

# Portraits in science

*Ann Moyal has produced a fine volume in the NLA oral history series*

The National Library of Australia has been recording oral histories since the late 1950s. It has published two previous volumes, *Self Portraits* and *Artists' Portraits*, of writers and artists respectively, based on interviews conducted over a twenty-five year period by Hazel de Berg.

In 1992 the Library invited Ann Moyal to add to these books by interviewing some of Australia's leading scientists, so recognising, as Warren Horton says in his Foreword, 'the singular contribution which scientific endeavour has made to the national life and which has brought international recognition to Australia.'

The book is a compilation of interviews with a dozen scientists who have been high achievers in their various scientific disciplines, nine men and three women. A 1972 interview with Harry Messel and a 1967 interview which forms the introduction to Sir Mark Oliphant's chapter are from Hazel

de Berg, edited by Ann Moyal; the remaining interviews are all by Ann Moyal. The scientists' own informal stories about their lives and their work give a fascinating insight into the processes of science and into the ways in which gifted people, whatever their origins, forge ahead to make their mark in their chosen fields and on society.

This is a book that can be heartily recommended as informative, inspirational and 'a jolly good read'. *Portraits in Science* is available from the NLA Shop and Commonwealth Government Bookshops at \$23.95 rrp. (ISBN 0 642 10616 9)

*Sir Mark Oliphant stands outside the ANU's Research School of Physical Sciences, which he founded.*



Reviews



**ALL STATES**  
LIBRARY BINDING  
SERVICE

Unit 5/47-49 Vicars Street, Mitchell, ACT 2911

NATIONWIDE  
LIBRARY BINDING  
FOR

- ❖ UNIVERSITIES
- ❖ RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
- ❖ LAW & MEDICAL LIBRARIES

BINDING  
PREPARATION  
SOFTWARE  
AVAILABLE

Enquiries:  
RICHARD or AUDREY  
Ph: Canberra (06) 241 4224



Is **THIS** what your  
circulation desk  
looks like?

...it **CAN** look like this!

- A friendlier, high-tech image presented to your patrons
- More efficient operation for staff
- No changes to either your desk or your library management system



Call us to find out how **Mini Monitors** and **Space Scanners** will benefit your library

**Altarama Systems Pty Ltd**

*the Library Automation Specialists*

Phone (02) 971 1522  
Fax (02) 971 3118