

The Source



David J Jones

THE WEALTH of multicultural writing in Australia emerges clearly in a very thorough guide published recently by the Centre for Studies in Literary Education at Deakin University. It is modestly entitled *A bibliography of Australian multicultural writers*, but is in fact a bio-bibliographical guide, with information about the writer's career and background, details of publications or performances, and references to literary criticism. Here are writers long celebrated in expatriate communities or in their former homelands, but unknown to the general public: people like Peeter Lindsaar, who for years checked in people's bags at the State Library of New South Wales and in his spare time gained the reputation as 'one of the outstanding Estonian writers in exile.' Or Vincas Kazokas, the whimsical, coffee-bean-chewing stack attendant in the same library who edited a Lithuanian weekly for twenty-three years and translated Gide and Koestler into his native tongue. Just two of the 900 or so writers tracked down for this valuable work. The work covers non-Anglo-Celtic immigrant writers, as well as second and third generation non-Anglo-Celtic writers, who have been published in English or a language other than English. The period covered is from first white settlement to 1991. Entries are arranged alphabetically, and there is an index by language. For living writers there is some, but not complete, overlap with *Who's who of Australian writers*. Compiled by Sneja Gunew, Lolo Houbein, Alexandra Karakostas-Seda and Jan Mahyuddin, *A bibliography of Australian multicultural writers* was published in 1992 by the Centre for Studies in Literary Education, Deakin University, and is distributed by Deakin University Press. It costs \$29.95 plus \$7.50 postage and handling. (ISBN 0 7300 1503 3)

Electronic biz

The impressive range of electronic databases relevant to the Australian business community is growing apace, judging by a recent guidebook published by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Janet Stewart and Sandra Oxley's *Electronic sources of information for business in Australia* is a useful 112-page work, providing details of the coverage of scores of Australian and overseas online and on-disc databases. Australian sources are listed 'comprehensively': overseas ones 'selectively to indicate some of

the standard sources'. Subjects covered include law, finance and accounting, statistics, industry and company information, management, general reference, newspapers and magazines. There are contact addresses of hosts and distributors and a succinct introduction canvassing issues such as the merits of online searching and some crystal-ball gazing. Janet Stewart and Sandra Oxley's *Electronic sources of information for business in Australia* was published in 1992 by RMIT as DIS (Department of Information Services) Working Paper N° 1 (or, Business Information Series N° 1), and costs \$25.00 post free. Copies are available from the DIS at RMIT, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne, Vic 3001. (ISBN 0 86444 255 6) The present work will reappear later this year as a chapter in a forthcoming *Sources of information for business in Australia*, which I eagerly await.

Outback and out of luck

The rescue plane rocks from side to side in daylight hours. What does it mean? Box jellyfish stings — do you apply vinegar? Could you deliver a baby if you had to? If your knees go to jelly at the thought, you had better stick to the beaten path. Travellers in remote areas, however, may well bless the day that they read *Survival! Remote area first aid*, prepared by recognised experts in the field, St John Ambulance Australia. Associated with this very well-written and superbly-illustrated book is a new St John Ambulance course on first aid in remote areas. It's a handy tome to have in the glove box as you set off in the four-wheel drive to Woop Woop Branch, and to have on your shelf to attract the interest of urban and rural bush-bashers. Obviously in a span of 174 pages it can't cover all the nasties which can beset you outback — for example, it mentions only the redback spider, and talks about snakes in general — but it gets the basic principles across. *Survival! Remote area first aid* was published in 1992 by St John Ambulance. Copies are available from your local branch and cost \$24.95. (ISBN 0 949569 29 1)

Sensitively written

It's awfully easy to offend your readers by a thoughtless choice of words or by tackling a story from an inappropriate 'angle' (to use a journalistic cliché). The sensitise people to the particular problems of reporting Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and ethnic affairs, the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism (ACIJ) has produced *Signposts*, a thought-provoking

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► publication for most writers. Instructive reading for the generalist, it is also of considerable reference value, containing a directory of Aboriginal and ethnic services and organisations, a chronology of ethnic affairs issues and a useful statistical appendix. There is a 'survival kit' containing guidelines on how to tackle particular issues, tips on non-racist language, information on how to address people of various nationalities and a host of other useful hints. The essays and field notes are informative too. *Signposts: a guide to reporting Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and ethnic affairs* was compiled by Kitty Eggerking and Diana Plater, and published by the ACIJ at the University of Technology, Sydney, PO Box 123, Sydney, NSW 2001. It costs \$20.00 post free. (ISBN 1 86365 052 0)

Double vision

People who missed the 'Faces of Australia' exhibition at the State Library of New South Wales have been pleased to see it return, by public demand, for a second season. Accompanying the exhibition is a nicely-presented catalogue-cum-monograph on Australian portraits since white settlement, as represented in the collections of the State Library. The reflective commentary by Richard Neville, Curator of Pictures Research in the Mitchell Library, is of lasting value, and is complemented by some fine reproductions in colour and monotone. My own favourite, Theodosia Ogilvie, her fragile beauty captured by an unknown artist, is there, together with many outstanding images from the Macquarie Street Aladdin's Cave, including a cruelly-accurate 1942 group portrait of some Sydney pub people (shortly to be issued as a limited edition tee-shirt). *Faces of Australia: image, reality and the portrait*, by Richard Neville, was published by the State Library of New South Wales Press in 1992 and costs \$17.95 paperback (ISBN 0 7305 8899 8), \$27.95 hardback (ISBN 0 7305 8898 x).

TV under the microscope

A helpful index to periodical articles on all aspects of television has been produced by the Rusden Campus Library. Volume one of *Television studies index* was published earlier this year, and covers the years 1985 to 1991. Fifteen periodicals from the Rusden collection, five of them Australian, were selected for indexing. Copies of *Television studies index*, edited by Sathy Marar, are available from Rusden Campus Library, Deakin University, 662 Blackburn Road, Clayton, Vic 3168, at \$14.00. (ISSN 1038-4472)

In vino veritas

My persistent purveyors of review

copies at Haworth Press are not only into librarianship serials and the odd parallel monograph, but also publish in food and drink. Under the imprint of Food Products Press, for example, they have published *Vintage wine book*, now in its second edition, with the imprimatur of the Sommelier Executive Council. This I have tasted, and have not consigned to the spittoon. It's a reasonable, unpretentious drop, showing its American origins, simple, but full-bodied and ready for immediate consumption. Masses of information on grape varieties, bottle shapes, wine-growing regions, how to serve wines, wine types and regional strengths and weaknesses. There's a wee drachm about spirits and beers (including a curious 'Australian' brew called Gosser Bier which obviously travels well). It also has a brief but inoffensive section on Australian wines, but its main value will be as a non-threatening introduction to the tyro oenologist. *Vintage wine book*, second edition, was bottled by Food Products Press earlier this year and retails at US\$29.95 hardback (ISBN 1 56022 008 2) and US\$19.95 softcover (ISBN 1 56022 009 0).

Also received from Haworth Press in their gallant efforts to do in my posties back are:

Tony Stankus's *Making sense of journals in the physical sciences from specialty origins to contemporary assortment* aims to help librarians 'get a handle on why scientists pursue given specialties and find certain journals more attractive than others'. It was published as monographic supplement no 7 to *The serials librarian*, and costs US\$29.95. (ISBN 1 56024 180 2)

Strategic planning in higher education, edited by James F Williams, is a collection of papers on this slippery subject, describing a variety of experiences in North American academic libraries. Simultaneously published as *Journal of library administration*, Vol 13, Nos 3/4, the monograph costs US\$24.95. (ISBN 1 56024 091 1)

Deborah S Panella tackles the *Basics of law librarianship* in a span of 118 pages. She can only touch on many issues, but does cover a lot of ground, from space predictions to client billing, and from the history of law libraries to the steady march of the CD-ROM. Good for someone thrown into the deep end with the legal eagles, as Rex Mossop would have it. Published in 1991, and costing US\$29.95 hardback (ISBN 0 86656 989 8) and \$14.95

soft (ISBN 0 86656 990 1).

William E Studwell's *Library of Congress Subject Headings: philosophy, practice and prospects* is not a guide to LCSH, but 'the first comprehensive theoretical treatise' on them (bold statement!). Studwell suggests a few giant leaps forward for LCSH, hoping it will become a cornerstone, rather than a millstone. Published as Supplement No 2 to *Cataloguing and classification quarterly* in late 1990, and costing US\$22.95. (ISBN 1 56024 003 2)

Coping with prolific publishers: the WPB technique, by Jay Q Zeitgeist, is a provocative analysis of what the author calls 'Conspectus Interruptus'. It was published simultaneously as Vol 14 No 2 of *Reference regurgitation review* and is printed on certified recyclable paper. It costs US\$39.95. (ISBN 0 7305 8899 8)

That, unless it's the postie I can hear staggering down the street, is all I have from Haworth for the time being. ■

(Items for review in *The Source* should be sent to:

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