There could not be a more suitable document than the one published by the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Resources on the Development of National Book Resources to serve as the basis for a review of the Australian scene vis-a-vis library development. It is not merely that the writer of this editorial had the privilege of being invited by the Government of Australia to visit that magnificent country, burgeoning with initiative in every direction. It is also that, at this stage of development in our own country, the example of the Australians girding up their loins to achieve self-sufficiency in 'book' resources in a context so very far removed from massive centres of information is very inspiring.
I was given the privilege of attending a meeting of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS for short) as an observer. Now the title of this body raises expectations in the way of set-up, and organisation, which are completely belied by the nature, composition and activity of the body. The fact that the Chairman of this body is really a most august personage, no less than the Presiding Officer of the Upper House of the Australian Parliament; that the universities and the public libraries have their representatives on this body; that public men of national stature from the field of business and social and religious activity are nominated to it; that the National Library of Australia and the Australian Library Association are represented on it; that the C.S.I.R.O. of Australia representing the biggest scientific complex of special libraries has its representative on it — all this would lead us to expect a "high-falutin" organisation with "a secretariat and all that!"

But, No! This organisation has a name, and cuckoo-nests in the Australian Bibliographical Centre. It meets as the logic of the situation dictates, and in an annual get-together comes to basic decisions of policy largely in the area of cooperative enterprises with the consent of the several categories and shades of opinion represented on the body, and without in any way interfering with the autonomy of the bodies themselves. The powerful lay opinion on this body listens with respect to the professionals and in turn, is listened to with equal respect by the librarians whose good fortune it is to have their projects underwritten by such responsible lay opinion. The happy part of it all is that the mere presence of the distinguished laymen on the body is enough to ensure powerful public support for the projects without either parliament or industry or any other body being formally involved in it. It should be remembered that this is an entirely recommendatory body without any particular nest-egg at its disposal to finance projects that come before it.

The formation of this body was as a response to Unesco initiative when the Conference on the Improvement of Bibliographical Services sponsored by the international body recommended the formation of national, planning bodies vis-a-vis bibliographical services with an intimate nexus with the national library of the country or with a national bibliographical centre.

The Conference of Commonwealth National and State Library Authorities in their 1953 meeting appointed a small working party of laymen and librarians to consider a plan for national bibliographical services and the recommendation of this committee to the 1955 conference of the Commonwealth Organisation resulted in the establishment of the AACOBS and the National Bibliographical Centre attached to the National Library. The chief officer of the Australian Bibliographical Centre located in the National Library acts as Secretary to AACOBS and its various committees. The members attending the meetings of AACOBS have their expenses met by the authorities they represent. The most important feature of this body is that it has no formal constitution and from this arises a number of advantages in the direction of flexibility. The basic objective of the Council is "to plan and recommend to appropriate authorities the further development of Australian bibliographical and library services".

The chief modus operandi is through special committees composed of its members and through a standing committee which screens the proposals before the plenary body considers them. The Australian Bibliographical Centre is located in the Library and run from out of the funds of the National Library, the annual budget being a very small
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sum of about £5,000-£6,000 per annum. A chief officer, a library assistant and the typing and stenographic complement is the extent of the staff of the bibliographical centre which is financed by the Commonwealth Government and is administered by the Commonwealth National Library. This Centre acts as the secretariat of the AACOBS and also acts as a Bibliographical Information Centre and a Clearing House. It must be clearly understood that the Centre is itself not involved in compiling bibliographies in response to requests, but is a means of directing curiosity to the proper sources of information. A very happy feature of the Centre is that everybody who compiles a bibliography usually sends two copies to the Centre for being indexed.

Since its inception in 1956, annual meetings have been regularly held and decisions taken by the majority vote of those present. The first big job done by AACOBS was a survey of Australian Bibliographical Resources which revealed the lacunae in the national bibliography and in the bibliographical services in the country. The national union catalogue of monographs with nearly 50 major libraries contributing cards to the National Library vis-a-vis accessions published later than 1959, is an impressive initiative of AACOBS.

the tauber report

The sponsoring of what has now widely become known as the "Tauber Report" whose official title is "A Survey conducted in 1961 for the Australian Advisory Council of Bibliographical Services of the resources of Australian libraries" is a very significant achievement. It does not concern us here as to whether the report is merely a pedestrian statistical confirmation of what everybody clearly knew without in any way making an intellectual contribution, mapping out the topography of Australian accessions. That it was merely a linear extension of the Munn-Pitt report is also true, but the important point to seize about this report is that it created an acute climate of opinion obliging authority to move in the matter. One feels that the pedestrianism of the report is a necessary consequence of the rather time-honoured techniques of library survey which Dr. Tauber has frequently done in the United States of America. This is no denigration of the massive and concentrated effort put in by the most distinguished of library investigators. There is a saying in my part of the country that the medicinal herb that grows in one's own garden is never considered efficacious. It is only when someone from outside underlines the italics of already formed professional opinion within the country that people take notice of a situation. This is true everywhere in the world. It is only that the prophet is not honoured in his own country! But this cardinal fact must be borne in mind that the Tauber Report is the first systematic survey of the resources of Australia and will provide
a criterion for further evaluation. The two major points driven home by this report to those in authority were that except in respect of Australian, and to a much lesser degree South East Asian material, there were no great research collections in Australia such as would attract scholars from overseas. The other point was that national achievement in the scientific, technological, economic, educational and other fields, was very much a function of effective library service. The conclusions of the Tauber Report, though not startlingly original, largely underwriting Australian professional awareness in the matter, had the supreme merit of highlighting the problem of scant book resources in the country, and the admirable sentiment which it emphasized, namely, that a country's progress in every direction is very much a function of library service in the country, went home to Australian Authority.

The burmester committee and its report

The result was that AACOBS again did the right thing and followed up its initiative in sponsoring the Tauber Report by appointing an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. C.A. Burmester of the National Library of Australia, to prepare a master plan for acquisition of book materials on a national scale, involving every category of library and library service in it. The writer had the privilege of listening to the adumbration of the report by its Chairman at the Plenary Session of the AACOBS in late August, 1965. The massive patience required for disciplining the material for such a report could only be possible by a man of Mr. Burmester's qualities. The impression that the Tauber Report gave of not being able to see the wood for the trees is totally absent in this report. This is not merely the pointing finger but it is also the helping hand. Mr. Keyes Metcalfe has been quoted as telling a group of Australian librarians, that the most notoriously un-cooperative of folks were librarians. This fact has been brought out very ably by the Burmester Report, but it is a very minor point compared to the two other important faults brought out in the existing situation. That individual libraries with whatever resources they have, have not a certain definitiveness about their scope in acquisition, is one great drawback. The other point, which is very basic, is that there is not enough money ploughed in for book acquisition purposes on the massive scale that is needed. A very telling example given, illustrating the inadequacy of funds, is the one which states that, in 1965, one University Library spent more on its
collections than all the state libraries put together. A very bold, and to our mind, very reasonable, suggestion made by this report is that 10% of the total expenditure on a university should go to the development of the library. The actual expenditure in the year 1964 has been given and it is found that at the present moment, the gamut figure for expenditure runs from about 3.3% to 6.7% as regards university libraries vis-a-vis university expenditure. One of the problems that a university library has is the multiple-copy problem for undergraduates and, willy-nilly, this is bound to take away some elbow power from the research acquisitions. But this should not lead us to the conclusion that undergraduate acquisition cripples the research collections because the actual facts of acquisition in several university libraries tell us that though some part of the money goes to undergraduate duplication, a large part of the money is still being spent on research collections. The other thumb-rule that this report lays down is that every new university should receive an ab initio grant to provide 60,000 to 75,000 volumes as a starter collection.

the recommendations of aacobs on development of national book resources

Twenty eight resolutions have been adopted by the AACOBS following on the report of the National Book Resources Development Committee. All of them are very pragmatically conceived. The first resolution defines the general objective, namely, "within a period of 10 years, to raise Australian book resources to a level at which they will be adequate to meet the need for information, education and advanced reading and so establish a foundation for the continuing development of research." Resolution number Three recommends the establishment of book resources committees in the Australian Capital Territory, and in other territories with authority to form regional or other sub-committees. Recommendation Twelve (a), is American in inspiration, and recommends the "Farmington Type" blanket orders by Australian libraries and encourages the development of programmes of area blanket orders in the social sciences and humanities, (making this the responsibility of the National Library), and exhorts other libraries to examine the possibility of similar programmes in the field of science and technology. But the most telling of all the recommendations is contained in Nineteen (a) to (f) which reads as follows:

a) "That, in the light of the deficiencies revealed in a series of reports ranging from Tauber to Burmester, AACOBS draw the attention of the Commonwealth Government to the inadequacy of funds which State Governments are able to allocate for the building up to minimum levels of reference, education and information library services for the public, and indicate to the Government the urgent need for a progressively larger increase in such funds over the period of next five years.

b) That the actual amount be advised in a detailed case to be submitted by AACOBS in due course, but that, on the basis of a substantial professional enquiry conducted over the last two years which has reviewed the library resources of the nation, the current conclusion of AACOBS is that the sum required must be sufficient at least to double those funds immediately or to provide a similar total expenditure over the next five years (italics ours).

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c) That the Minister be advised that AACOBS is aware that a recommendation has been made which may result in a similar grant to Australian university libraries, but stresses that this approach is not due to nor in any way conditional upon such recommendation, but is an independent appreciation based on surveys and enquiries conducted over the last five years of what is really a separate though related problem.

d) That notice of this resolution be given to the appropriate Minister immediately with an indication that a detailed submission will follow.

e) That the Standing Committee of AACOBS be asked to collect the necessary data for the case and to proceed to its formulation and submission as a matter of urgency.

f) That the Australian Universities Commission be informed of this resolution.

A very interesting recommendation, Twenty two (a), lays down the standard of book provision in independent public libraries in Australia and reads as follows: "A desirable minimum initial collection is 6,000 books. A library serving a population from 6,000 to 10,000 people should aim at building up a bookstock equivalent to three per head of population up to 25,000 books; for a population of from 10,000 to 35,000 the figure should be 2.5 per head of population up to 70,000 volumes; and for 35,000 to 100,000, two per head up to 175,000 volumes. If a population is larger than this, the number will, of course decrease."

For the development of science acquisitions the AACOBS has exhorted the National Library and the CSIRO jointly to examine the extent to which the functions of a national library of science and technology are being carried out. And a very far reaching recommendation which we in India would do well to take heed is that the Australian Bibliographical Centre should prepare systematically selected and evaluated serial titles not held in Australian libraries for which current supply is recommended as a means to develop Australian resources. And the most heartening of resolutions is number Twenty four which says that "the continuing rise in the price of books and periodicals makes it imperative that libraries increase their book votes by about 5% per annum to maintain their present rate of intake, but that for some libraries this percentage may be considerably higher."

The Burmester Report must be compulsory reading for our educational and financial pundits. It is a matter for tears that because of emergency, the National Library of India at Calcutta has suffered a drastic cut in its budget not only starving it of vitally needed book material, but also depriving it of very necessary and valuable staff which have to interpret the resources of the library to the public. The Delhi Public Library which has been doing a magnificent job has been starved out of its resources and instead of realising the clamorous thirst for knowledge and providing funds for expansion of its services, there has been a cut in those services also. A study has been made in which, during the height of emergency due to war, when all priority was being given to the means of defeating the enemy, the expenditure on libraries in the United States of America, especially of the Library of Congress, at Washington, showed a steep rise, showing a true appreciation of the value of knowledge as a means to combat evil. In this country the present book famine because of embargo in the hard currency area is starving scientific and technical libraries and this is false economy because the motto of self-reliance implies an up-to-dateness in the knowledge of research, pure and applied, in the whole world and this knowledge can only be obtainable through serials and reports and patents and specifications, all of which imply expenditure on library
resources. It is true our difficulties in this country as regards priorities for food and shelter are acute, but it must be realised that whereas hungry stomachs and clogged drains might be dangerous, clogged brains might result in a shattering explosion fatal to the whole community.

the australian national library

The mention of the plight of our National Library leads us on very naturally to thoughts about the National Library of Australia which harbours the Australian National Bibliographical Centre, and also employs as a Senior Officer of the Library, Mr. Burmester, the Chairman of the Report on National Book Resources. The writer has had the privilege of counting as one of his very dear and esteemed friends, Mr. H.L. White, the National Librarian of Australia with whom he has served on the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, Documentation and Terminology of the Unesco for quite several years. Both during the inauguration ceremonies of the Hammerskjöld Library at the United Nations, and during the Seminar on National Libraries at Manila, Mr. White was active, making us alive to the fact that Australia was well on the way to achieve an impressive position in the library world. Some of us used to envy the initiative of Mr. White, by virtue of the confidence his National Treasury put in him, in making on-the-spot purchases all over the world, of really valuable collections of rare material. He would be with us participating in the deliberations of whatever body we were serving on, and suddenly there used to be mysterious absences from which he would return with a chuckle and a flushed feeling of achievement, and we knew that his uncanny nose for book material had led him to the true scent and the National Library of Australia was the richer for it! He conducted himself in this respect with a sense of high mission, and the result is what we are seeing to-day of the National Library of Australia being enriched to a high degree with international material of great value to research scholars. It was not merely that he was what one would call a book-hound with the unerring scent; it was that he was inspired with a great vision of things to be. And behind all this is a story!

Mr. A.P. Herbert, more than forty years ago, (when the Australian Capital Territory was the subject matter of old federal jokes, and New South Wales and other areas were snorting brimstone and fire at the very idea of an Australian National Library in the A.C.T.), made hilarious reference in Punch (quoted in the Australian Library Journal of
to the future site of the National Library: "Finally they took us out to a grand terrace....Our friend pointed to an empty field and said 'That is the National Library'. 'Remarkable,' we said; and so it was, for at that moment there was passing through the National Library a real Australian cow". But today a different picture meets the eye! What was described as an empty field is now a prestige area in the National Capital situated in what is called the Parliamentary Triangle bang mid-way between the Capitol Hill and the Anzac Parade leading to the Australian War Memorial, and exquisitely located along the shores of Lake Burley Griffin which is one of the most pleasant urban water spreads in the world. "The building, clad in distinctive white marble, will be reflected in the Lake as the visitor approaches across Commonwealth Avenue Bridge. After crossing the Bridge it will appear surprisingly close at hand and the majesty of the columned facade will be most strikingly appreciated. Because the building is raised on a podium above the surrounding areas and will be able to be viewed from all sides it will form a dominating feature in the landscape." (Australian National Library Hand-out).

The National Library Act of 1960 created the National Library of Australia as a corporate body under the control of a National Library Council and the National Librarian, and invested the Library with the following functions as outlined in Section 6 of that Act:

(a) to maintain and develop a national collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Australia and the Australian people;

(b) to make library material in the national collection available to such persons and institutions, and in such manner and subject to such conditions, as the Council determines with a view to the most advantageous use of that collection in the national interest;

(c) to make available such other services in relation to library matters and library material (including bibliographical services) as the Council thinks fit, and, in particular, services for the purpose of—

(i) the library of the Parliament;

(ii) the Departments and authorities of the Commonwealth;

(iii) the Territories of the Commonwealth; and

(d) to cooperate in library matters (including the advancement of library science) with authorities or persons, whether in Australia or elsewhere, concerned with library matters."

Historically, the Library of the Commonwealth Parliament was the protoplasm of the National Library of Australia, and the various difficulties, inherent in such a situation (which the United States of America has so magnificently ridden rough shod over, without rationalising it) were smoothened out to a degree, and two separate entities defined themselves out of the amorphous situation, the one being the National Library of Australia under the Act, and the other the Library of the Parliament. At the present moment, Mr. H.L. White is in administrative control of both, with Mr. Courtenay Key, another valued friend of the writer, being in immediate charge of the Parliament Library. 800,000 volumes promising well to reach the million mark by 1968 when the National Library will move into its new building, 34,000 serial titles, 15,000 reels of microfilms and an equal number of moving picture films, 130,000 maps, 400,000 aerial photographs, 26,000 pictures and prints and a thousand running feet of manuscript material, represents the present national collection which will snowball to itself acquisitions through blanket orders for monographs placed with the leading suppliers all over the world, and with the Farmington Plan agents. Mr. White has his full time contacts in London and New York who feed him regularly. The political, social and
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economic development of Britain and Ireland during 1650 to 1870 represented by a collection of 12,000 items; the personal library of the famous English scholar David Nichol Smith; 18th Century French material including a cache of items published during the French Revolution; and such other primary material has been assiduously collected. The Tauber Report would now read a little outdated, in view of the activity of Mr. White and his colleagues during the intervening years. An enlightened policy of inviting scholar librarians of the stature of Dr. Stanley Pargellis of the famous Newberry Library of Chicago, to scrutinise American acquisitions is a very heartening feature. The good work goes on in the way of getting into the National Library primary material from abroad.

As could be well expected, Australiana, which has been mapped out by the great Australian Bibliographer Sir John Ferguson, whom the writer had the privilege of paying his respects to at Sydney, has been also well served by the National Library. Sir John's great collection has been handed over to the National Library and together with the Petherick and Nan Kivell collections, represents an impressive collection of Australian literature. What delighted the writer most was that the original cartoons of the great Australians, of international renown, David Low and Will Dyson, have been acquired. As an Indian, I was delighted by the Gayer Anderson collection of Indian paintings and drawings of the Mughal period. These are a very selected few items out of the massive programme that has been undertaken by the authorities of the National Library. The writer's presence in Australia was to see if material from our part of the world could be made available to the National Library in organised fashion, and the Seminar that was held in this connection at Canberra where Dr. Cecil Hobbs of the South-East Asia Desk at the Library of Congress, Washington also participated, thrashed out the many acquisition problems, and has come to some important decisions to ensure a regular flow of material.

In 1968, the new building of the National Library of Australia will be inaugurated in the presence of a distinguished gathering of librarians from all over the world. This building will have a gross floor area of 368,000 sq. ft. and will be a five-storey building rising up to seventy feet. That the Australian authorities consider the National Library as a building of national importance can be gathered by the following description of the finish of the building when it is completed: "External facing materials will include a selected travertine marble on the main walls, white marble on the columns and bronze windows with Roman stone spandrel panels. The exposed vertical faces of the podium will be clad in sandstone and the upper surface paved in a patterned effect of grey and green.

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Sir John Ferguson
The roof will be copper sheathed. Considerable thought has been devoted to the planning of this building by Mr. White who has travelled the world over, consulting architects, and looking at modern library buildings. There could not be two more distinguished names than that of Dr. Keyes Metcalfe and Sir Frank Francis in the field of library planning, and both of them have midwifed the National Library plans. This is not the place for going into the details of the planning of the library which has been so well dealt with in a mimeographed hand-out prepared by Mr. White entitled: A New Building for the National Library of Australia. Along with this hand-out is a most attractively brought out brochure with coloured drawings and half tones and line blocks giving us a very comprehensive idea of the National Library Project. All that we need know is that Australia considers this project of the greatest importance to the development of that country and to that effect has been sparing neither trouble nor money in shaping out a national concept which will be a boon for the generations to come. The devotion and single-mindedness of the National Librarian, Mr. White and his excellent staff is something to admire and to respect.

the university libraries

Texas vis-a-vis Washington and New South Wales vis-a-vis Canberra are a rough parallel politically and in a few other ways! Sydney has always condescended to Canberra and even to-day accepts the fait accompli of the A.C.T. with ill-concealed disdain. There is no doubt whatever that the robust qualities of Sydney invests it with a domineering position in many spheres of Australian activity. What concerns us here is the educational leadership of this remarkable state, especially in the field of university education and librarianship. It has already been stated that Sydney in one year spent more on its collections accruing to the university library than all the state libraries put together. But it is an interesting fact that the first systematic survey of Australian university librarianship lambast Sydney for its total lack of awareness in professional skills.

The Munn-Pitt Report buttressed its "suspicion that this library is being administered for the faculties at the expense of the students" with a wealth of factual data. At the time of this report, there were only six university libraries and only one of them had any use for trained staff. A couple of the university libraries had no full time librarians and two others designated a 'scholar' to be in charge of the library. Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania had between them only 567,000 volumes of which nearly half were in the Sydney University Library. After the Munn-Pitt review of the Australian university libraries, there have been periodic assessments of the university library position by White, McColvin, Murray and Tauber in the years 1939, 1947, 1957 and 1962. By the time of the Tauber Report, the university libraries had increased to ten and to-day there are two new universities in the building making it a round dozen. White's report submitted to the IFLA Conference put a brave face on the situation and said that university authorities everywhere were fully convinced about the importance of the library to the teaching and student community, though the actual figures at the time of this report were not very much better than at the time of the Munn-Pitt Report, as far as book holdings were concerned, nor was the professional competence within the university libraries very much better. When McColvin came on the scene in 1947, he found the situation encouraging enough to say that the university libraries of Australia were a group of which it would be least fair to be critical and derogatory. This pat on the shoulder coming twelve years after the Munn-Pitt would indicate that there was vigorous activity in the universities overhauling the old situation.
Western Australia, Tasmania and Melbourne were all set down in the golden book by the recording angel, but even he commented on the inadequacy of staff and the poorness of the salary levels which kept better people away from the profession.

An analysis of the figures of book holdings show that all the university libraries in Australia during the period of twelve years since the Munn-Pitt Report had added a mere 280,000 volumes to their stock which works out to about 24,000 volumes per year distributed among all the university libraries. This rather grim picture changed for the better because the profession had developed a vigorous leadership, and men of the calibre of Metcalfe invested it with a significance and influence which augured well for the future. What is more, the profession had a mouth-piece in the Australian Library Journal which added to the power and influence of librarians. But that was not all.

THE MURRAY REPORT

Australia commissioned a British Educationist to report on Australian university problems and what has come to be known as the Murray Report (1957) resulted in the establishment of the Australian Universities Commission which gave considerable financial assistance to the development of university libraries.

The parallel in India should not be missed. The University Grants Commission appointed by the Government of India did the same thing for university librarianship and if to-day in India university libraries have got a professional competence, elbow space to work in, and book wealth to draw from, they have to thank the University Grants Commission and its Chairman, Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, for its inspired policy of helping library development in the universities, and the Committee of Librarians chaired by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan for standards of professional work within the library. But of course, the time has come in India for someone to review the massive expenditure on university libraries and find out whether the results that have accrued from such massive support have been worth it. One has to go around the country to find out in what various peculiar ways each university in India has spent its building grants to put up structures which cause both architect and librarian to pause and wonder!

One of the most heartening features of the situation in Australia to-day is that after the Tauber Report, the awareness of authority in this matter has been so highly developed that the first officer appointed, when the new University of La Trobe was created was the University Librarian! When Tauber wrote his report, the totality of university holdings had gone up to 2,792,000 volumes and to-day the holdings have been estimated at 3,423,000 volumes, but these numbers have to be read against the enrolment figures and Harrison Bryan in his brochure on Australian University Libraries To-day and To-morrow has said that in 1962 all the Australian university libraries combined held no more than the number of volumes in the University of Cambridge library and, then goes on to say that Cambridge had to supply only 9,930 people of whom only 2,500 were fit for research, whereas the Australian book stock had to meet the needs of 61,000 staff and students, of whom more than 9,000 were either staff or graduate students who could be expected to make research demands. But the problem of the Australian university library is very much different from that of the problem of the university library in America, or in England or elsewhere in Europe for the simple reason that the geographical location of the country is so far remote from the centres of learning in the world and also because the vastness of the country makes it difficult for scholars to travel in search of their documents from library to library. It is this remarkable situation that has prompted AACOBS to recommend the doubling of funds immediately in the university resources during the course of the next five years.
The Library of the Western Australia University (Perth) by day and by night
Australia has travelled far since the days of the Munn-Pitt Report. All the university librarians to-day are men of stature and experience in their field of activity. Most of them have professional background and training and those few who lack this rubber stamp of a professional degree are richly experienced in university library administration. The writer has had the privilege of meeting most of them and has been deeply impressed by the vision and the sense of dedication each one of them had about their work. British librarianship has contributed its good share to the ranks of senior librarians. Brisbane and Perth and the Australian National University are stewarded by librarians with a British background but without any trace of insularity.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Derek Fielding hopped it from number two at Perth to number one in Brisbane, and he must have really felt the change. The contrast between Perth and Brisbane is about the most striking that one can think of, both in the way of Library housing and in the atmosphere of librarianship. The building at Perth, is quite an achievement, function and aesthetics being most happily married. The only grouse one has about the Perth library is the hideous turn-style entrance! The structure of the shelving in that library with its very tasteful use of warm wood is very attractive. Of course the long outside corridor littered with students satchels is quite a sight! The campus is lovely. Jolley, the Librarian, who I found, was out of the same school of librarianship in London, has a sense of humour and a camaraderie with the senior faculty which goes a long way in making the library really felt among folks. He would be very happy with a few more trained people to assist him and on the day I arrived, he was most delighted to receive a young American trained librarian to assist him in his work. He is eager to build up a second level of senior staff and is on the look out for talent. But Derek has inherited a patrimony at Brisbane which he can do nothing about. Not only is the university library building in Brisbane distressingly unique in its tortuous configuration, it is really a death trap for books, and Derek has his hands full trying to cope with this situation. Fortunately he is a great-hearted librarian with vision, and he is already planning a new building, because the present one into which they have barely got into, is already bursting at the seams. For a long time the atmosphere in Brisbane has been very unkind to librarianship as several successive reports show, but I think the time has come now when the university library has got the leadership it wants, and authority, I find, is in a mood to listen. In Brisbane also, they can do well with a second level of senior men. But the incredible campus of Brisbane University with its medley of monumental and functional buildings and its burgeoning student population and active faculties, is quite a memory, though a brief one for me.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Mr. Jack Graneek of the Australian National University Library is just putting out his leaves and a bud, in Australia, having got there from Northern Ireland. He is a librarian of rich experience and a scholar of vintage quality. It was a pleasure to have him with us for a brief while in India during his recent sabbatical leave and again to meet him at Canberra as one of the hosts to the Conference. The Menzies Library building has been described as "very beautiful and reader-attractive" and so it is, in a manner of speaking. Nothing could be more beautiful than the small exhibition room where the Ferguson exhibition of Australiana was held during the Conference, but somehow it looks like two buildings made into one, each with a style of its own, and my impression got confirmed when I learnt that after one architect had dealt with the structure, another architect was commissioned to straighten it out. Considering that it has got an architectural national award, my impressions must be considered subjective! The library is put to rich use.
The nearly completed Fisher Library at Sydney

Entrance to the New Fisher Library
and the only headaches of the librarian at the moment are problems of accession created by the appointment of most distinguished orientalists on the faculty of the University. Prof. De Jong and Prof. Basham are wanting material which is by no means procured very easily. The separate library building which Jack has had the good fortune to design himself with very happy functional results, is the result of a merger of the school of general studies and the Institute of advanced studies. The gentle Buick with his over-mastering passion for snails and shells and bark paintings, was Jack's colleague when I was there, but I believe he is now on the way out to independent responsibility. The evening spent in his home with his wife who is also a librarian, talking of cabbages and kings and, incidentally, library classification, is a rich memory. The proximity of the Australian National University to the National Library of Australia is, I am sure, at the same time a blessing and a curse, creating and solving acquisition problems for the library.

JOHN METCALFE

During the conference at Canberra, it was my good fortune to meet all the senior librarians and their colleagues in all fields of librarianship because of the 13th Biennial Conference. Preparatory to my visit to Australia, I had read all I could in my field, and was greatly attracted by the vigour and liveliness of John Metcalfe and the charm and sweet reasonableness of Harrison Bryan. Metcalfe is really the Doyen of Australian librarians and, very rightly, indicative of the remarkable contribution he has made to Australian librarianship, is as much sworn by, as sworn at! He was a patient listener and, brief, forthright and clear in what he said. He was most gracious to me with his time and I greatly benefitted by his observations on many matters. It must be remembered that for years he has been fighting the cause of library training and his school of librarianship commands the respect of the profession.

As the whole world knows, Metcalfe has very definite ideas on Subject Cataloguing and Indexing, as recorded in his books on Information Indexing and Subject Cataloguing, Subject Classifying and Indexing of Libraries and Literature and the Alphabetical Subject Indication of Information. All these books are absorbing reading and keep our interest alive by virtue of the liveliness of the exposition. He maintains that alphabetical indexing is as useful as any other system of indexing, but that it unfortunately suffers from the
KESAVAN

contempt of familiarity. He brought this out very clearly in his lectures at Rutgers University speaking in the third of the series of seminars on Intellectual Organisation of Information. He stresses that the purpose of indexing is indication and not communication. He feels that indexing is specific reference to and/or a generic survey of information in its literary and documentary form. His firm conviction is that alphabetical indexing can stand up to the challenges of present-day information explosion problems. All of us are aware of the flutter he caused in the dovecotes of the English School of Classification Research. The pugilism of Metcalfe's style on occasion has put the backs up of people. Not that Metcalfe cares! But to me it was an experience to find that the Metcalfe that I had the privilege of knowing in Australia has about him a mellowness and a courtesy which is hard to forget. Impatience he still has, but if he did not have that, there would have been no leaven in the Australian library bread! He is not merely a teacher, he has a deep understanding of the organisational and architectural aspects of librarianship. The new building of the New South Wales University Library has had the benefit of his thought and advice. Though Alan Horton who spoke so eloquently at the conference on Censorship in Australia is fortunate in having John as a mentor, his deep respect for him in no way inhibits his own independence of outlook. There is in Australia a very healthy reverence for leaders and prophets. Everybody is aware of John's great contribution to librarianship and many of them know that if they see farther to-day it is because in many respects they are standing on his shoulders. But this does not prevent them from a sturdy difference of opinion when it is called for.

THE FISHER LIBRARY

Harrison Bryan's father was a professor at Brisbane, and that simple statement is the reason why he could not continue at Brisbane. It is always difficult for anyone to make himself felt in a context where everybody has known you from the time you had short pants on! But it was as well for him that he got the break he did. And what a break! To be in charge of the Fisher Library in Sydney, I think, would have flattered any Australian librarian! Apart from its being the oldest university library, its present housing has some dream qualities about it. And when I say that, I do not mean that there is any impractical or fancy notions about the building. The old Fisher Library specifically built for the purpose of a library, very much in the style of such buildings of those days, redolent of ecclesiastical architecture, proved inadequate for the needs of to-day. Both from the point of book resources and space, something mighty had to be done.

ANDREW OSBORN

And, as it always happens, when the situation is ripe, the initiative is somehow or the other found to deal with the situation. Before Harrison Bryan took over the Fisher Library, a remarkable person came on the scene and took the Fisher Library by the scruff of its neck, as it were, and did a few things to it which caused both consternation and admiration. Andrew Osborn, whom the writer has not had the privilege to meet is quite a legend in Australian Library saga. From various people various versions have been given of his work and personality. According to some, one almost builds up a Faustian image of a person whose professional ambitions knew no bounds with quite a Faustian capacity to achieve the impossible. But there are others who put us in mind of the way Archibald MacLeish was described by his successor in the annual report of the Librarian of Congress of the year 1945: "Certainly the library was a great institution when first he came to it. It is quite as certain that it was even greater when he left. His personality, incisive, imaginative, sensitive, disdainful of mediocrity, intellectually governed, generously perceptive, sometimes richly human and often inspiring, has
One of the excellent readings room of the Fisher Library

Rare Books Room, Fisher Library
released new energies and projected a design of the future". When I went through the plans of the Fisher Library, when I saw the realised part of it in the shape of the exquisite new building, when I went through the collections of the library, especially, the rare books part of it, another phrase from that report came to mind, namely, "that the brush of the comet gave a new dimension to the library". The more I went around the library, the more I felt that the details and quite a few other features of the library could only have been conceived by a man of extraordinary sensibility. When I looked through the rare books collections and spent some time looking at the gamut of accessions, I felt that it was a mighty job excellently done. It is true that there are quite a few people in Australia now-a-days who say that Sydney University is still paying the bills for the orders that Osborn had placed with book sellers! To which I feel like irreverently exclaiming "So! what?"! But here I should like to say that Sydney and Australian librarianship will certainly not forget this dynamic figure in a hurry.

It is extremely fortunate that a man of the qualities of Harrison Bryan has taken over the stewardship at a most interesting point of development of this library. He always gives you the impression of actively thinking out matters. His relations with his colleagues on the staff and with the faculties are wonderfully cordial. His recent report after his return from a visit to the United States reveals an independent outlook on most matters, without in any way being over-awed by the mighty goings-on across the Pacific. At the same time there is a shrewd appreciation of the realities of his situation and an eagerness to profit by ideas regardless of where they originate. He is one of the few writers on professional subjects who takes the reader with him. He is actively engaged in the profession, apart from the stewardship of his own library. His participation at the conference revealed both his charm and his earnestness as a librarian.

NEW SOUTH WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY

During my stay at Sydney, I had the privilege of visiting the New South Wales Public Library. When I went in, after negotiating that mad traffic maze in front of it, and stood in the lofty entrance hall, I pinched myself just to convince myself that I was not in the Philadelphia State Library. It is remarkable how certain buildings erected at a particular period of time, as far away from each other as Sydney and Philadelphia, could give the same feel to people. The monumental quality of the building, the vastness of the reading room, the shelving along the walls reaching up to the heavens, the rather Victorian bric-a-brac in the shape of decor — all these paralleled themselves between Sydney and Philadelphia. But all this is neither here nor there! It is just a subjective impression. My host, Mr. Gordon Richardson, a librarian of great experience and standing in the country, respected and liked by his colleagues in the profession, had just returned from a tour of the United States of America and elsewhere. At the Conference, he gave us the benefit of his experience abroad and I had the privilege of presiding over his talk. As principal librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales, he also administers the public library set-up in the state in addition to his own stewardship of the public library. Actually the word 'public library' applied to this institution is somewhat misleading. It is really a national library in the range and depth of its book collections and in its cache of art treasures. It is very significant that the Chairman of the Library Council is none other than the great Australian Bibliographer, Sir John Ferguson, who along with Mr. Gordon Richardson received me with a graciousness which is hard to forget. I was surprised to find that this library had a very impressive collection of Indiana, and I hope, it will be my privilege to offer such advice as could round off this collection. The way Gordon conducted himself at the Conference and at the library during my visit there, gave us no inkling that he was at that time going through intense personal suffering! After visiting the New South Wales
Public Library, the Fisher Library at Sydney and the New South Wales University Library, the writer could well understand the complex that Sydney suffered from vis-a-vis the creation of the National Library at Canberra.

THE CSIRO

I had particularly requested the Australian Government that I should be afforded an opportunity to observe the impressive set-up of C.S.I.R.O. Documentation, and that meant a journey to Melbourne. But alas! it also spelt the missing of a rewarding experience in Tasmania. My heart had warmed up towards Tasmania when I met the distinguished President of the Australian Library Association in India, Justice Crisp, and his charming wife. When I listened to the Presidential address of Justice Crisp at the Conference, I felt a twinge at having to miss what in Australia has been considered the finest public library service. But my own stewardship of a documentation centre in India demanded that I should profit by observing the work of Miss Doubleday whom I had already met during a brief visit of hers to Delhi. The no non-sense, down-to-earth manner of Miss Doubleday when she discussed matters with me at Delhi and her own warm invitation that I should call on her if ever I got to Australia, were factors that decided my giving Tasmania the miss. I shall continue to regret this for all time, though my visit to Melbourne was exceedingly rich in experience.

Among the many people to-day who are taking the bread out of men's mouths, I found Miss Doubleday was in the forefront in her establishment at the C.S.I.R.O! I was the only male around the place! It is true, just to correct that impression, later in the afternoon, she did introduce me to a whole roomful of men engaged in scientific activity, and just to offset the impressions produced during the day, she was the only senior woman officer present in that gathering! The other thing that I learnt during that visit was that there are really more than sixty minutes to the hour, in the working day of Miss Doubleday and her colleagues! Her organisation is an impressive example of how much can be done by how few. Her union catalogue is an achievement worth the world's respect. The only bit of mental reservation I have about that catalogue in loose leaf form is that all is very well only as long as the individual librarian has a nagging conscience and files them properly! Her exchange section, which gets into the country scientific serials from all over the world in exchange for Australian serial publications is exceedingly well-organised. The routines that she has worked out for dissemination of information within the complex of the C.S.I.R.O. has about it a simplicity and a lack of fuss which taught me quite a few things. At the end of my day in her organisation, I went home with an admiration for her organisational capacity and with a prayer in my heart that I was glad I did not have her to over-see my work! I hope very soon to go into the details of her organisational working in a separate contribution in these pages.

THE MONASH & LA TROBE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Monash University Library is under the stewardship of Ernest Clarke, a man with a fine sense of humour and a very un-Australian phlegm. He was my host at Melbourne and I am grateful to him for the rewarding time I had in that beautiful city of parks and wide roadways. A lovely beginning has been made as regards the building for the university library, and the plans for the future extension of it, when realised, will give Australia one of its most attractive library buildings. My own involvement in Monash was to help out the Department of Indian Studies with some advice as to how they could procure the sort of material that they wanted.
I had always met university librarians in the context of their universities and their libraries. But here in Melbourne, I was to meet a very stimulating personality who has the enviable but difficult job of finding the bricks for his building! He is also to create the collections for the university library! This person was D. H. Borchardt, the first Senior Officer appointed by the authorities of the La Trobe University. Borchardt is unorthodox in a number of ways and there is very little distance between his heart and the tip of his tongue! It is a joy to listen to him, forthright in his comments, and with scant respect for established reputations. I spent a delightful day with him being taken round sheep-folds that were yet to be converted into the university campus. I listened with great interest to his experiences in Turkey where he had spent a year as a Unesco expert. Another point of contact between us was a common friend of ours, now the Head of the Department of Library Science in Mysore University, Mr. Patil, who worked with Borchardt for quite some time.

From Melbourne I should have gone on to spend some time at Adelaide, but unfortunately the alarums and excursions at home were such that I had to cut my visit short by quite a few days and miss Adelaide, though Mr. Raymond did me the courtesy of meeting me at the airport.

The exciting days of the Conference, the glorious experience of human, mechanical and electrical engineering in the snowy mountains, the meetings with the Librarians in the various cities of Australia — all these have been very rewarding experiences and have built up nostalgic memories. If the question is asked as to what my impression was about the development of librarianship in Australia, I would say that everywhere there is an acute realisation on the part of the people and the authorities as to the importance of libraries and librarians at all levels. What is their contribution, do you ask, to library science? The answer is that their emphasis is on library service, and the development of library science is with them a corollary following upon pragmatic experience. They have neither the time nor the patience at the moment to evolve independent concepts in the realm of classification. A couple of libraries have been classified by Bliss and they are rethinking themselves out of it. The Universal Decimal Classification for Science, the Library of Congress Classification and the Dewey Decimal Classification are all being accepted with quite an awareness of their limitations, but with the feeling that these could be made to work without any precious criticisms about their not meeting the needs of the hour. Metcalfe thinks and writes brilliantly, but he is far from having established any school of his! I would like to see an Australian librarian do it! There are many others whom I have had the pleasure and privilege of meeting, than those rehearsed in the paragraphs above. The quiet and massive work that Athol Johnson is doing at the National Library, the dedicated work, both as a Librarian and as an Editor of the Australian Library Journal, of Jean Whyte, the wonderful Key-Murray combination at the Parliament Library, the active work in library fields of Jean Hagger who took personal charge of me for a whole day, Prof. Greenwood and his Indian colleagues, Mr. Singhal and his wife at Brisbane with their deep interest in Indian studies — these are all things to remember. Everywhere I went, the care and consideration lavished on me was overwhelming. Jean Whyte was particularly anxious that I should not starve myself out in Sydney because I was a vegetarian, and she bought up a whole fruit shop for my benefit and left it on my table, and I must say I did enjoy it.

PROF. TRENDALL

But most wonderful of all was the gracious courtesy of Prof. Trendall, the Master of University House at the Australian National University. After a first week at a very comfortable hotel, to my great joy, I was shifted over to the University House which is
AUSTRALIAN CAUSERIE

a very pleasantly wrought building. When I staggered in with my bags, a most benign expression at the counter greeted me. Every detail about my accommodation was rehearsed to me, including the fact about the receipt of my daily newspaper. I was given the keys and personally shown round the place and taken to my room by this gentleman. He even offered to carry one of my bags to relieve me of the burden! All the while I was aware of an academic grace and chasteness in his enunciation. I could not quite place him, but I profusely thanked him for his solicitude. The next morning when I opened the papers, I found the same benign expression in a photograph being decorated by an European Ambassador for his great contributions to scholarship, and then I realised that this remarkably kind, solicitous, unassuming, unpompous person was none other than Prof. Trendall! My thoughts for a moment dwelt on the very unlikely prospect, in many countries, of a scholar of such great distinction offering to carry the bags of a guest and show him his rooms and acquaint him with the details of routine! And when I learnt that he was also Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University before he became Master of the University House, I marvelled all the more!

ELIZABETH WHITE

I left to the very last one name which I now mention with the greatest affection and regard. From the moment I landed at Canberra till the last minute of my stay in that lovely city, I was looked after by this most gracious of persons in a way which I can never easily forget. Elizabeth runs the man who runs the National Library of Australia, and in that simple statement you can find the reason for Harold's great success in his work. A lovely home in a lovely garden, presided over by Elizabeth whose day is full of good works done in the interests of some cause or the other, but never so full a day as to neglect in any way the friends that Harold surprises her with at lunch or dinner or tea, is a very great asset for a man with a national responsibility. I watched her in action at Paris, at New York and again at her own home and then I knew that with a home base such as this, Harold could not but score his homers!

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Photographs of:

1. Fisher Library
2. Library of the University of Western Australia
3. The Commonwealth Australian National Library & Mr. H.L. White
4. Sir John Ferguson
5. Mr. C.A. Burmester

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1. Mr. Harrison Bryan
2. Mr. L. Jolley
3. Mr. H.L. White
4. The Australian High Commission
5. Mr. C.A. Burmester
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