

Maria Gemenis Award



Jenny Adams

The following speech by Jan Cree was delivered at the presentation of the Maria Gemenis Award to Jenny Adams at the LAA National Special Libraries Section dinner on Monday, 29 August 1988.

'It is a very great honour for me to announce that the 1988 Maria Gemenis Award for Outstanding Contribution to Special Librarianship goes to a member of the NSW Specials Libraries Section.'

'As many of you are aware, I spent a number of years working with Maria on the NSW Special Libraries Committee. It was through her 'Address to a Brick Wall' that I became actively involved. Maria was a creative leader and supportive committee member; she had a pragmatic approach to life. There have been many times over the last few years when I have very much missed the opportunity to discuss with Maria a particular problem or share a laugh about skiing.'

'It is particularly gratifying to remember that something of Maria's vitality and enthusiasm is being kept alive through the annual presentation of this award.'

'The criteria for the award are:

- willingness to share professional expertise
- breaking down the barriers of librarians in isolation
- successtul promotion of library and information services by achieving outstanding recognition from the parent organisation.'

'These criteria were specified because they were things that Maria was especially concerned about.'

'Maria was always willing to share her professional expertise and to encourage others to do so. To further this she arranged meetings in different libraries and was always prepared to talk to librarians on an individual or group basis.'

'She was very concerned about the isolation of special librarians, not only in a geographical sense, but in the fact that in smaller libraries they often work alone and have little or no contact with other librarians.'

'Perhaps the final criterion, ie successful promotion of the service by achieving outstanding recognition from the parent organisation, is the one which was most important to Maria.'

'She had a strong concern for the quality of the profession and was very much in favour of selling the service to its users and justifying it to senior management.'

'The sixth Maria Gemenis Award for Outstanding Contribution to Special Librarianship goes this year to someone who knew Maria well and who instigated this award after Maria's sudden death in 1983.'

'This year's winner started off in the public libraries arena, but soon changed to 'Specials' — working as an assistant librarian at CIG Ltd.'

'She moved to Unilever Australia Ltd as a technical librarian in 1976. Here she successfully promoted her excellent library and information service within her organisation and achieved outstanding recognition with this large company. She was made technical information manager in 1978.'

'Her willingness to share her professional expertise started with her implementation of the first Australian installation of CAIRS in 1980. She was always willing to show any of us how she had set up the computerised indexing of technical information and discuss how such systems could be of benefit to others.'

'This winner probably has done more to break down the barriers of isolation for special librarianship during her career.'

'She first served on the NSW Specials Committee in 1976, becoming Treasurer then President of the Section.'

'In 1980, she became the National President of the 'Specials', being Chairman of the 1981 National 'Specials' Conference in Sydney. She marketed the National Special Libraries Section at the Adelaide biennial conference in 1982 where the 'I'm Special' badges were seen in great numbers.'

'At all meetings, she always made sure every new member was made welcome, introducing them to other 'Specials'.'

'She resigned from Unilever Australia Ltd in 1984 to take up the position of Executive Director of the LAA. (Not before she had been elected as the Vice President, President Elect of the LAA.)

By now I'm sure you will have guessed who the recipient is. The award goes to Jenny Adams.

As Executive Director, Jenny has always had

the 'Specials' in mind — remembering that we were the largest national Section.

Her dedication and achievements throughout those years were tremendous. Culminating in her work on the Corporate Plan and Review Committee.

Though she retired as Director in 1987 to have her daughter Victoria, she is still involved with the library and information world, with her role on the committee of the Australian Libraries Summit.

Jenny's contribution to 'Special Librarianship' has been outstanding and this award is presented to Jenny for the work she has done to promote and help 'Specials' in a manner which would have made Maria proud.'

Jan Cree
President

Special Libraries Section (NSW Group)

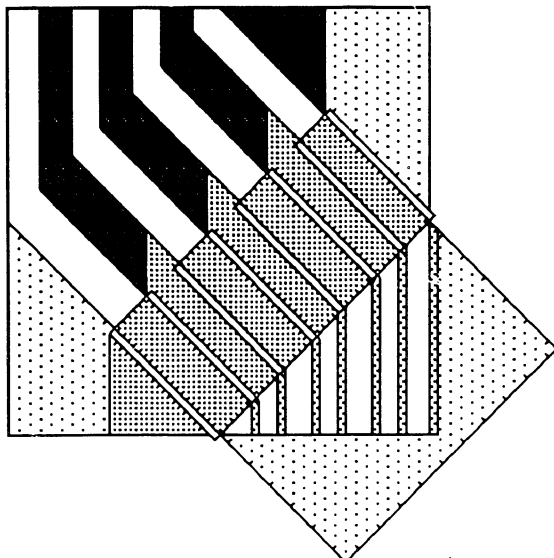
Australian Studies Discussion Group

Developments in Australian libraries and collecting Australian *belles-lettres* were the topics discussed at the meeting of the Australian Studies Discussion Group (ASDG), at the American Library Association (ALA) conference.

Jim Dwyer, spoke on current developments in librarianship in Australia. Several other visiting Australian librarians and exhibitors joined him to answer questions.

Ross Atkinson, former Associate University Librarian for Collection Development at the University of Iowa, described the selection of Australian *belles-lettres* for the Iowa Library, which is one of the few American libraries with a very strong collection of Australian literature. The library, a member of the Research Libraries Group (RLG), collects Australian literature at a level to support advanced research. Mr Atkinson took this opportunity to distribute a list of major Australian authors and a list of sources for information on Australian literature and reviews of current writings.

The ASDG provides a forum for librarians interested in Australia, New Zealand and the Western Pacific. The Group, which is part of the Association of College and Research Libraries, meets at each ALA conference. For further information about the Group, please, write to William Schenk, Collections Development Office, Library of Congress, Washington DC 20540.



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