

Announcing
AAPI
 AUSTRALIA
 ARCHITECTURAL
 PERIODICALS INDEX
 DUE FOR PUBLICATION ON
 MICROFICHE IN MARCH 1986

Stanton Library has made the decision to publish a unique and important information resource in Australian architecture, building, construction technology, interior design, landscape architecture, alternative technology, architectural arts and crafts and restoration.

Containing approximately **20,000 entries**, this index covers Australian journals published from 1910 to 1983. Source references with brief descriptions are listed under broad subject headings, as well as under names of architects and architectural firms.

PRICE:
 Aus \$200 Pre-publication
 Aus \$250 After March 1986

UPDATES:
 Yearly updates of AAPI are planned

For order forms and further information, contact: *Therese Lake, Stanton Library, 234 Miller Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060 Australia. Telephone (02) 920 5880*

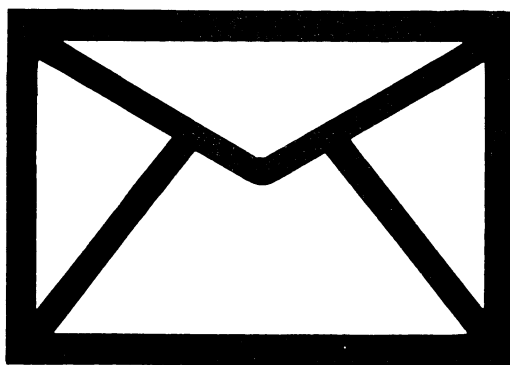
Also available

The ARCH Database

Recent information in these same subject areas, but from a wider coverage of Australian Architecture, Building and Conservation journals, can be obtained from ARCH, the Australian Architecture Database, also developed and produced by Stanton Library.

The ARCH Database is publicly available Australia-wide via the ACICS National Communication Network AUSINET.

For further information about this service and its cost, telephone ACICS (02) 662 7011.



Library Automation Disaster

By curious coincidence the October 11 issue of *InCite* carries a request for information on 'library automation disasters' from Mr Glenn Sanders, and an item in the report on the General Council meeting to the effect that 'The new computer system at Head Office . . . is not providing the Association with the improved facilities that we expected of it. It is slower than the old system and is not integrated as it was planned to be. Council has approved a recommendation that an independent computer consultant be asked to review the Association's computing needs.'

The choice of the new system was bullocked through General Council by the Executive in 1983. It was brought on at a time when a number of members of Council had already departed late on the second day of the meeting and against the objections of a number of councillors including myself. Documentation relating to the proposed new system was tabled and councillors were given a terse invitation to wade through it if they wished to be better informed. We were given a clear indication that the new system would handle a number of important functions, not least of which was the processing of membership records. The report to the August 1985 meeting of General Council asserts that in this and other significant respects the new computer is totally inadequate and advises that the Association faces additional expenditure of up to \$100,000. I put it to you that this does not reflect well on a body which claims to represent the interests of information professionals. Further, it revives in my mind the view that the Executive often treats the General Council with something very close to contempt and sometimes with disastrous results, as in this case.

I hope the General Councillors will not allow the wool to be pulled over their eyes when the promised report on the shortcomings of the system is presented at the November meeting but I hope that they will also ask some pointed questions about the additional costs which the Association will incur.

In closing, I suggest that if Mr Sanders wants a classic 'library automation disaster' with which to open his proposed monograph he could do no better than examine the ramifications of the way in which the present system was chosen by the Association.

John Levett

Sometime Councillor-at-large.

Membership List

I wish to inform the LAA that if it goes ahead with the proposal to sell a list of members' names to outside agencies, I will forthwith resign from the organisation.

I receive enough junk mail unsolicited now, without having a body to which I pay to belong, openly selling my name and address for monetary gain to someone who will inundate me with further unwanted advertising or other material.

Creina Dawson

The Censorship question . . . or more specifically, censorship and *Ex Nihilo*

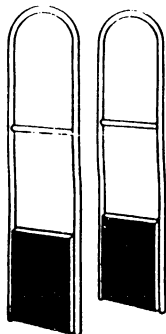
I cannot leave the letter of Dr Martin Bridgstock of the 25 October issue of *InCite* unchallenged. Dr Bridgstock accuses the magazine *Ex Nihilo* of 'errors, misquotations and misrepresentations' and then immediately misquotes segments of my letter! In order to criticise the magazine he has taken one example of censorship given, and applies it directly to the completely unrelated case of *Ex Nihilo*.

This could be considered accidental, if it were not a regular practice of Dr Bridgstock, or if he were not known as an ardent opponent to the Creationist view. It appears from a number of articles I have before me that Dr Bridgstock is an evolutionist, and that he has expressed his opposition to the biblical account of the universe's and man's origins via radio and the printed page. He has publicly accused the publishers of *Ex Nihilo* of 'misquotes and misrepresentations'. On examination however, these accusations have been shown to be false. In his letter to *InCite*, Dr Bridgstock offers to supply literature which is supposed to highlight the 'errors of *Ex Nihilo*'. It appears likely that this literature is that which has been prepared by the 'Australian Skeptics' Society which has been formed to 'destroy Christianity in Australia, and in particular the Organisation which publishes *Ex Nihilo*'. As could be expected this biased 'report of errors in *Ex Nihilo*' is itself, liberal in errors, misquotes and misrepresentations — as has been shown by Dr Carl Wieland of Adelaide. Although Dr Bridgstock is familiar with the fact of *Ex Nihilo's* existence, his comments thereon reveal a superficial knowledge of its contents and the research carried out by the Creationists. At the same time, his opposing viewpoint would cause him to see 'errors' in any of the magazine's articles.

Dr Bridgstock also states that *Ex Nihilo* is condemned by all the major churches. This statement is not just misleading, it is positively untrue. Whilst there are a minority of leaders and individual persons within the Church(es) who have accepted the evolutionary theory of man's origins and these people will, on occasion speak against the biblical account of creation, *Ex Nihilo's* organisation is booked for speaking engagements in the Churches throughout Australia; their public

STOP THIEVING!!

with CHECKPOINT'S LIBRARY SECURITY SYSTEM



IT'S EFFECTIVE . . .

The CHECKPOINT Security System has a documented record of reducing book losses by an average of 80-90% and . . .

IT'S SIMPLE . . .

by far the most trim, least complicated of all existing systems to install, operate, and maintain. Protecting your collection is quick, easy and very economical.

IT'S RELIABLE . . .

no embarrassment due to false-alarms. An alarm means an attempted book theft. Excellent head-to-toe detection.

IT'S INEXPENSIVE . . .

we designed this system to be within the budget of every library or media centre.

Phone Checkpoint now for an obligation free quote:

Melbourne: Ph: (03) 699 3522/699 3350

Canberra: Ph: (062) 816 940

Sydney: Ph: (02) 358 4561/665 4783

Brisbane: Ph: (07) 398 5075

Perth: Ph: (09) 451 8224



Put a **STOP** to BOOK
 THEFT IN YOUR
 LIBRARY

seminars are always well attended; the yearly Summer Institutes are very popular, and the ministry is rapidly expanding due to popular demand.

Whilst no doubt Dr Bridgstock personally believes he is making a stand for 'truth', he is in fact attempting to censor out of existence a viewpoint which is contrary to his own; yet one which is and has been, an integral part of Australia's heritage.

In criticising the Queensland Government's decision to continue to allow the children in State schools to hear the biblical account of creation, Dr Bridgstock says (*Courier Mail* 15.5.85) I fear for the future of our children in our State if non-knowledge (sic) like this is politically forced (sic) into our schools'. When one considers that it was this foundational teaching and philosophy of life which raised Australia from obscurity to being the greatest nation in the world in which to live, one has to wonder what it is exactly that Dr Bridgstock is so nervous about . . . perhaps it's simply that his own viewpoint (a theory which has never been proven despite 100 years or more of scientific research) is threatened — a shaky foundation indeed on which to base one's ardent attempt at censorship.

Librarians may rest assured that the magazine 'Ex Nihilo' will not only measure up to the highest standards of excellence, but will be popular among its clientele, providing a much needed balance to their many books on evolution.

N. L. Williams

Over to Dr Bridgstock

Byron and Williams have both written angry letters attacking both my short letter and me personally. Their language is so wild that sometimes it is not clear what they mean. I will comment upon the more coherent assertions and demands, and leave the rest to the good sense of the readers.

Byron and Williams do not state what they actually believe. The basic tenets of creationism, as advanced in *Ex Nihilo*, are that the earth and the universe are less than ten thousand years old, and were created in the biblical six days. Noah's flood wiped out nearly all life on earth, and laid down most rock strata. The Tower of Babel scattered humanity into many races and tongues. The creationists want this taught in the *science* classroom, although its religious roots are obvious.

Byron challenges me to substantiate my claim that *Ex Nihilo* is riddled with errors and distortions. Some of my evidence can be found in the March issues of the *Australian Science Teachers Journal*, *The Queensland Science Teacher* and the *Journal of the School Library Association of Queensland*. More evidence is in the July issue of *Ideas in Education*, and the September issue of *The Queensland Teachers Union Professional Magazine*. More evidence is to come. I am not the only researcher who has discovered these errors and misrepresentations. Similar conclusions have been arrived at by Drs Kenneth Miller, David Milne, Alex Ritchie, Steven Schafersman, Ken Smith and Tony Thulborn. (I am preparing a list of references.)

Williams speculates that my literature . . . is that which has been prepared by the 'Australian Skeptics' Society which has been formed to "destroy Christianity in Australia" . . . This is false, on two counts. None of my papers have been prepared by the Skeptics. They are all my own work. Second, readers will note that Williams claims that the Skeptics are out to destroy Christianity. This is

false; the Skeptics exist to test pseudo-scientific and paranormal claims. They have nothing to say about religion; readers can write to Skeptics Box 1555P, Melbourne, Vic 3001 for literature to check.

Byron wants to know what standards I believe librarians should uphold. Well, basic truthfulness for a start. Readers are entitled to expect a basic level of reliability in library materials; unlike me, most readers do not have the time or resources to make lengthy checks.

Both Byron and Williams wax abusive regarding my statement that the major churches have condemned creationism (Williams manages to misrepresent me again, claiming that I'd said they condemned *Ex Nihilo*; I specifically said it was the *views* — see paragraph 2 above for these).

InCite's deadline allowed me only 24 hours to accumulate evidence for this. The Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane in a personal communication stressed the broad range of positions within his church but strongly opposed the teaching of genesis as science. The Catholic viewpoint has been repeatedly stated (eg *Catholic Leader*, May 27, 1984; the Pope has reaffirmed the scientific concept of an ancient universe, in speaking to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in 1981) and the Uniting Church Queensland Synod, Department of Education and Communication released a statement in October 1984 opposing creationism. In the United States the Episcopal, Catholic, Methodist, United Presbyterian and Reform Jewish churches have all condemned creationism too.

One may also inspect the list of speaking engagements to be found at the back of the *Creation Science Prayer News* — published by the same people as *Ex Nihilo*. Whenever a church is specified, it is overwhelmingly likely to be one of the smaller, fundamentalist protestant ones.

Williams misrepresents me again in claiming that I criticised 'the Queensland Government's decision to continue to allow children in State schools to hear the biblical account of creation . . . I didn't. I criticised only its being forced by a politician into the science syllabus. I am happy that the biblical account of creation be taught, from several perspectives, in religious studies.

Byron claims that there is not one scrap of evidence supporting evolution, and that is why he calls it a religion. He claims he should know, as he has a science degree. I suggest that Byron realise that a basic science degree does not equip anyone to understand a fraction of the evidence involved, let alone to condemn it all.

Both Byron and Williams accuse me of bias. According to Byron it is 'blatant prejudice', according to Williams I am 'an ardent opponent to the creationist view'. As a matter of fact, I am a creationist; I believe in an ancient, created universe and a Creator. Further, if good scientific evidence can be produced for the claims advanced in *Ex Nihilo*, I will change my view and become a biblical literalist. So far, hundreds of checks have yielded only error and falsehood.

I believe that the letters of Byron and Johnson are good examples of why the creationist literature is so unreliable. Their frenzied tone and disregard for accuracy make them poor advertisements for any cause.

(Dr) Martin Bridgstock

Lecturer
School of Science
Griffith University
Nathan, Qld 4111.

35 Libraries have something in common...

BOOK[©]

The computerised
system for better
library management!

Flexible!

- Choice of hardware (IBM, NCR, ICL, HP, DEC/VAX)
- Economical and practical for any sized library (Public, School, Academic, Special)
- Fully integrated and modular

Simple!

- Easy to operate — menu driven
- Training & installation included
- Comprehensive documentation

Reliable!

- Operating in over 35 libraries
- First installed in 1981

and Dynamic!

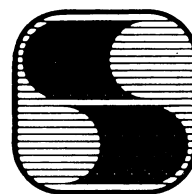
- Developed in Australia by professional librarians
- Continual development and refinement is guided by 35 user libraries

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PHONE:—

Adelaide: Mike Sly (08) 224 0100

Melbourne: Paul Anderson (03) 690 4788

Sydney: Kay Clarke (02) 411 2455



STOWE COMPUTING AUSTRALIA

211 Flinders Street, Adelaide 5000 (08) 224 0100