

THE SOURCE

Goodbye, Minister

Which Minister resigned after leasing a racehorse? Which Ministerial Knight became a Lord and therefore resigned? Which Minister was dismissed before he was sworn in? You can find the answers to these and other intriguing questions — about the Commonwealth Ministry at least — in the revised edition of *That's it — I'm leaving: Ministerial resignations and dismissals 1901-1989*.

Margaret Healy's compilation brings us up to Mr Punch's March 1989 resignation. Entries are arranged chronologically, with details of each Minister's parliamentary performance and a brief summary of the reasons for his departure. It is a useful little publication — if it gets much bigger, I think a name index and perhaps a nickname index (e.g. Paddington Bear Affair, Ivanov Affair, VIP Aircraft Affair etc) might be useful.

Margaret Healy's *That's it — I'm leaving* is yet another of the helpful publications from the Department of the Parliamentary Library, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600. It is available from the Australian Government Publishing Service at \$2.50. (ISBN 0 642 14389 7)

The world's biggest developer

No, it's not a Western Australian iris fancier, but the United Nations Organisation, through its network of development agencies. The huge volume of development can be gauged by a UN register, itself a huge volume, produced by the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS).

Register of development activities of the United Nations System 1987, published in 1988, contains information on more than 21 000 activities by thirty-three UN organisations. It is the result of massive collation of data from scattered sources, and 'dogged determination'. Arranged by country, the register identifies the reporting agency, the funding source, title of project, and funding in US dollars. Regional and global programs are listed separately, and names and addresses of relevant organisations are given in an appendix.

Register of development activities of the United Nations System 1987 is available from UN Sales and Publications, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland for US\$30.00. (ISBN 92 1 100341 5; ISSN 1012-7666)



A serial on serials

The ALIA Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG) is a lively group, and has a lively newsletter with the no-frills title of *ASSIG Newsletter*. ASSIG

itself was formed in 1987, and its quarterly newsletter has appeared with appropriate regularity, and without a whisper of a change of title, ever since. It contains short articles on topics such as serials systems, serials costs, member organisations, library-publisher relationships, serials use and standing orders. The liveliness extends to the Letters to the Editor and reviews sections, and there appears to be promising support from advertisers of serials and related services.

ASSIG Newsletter is distributed to ALIA members who pay the normal special interest group fee. A subscription will cost others \$25.00, and can be arranged with the ASSIG Secretary, Patricia Baigent, Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services, 35-51 Mitchell Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060. (ISSN 1030-3812)

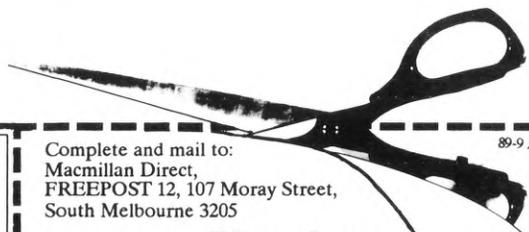


A slice of early history

'Written by specialists for the non-specialist', *World history from earliest times to 1800* is volume three of the *Oxford illustrated encyclopaedia*, and appeared in 1988. This 392-page volume contains succinct articles on notables, wars, movements, concepts, from Abbas I to Zwingli. The style is lively and lucid and the work is well illustrated, with good use of maps, line drawings and colour plates.

Other volumes in the series will cover the physical and natural world,

Continued 10 ..



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history since 1800, the arts, the world of technology and human society and the universe. There will be a cumulative index. The fledgling colony of New South Wales doesn't rate a mention in the present volume (nor does Australia, except in the article Australoids, where we read that 'Europeans first reached Australia about 200 years ago!'). Used judiciously, it will be useful for providing bite-sized and digestible chunks of history, especially, I would think, at the junior secondary school level.

World history from earliest times to 1800, edited by Harry Judge, was published by Oxford University Press in 1988 as volume three of the *Oxford illustrated encyclopaedia*. (ISBN 0 19 869135 1)

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Building an archive

The very special physical requirements of archives buildings are the subject of Michel Duchein's *Archive buildings and equipment*, the second edition of which was published by Saur in 1988. It is a translation of Duchein's *Les batiments d'archives, construction et equipements*, itself published by the Archives Nationales de France in 1985 — so if you have read that, read no more.

As Duchein writes, much has changed since the first edition appeared in 1966, including the influx of new media, to which some — but of necessity brief — attention is given in the present work. The great strength remains in the very full treatment of key aspects in the planning and fitting out of a building. It betrays, of course, its French origins, in the wealth of examples drawn from that country, and by the numerous references to French standards and other materials. And while some basic principles do travel well, local rules and regulations (and common sense) will invalidate some of the information. An example of this is in a section on fire-resistant doors: 'In theory they should be kept permanently shut. However, for convenience, they can be kept open with a wedge but should be capable of being closed immediately if the need arises.' Has that sentence lost or gained something in the translation?

There is a good selection of illustrations, although it is a pity that they are grouped at the back of the volume, and not located appropriately throughout

the text. A model brief for the construction of provincial archives is included as an appendix. This work is of interest, not just for archivists, but also for librarians who are involved, or are likely to be involved, in the planning of major facilities for research collections.

Michel Duchein's *Archive buildings and equipment*, second edition, was published in 1988 by Saur as volume 6 in the ICA (International Council on Archives) Handbooks Series. It is available locally from Butterworths and costs \$50.00. (ISBN 3 598 20278 4)

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Hit return to continue, m'lud

'Computerised legal information services have finally arrived', declare G.W. Greenleaf, A.S. Mowbray and D.P. Lewis. And so has their very thorough *Australasian computerised legal information handbook*.

This 446-page work includes an introduction to the basic principles, with a bit of Boole, Venn diagrams, discussion of the development of legal information retrieval systems in Australasia, and very detailed introductions to CLIRS and SCALE. Other systems, including LEXIS, AUSINET, OZLINE, AUSTRALIS, ESTOPL and QUICLAW, are also described, with information on contents, examples of searches and an assessment of usefulness. There is also a directory of 'all databases containing Australian, New Zealand and common law', and exercises designed to be used with the AIRS Information Retrieval Training System.

My verdict? Good value for money at \$39.00. *Australasian computerised legal information handbook* was published by Butterworth in 1988.

(ISBN 0 409 49445 3)

David J. Jones



From 2 •••

pressed by the significant contribution members have made to the Association and to the profession, frequently over a period of 10 years or more — arranging for continuing education courses and visits of interesting speakers, and encouraging and supporting the new members of the profession.

The life of the Association does not only occur in cities — the country members make an equally significant contribution to the libraries in their areas. In some ways there is a more significant commitment to the profession and the Association in the regional groups, partly because these cannot meet so often and partly because of the innovation that distance tends to produce.

What is equally clear to me after visits to regional groups is that the Association needs to pay much closer attention to their needs. *InCite* helps to keep a member who lives at the 'back o' Burke' up to date, and twice-a-year regional group meetings can help him/her keep up professional contacts, but there are other real needs. Do regional groups have sufficient funding to undertake their tasks effectively? Can they afford a newsletter, or some other mechanism of communication? Have they sufficient funds to provide some financial supplementation to offset petrol costs for those who have to drive for 4 hours or longer to attend a meeting? How can their undeniable needs for professional development courses be most effectively met? What changes do we need to make to the current tendering system to make it better service regional group members' needs? The reinstatement of a separate Continuing Education Officer on head office staff will help in the resolution of these questions, but branches and General Council must put their minds to them as well.

The visit program of the President of ALIA can be demanding, but the return is undeniable: for the President, the reminder of the diversity of the Association, and the focus on particular needs; for the members, the opportunity to be brought up to date on Association issues, to respond to queries, and to raise the local profile.

Averill Edwards
President, ALIA

