



THE SOURCE

A basinful of the Pacific

Quarterly jottings from the New Hebrides was a remarkable survivor. First published in July 1893, its original purpose was to 'spread interest in Britain in the work of the New Hebrides Mission'. Because of its long life — its last known issue appeared in 1966 — *Quarterly Jottings* represents a significant source of historical information on Vanuatu. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau microfilmed this publication — or as many issues as could then be mustered — some time ago. The Bureau has now published a very full index to this title, arranged by personal name, island and subject. *An index to Quarterly jottings from the New Hebrides, 1893-1966 (Nos 1-284)*, edited by Robert Langdon, was published by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in 1988.

Another substantial tool for the Pacific researcher, from the same editor and publisher, is *The PMB book of Pacific indexes*. This sturdily-bound volume contains six indexes, three of

which have not been previously published (the others appeared in *Pambu* some years ago). These indexes unlock a tremendous range of neglected sources, such as *Annales hydrographiques* one of the indexes covers items on Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific which appeared in that publication between 1848 and 1968.

Further information on *An index to Quarterly jottings from the New Hebrides, 1893-1966 (Nos 1-284)* (ISBN 0 7351 0352 X) and *The PMB book of Pacific indexes* (ISBN 0 7315 0351 1) is available from the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Briefly...

Archives of an activist is a catalogue of an exhibition of the papers of Debbie Homburg, held in the State Library of New South Wales in 1988. Homburg has been involved since the 1970s in prison reform, environmental issues, the women's movement, Aboriginal rights and other contemporary concerns.

The catalogue also includes an outline of Homburg's extensive papers, which are in the Mitchell Library. Available from the State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. (No ISBN)

Semantics: a bibliography 1979-1985 by W. Terrence Gordon is a continuation of his 1980 publication which covered this subject for the 1965-1978 period. Materials covered are in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, and are occasionally annotated ('Evidence that adversative get-passive constructions are more flexible semantically than beneficial get-passive constructions' — I hope that's quite clear). Published by Scarecrow

Press in 1987 at US\$27.50. Review copy supplied by James Bennett. (ISBN 0 8108 2055 2)

The public library: its origins, purpose and significance, by W. J. Murison is now in its third edition, and provides a good overview of public library developments, with an emphasis on the British Isles. Sometimes the prose is rather ponderous and circumlocutory ('another faculty librarians must possess is to appraise the quality and suitability for the library of candidates presenting themselves as applicants for membership of their staff' means librarians must be able to select good staff, I think. Hmm.) Published in 1988 by Bingley and priced at around 12.50 pounds sterling. (ISBN 0 85157 430 0)

Priceless pictures is a selection of quirky, eloquent and often poignant photographs from the NSW Government Printing Office. Picture the poor editor, Leigh Raymond, being forced to select 110 photographs from the collection of 200 000 negatives and 10,000 prints. Picnics in the snow, swagmen, an 1890 pillar box, rural life, primitive dentistry, prickly pear — an eminently browsable collection, beautifully designed by Patrick Coyle. Published in 1988 by Stateprint, NSW Government Printing Office, Harris Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007. (ISBN 0 7240 8723 0)

by
David J. Jones



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