

A GREAT LIBRARIAN: Phyllis Mander-Jones, MBE

I FIRST met Phyllis Mander-Jones in 1944. She was then the Public Library of New South Wales' Bibliographer and lectured in its Library School on the history and care of the book. She had already made a major contribution to the bibliography of Australia and the South West Pacific. Soon after this she moved to the Mitchell Library, becoming its Librarian in 1946.

The Library was just coming out of its war-time dormancy. The collections, sent away for the duration of the conflict, were coming back into the building to join the crates of newly deposited material which lay in every corner of the stacks. The staff was small and mostly young and inexperienced. Phyllis immediately embarked on an ambitious programme of training staff, organising the collections, augmenting them, and spreading the Mitchell's name abroad.

From her pen flowed all manner of procedure notes, short bibliographies and guides intended for the many local historical societies who sought her help. For she was always ready to give the benefit of her knowledge and scholarship to those in need of it. She would lend her critical attention to a painting brought in by a dealer wanting to determine its authenticity, help a scholar to compare a text, translate Dutch inscriptions on an old map and write meticulous notes on variant editions of rare books.

The Mitchell had been a jealously guarded treasure house where catalogues might not be consulted freely. There was not the wealth of published studies we have today. On many subjects primary sources alone existed and bibliographies were sadly lacking. Phyllis planned catalogues and indexes, edited texts for publication, addressed learned bodies at home and abroad.

For the world of librarianship those post-war years were a time of development. Phyllis Mander-Jones took an important part in this. With Heather Sherrie she brought out a *Short List of Subject Headings* for use in school libraries and in the many municipal libraries then being established. She served in the Association and was instrumental in forming its Archives Section. The Association made her a Fellow and in 1981 conferred upon her the HCL Anderson Award. She was an Honorary Member of the Australian Society of Archivists, successor to the Archives Section.

Her greatest achievement, for which her name will not cease to be revered by research workers everywhere, is her monumental *Guide to Manuscripts in the United Kingdom relating to Australia and the South West Pacific*, published in 1972. It was an immense task and for this work she was honoured with an MBE.

Her involvement with Australian studies sources did not stop there. Indefatigable, she filled her last years with more painstaking work. The Royal Geographical Society of Australasia has recognised her contribution with an Honorary Membership.

To work under her was both a privilege and a challenge. Her standards were high; she demanded the same meticulous care she herself gave, and she was adept at putting people on their mettle. She took a warm personal interest in her staff and was generous of the hospitality of her home. Her many gifts included sketching and linocutting. She was skilled in several languages and delighted in the arts and in the beauties of nature. To the last she enjoyed discussing books in her chosen fields. Throughout her long career she was in constant touch with many scholars all over the world and with past associates, with many she formed a life-long friendship. She will be remembered by all with deep affection.

Suzanne Mourrot

Notes from the Executive Director

Australian Industries Research Group

On Thursday 24 May I spoke to about 30 senior research managers from industry at the Sydney Airport Hilton.

The topic was 'Present and future trends in information and information technology', and it was followed by a very stimulating discussion. Talking to research managers is a bit like preaching to the converted — everyone was familiar with on-line services and used libraries and information as a regular part of their working lives.

They expressed concern at the difficulty often encountered in trying to persuade senior non-technical management of the advantages in committing resources to information management and provision. This is obviously an area that we as librarians, whether in industry or elsewhere, need to promote.

I hope this talk may open up opportunities to talk to other such groups, including those who are less familiar with some of the wonderful services we can provide.

Computer software

The Federal Government is to prepare legislation to protect software under the Copyright Act. A report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Membership renewals

To everyone who received a second membership renewal notice when they had in fact paid, I apologise. We did our utmost to have our renewals up to date before we ran off labels for unfinancial members. However, as membership kept coming after March 31, it was impossible to be absolutely up to date.

The delay in the programming of the new computer did not help as we were trying to process everything through one terminal. We have now almost returned to normal, although we are still receiving membership

renewals (very happily!). As for the computer program, we should have this running within the month.

Perth

I have recently returned from a very hectic and exciting visit to Perth, where I met many members and talked to several sectional groups and students. I was only sorry I was not able to visit the WA Regional Groups, but will try to include this in my plans for next year.

The WA Branch did a terrific job in making my visit a happy and successful one.

Indonesian visitor

The LAA received a visit from Mr Hendrarta Kusbandarrumsamsi on 29 May. Hendrarta is a member of the Indonesian Library Association and is in Australia on a UNESCO funded project. He will spend three months in Canberra at NLA and ANU.

Brisbane Conference

Registrations for the Brisbane Conference are rolling in. Don't forget that June 30 is the final date before a late fee is required. I'm looking forward to Brisbane and meeting as many people as possible.

Baker and Taylor Award

The winner of the Baker and Taylor award will be announced in the next issue of *InCite*. The successful candidate will be advised in good time to send conference registration before June 30.

Thanks to all those students who sent in entries. It is a shame there were not more prizes on offer.

Jenny Adams

Executive Director

NSW SPECIAL LIBRARIES GROUP

July 6 & 7 — Planning and Managing Your Career. Two-day workshop led by Paul Stevens. Venue: YWCA Wentworth Street, Sydney. Cost: \$120 members, \$150 non-members. Contact: Cheryl Grant 666 9841 x 320.

July 11 — 6, for 6.30 pm. Maria Gemenis Award Dinner. Venue: Southern Cross Hotel. Cost: \$20. Contact: Cheryl Grant 666 9841 x 320.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION — LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Pre-Conference Seminar
Sunday 26 August 1pm–5pm
to be held at the Cinema, Griffith University, Nathan, Brisbane.

“HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES”

SPEAKERS:

ALISON CROOK.

Deputy State Librarian, State Library of New South Wales, formerly Principal Librarian of the North Brisbane College of Advanced Education.
“The Development of Human Resources Managers”

PETER DUREY.

University Librarian, University of Auckland, New Zealand.
“Effective Structures for the Management of Human Resources”

GEORGE BLACKGROVE

Manager, Organisation and Staff Development, Mount Isa Mines Holdings Limited.
“Managing Human Resources to Optimize the Efficiency of the Individual's Job Performance”

If you are coming to the Conference do not miss this important pre-Conference Seminar.

A small charge to cover refreshments will be made.

Further information from Bruce Edwards, Griffith University Library, Brisbane. Q. 4111. (07) 275 7179.