

Books received

Dark and Hurrying Days: Menzies' 1941 Diary, edited by A W Martin and Patsy Hardy (Canberra: National Library of Australia 1993. x + 185 pp. \$19.95 pb ISBN 0 642 19285 5), is the latest offering from the NLA. Menzies was not a great diarist—in his whole life he kept diaries on only two occasions. The first covered his first trip to England in 1935, written at his wife's insistence to tell their children what they were doing; the second, the subject of this book, recorded his wartime experiences on a four-month journey that took him through Jakarta and Singapore to the Middle East, then on to London for wide-ranging visits and talks, and home via Canada and the USA. This journey was a politically brave and strategically necessary act. Menzies' personal views on events and people, recorded day by day in three ordinary exercise books, spring to life in these pages with a frankness, immediacy and thrust that fire the imagination. There are many photographs and an efficient index.

Ways of the World: a History of the World's Roads and of the Vehicles that used Them by M G Lay (Sydney: Primavera Press, 1992. xix + 401 pp. \$44.95 pb. ISBN 1 875368 05 1) must fill an essential gap in the reference collection, quite apart from being a great read. Max Lay is a Director of Vic Roads and formerly headed the Australian Road Research Board. He is eminently qualified to write about his topic, which clearly has been his passion as well as his job. The book

covers the earliest beginnings of paths and roads, transport with and without the wheel, the effects of power, construction techniques and bridges; it makes some informed guesses about the future. It is full of humour and quirky bits of information that illuminate the erudition without diminishing it. Next time you grumble about your Parking Ticket be grateful you are not in ancient Assyria, where the penalty for illegal parking was death by impaling.

In contrast, *The Second Fleet: Britain's grim convict Armada of 1790*, by Michael Flynn (Sydney: Library of Australian History, 1993. xii + 787 pp. \$59.50 hb. ISBN 0 908120 83 4) has mainly gallows humour, as befits an account of a voyage with a 40% mortality rate. This is a thorough piece of historical research: Michael Flynn has given us not only the story of the appalling voyage and its origins and what happened to the main characters in Australia, but also the sequel to it in Britain: the Government's successful cover-up of the scandalous bungling and profiteering. The main part of the book, more than six hundred pages, tells the individual stories of each of the 1500 'Second Fleeters' and the 'Waysiders' (those who in the end did not sail with the Second Fleet, or who are known to have died before reaching Australia). This section makes grim, fascinating and compulsive reading. If you have problems in finding this absorbing book, contact the Library of Australian History on (02) 929 5087 (tel and fax). ■

Support libraries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

ACPAD needs library science materials and microfiche readers

ACPAD, the Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development, has been distributing surplus books and journals from Australia to tertiary institutions in the Asia and Pacific region for more than 10 years.

Recently ACPAD has had requests for the microfiche readers, microfilm readers, cassette players, video players (VHS). It also has continual requests for library science materials,

such as DDC 19 edition, LC Subject Headings, AACR (1988 Revised edition), and for indexes and abstracts in all subject areas. As your library converts to CD-ROM subscriptions or direct electronic access and decides to dispose of its hard-copy indexes and abstracts, please think of ACPAD.

If you can help please contact Robyn Stokes or Annita George, tel (06) 285 8222, fax (06) 285 2036, e-mail robyns@idp.edu.au. ■

ALIA Vic Branch mentoring scheme

Eva Fisch reports

In order to respond to the professional development needs of its members at all levels, the Victorian Branch of ALIA will be running a mentoring scheme.

The goals of the scheme are to place every interested ALIA member with an ALIA mentor; enhance the image of ALIA as a caring professional association; encourage membership of ALIA by offering the scheme; and increase attendance at ALIA events by encouraging the participation of mentor/mentee groups. A Mentor:

- takes a personal interest in another person;
- offers advice and guidance to that person in an effort to enhance their professional development;
- sponsors a person's entry/involvement into the profession through introductions and networking.

Mentor-Mentee Relationships are:

- informal and voluntary and mutual and could become reciprocal;
- flexible and the duration of the mentoring relationship should be decided jointly.

Participants in the scheme (Mentors and Mentees) will be any Victorian ALIA members who wish to be involved in the program as a mentor or mentee. The benefits to Mentors will include:

- recognition that individuals have an important role to play in encouraging professional development;
- reaffirmation of skills, experience and knowledge gained in the profession;
- sharing skills, experiences and knowledge with others in the Association;
- assuming some responsibility for fostering the profession and ALIA membership;

The benefits to Mentees will include:

- professional guidance and advice;
- introduction to the 'professional network';
- introduction and encouragement to attend professional activities (meetings, workshops, seminars, library visits etc);
- breaking down of isolation if working in single person libraries;
- counselling on career opportunities at all stages of development.

Further details from Eva Fisch tel: (03) 479 2926 or Sue McKnight tel: (052) 27 1352. ■