pudore: operiantur tuerit diploe
confusione sua

Confitebor domino mini in
die meo: et in medio multorum
laudabo eum

Quia aitnt a dextra pauperis:
ita salam faceret a persequenter:
animam meam
Gloria patris

Vitus Galfridus loquerefi me fieri
fieri
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Welcome to the University of Melbourne Library Journal, a publication about the Library, its collections and services. The rapid rate of change in information technology combined with the growing demand for all kinds of information services, has made us realize the need to provide a vehicle for public information about our collections and services.

This aims to be an informative and practical journal: it will cover in depth selected aspects of the vast resources of the Library collections and inform the reader about new developments and new services offered by the Library.

Support from the Vice-Chancellor, the Faculties and the University Administration has enabled us to improve the range and standard of our services.

The Friends of the Baillieu Library also offer invaluable support by assisting us both in the purchase of “special treasures” for the Library collections and by providing us with encouragement and goodwill.

Recently, the Library launched UNICUS Library Services, offering information services to corporate organisations and private individuals. Revenue earned through this and the Library’s other public programs is channelled back into reader service areas of the Library in order to improve and further develop collections and services.

We hope you enjoy this journal.

Helen Hayes
University Librarian

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Library Membership

Membership of the University of Melbourne Library is available to interested members of the public.

There are three categories of Library Membership. For persons who are not current students or staff of the University of Melbourne, one year's membership is $120.00, or six months membership, $60.00. For graduates of the University of Melbourne, one year's membership is $100.00, or six months membership, $50.00. For financial members of the Friends of the Baillieu Library, the Alumni Association or the Graduate Union, one year's membership is $80.00, or six months membership, $40.00. Corporate membership is $450.00 per year.

Major donors are granted complimentary Library Membership by the Libraries Committee. Persons indemnified by other academic institutions are eligible for a gratis borrowing card. Existing reciprocal borrowing arrangements remain unaffected, including the CAVAL reciprocal borrowing scheme.

The following services are available to Library Members:

- Loans for a 28 day period with no limit on the number of books that can be borrowed (this loan period may vary at some branch libraries). Some material, such as recommended reading, may not be borrowed.
- Access to reference services is available by arrangement through Unicus Library Services.
- Interlibrary loan and document delivery services are also available through Unicus. Additional charges apply for reference services, interlibrary loans and document delivery.

For membership enquiries, contact The Manager, Public Programs on 344 4638.

NZ Census on CD-ROM

A software development company Space-Time Research, has donated the new Supermap 2 computer software package to the Map library.

Developed for the New Zealand Census the software consists of two CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) discs containing statistical data from the 1991 New Zealand Census. Each CD-ROM disc can hold the equivalent of up to 200,000 pages of printed text.

The two CD-ROMs contain data tables and geographical boundaries with extensive topographical information. The University Library pioneered CD-ROM technology in the maps and demographic area and assisted in the production of the first Experimental Australian Census CD-ROM in 1986.

Since then the Map Library has offered access to some 15 geographical, demographic and mapping CD-ROMs.

More and more maps are becoming available in digital format, giving users flexibility to produce customised maps to suit their particular needs.

Nikkei Database Launched

The Library now has access to the Nikkei Telecom Japan News & Retrieval Service—or Nikkei Database Service in short. The Nikkei Database Service was officially launched on April 2nd by Professor Malcolm Smith from the Asian Business Centre, Faculty of Law.

The Nikkei Database provides extensive current data on Japan’s financial, business and media worlds in text, charts and tables. In some cases the database contains information dating back 20 years.

It is the largest on-line economic database in Japan, with over five million data series, and is a subsidiary of Japan’s principal economic newspaper, the Nihon Keizai Shim bun. The newspaper has a daily circulation of over 2.8 million and publishes over 20 newspapers and periodicals for the business community in general. The information on Japan, and the Japanese economy in particular, is the most comprehensive, while the database coverage extends to most of East Asia. The major East Asian papers, such as The Japan Times, The Japan Economic Journal, and The Far East Economic Review, are stored on the database. Full text articles, translated into English, are provided of current news and periodic articles.

Numerical data is also drawn from NEEDS, the Nikkei Electronic Databank System. A particular strength is data on Japan and Japanese financial markets. It covers stocks, futures, government and corporate bonds, interest rates, foreign exchange, commodity market prices, macroeconomics, industry and comprehensive information on traded goods.

The Nikkei database is available for searching by University staff and research students.

For further information contact the Information Desk at the Baillieu Library on 344 5378.

Library News
The University Library will host an exhibition of Facsimiles of Illuminated Medieval Manuscripts, from 4 June to 30 July 1993.

The works shown are reproductions of manuscripts from the 6th to the 18th century, and many are faithfully reproduced in colour.

Merete Smith, the Rare Books Librarian and curator of the exhibition, commented, "We in Australia are at a disadvantage when studying Western European medieval manuscripts, which are mostly held on the other side of the globe. Facsimiles can make these books available to us, and also preserve the originals, as a manuscript inevitably deteriorates each time it is used."

The exhibition will be held on the First Floor of the Baillieu Library.

The exhibition is sponsored by Melbourne University Credit Cooperative.

Two examples of the works on display during the exhibition.

Library Publications

Publications and facsimile editions are a tradition in academic and research libraries. The University of Melbourne Library has long been involved in publishing and produces a range of bibliographies on topics reflecting major strengths of its collections. The Library is a member of the Australian Library Publishers' Society.

Among the many prominent titles we publish are a number of excellent bibliographies compiled by the University Honorary Bibliographer, Ian F. McLaren. The most prominent of these are Australian Explorers by Sea, Land and Air, a nine volume bibliography which is among our best selling titles so far. Other publications include: the Sadeler Catalogue listing 1200 engravings held in the Baillieu Library Print Collection; an annotated bibliography of Books by Australian Women by Margaret C. Murphy; Microform Collections in the University of Melbourne Library; a guide by Elizabeth Wakefield; bibliographic tools prepared by Ted J. Strehlow, the Library’s Research Bibliographer, such as Australian Government Publications in the Baillieu Library and the Law Library; and bibliographic publications prepared and published by the University Archives, for example A guide to the University Archives by Frank Strahan.

The Library has arranged with Melbourne University Press to make the full range of its publications available through the Melbourne University Bookroom.
The Poynton Collection
by Merete Smith
The Poynton Collection is well known in the Baillieu Library and renowned throughout the country as one of Australia’s finest collections of rare books. Dr Poynton, who gave the collection to the Library, is recognised by a plaque in University House as one of the chief benefactors of the University.

The initial donation from Dr Poynton was received by the Baillieu Library in November 1959, and donations have been received on several occasions since then. The early donations from Dr Poynton completely transformed the Baillieu holdings in several fields, particularly in the areas of Greek and Roman classics and modern private presses. As well as the books, a number of valuable prints and original art works have been donated. These now form a large part of the holdings of the Baillieu Print Room, and the books and prints together form a magnificent collection.

John Orde Poynton was born in London and was educated at Marlborough College, Caius College (Cambridge) and Charing Cross Hospital, London. After appointment as a Senior Resident Medical Officer at Charing Cross Hospital, he served as Health Officer, Research Officer and Pathologist in various appointments in Malaya, and also in the British Army until 1946 and was in the Changi prisoner of war camp during the Japanese occupation.

In 1947 Dr Poynton moved to Adelaide to take up a position as lecturer at the University Medical School. In 1950 he became Director of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide.

Dr Poynton inherited from his father a life-long interest in the study and collection of rare books and prints. The magnificent collection donated by Dr Poynton over the years was partly inherited from his father, but the books have been mostly collected by Dr Poynton himself. The initial donation consisted of about 850 books and 36 pictures. Among the books were the Nuremberg Chronicles from 1493 with its magnificent wood-cuts. A second Folio of Shakespeare from 1632 is another of the high spots, as is the complete set of Delphin Classics in 60 lavish volumes published in the 16th century. These were originally aids to the education of the French crown prince, the Dauphin (= dolphin, Latinised as Delphin) and the Baillieu set is one of the few complete sets in the world.

A further large donation was made in 1962, shortly before Dr Poynton moved to Melbourne after his retirement from the Institute in Adelaide. After the end of 1963 Dr Poynton took up an honorary position as Consultant Bibliographer which he was to occupy for the next 12 years. During that time further donations of valuable material were made, and Dr Poynton built up and organised the Baillieu Rare Book collection.

Dr Poynton left this position in the Library in 1974, and in 1977 his services to the University were recognised with the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Hand-written notes, often of great interest, are found in many of the books donated by Dr Poynton—about their production, provenance, binding, or indeed about how Dr Poynton came to acquire them. Dr Poynton has also provided card indexes (in his own hand—personal computers did not exist then) to the large number of the extra-illustrated volumes in the Rare Book Room. The extra illustrations (mostly engravings, but also, for instance, water colours) in these volumes are compiled from many sources and are

therefore not found in any other copies of the same books. The indexes are thus particularly valuable and will be made available as computer indexes in time. The Rare Book collections, of which the Poynton material forms an important part, hold much potential for research. Apart from the Greek and Roman classics and the private presses, the Scott collection and the collections of 18th and 19th century British authors (Sterne, Goldsmith, Byron and others) are important in their own right.

Most recently, Dr Poynton has concentrated on collecting and donating first editions of modern authors. These books are neither rare nor particularly expensive to acquire, but since the collections on open access in University and Public libraries will become worn by frequent use, collections of such material in good condition will become very valuable in time. Thus first editions of novels even from a few decades back now fetch very high prices and are expensive for universities to buy. Very few people have the foresight to collect for the future as well as for the present. Future generations will thank Dr Poynton because the terms of his donation will prevent us from making these particular copies part of the general collection or indeed from discarding them as space-consuming duplicates.

Dr Poynton has built up his collections with great discrimination in such a way that the whole becomes worth much more than the individual parts. Thus a few rare Walter Scott books may be of some interest in themselves, but the Scott collection compiled by Dr Poynton is one of the best in the world because it contains the rare gems together with all of the more easily accessible material. Currently, an edition of Scott’s *The Lady of the Lake* is being compiled using this collection, and later on in the year, Professor William Todd, an internationally renowned scholar, will spend some months working on the collection. Part of the collection on Greek and Latin classics has been very important source material for the writing of a recent book by Professor Clive Probyn about the 18th century English scholar James Harris (“Hermes Harris”).

Dr Poynton bought up much of Harris’ and his son, the First Duke of Malmsbury’s library, many of the books with Harris’ annotations. These books are in themselves important editions of the classics, but their association and inscriptions are unique and can be found in no other copies in the world.

Dr Poynton’s collections may well be used as a practical illustration of Jonathan Wanthurp’s remark in his *Australian Rare Books 1788-1900*, “A collector who cares only for rarity is as absurd as an orchestra that plays only the difficult passages of a symphony; the virtuosity of the performance is pleasing only in its proper place within the complete work.” Dr Poynton is a virtuoso book collector and a most generous benefactor to this Library.

*Merete Smith is Curator-Rare Books*
The proposal for a Distributed National Collection (‘DNC’) is essentially a plan for libraries throughout Australia to develop their collections with an overall national perspective in mind. It is proposed that all libraries should describe their existing subject strengths and their plans for future development. These plans would be made available in a published form, known as Conspectus, thus allowing future collection decisions by individual libraries to be made on the basis of information about gaps in the national ‘collection’. In an age where it is increasingly difficult to finance and house library collections this will allow libraries to make considered decisions about whether to attempt to build or maintain research collections in particular disciplines.

While information about the location of many individual titles is already available to researchers (through both the National Union Catalogue of Monographs and the Australian Bibliographic Network) there have been few guides available to collections by subject which would allow a researcher to make a decision to visit a collection. It is proposed that libraries with particular subject strengths will either volunteer or be requested to make a commitment to maintaining those collections as part of the national collection for the benefit of all researchers. In some cases institutions which no longer teach in certain areas may transfer those collections to the institution with designated national responsibility for the subject. It is also envisaged that in certain instances where no institution is currently collecting at research strength in a particular area, funding will be given to that institution to build in that area.

Most academic libraries are well aware of their own research strengths, and areas which receive significant support can be readily identified. For example, the University of Melbourne receives annual funding from a bequest to develop the history collections in relation to the French Revolution and the Tudor period in English History. We should be able to quite confidently agree that we will continue to build these collections for the foreseeable future. Another example is that we know that there are only a few large older medical collections in Australia of which the collection at Melbourne University is one. Areas of collection building can be agreed between universities holding these collections, based on our current strengths and future needs. We are currently looking at this issue in relation to the collections at the University of New South Wales and Monash University and we will do so for other areas of the Collection.

What can the DNC achieve?

From a global perspective the DNC offers a rational distribution of library collections and services developed collaboratively, from which the University of Melbourne would be a beneficiary along with everyone else. In this University it has been recognised that in order to fully participate in the DNC, our records must be added to the National Bibliographic Database (NBD). The University administration has accepted this view and is assisting
the Library by providing funding toward this purpose.

With this level of bibliographical control, through the National Bibliographic Database, we will be able to gain a far greater level of knowledge of our own and other collections which will enable us to make more informed decisions about what we purchase at the research level.

**What are the problems?**

There are very few collection policy plans available in academic libraries that are clear and sufficiently detailed to be useful as a tool for justifying cancellations or alerting other libraries to areas we will continue to build on, although many are being developed.

Given that the resources available to university libraries are not sufficient to build research collections in all subjects where research is going on, it is critical that information is available to all university librarians to enable them to plan

Many large and older collections still contain a significant amount of worthwhile material which is not catalogued onto the NBD and is inaccessible to researchers. We hope to have achieved a major part of our cataloguing and retro-conversion in the next three years. Until this is achieved a detailed approach from the University of Melbourne to the DNC will not be possible, although it is certainly possible to identify broad areas of collection strength at this stage.

One major problem is duplication because universities in Australia currently compete in the same areas, and parallel collections are being purchased to support internal initiatives: of course we must support and serve our own institutions in the first instance. Indeed the current trend is to more, rather than less, duplication (e.g. law courses and Japanese studies) meaning that if we all teach in, for example, Japanese we will all have to collect in that area.

In addition, the development of our collections in certain areas reflects the interests and enthusiasm of the staff members concerned. This has created inconsistencies as well as peaks and gaps in our collections, although it should be possible to address these problems through agreed collection plans.

Another issue is that strong central direction for a DNC would not be acceptable to most higher education institutions. If no university wants to collect in the area of Rutitan Studies no amount of persuasion will convince them to do so. We not only have to consider the purchase and processing costs but also the space such collections occupy on our shelves. Inevitably there will be areas which will never be supported by the DNC and so the requirement for libraries to take an international perspective will be essential. Strong centralisation is not however supported in the literature on the DNC. Participation, including the means of participation, will be voluntary. These limitations should not be seen as reasons for not supporting the DNC, but as a guide to how we approach the DNC. It may be useful to start with the areas where we already have a known commitment. When we know what is not covered nationally we may be in a position to consider national and international solutions for areas of need.

It has been asked why we should bother at all with the concept of the DNC when technological developments will soon effectively provide us with a distributed international collection in any case. One answer is that such a situation does not exist now, and the costs may prove quite prohibitive as we rely on fewer providers of information to meet our needs. This situation leaves us too vulnerable: we could be cut off by sanctions, costs, the technology itself or the decisions of other people. Access now is currently weighted to those who can afford it and who have the technology and the ability to use it so that some groups and some libraries are missing out more than others. Sometimes as we have seen, the modes of dissemination invest information with private features adding cost and exclusiveness rather than value.

In addition, some material is unlikely to ever be included in a database. For example, the 19th century medical periodicals held at the University of Melbourne would probably not be used often enough to ever warrant on-line access, or even perhaps the esoteric chemistry journals wanted by the Heads of Chemistry Schools.

Information in all formats will comprise the Distributed National Collection, and both the balance and means of access will change along with the availability of new technologies.

Given that the resources available to university libraries are not sufficient to build research collections in all subjects where research is going on, it is critical that information is available to all university librarians to enable them to plan their collecting, and for researchers to know where the strong collections are. The Distributed National Collection will provide this.

*Helen Hayes is the University Librarian.*
The History of Book Publishing in Australia

A conference to celebrate the 70th birthday of the Melbourne University Press. Report by Juliet Flesch

The 100 or so people who attended all or part of this, the first of a planned series of conferences on the history of book publishing in Australia were treated to a varied two days, in one of the most smoothly-run and physically comfortable conferences I have attended in what often seem like a long lifetime of such jamborees. Not a polystyrene cup in sight, none of those wooden tongue-depressors used as spoons, chairs that actually had supports for note-taking and were comfortable to sit in, and air-conditioning that kept the rooms at a comfortable temperature: what more could one ask for?

Interesting speakers, of course, and we got them.

The basic treatment was chronological, with Victor Crittenden (former Librarian of what is now the University of Canberra, proprietor of Mulini Press and garden history enthusiast), Lurline Stuart (historian) and Graeme Johanson (of RMIT) speaking about various aspects of book publishing in 19th century Australia. Crittenden spoke principally of the types of books published in early Australia: books with immediate practical value, such as almanacs, gardening books, etc., and speculated on their readership. A 19th century survey by the Bible Society in NSW suggested a higher level (about 60%) of literacy than one might have expected, suggesting that such books may have passed from hand to hand in the colony, with readership levels much higher than ownership figures would suggest.

Stuart’s paper covered the relationship between literary journals and book publishing and Johanson’s discussed the nature of the book culture imported into Australia and the effect of such imports.

Teresa Pagliaro and Michael McKernan (of the War Memorial) took us into the 20th century. Pagliaro with a discussion of the influence of A.W. Jose as chief editor at Angus and Robertson and McKernan with a riveting account of the selling of C.E.W. Bean’s monumental history of the first World War, a collection of 10 volumes, which, it seems, almost everyone bought and practically nobody read.

Cecily Close from our own Archives spoke of the effect of the second World War on two Melbourne publishers, Thomas Lothian and the Melbourne University Press. John Curtain (formerly of Penguin and now at RMIT) covered some aspects of post-war publishing, taking as his starting point the Tariff Board inquiry of 1946, witnesses before which read like a cultural who’s who of the period: Katharine Susannah Prichard, Frank Clune, Andrew Fabinyi, etc., etc.

The chronological coverage was briefly broken when Philip Grundy (director of Leros Press) and Con Casten from Queensland University spoke of non-English publishing in Australia. Grundy covered all languages before concentrating on the pioneering work of his own press in producing bilingual editions of Australian poets writing in other languages, and Casten covered the vital and energetic history of Greek Australian publishing.

Harold Stein, with his history of Edwards and Shaw, Australia’s notable book designers and printers, gave a talk illustrated by the works of this remarkable team, on their artistic and political aims.

Alexandra Bertram, from MUP, covered various aspects of patronage in postwar Australian publishing, including government and corporate sponsorship and most particularly the personal munificence of Sir Russell and Lady Grimwade which permitted the establishment of the Miegunyah Press.

The last paper, given by Craig Munro, author of the acclaimed biography on Inky Stephenson, took us to 1960’s with a wonderful account of the boardroom battle over Angus and Robertson. The saga of the ownership and direction of Australia’s most venerable publishing house lasted ten years. Munro outlined the first shots with a gusto and sense of drama which made us all eager for the TV mini-series.

This was a broad-ranging conference and there was some discussion at the end as to whether future ones should be chronologically or thematically more focussed, to provide for in-depth examination of specific aspects of Australia’s book publishing history. Whether they are, or whether they retain the same broad-brush approach, they should not be devoid of interest: the first one certainly showed us that there is much that needs research, exposure and publication.

Juliet Flesch is the Principal Librarian, Collections
For 27 years the Friends of the Baillieu Library have continued to provide invaluable support to the Library. As Dr Alison Patrick, a long standing Friend, once pointed out “Friends of the Baillieu Library set out to raise money so that the Library could acquire some of the special treasures that any library would like to have, but that many libraries can ill afford to buy”.

Over the years the list of purchases supported financially by the Friends of the Baillieu Library has grown considerably, and many researchers have benefited from this generosity.

A rich calendar of functions for the Friends has been prepared for 1993, continuing the interesting programs organised by Juliet Flesch (Executive Secretary) in recent years. This year’s program opened in April with an informative presentation of the CD-ROM (Compact Disk Read Only Memory)'s in the Library at which the audience had an opportunity to view and discuss such new reference tools as the English Poetry Database, Digital Chart of the World and the Australian Census on CD-ROM. Those who attended the seminar left it well informed about new possibilities in library research. The other highlights of the current Friends’ program include: the Annual Dinner with speaker Professor William Coadrake, visits to the University of Melbourne Archives and the State Herbarium, the launch of the Oxford Companion, the lecture on Australian Children’s Literature by Pam MacIntyre, a talk on Ernest Scott by Professor Stuart Macintyre and seminars on book conservation and cookery literature, run in conjunction with the National Book Council. Stephanie Alexander will be one of the guest presenters at the “Cookery Bookery” seminar. (The full program is listed on page 14).

Members of the Friends may obtain University Library borrower cards at a discounted rate of $80 per annum from the Public Programs Office on 344 4638.

Friends’ Membership is $30 per individual or $40 per family: if you wish to join please fill in the membership form (over page) and post to the address thereon (enquiries 344 4256).

The Library is most grateful for the Friends’ continual support and encouragement.

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**Exhibition Schedule**

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**First Floor Exhibition Area, Baillieu Library**

- *Facsimiles of Medieval Manuscripts*
  Curator: Merete Smith
  4 June—30 July

- *Illustrated Books from the Medical Rare Books Collection*
  Curator: Dorothea Rowse
  4 August—30 September

- *Studio Magazine Centenary*
  Curator: Margaret Murphy and Ann Brothers
  7 October—24 December

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**Leigh Scott Room, Baillieu Library**

- *Victorian Aerial Photographs 1945-1993:*
  An exhibition of Victorian aerial photographs dating from 1945 until the present day.
  Curator: Brian Warburton
  4 June—30 July

- *The City:*
  Urban scenes and views are interpreted in prints from the 16th to the 20th century
  Curator: Geoff Down
  1 August—30 October

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**University Gallery**

- *Images of the European Landscape*
  Landscape as portrayed by printmakers from 1553 to 1928.
  (Joint exhibition with the Hamilton Art Gallery).
  Curator: Geoff Down
  5 May—30 June
Please send information on the following
Friends functions
❑ June 23—Archives tour
❑ July 8—Launch of the
  Oxford Companion to Children’s
  Literature by Pam MacIntyre
❑ July 24—Prof. S. McIntyre
  Ernest Scott: A Life in History
❑ August 7—How to look after a
  book collection
❑ September 8—Visit to the
  Herbarium Library, Botanic Gardens
❑ October 23—Cookery Bookery
  in conjunction with the National
  Book Council
❑ November—Maribyrnong Cruise

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The University of Melbourne Library
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Cheques should be made payable to
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Membership fees are not tax deductible
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for the ‘Friends of the Baillieu Library.”

Enquiries & bookings: Diana Hinks (03) 344 4256
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  November 10 from 9.30am—4.30pm.

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On the cover this issue

Luttrell Psalter
British Museum Additional Manuscript 42130

From the Baillieu Library Rare Book Collection.
Part of the exhibition of Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts
held at the Baillieu Library, 4 June—30 July.