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I.D. Raymond (University Librarian and Chairman)	
Margy Burn (Editor)	Maggie Low (Secretary)
Judith Bampton	Dick Finlay
Margaret Hosking	Alan Keig

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THE LAW LIBRARY : AN INTRODUCTION TO ITS COLLECTIONS

The Law Library, or to give it its formal title, the Sir John Salmond Law Library, occupies the two lowest floors of the Ligertwood Building, which it shares with the Law School and the Departments of Classics and Philosophy. This is its fourth home since it was left behind when the main library moved into the new Barr Smith building in the early 1930s.

Although the Law Library's main function is to provide teaching and research support for the Faculty of Law, there are many other sides to its activities. The collection of legal sources that is being put together to make it a more effective "lawyer's laboratory" is also gradually increasing its value as a repository of the law for the University at large. The Law Library is a branch within the University Library system, and its services are freely available to all members of the university community. Some of its arrangements and practices may seem odd at first, because they tend to follow the conventions of law rather than university general libraries, but anyone prepared to spend a few minutes on it should be able to find his or her way about quite easily.

WHAT IS A LAW LIBRARY?

Any teaching law library must hold at least the publications that go to make up the primary printed sources of the law of the state or jurisdiction concerned. Because of its settlement within the British system, Australia became and has remained a part of the common law world. This is law based on the idea of precedent, or judge-made law, and its antithesis is usually considered to be the European system of codified law based on the *Digest* of the Roman Emperor Justinian, and exemplified in more recent times by the *Code Napoléon* or the *Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*. Within the common law, the authority or persuasive force of the different courts in the different jurisdictions varies widely, but for research and teaching purposes a library must aim to collect as many as it can of the published judgments or decisions that go to make up the law; these are known as the law reports.

Even in the common law world, of course, authority does not lie in the courts exclusively, and the law produced by the legislatures in the form of acts or statutes, is equally important. Statutes in fact have an authority superior to that of the judicial precedents, although of course once a statute has been enacted it becomes subject to judicial interpretation in the same way as the judge-made law is.

In the last twenty years the Law Library has grown from a collection barely adequate for undergraduate teaching to the beginnings, at least, of a research library. Although inevitably some funds have had to be used for the duplication of basic sources for

teaching, the bulk of the spending has always been on filling in the many gaps. The Faculty has consistently devoted a very high proportion of its research funds to the Library, and since 1972 the Library has been remarkably successful in attracting "literary equipment" money. There are still substantial gaps, even in the standard English and Australian holdings, but the main ones are gradually being filled. The law book trade, which is extremely specialised, keeps much of the basic stock more or less constantly in print, now increasingly in microform, so that when funds become available it is relatively easy to obtain most of the standard titles.

SOME EARLY ENGLISH MATERIALS

Over the years the Library has been able to build up good sets of English judgments from the earliest cases reported, including the Maynard edition of the first reports, the so-called Year Book series, which cover the years 1 Edw. II to 27 Hen. VI, or 1307 - 1449. Besides the well-known *English Reports* and *Revised Reports*, which are the two great editions of important cases between the *Year Books* and the "authorised" series beginning in 1865, we also hold a micro-card edition of all the printed English reports not covered in those two sets. The *Year Books* and some other early material are written in Latin or in Law French, a language which started as good French but gradually came to far extend the barbarities of the "franglais" of today.

The statute collection, which was based for some time on the Ruffhead and Pickering editions called *Statutes at Large*, has recently been supplemented by a microfilm edition of the authoritative *Statutes of the Realm*.

As far as the main printed sources go, then, the Library's holdings are now quite respectable. If, as some current activities suggest, we are now at the beginning of a new age in the scholarship of early English Law, it seems likely that there will soon be substantial additions to, and reinterpretations of, the early materials. The Library has already bought, as a project sponsored jointly by the Departments of Law and History, a microfilm set of early English legal manuscripts copied from such collections as the Harvard Law Library, the Inns of Court, and the Bodleian Library. This collection is not for beginners, adding to the problem of Law French the truly appalling difficulty of deciphering the legal handwriting of the period, but it must prove an extraordinarily rich mine for those capable of exploiting it.

AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER SOURCES

It has not been so difficult to collect Australian law and, although there are large gaps in nineteenth century statutes and little coverage of the earliest Australian monographs, the collection

is generally adequate for teaching purposes, in range of titles if not in numbers of copies. The main reports of the U.S. are gradually being completed, although our holdings of U.S. statutes are fragmentary. Other common law or partly common law countries, like Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, are represented to varying degrees.

The civil law holdings include a good basic collection of German sources and commentaries (much of it presented by the German government) and the recently-acquired French *Recueil Dalloz*. The most comprehensive coverage in the Law Library is in the field of public international law, or the law of nations.

INDEXES AND GUIDES, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The key to most of this literature is fairly readily available in the published encyclopaedias (e.g. *Halsbury*), digests and abridgements (*Australian Digest*, *English and Empire Digest*) and indexing services like the *English Current Law* and the *Index to Legal Periodicals*. Few of these make any concessions to the uninformed, and even experienced users can find some of them complicated and slow.

Automated retrieval of legal information is available in the U.S. (at very high prices) and in some European countries. England this year is setting up a so-called National Law Library, which is to record judgments on tape for access by subscribers. So far little has been done in Australia, and nothing is likely to be generally available for some time. Legal material indexed in data bases seems to be of limited interest and the Law Library and its users have not yet had much exposure to this, the apparent shape of the future. Though the next ten years are likely to bring massive changes, we must rely at present on the established indexes and digests.

Even more than the rest of the Library, then, the Law Library stands before a future of which the outlines are still unclear. If it has so far been as little affected by new technologies within the University as by those without, it can hardly expect to continue for long in this position. When changes come in areas like bibliographical organisation or cataloguing we can expect major difficulties in reconciling the old to the new.

The traditional English or Australian law library may look antiquated and eccentric, corresponding to the popular if mistaken view of the law itself. In general, however, law libraries' practices have grown out of the qualities and needs of the literature and its users, and it is greatly to be hoped that ways can be found to keep those of the old practices that really matter.

R. Finlay.



OWEN SLIGHT

On 19th June Owen Slight left his position as Deputy Librarian to retire from organised employment and find new challenges in a self-sufficient future.

Owen's early retirement is a great loss for the Library. He was clearly marked out from most of his colleagues by his constant concern with the future, and his gritty attempt to prepare the library world for the changes of tomorrow.

In his nine years here, the Library has changed in significant ways, but perhaps the most important has been the reorganisation of the library structure. In August 1973, following a detailed survey of the Library, Owen proposed a radically different organisation, which aimed at improving reader services, making better use of professional staff, with resulting improvements in job satisfaction and morale, and the streamlining of some of the more routine aspects of the technical processes.

This reorganisation of the Library from the traditional functional areas of acquisition, cataloguing and reader services into a modified subject specialist system was the realisation of a dream that Owen had been developing since at least the early 1960s. By its more economic use of qualified staff, the reorganisation has certainly helped the Library to cope with the financial stringencies of the late 1970s.

In person, Owen will be remembered for many things, but perhaps mainly for his attempts to give the Library a sense of corporate identity. Always concerned to bring people together whether inside or outside their formal duties, Owen has been a regular attender at professional and social functions. With his original sense of humour and his utter lack of false dignity he has enlivened countless meetings, as well as often showing a propensity to be, almost in spite of himself, the life of the party.

It is quite impossible in the space available to give anything like an adequate picture of Owen as a human being. One key to his character lies in his easy relationships with young colleagues, engendered partly by his lack of concern with the pomp and circumstance of high office, but primarily by his sharing of youth's inevitable concern with the future, and his great hopes for the profession of librarianship.

Well qualified to make the most of his early retirement - as well as being a competent amateur artist he is a first-rate craftsman in wood, metal and leather - Owen leaves us to look for self-fulfilment outside the library profession. By the time these words appear he will probably be enjoying the first fruits of retirement. We wish him good health and a long and active career in whatever he chooses to do.

THE AUDIO VISUAL COLLECTION

The Library's Audio Visual Collection is currently being expanded to include a large purchase of spoken word recordings of prose, poetry and drama. As items are processed they are included in the Library's card catalogues and a new computer-printed list of the contents of the Audio Visual Collection.

Enquiries regarding the Collection and its contents, or recommendations for additions to it, may be directed to the Circulation Services Librarian, Mr S. Beaumont, extension 2016.

AUSTRALIA 1788-1988 : A BICENTENNIAL HISTORY

In 1988 Europeans will have been living in Australia for 200 years. To mark this occasion a group of historians, with the help of sociologists, archivists, demographers, librarians, geographers and other specialists, is planning to produce a series of volumes under the general title *Australia 1788-1988 : a Bicentennial History*. The project comprises two closely linked sections: Section A will produce a series of volumes on particular years and periods, while Section B, the reference section, will produce volumes in the areas of historical bibliography, historical geography and historical statistics, as well as a handbook relating to the entire project. It is likely that a number of ancillary works outside the major series will be published, and the Barr Smith Library is working towards a contribution to one of these.

Five committees have been formed to produce the volumes in Section A, under the general editorship of Ken Inglis, Professor of History at the Australian National University. The first committee will largely concern itself with Australia's first settlers, the Aboriginal people, and will take the story up to 1788. Three volumes will centre on specific years at 50-year intervals: 1838, 1888 and 1938, using an approach sometimes called 'slice history' which enables the historian to gain insights into how society works by concentrating on a particular point in time, or 'slice' of the past. Dr Bill Gammage of the University of Adelaide's History Department is one of the conveners of the *Australia in 1938* volume. The final work in Section A will cover Australia's recent past, 1939-1988. Section B of the project is under the general editorship of Frank Crowley, Professor of History at the University of New South Wales, who is also responsible for the production of the special volume relating to the project as a whole. Librarians, archivists and other interested parties in each State are collaborating to produce the *Australian Historical Bibliography* volumes; the Barr Smith Library is at present represented on the South Australian Working Party by the Librarian.

Although it is too early to give any detailed information about the structure of the historical bibliography, it is likely to be in two parts. The first will deal with archival material and manuscripts and should provide a selective, descriptive guide to material held in various institutions that will be of value to those researching Australia's past. A major effort will be made to describe the resources of lesser-known institutions, including material in private collections, and attention will be drawn to unexpected material in institutional collections. Arrangement of entries is likely to be by name of institution or collection, with a broad subject index.

Planning so far indicates that the second part of the bibliography will deal with published works. It will probably be

arranged by subject areas with a listing of major works for each subject (possibly annotated), and will have a comprehensive index. Short essay introductions to each subject may be included in the final work. Another interesting suggestion that is being considered is to apply the techniques of automatic data processing when producing the bibliography so that a machine-readable data base is produced. This would enable new items to be easily added after the initial work is produced and would make the project on-going rather than one-off.

More information about *Australia 1788-1988 : a Bicentennial History* may be obtained from the bulletins being published by the various committees involved in the project. Issued so far are:

SECTION A

The Push from the Bush (1838)

Australia 1888

Australia 1938-1988 which has now divided into two separate bulletins,

Australia 1938 and

Australia 1939-1988.

The committee concerned with the history of Australia to 1788 is publishing its material in issues of *Aboriginal History*.

SECTION B

Australian Historical Bibliography

New titles to be published in Section B will include *Australian Historical Geography* and *Australian Historical Statistics*.

The project also publishes a *Newsletter* with general information, including a list of the organisers of the various groups who are all keen to hear from anyone who has an interest in the work. All the publications of the project that have been produced so far are available in the Special Collections area, Level 4, Research Services Wing of the Barr Smith Library.

Alan Keig.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIES : ONE STARTING, ONE ENDING

THE BRITISH LIBRARY GENERAL CATALOGUE OF PRINTED BOOKS TO 1975

On 16th April 1980 the Barr Smith Library accessioned the first 26 volumes of its copy of this new edition of the *General Catalogue* which will incorporate in one alphabetical sequence the third *General Catalogue* and its three supplements together with later corrections, additions and amendments. The work will be complete in some 360 volumes and the final volume will appear by the end of 1984.

"The British Library was founded in 1973 as the national library of the United Kingdom. The Department of Printed Books (previously a department of the British Museum) has one of the world's largest collections of printed books, certainly for the period before the twentieth century. The collection comprises some eight and a half million volumes in all subjects. The British Library houses the national printed archive and has a larger collection of European imprints up to 1900 than most major libraries in the countries themselves. German and French publications are particularly well represented.

The *General Catalogue* is the official record of this collection. It provides a unique source for verifying citations, research and collection-building of U.K. imprint material, rare and old books, pamphlets and papers. It is the official record for all books published during 1971-75. In its various published editions it has been a bibliographical reference work used world-wide, and for the earlier periods is the nearest approximation to a world bibliography."

(Introduction, volume 1, p.vii)

Volumes of the new edition are being shelved temporarily in the Technical Services Department immediately following the *National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints*. They will be reshelved in the public area when sufficient have been received to conveniently replace there some volumes of the third edition and its supplements.

NATIONAL UNION CATALOG, PRE-1956 IMPRINTS

Publication of the monumental *National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints* is now nearing completion. The first volume appeared in 1968 and the latest to be accessioned by the Barr Smith Library is volume 674 which takes the alphabet to Wraxall, Nathaniel William. Volumes have been issued in sequence except for the four Bible volumes (53 to 56) editing of which was completed only last September after twelve years' work on a highly complex file. The primary sequence will be completed by volume 685 but there will immediately follow a supplement of some seventy volumes containing significant

additional information accumulated over the publication period. This supplement will contain more than one million entries, half of which are new titles not in the primary sequence.

Compiled with the co-operation of the Library of Congress, the *National Union Catalog* will eventually contain some 10 million entries indicating locations in more than 700 major research libraries in the United State and Canada. It represents the greatest achievement yet of a universal bibliography of printed material.

J.R. Anderson.

STORAGE - THE LAST RESORT

In August 1979 a Select Committee of Education Committee delivered its report on the future accommodation of the Barr Smith Library. Nearly one year later, the Library is preparing to move in the first instance an estimated 40,000 periodical volumes into a high density storage area which has been established in the Old Medical School building.

A move of this scale requires careful planning if inconvenience to readers is to be minimised. The initial volumes selected for storage have been chosen by members of the academic staff, in consultation with library staff, in the hope that careful selection will ensure that only lesser used volumes are sent to storage.

As a further safeguard, volumes intended for storage will be marked on their spines with stickers reading "store", and will remain on the shelves in the Library for a variable period of time during which users may exercise their right of appeal.

Once volumes are transferred to the store they will be fetched on request once a day, except at weekends when they will not be available. There will also be browsing facilities at the store at specified times during the week. The computer-printed serials list will be amended to indicate which volumes are held in storage.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The University Library is currently growing at the rate of between 40,000 and 50,000 volumes a year. The following list is of a selection of the research materials added to the collection during recent months. Titles are listed according to the subject fund from which they were bought.

ASIAN STUDIES

Michigan. University. Asia Library. Catalogs. 1978. 25v.
Nihon rodo nenkan, v.1-21, and 39-48, 1920-40 and 1969-78.
Xiao shuo yue bao, v.1-22, 1910-31 in 87v.

COMMERCE

Australian Graduate School of Management. Annual report file, 1950-79. Microfiche, about 1,600 fiches.

ECONOMICS

Labor Council of New South Wales. Minutes, 1871-1966.
Microfilm.
Melbourne Trades Hall Council. Minutes, 1877-1953. Microfilm.
Tasmanian Trades and Labor Council. Minutes, 1917-1973.
Microfilm.
Trades and Labor Council of Queensland. Minutes. 1867-1961.
Microfilm.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

The novel, 1720-1804. Garland Press. 44v.

FRENCH LITERATURE

Cahiers d'aujourd'hui, no.1-10, 1912-14 and n.s. no.1-15, 1920-24. (All published)
Sainte-Beuve, C.A. Nouveaux lundis. 6 éd. rev. 1872-85. 13v.

GERMAN LITERATURE

German exile, 1932-1945. (12 periodicals)
Der Spiegel, v.1-15, 1946-61. Microfilm. (To complete the set)
Die Zeit, v.1-16, 1946-61. Microfilm. (To complete the set)

HISTORY

Great Britain. Public Record Office. Unpublished state papers of the English Civil War and Interregnum. Part 4. Microfilm. 16 reels. (Pt 1-3 already held)
Politics and administration of Tudor and Stuart England. Part 4. Microfilm. 36 reels. (Pt 1-3 already held)
Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch-Indie, 1838-1902. Microfiche. 751 fiches.
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Missionary Archives for South Africa, 1819-1900. Microfilm. 53 reels.

- LAW**
- Criminal reports, Canada, n.s. v.1-40, 1967-78. (Subscription also placed)
 - Fleet Street reports, v.1-15, 1963/4-1978. (Subscription also placed)
 - Great Britain. Foreign Office. Treaty series, 1-50, 1892-1947. (To complete the set)
 - Juvenile justice, v.1-29, 1949-78. (Subscription also placed)
 - Maryland law review, v.1-38, 1936-78. (Subscription also placed)
 - N.L.A.D.A. Briefcase, v.1-33, 1942-75. (To complete the set)

POLITICS

- British philosophers and theologians of the 17th and 18th centuries. Garland Press. 10lv.
- Declassified documents reference system. Retrospective collection and 1975-79 annual collections. Microfiche, about 1,500 fiches.

RESEARCH AND INTERDISCIPLINARY

- British Library. General catalogue of printed books to 1975. 1980- . (Vols. 1-26 received April 1980)
- Japan times, 1959-1978. Microfilm. (To complete the set)
- The pamphleteer, 1813-1828. Microfiche.

Marie Robinson.

REGISTER OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN PROGRESS

The attention of members of The University of Adelaide is drawn to the existence of a Register of Bibliographies in Progress.

The Register, maintained at La Trobe University Library, attempts to include bibliographical works which are either Australian in subject content or which list Australian library holdings. Australian publications on non-Australian topics are also noted. Extracts from the Register appear from time to time in the National Library's *ANSOL news*.

The main purpose of maintaining the Register is to enable scholars and bibliographers to be kept informed of work which is in progress and related to their own. A referral service is therefore provided to help minimise duplication of effort amongst Australian bibliographers.

A copy of the appropriate form is available from D.H.Borchardt, La Trobe University Library, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

The Barr Smith Library mounts exhibitions of interesting material on various topics every year. The purpose of these exhibitions is to show what the Library has on a particular topic, and an attempt is made to assemble material which is not normally easily accessible to readers, or which may be hidden away in unusual sources. There are usually different displays on level 4 and level 3 of the Research Services Wing.

On level 4 in June and July an exhibition on "The Territory of New Caledonia" is on view. It covers books and related material on the history of the islands, their exploration and missionaries. The way of life, the Territory's current industries and a portrait of the Territory today are also shown. In August on level 4 in the exhibition room there will be an exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the inaugural issue of *Pacific Islands Monthly*. The Barr Smith Library is one of the few libraries in the world to hold a complete set of the journal. We will be displaying various issues of the journal to illustrate its scope.

In August and September on level 4 in the foyer there will be an exhibition of photographs to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Austrian State Treaty. The Austrian government has prepared the exhibition and the Austrian Embassy has arranged for it to be on view in a number of cities in Australia and New Zealand. In Adelaide the exhibition will be on view in the Barr Smith Library from the last week in August to the middle of September. The Barr Smith Library will arrange a small exhibition of books on Austria to accompany the photographic exhibition.

On level 3 in July and August a display of books will be exhibited on the theme "The development of mathematics". The Barr Smith Library has a strong collection of books on mathematics ranging from the Greeks to the twentieth century.

In addition, the display cabinet situated next to the New Book Shelf on level 3 features a weekly selection of notable items which have been added to the special collections of the Barr Smith Library.

WHY PACK?

A recent edition of *American Libraries* carried an article about a library in New Jersey which discovered a low-cost way to move its books to a new building. They asked everyone in the community to borrow eight books for two weeks. The public responded and two weeks later returned the books to the new building.

THE COVER

The cover illustration for this issue is a section from *Poetry Posters* number 42 (RC/821.05/P735). The poster features a drawing by Birtley Aris illustrating Petrarch's sonnet number 164. The series of posters is by MidNAG, the Mid Northumberland Arts Group, which publishes the work of writers and artists from the north of England.

SONNET 164
by Petrarch

translated by Alastair Elliot

Now sky's at peace with earth, and winds disarm,
And sleep hobbles the beasts and birds, and night
Leads round its carriage pricked with starry light,
And in its seamless bed the sea lies calm;
But I wake, think, burn, weep; and always find
She who destroys me, there, to my sweet pain:
My state of war, where rage and grief remain,
And only thoughts of her can soothe my mind.

So from one single clear and lively spring
The sweet and bitter that I live on flow:
The same hand heals me that dealt the blow.
And, not to reach an end to suffering,
I die, I'm born, a thousand times a day,
For my salvation lies so far away.