



THE SOURCE

Through a Glass darkly

When a motor dealer makes you an offer for your old jalopy, chances are he or she will have gazed, not into a crystal ball, but into one of Glass's guides. These handbooks give a general idea of market prices for secondhand motor cars in Australia, and are of obvious utility to buyers and sellers alike among the general public. Glass's have kindly sent me a copy of *Glass's dealers guide to older car values*, the third edition of which is dated April-July 1988.

This work, which is just one of Glass's guides, covers Australian-made and imported cars manufactured between 1960 and 1976, ranging from such exotic as the minuscule Gogomobil Dart to local workhorses like the Falcon and the Kingswood. As well as providing indicative prices, using a star rating system, and brief information to differentiate between models, the guide also shows where there is special interest in particular vehicles.

Interesting though all this is, most libraries able to afford the \$120 per annum subscription would find it hard to comply with the conditions of supply printed inside the front cover: 'All Glass's Dealers Guides are supplied on the basis that the information contained therein is confidential and shall not be passed on to any person other than the subscriber's employees, co-partners or directors (as the case may be) and for the purposes of a subscriber's business'. But perhaps this, like some of the models listed, is an inoperative vestige.

Glass's dealers guide to older car values is published by Glass's Dealers Guide Pty Ltd, PO Box 475, Carlton, Vic 3053. An annual subscription of \$120 will bring you this guide, revised quarterly. (No ISBN or ISSN)

All you wanted to know . . .

Until now much of the useful information on developing library collections has been available to Australian librarians in scattered local sources, or in rather more concentrated but sometimes less relevant overseas materials. Now G. E. Gorman and B. R. Howes have created a landmark Australian work, presenting a thorough exposition of all aspects of the collection development process.

Collection development for Australian libraries begins at the beginning ('Why have a policy statement?') and progresses through evaluation of collections, including user studies, selection processes and sources, and that vital chore for most libraries, weeding collections. Australian sources of information are given due attention throughout. Readers, who will, one hopes, include all library and information studies students, as well as existing practitioners, are also treated to a series of 21 readings. These range from the stimulating and scholarly, to no less stimulating but more prosaic extracts from published selection policies of a number of Australian libraries. The whole is rounded off by an excellent bibliography and a good index.

G. E. Gorman and B. R. Howes' *Collection development for Australian libraries* was published in 1988 by the Centre for Library Studies, Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education as no 1 in the series 'Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies'. (ISBN 0 949060 00 3; ISSN 1030-5009)

Have books, will travel

People, print and paper is the title of the travelling exhibition which is the National Library of Australia's major public contribution to the Bicentenary. Even if you don't get to the exhibition, the accompanying catalogue makes fascinating reading for even the mildest bibliophile.

Exhibition curator Michael Richards has produced very readable background material on the 385 exhibits, setting each in context and explaining its significance. The exhibition follows through a number of strands, from the First Fleet (including information on some of the books which may have been read on the voyage) to the present day. Special attention is given to children's books, private presses, the arts press and aborigines.

Michael Richards' *People, print and paper* presents a very stimulating slice of the history of Australian books. It was published in April 1988 by the NLA and costs \$17.50. (ISBN 0 642 10451 4)

Going public

Australian writers on librarianship — not to mention their readers — will rejoice at the launching of another home-grown but far from homespun journal of library and information services. *Australasian public libraries and information services*, which began in April 1988, will appear three or four times a year, and concentrates, as its name implies, on public libraries and other publicly accessible information services in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

The first issue got off to a strong start, with an appetising melange of articles. Sarah Walters et al outline the history of the City of Sydney Public Library, surely one of the most poorly accommodated capital city lending libraries in the Commonwealth. Edwin Edwards delves into people's expectations of country libraries. Kerry Taylor provides an overview of what online databases have to offer in the field of local government. Local history collections, women's information, funding — these topics and more besides find their place, together with a goodly number of reviews, in the first and very promising issue of *APLIS*.

Libraries which have not been sent a free copy of *Australasian public libraries and information services* can request one from Auslib Press, PO Box 622, Blackwood, SA 5051. The 1988 subscription rate is \$21.00 (\$30.00 to institutions, and \$34.00 surface postage paid to overseas addresses). (ISSN 1030-5033)

Film noir

'Nearly everything that anyone could want to learn on Aboriginals is documented here' is the bold promise of Christine Koziel's *Aboriginal film and video guide*, published in 1988 by Community Aid Abroad. In this enterprising work Koziel lists and describes over 200 films and videos about all aspects of Aboriginal life, leaving out the 'blatantly dreadful' productions. The annotations are evaluative, and items are graded in six categories from infant to adult/tertiary. Some themes which can be pursued in discussion are suggested in the thoughtful introduction, outlining some white

myths about Aboriginals, and indicating some cinematic answers. There is a subject index and a list of distributors and film libraries which handle the items described in the guide.

Aboriginal film and video guide is available from local CAA offices, or from Awareness Through Films, GPO Box 1323, Canberra City, ACT 2601, at \$10 plus \$1.20 postage. (No ISBN)

Talking books short-listed

Six books have been short-listed by the Royal Blind Society for its award 'Talking Book of the Year'. For the previous nine years, the Society has, through the competition, highlighted the importance of talking books to people with visual disabilities.

The short list comprises *Dancing on Coral* by Glenda Adams; *A House of Trees* by Joan Colebrook; *My Place* by Sally Morgan; *Oscar and Lucinda* by Peter Carey; *Tibet* by Sorrel Wilby and *Yancannia Creek* by Mary Turner Shaw. The winner will be announced in October and the presentation will take place during a dinner on 7 December 1988 at the State Library of NSW. For bookings contact Denise Wherrett (02) 747 6622.

In short

- *Roget's thesaurus of English words and phrases*, new edition prepared by Betty Kirkpatrick, brings the thirty-million seller into the 1980s of bag ladies, insider trading, streetwise yuppies and cellular telephones.

- Published by Longman (sponsors of the *Guardian* prize crossword) in 1987, and available in standard (ISBN 0 582 89363 1), de luxe (ISBN 0 582 89220 1) and limited leather editions (ISBN 0 582 01402 6)

- *The Australian resource directory for automatic identification systems, equipment, supplies and consulting services* is a modest 34-page guide to a number of companies active in barcoding, optical character recognition, voice data entry, machine vision, magnetic striping and other wizardry in Australia.

- Further information from AIMPAC (Automatic Identification Manufacturers Pacific) Secretariat, 48 Frenchs Road, Willoughby, NSW 2068. (No ISSN)

- *Infonet* vol 1 no 1 appeared in May 1988. Published three times per year, it presents news and happenings from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Department of Information Services. (No ISSN)

- *SASLA newsletter* rates a mention as a new face in Australian library lit. SASLA? South Australian School Libraries Association. Vol 1 no 1 appeared in March 1988. SASLA is at PO Box 2093, Kent Town, SA 5071. (No ISSN)

- *The overnight guide to public speaking* by Ed Wohlmuth is a snappily written and individualistic approach to what can be a very traumatic experience. He kicks off with 'ten sure-fire ways to give a lousy speech', and ends with an entertaining index ('Audiences, do not kill . . .'). It's homely and helpful. Published by Millennium Books of Newtown, NSW, and costing \$14.95. (ISBN 0 85574 866 4)

by
David J. Jones

