to the collection each year. The most recent to arrive from London include copies of the personal papers of Benjamin Disraeli; Lord Florey, of penicillin fame; Lord Leverhulme, the founder of Lever Bros (now Unilever), who took over control of Australian soap-making; and E. T. Crutchley, the British Government's representative in Australia at the time of the cricketing 'bodyline' controversy in 1932.

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