



## Verb. sap.

*International directory of foreign ministers 1589-1989* by Peter Truhart is a mammoth compilation of ministers for foreign affairs of what seems like all the countries of the world from the invention of the species by the French in 1589. Gives title, period of tenure, full name and dates of birth and death. Judging by a number of little slips in the Australian section, will need to be used judiciously. Published in 1989 by Saur. Review copy supplied by D W Thorpe. (ISBN 3 598 10823 0)

*Tips to ensure that life begins at forty (and continues to improve thereafter!)* by Dorothy Hodge, a rather prosaic title after her (unpublished) novels *Tropical seduction*, *Bizarre encounter* and *Bloodied bribe*. Undaunted, Dorothy's chatty collection of hints, aimed primarily at a female audience and interspersed with her poems, was self-published in 1988. Available from Bridge Publications, PO Box 182, Freshwater, Cairns, Qld. 4870 at \$10 post paid. (ISBN 0 7316 4639 8)

*Animal acts* edited by Lynne Spender outlines how Fido, Tiddles and Dobbin can get you into hot water if not into court. Injury to farm animals, barking dogs, wailing tomcats, deposits in the kids' sandpit and protected species: all aspects of the new specialty of veterinary jurisprudence. Helpful reading for all pet owners. Published by Redfern Legal Centre Publishing in 1989, \$9.95. (ISBN 0 947205 12 8)

*National Film Lending Collection film and video catalogue* lists the complete holdings of the NFLC at the National Library of Australia as at December 1988. Films and videos of the NFLC are available for non-commercial use by organisations throughout Australia. This 52-fiche catalogue is in a single dictionary sequence, with items accessible by title, series title and subject headings. A separate catalogue of half-inch VHS

videocassettes only is also available. *National Film Lending Collection film and video catalogue* was published by the NLA in 1989 and costs \$17.50. (ISSN 1032-5883) The *National Film Lending Collection half-inch VHS catalogue* costs \$7.50. (ISSN 1032-5875)

*Saudi Arabia: Bibliography on society, politics, economics*, volume 2, by Hans Jurgen Philipp, continues his 1984 work. 'The widest ranging and most complete specialist bibliography on Saudi Arabia' is no mere boast. Coverage is however restricted to works in Western European languages. Published by Saur in 1989. Review copy supplied by D W Thorpe. (ISBN 3 598 21137 6)

*China's modernisation* by Gary Klintworth discusses the strategic implications of this phenomenon for the Asia-Pacific region. 'In the less sanguine view, China's modernisation will be an endless cycle of attempts at reform and conservative reaction' seems to have been borne out by events. Published by AGPS Press in 1989. (ISBN 0 644 09548 2)

## Reference librarians' round-up

Reference Librarians Conferences have been held in 1984 (Brisbane), 1987 and 1989 (both Melbourne), providing an environment for issues of current concern to be aired, and usually with a number of predetermined themes. The 1987 conference proceedings, edited by Ray Choate and Eva Fisch, are now to hand, with 28 papers published on subjects as diverse and illuminating as reference services to distance students, OPACS, CD-ROMs, career changes, reference interviews and fee for service. The emphasis is on things practical, with understandable attention being given to the impact of new technology and the problems and possibilities for reference workers which come in its train. *Reference services 1987: The challenge of the information age: papers from the Second Reference Librarians' Conference*, edited by Ray Choate and Eva Fisch, was published in 1989 by Reference Workshops, La Trobe University Library, Bundoora, Vic 3083, and costs \$20 post free. (ISBN 0 7316 3494 2)

## Secrets of the financial pages

UnSvMo is on the rise. CalBio has taken a tumble. RotoRtr is steady. What

do you do now? Buy? Sell? Take a powder? Or reach for Howard R Jarrell's *Common stock*? If you are looking at the financial pages of an American newspaper, that could be the best strategy. Jarrell's 413-page work deciphers around 6300 abbreviations used by Associated Press and trading symbols used on the American Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange. Only common stocks are included, not preferred stocks, warrants or units. There are three sections, the first arranged by company name, the second by newspaper abbreviation, and the third by trading symbol. It's all very simple. As with many useful reference books, you wonder why someone didn't produce it long ago. Full marks to Jarrell. Information specialists dealing with the US stock market should find this a great boon. *Common stock newspaper abbreviations and trading symbols* by Howard R Jarrell was published by Scarecrow Press in 1989 and costs US\$49.50. My review copy was supplied by James Bennett Library Services. (ISBN 0 8108 2255 5)

## For electronic authors

A prominent Australian historian fairly recently upgraded his hardware: from a steel-nib dip pen to the latest in fountain pen technology. Other authors (this one included) have been happily supplying their publishers with copy on disc for years, and it can be a rewarding experience — if it all works. Authors who haven't made the leap into electronic manuscripts will find Michael Barnard's *Making electronic manuscripts* a fairly painless introduction to the process. Barnard's 28-page book has a chapter on personal computers and word processing for the absolute beginner, a chapter on important details like hyphenation, incompatibility of systems, transmission codes, and a brief outline of desktop publishing and the production of camera-ready copy. Barnard encloses a form (although one didn't come with my review copy) which an author can fill out when sending a disc to a publisher, with spaces to indicate the operating system and software used, and any special characters employed. A useful publication for absolute beginners. *Making electronic manuscripts* by Michael Barnard was published in London by Blueprint Publishing in February 1989. It is distributed locally by D W Thorpe and costs \$7. (ISBN 0 948905 38 7)

