

▶ rather than nationalities. Many other speakers at the summit picked up on this theme and talked about Australia becoming not only the purveyors of English language to the Asian region but even the coordinator and disseminator of material in other languages. There was obviously a big role for libraries in this vision.

Other speakers discussed the role of publishers in an increasingly technologically sophisticated world, the revolution in copyright now including the vexed problem of moral rights, how the modern library can cope with the new technologies, the problem of heritage and preservation (including a particularly good paper from Warren Horton, Director General of the NLA), and economic rationalism and the nation's literary culture.

A highlight of the summit was the presentation of the National Book Council's Gold Medal award to Brian Johns at a dinner midway through the proceedings. ■

Two fascinating books received

Any more room in an OS Christmas stocking?

The Desert Coast is based mainly on Edward Eyre's journal of his 1840-41 expedition from South Australia to Western Australia. Ed Stokes spent two months retracing Eyre's footsteps, taking two thousand photographs on the way. He comments: '...despite the safety nets provided by maps, vehicle and a transceiver, the country's dangers were always present...The Bight's coast, as awesome today as in Eyre's time, moulded my thoughts.'

Of the book's 128 pages, fifty carry Stoke's photographs with stunning clarity in vivid colour and generous format. How could they do it at the price? Well, the Arts Council and Cathay Pacific Airways provided sponsorship and we the readers reap the benefit. *The Desert Coast: Edward Eyre's Expedition 1840-41* by Edward Stokes (ISBN 0 86788 691 9) is published by Five Mile Press at \$39.95.

Ronald Doerfler began writing *Dead Reckoning: calculating without instruments* (Houston, Gulf Publishing Company, 1993. 182 pp \$27.25.

ISBN 0 88415 087 9) out of an interest in methods of the so-called 'lightning calculators' of the past, intending to publish a paper in a mathematical journal. It finished up as this book.

These days we all have inexpensive electronic calculators, so why should anybody still want to do it the hard way? Doerfler aims his book at those of us with an interest in mathematics and a general appreciation of numbers, who enjoy exercising the mind with some mental arithmetic. He begins with strategies for performing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and error-checking the results. He goes on to look at roots, logarithms and trigonometrical functions.

The book is eminently readable, if you have a mathematical bent and are sufficiently interested to work through the examples. Given to somebody who enjoys mind-stretching puzzles, it could be a painless way of enlarging their 'number sense'—and *that* is an advantage in very many professions. Highly recommended. (Our review copy courtesy of DA Information Services.) ■

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