

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Undaunted by challenge

**J.W. Lindt: *Master Photographer***/by Shar Jones. Melbourne: Curry O'Neil, 1985. 128pp. \$40.00. ISBN 0 85902 1149.

Australian photographic history has, only in the last decade, attracted sustained interest and this work examines the life and career of a pioneer Australian photographer John William Lindt (1845-1926). Shar Jones' stated purpose, and one that is admirably achieved, is 'to examine Lindt's work and to set it in the broader context of the period in which he worked.' One hundred of his photographs taken from the La Trobe Library Picture Collection are reproduced and accompany a text which traces Lindt's life from Germany through the beginnings of his professional photographic career in Grafton in 1863 to the height of his fame in Melbourne in the 1880s and finally to a new aspect of this diverse personality — the promoter of tourism.

As such Lindt's career, which spanned the period between the earliest photographic processes and the universal spread of photography, is examined as much through a critical

text as it is through well-chosen images which corroborate the diverse photographic roles the man assumed: portraitist, architectural photographer, ethnographic photographer, documentary photographer, photo-journalist, genre photographer and landscape photographer and nascent pictorialist. Thus buildings steeped in baroque shadows vie with gentle and domestic images; the exotic, fire-walking ceremony in Fiji and bizarre tree houses in New Guinea contrast with the commercial street life of Melbourne and the cluttered Victorian interiors; and carefully composed studio photographs of Aborigines compare with the more spontaneous looking images of selector and mining life.

There were, apparently, no limiting distinctions to the roles Lindt saw himself undertaking as photographer and what we are ultimately left with from Shar Jones' work is the image of a man undaunted by challenge who made his own opportunities and achieved a breadth of lasting work unmatched by his contemporaries. The entrepreneurial skills, energy and astute business sense that Lindt possessed are well noted: the fact he won a gold medal at the Philadelphia International Exhibition in August 1876 while still a photographer in provincial Grafton is evidence enough.

The only significant omission from the pages of this otherwise excellent text is a more detailed look at the professional relationship between Nicholas John Caire (1837-1918) and Lindt. A comparison of their working methods, visual vocabulary and interaction would have been both welcome and appropriate.

This is a work of value and interest to a wide audience; it is handsomely designed and a noteworthy addition to Curry O'Neil's publishing list and their 1983 title drawn from the same Library source: *Sun Pictures of Vic-*

*toria: The Fauchery-Daintree Collection 1858*, by Dianne Reilly and Jennifer Carew.

Robert Holde  
Janet Hardie Librarian

### Compendium of major contributions — or rules for dead catalogue systems?

**Foundations of cataloguing: a sourcebook**/edited by Michael Carpenter and Elair Svenonius. Littleton, Col.: Libraries Unlimited. 1985. 288pp. US\$27.50 ISBN 0 87287 511

The editors of this anthology have been well known over many years in the fields of cataloguing theory and practice, particularly in regard to descriptive cataloguing and subject analysis. This collection brings together for both teachers and students of cataloguing the work of the developmental thinkers of the pre-online catalogue era, namely Panizz J Jewett, Cutter, Pettee, Osborn, Lubetzka Taube, Verona and Domanovsky. The chronological link to the near present is made through selections from Malinconico, Gorman and Wilson. The most recent article is by Patrick Wilson from *Library technology and technical services* (Jan.-Mar. 1983). The index is well designed to bring together related issues and ideas. The descriptive cataloguing orientation of this volume complements the companion volume *Theory of subject analysis: a sourcebook*, edited by Chan, Richmond and Svenonius.

The material selected for this text also well known for the most part, the exception being Panizzi's letter to Lord Ellesmere, explaining the magnitude of the task required of him in order to complete

in a uniform and consistent manner, within the shortest time, regard being had to the due execution of the work, a full and accurate alphabetical catalogue of a collection of printed books for public use, containing not less than 500,000 works, and being the amalgamation of three or four separate large libraries, each of which has a catalogue drawn up on distinct plans, by various hands, at various times.

The editors acknowledge that the selection have an Anglo-American bias in regard to catalogue design and structure, the notable absences being the German and Indian schools of thought. The reasons given for the bias are that the volume had to be kept to a manageable size, and it was considered that the Anglo-American tradition would be of most immediate interest.

Each selection is introduced by an analytical appraisal, placing the material in historical perspective, identifying problems and issues, and either directly or indirectly raising questions for discussion. Each editorial introduction is signed and averages approximately 500 words. Although some are longer and more penetrating than others, the total constitutes a very useful overview commentary on the principles governing catalogue design and structure.

The publication of such a text does, however, raise the question whether the rules for dead catalogue systems can have any relevance or be of any interest in current library school curricula. A basic justification for the text is that it provides a compendium of the major contributions to and influences on cataloguing theory from 1841 to 1983. Allied to this is the fact that most of this seminal material is either no longer easily accessible or has gone out of print. It is certainly useful to have readily to hand the core of these landmark writings. On the whole each of the extracts is well selected and sufficient

Continued on page 1

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# GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA

The following items will be discussed at the General Council meeting to be held at the Hotel Darwin, 10 Herbert Street, Darwin on Friday, 27 and Saturday, 28 June 1986 commencing on Friday at 8.30am

Note: All items to be agreed on for discussion. Additional items for discussion to be identified at the commencement of the meeting.

Welcome and apologies  
Proxies and observers  
Hours of meeting  
Minutes of meeting held on 21/22 March 1986  
Matters arising from the minutes and not elsewhere on the agenda  
Reports of the President, Executive Director and Industrial Information and Research Officer  
Report of the General Councillor-at-large  
Matters arising from the Executive Committee meeting on 26 June 1986

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Corporate Plan and Review  
LAA 50th Anniversary celebrations  
Australian Library and Information Research Foundation  
Library standards  
Use of international symbols in libraries  
Library Publicity Task Force  
Special Library Promotional Task Force  
Revision of LAA policy statements  
International Year of Peace Grant  
National Information Policy  
Draft Policy Statements on NIP  
Commonwealth Assistance to the Public Libraries Campaign  
Rural Policy Statement  
Public libraries as government information agencies  
Acquisition of Australian publications by Australian libraries  
Submissions to government  
Australian traineeship scheme  
Library resources for nurse education  
Audiovisual copyright

## FINANCE

Auditors management letter  
Income and expenditure to 31 May 1986  
Carryover of funds  
1987 Budget

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership report  
Head Office and membership  
Sale of membership lists

substantial to convey the extent of the particular contribution to cataloguing theory. The possible exception is the Cutter extract, which because of the descriptive cataloguing restriction of the anthology, cannot give any indication of Cutter's contribution to the development of the single sequence alphabetical author/title/subject catalogue and syndetic linkage system.

The main value of this text, however, does not reside so much in the individual writings in their being viewed as a totality, in which case the question that most forcefully merges is whether current cataloguing codes noted in 19th century systems should continue to be considered appropriate standards for the design of online bibliographic information retrieval systems with objectives and conceptual structures markedly different from those of card catalogues, and ranging in complexity from network megacatalogues to individual specialised databases.

*Doreen Goodman*

Canberra College of Advanced Education

## LAA COMMITTEES & REPRESENTATION ON RELATED BODIES

- National Book Council Medal
- AACOBS/LAA Joint Committee on Information Technology

## CONFERENCES

- 1986 biennial Conference
- 1988 Biennial Conference
- IFLA 1988
- 1990 Biennial Conference
- Student attendance at conferences

## DIVISIONAL MATTERS

- Reports of Branch activities
- Formation of Acquisitions Section, SA Group

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- LAA in International Librarianship Committee
- Financial assistance to IFLA participants

## EDUCATION

- Report of the Board of Education
- Continuing education
- Manpower
- Library services in distance education

## AWARDS

- Report on LAA awards for 1986
- Honorary Awards Committee

## PUBLICATIONS

- Publications Board report
- Publication Board
- Guidelines on Publication on Conference Proceedings
- Encyclopedia of Australian Library and Information Science

## ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

- 1988 Annual General Meeting
- SAIL project
- Returning officers for 1986 elections
- Annual General Meeting
- Archives of the Association

- Other business
- Next meeting
- Votes of thanks

## Thomas Woodrow Award to RMIT student

RMIT student, Julie McInnes was the winner of the 1985 Thomas H. Woodrow Memorial Trust Award. This Award, in memory of the late Thomas H. Woodrow and his contribution to library services in the Camberwell area, is given each year to 'an outstanding student of Librarianship' from one or both of RMIT and Ballarat CAE. Julie was the sole recipient of the Award in 1985.

Winning this award was particularly significant for Ms McInnes. She started at RMIT as a part-time student in 1981 after she had already completed a Library Technician's Certificate and studied part-time to complete her Higher School Certificate. During her studies she was employed at RMIT Central Library and participated in the exchange scheme with the State Library of Victoria. After completing the Diploma portion of RMIT's Bachelors Degree in Social Science (Librarianship) Julie was appointed to the staff of the Latrobe Library section of the State Library of Victoria.

*The Essential*

# BOOK

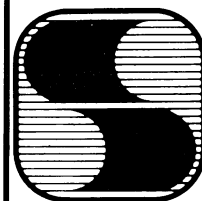
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