

# Book Review

**Richard Overell**, Rare Books Librarian at Monash University, looks at two recent catalogues published by the University of Melbourne Library

*Cambridge in Books: the University, the Town and the County. A Catalogue, Arranged by Author, of the Collection Held by the University of Melbourne Library, compiled by Pierre Gorman. 3rd edition. Melbourne, Baillieu Library, 1995.*

*Cambridge in Books: the University, the Town and the County. A Catalogue, Arranged by Year of Publication, of the Collection Held by the University of Melbourne Library, compiled by Pierre Gorman. Melbourne, Baillieu Library, 1995.*

These two catalogues refer to a collection of books on Cambridge, formerly in the possession of Dr Pierre Gorman, held in the Special Collection area of the Baillieu Library.

Dr Gorman is well known in scholarly circles as an expert on education for the deaf. He is a former student of Melbourne University and of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and has worked as an academic at Monash and Melbourne Universities, as well as at various overseas institutions. It is as a result of his background at Cambridge and Melbourne universities that Dr Gorman has brought together this collection and passed it on to the Baillieu Library.

The Library acquired the nucleus of the collection, some 600 books, from Dr Gorman in 1994. He has continued to add to these and the collection now numbers about 1300 titles. This is in part the result of Dr Gorman's contacts with the Librarian at the Cambridgeshire Libraries Local Studies Collection. The duplicates from that collection were acquired by Dr Gorman and have now been added to his collection in the Baillieu Library.

The main catalogue of the collection, where the books are fully described, is the author list. This also includes a brief

summary, by Dr Gorman, of the background to the collection. However, for assessing the strength of the material, the listing by date is perhaps best. The earliest work, *Caius' De Antiquitate Cantebriensis Academiae...* (London, John Day, 1574) is followed by four items from the Restoration period and twenty five from the eighteenth century. The bulk of the collection, naturally, is drawn from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr Gorman is still buying books to add to the collection. This includes all new books within the collection's scope, as well as any items from earlier periods which are needed to fill gaps.

The collection is strong in pictorial works, including of course, variant copies of Ackermann's *History of the University of Cambridge, its Colleges, Halls, and Public Buildings* (1815). As well as books, Dr Gorman has donated prints of Cambridge to the Baillieu Library's print collection.

The changing face of Cambridge can be traced in the large numbers of guide books, particularly from the nineteenth century. Topographical works are found in profusion, as are the histories of the colleges.

The scope of the collection is set out in the titles. It does not include books published by the Cambridge University

Press, but otherwise unrelated to Cambridge, although it includes books about the Press. Also excluded are books by Cambridge people written on other subjects.

A personal interest of mine centres on the early eighteenth century dispute which involved Dr Bently and Trinity College. There are some references to it here, although it does not appear to be covered comprehensively. The forthcoming subject index, which will complete Dr Gorman's listings of his collection, may, however, reveal more material which is relevant.

The University of Melbourne must be congratulated on having acquired this world class collection. Dr Gorman is to be commended for having assembled it and for continuing to add to it. His catalogues make it accessible to the scholarly community.

The catalogues are available for purchase from the Administrative Services Unit of the University of Melbourne Library, at \$15.00 per volume. ♦



THE VARMINT MAN TAKES HIS DEGREE  
 "Post Tot Naufragia Titus"—SUM  
 Baccalaureus Artium—



▲ 1 to r:  
 Town v. Gown, and The Varmint Man, both  
 in *The Cambridge Undergraduate One  
 Hundred Years Ago*  
 Cambridge, 1592, a view from the air by John  
 Hammond; in *Cambridge Architecture*  
 A 1927 view of King's College; from *Images  
 of Cambridge*