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BOOK REVIEWS

Design for Diversity: Library Services for Higher Education and Research in Australia. Edited by Harrison Bryan and Gordon Greenwood. Queensland: Univ. of Queensland Pr., 1977. 790p. \$39.95. ISBN 0-7022-1314-4. (Available from Technical Impex Corp., 5 South Union St., Lawrence, MA 01843.)

The editors in their prefatorial remarks admit the many problems inherent in setting out to write a "state of the art" report on the academic and research libraries of a continent. Simply the assembling and guiding of the many cooperating authors would be a gargantuan enough task. To weld together their diverse offerings into a book that avoids unnecessary repetition, that

avoids being descriptive only of a crystallized instant of time, and that makes a considerable contribution to knowledge speaks well of the patience and the persistence of the editors.

There is no way of overcoming the lapse of time between inception and publication of such a book. The prefaces were written in May 1975. Most of the chapters, based on internal evidence, were written between 1973 and 1974. The latest statistics and other facts that can be cited date from 1973 or earlier. Clearly then the facts of the book are now historical, rather than contemporary, but it is a measure of its success that one is prepared to accept this, asking only occasionally what happened next, for its greatest importance lies not in the statistics, not in the descriptions of buildings and collections, but in the presentation of concepts

and ideas whose value extends beyond the time and the place of their writing.

This volume was conceived to be a survey of Australia by Australians, a sort of coming-of-age ceremony for Australian librarianship. As such it is fitting that it should set out the history of their libraries, calmly and without flattery. It is proper also that it should display informed dissent such as is natural within a group of adult professionals. Differences of opinion are not glossed over, nor are the many severe failures of past and present neglected.

Perhaps in five years' time an article or two should be commissioned to see where the brave planners of the early seventies have got to. Besides, there are a few historical episodes that obviously require clarification. Despite the frequent references elsewhere to its beneficial effects, D. H. Borchardt clearly states (p.155) that the Tauber report was emasculated by those who resented its implications. Perhaps the resolution of the fact is less important than that the statement should appear in this compendium, evidence that it seeks a true portrait, warts and all.

There are multitudes of facts, historical and statistical, there is an excellent survey of recent buildings by Harrison Bryan, but beyond this there are discussions of librarianship that transcend the Australian scene. Anyone interested in bibliographic instruction will find much wisdom and good advice in the chapters by S. B. Page and J. A. Levett. Jean Whyte's discussion of reader services shows much sound, good sense. The chapter on automation by Mary Jacob, though it is restricted by the very contemporary nature of automation in Australia, poses questions we all must consider, while out of an entirely different tradition of library education Wilma Radford arrives at conclusions Americans would do well to ponder.

Naming these few contributors is not meant to imply lesser value in others where the thinking is equally sharp. It would, however, be impossible not to commend the magisterial summation provided by Gordon Greenwood where he deals with policy and experiment in a comparative manner that must remind us once again that some of the greatest contributions to librar-

ianship have come from nonlibrarians.

The bibliographic apparatus of the book is further evidence of the meticulous care of the editors. The arrangement of the bibliography—by subject and by specific library—is curious but perhaps desirable given the nature of the book, yet it makes systematic consultation tedious and unrewarding. The fifty-page index makes easy the finding of specific names and topics.

Not many other readers will read steadily through this book from cover to cover, but if they are half as fascinated as I became, they will return to it again and again to ponder specific ideas and suggestions, particularly those relating to the increasing importance of governments at all levels in their influence on library development.

All university libraries and library schools should purchase this book, also state libraries, since the state libraries play a particular and an important role in Australia, and any librarian who is interested in a country that has maintained close links with America since its own birth in travail nearly 200 years ago.—Murray S. Martin, Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

Academic Libraries by the Year 2000: Essays Honoring Jerrold Orne. Edited by Herbert Poole. New York: Bowker, 1977. 205p. \$15.95. LC 77-81880. ISBN 0-8352-0993-8.

This is a collection of twelve essays about librarianship, a short biography of Jerrold Orne, and a bibliography of Mr. Orne's publications.

Edward G. Holley has written a general prediction for the future of academic libraries that is in fact a conservative statement. Using present financial and educational trends, this is probably as accurate a guess at the future as one will find. Dean Holley has documented his statements and has good reason to make most of them. The fault in such an approach is that it cannot and does not deal with the unexpected, the unpredictable; that factor is simply not there. I would have preferred some guess at such unpredictability. The one kind of trend not as well explicated nor as well documented as this reviewer would like to see is the analysis of the social and