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CONSOLIDATING THE DENNIS INDEX

Summary of an address to the Society on Tuesday, 16th March
by Ian F. McLaren

And in such indexes, although small pricks
To their subsequent volumes, there is seen
The baby figure of the giant mass
Of things to come at large.

-- W. Shakespears; *Troilus and Cressida*
Act 1, sc. 3, l. 343

Clarence James Dennis wrote about many things, but I never remember him writing about an index. His was a life of constant action -- the working journalist employed to write immediate verse on demand, on any subject given to him, often requiring results within half an hour to pander to the demands of an evening newspaper.

None of his books ever boasted an index, for every one of these (with the exception of *The Singing Garden*) was a complete verse narrative.

Dennis was meticulous in seeing that his contributions were cut from the newspaper and then laid down into a series of specially prepared cuttings books -- of which there are four in the McLaren Collection: -- a gift from Mrs. Dennis, who used some 70 cuttings from them in editing *Random Verse*. Each cuttings book is indexed, but I regret that listings are made under the definite article.

Geoffrey Gleister states in *Glossary of the Book* (London, 1960) that an index is "an alphabetical list, appearing at the beginning or end of a book, giving names of persons, places, subjects etc. mentioned in the text, and the numbers of the pages or sections where they appear". The plural 'indexes' is used: 'indices' being reserved for mathematical concepts.

As it is intended to discuss both the prior indexes to my works on Dennis and the consolidated index in a supplement to *C. J. Dennis: a comprehensive bibliography*, it is appropriate to consider the variations from Glaister's definition. The indexes are divided into two or more parts rather than one overall listing. Title wordings predominate; as these are complex and subtle, they are not always readily associated with the subject matter. Select subjects were included in the card index but pressure of space prevented the publication of this category. References, with the exception of *Talking about C. J. Dennis*, are to serial numbers, categorised under the series of five subject books.

The problems relating to preparation of a consolidated index for a series of publications covering one of Australia's most prolific writers, are quite formidable. The story can best be told by tracing the history of the writing over 25 years of some six separate publications, covering more than 4,000 listed works written by Dennis over 40 years; in addition to hundreds of publications, journal and newspaper references to him. The individual newspaper contributions were partly consolidated by Dennis himself into more than 20 books, the best known of which, *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke*, has sold 300,000 copies in 60 editions. Some of this material was first published in *The Bulletin* and four sections originally appeared in *Backblock Ballads and Other Verses* (Melbourne, E. W. Cole, 1913).

1. *C. J. Dennis : his life and work* (Melbourne, 1960)

As a book collector I began collecting Australian verse in the early nineteen fifties. My presidential address to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in 1959 was entitled "C. J. Dennis : his life and work" and included a skeleton bibliography. This appeared in the *Victorian Historical Magazine* (vol. 32 (3) August 1961) and was also printed separately.

During the middle nineteen seventies, discussions took place with the Libraries Board of South Australia, which agreed to publish a Dennis bibliography.

2. C. J. Dennis : a Chronological Checklist of Contributions to Journals
(Adelaide, Libraries Board of S.Aust., 1976)

To avoid "cluttering" the major Dennis bibliography, a decision was made in 1976 to publish this checklist separately. It was considered impractical at that time to tackle the daunting task of listing all Dennis's contributions to *The Herald* and *The Weekly Times*. In retrospect, this should have been completed before the final bibliography was published.

The checklist contains 583 entries from eight journals, with a full-title alphabetic index with relevant numerical entry numbers. A second list entitled "Other References" was divided into categories : illustrators, music, photographs, references to Dennis, reviews by him and of his work. The *Checklist* also includes the pseudonyms used by Dennis as editor of *The Gadfly* from 1906 to early 1908, indicated at the right of the relevant entry. Cross-references are provided where these items comprised part of a later published Dennis book; e.g. BB for *Backblock Ballads*, SB for *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke*.

As Dennis used the vernacular, titles may begin with a dropped aspirate: e.g. 'Urry (Hurry), which is listed under U, not H (in accord with the British Standard.)

3. C. J. Dennis : a Comprehensive Bibliography (Adelaide, Libraries Board of S.Aust., 1979)

This is the major work of the series and has been described as a compendium, even as a cornucopia. It attempts to list 1226 consecutively numbered items, books and manuscripts by and about Dennis. There is also a divided index, details of which are set out on page 263 of the *Bibliography*. It includes :

- (a) publications and titles by Dennis, comprising 688 entries, including those in the *Checklist of Contributions to Journals*, with relevant item numbers prefixed by C;
- (b) index of persons, places, events, with some book and journal titles not by Dennis, comprising 761 entries.

The compiler was responsible for the text and indexes, but learned several lessons with regard to the latter in this exercise. A few errors crept in after late text changes and eight pages of addenda and corrigenda were introduced or adjusted. Checking was done from the index to the text, and should have also been taken from text to index. A short 'errata to indexes' was necessary. It emphasised to me that sufficient time must be given to seeing that all necessary cross-checks are made in both directions.

Secondly, one must break down index entries that entail numerous references. For instance, Hal Gye (for whom only the first item of his own illustrations was listed) had 109 references, or series of references. It could at least have been broken down into personal references, and to his own illustrations.

Thirdly, no emphasis was placed on the major references under a heading, with some expression in parentheses to facilitate referral information.

4. C. J. Dennis in *The Herald* and *Weekly Times* (Melbourne, Dalriada Press, 1981)

The compiler must have drifted into this task, as there are no recollections as to why an attempt was ever made to undertake the arduous effort of listing Dennis's contributions to *The Herald* publications. The nuclei for this listing were the various cuttings books in the McLaren Collection (B618-24) and the loose cuttings held in *The Herald* library (B625); these were recorded on microfiche by *The Herald* (HWT 10/72, 0055-0062). In total they represented less than half the final published entries. During the course of checking these, some sixty cards devoted to Dennis were discovered in *The Herald* library. They covered his contributions to *The Herald* and *The Sun* between 1926 and his death in 1938 -- with *The Sun* items recorded in red. Without this

aid, the task of working through the pages of *The Herald* publications would have been extremely tedious. No card lists have been found for *The Herald's* other publications, but subsequent to the Supplement being undertaken, additional card references, now in *The Herald* library or in the State Library of Victoria have assisted the inclusion of a few additional items in the *Dennis Supplement*. Despite all this background information, checks and tests were made through several hundred bound volumes of *The Herald*; -- a day by day scan was impractical. It is therefore likely that additional items may occur.

Listings follow the general principles of the *Chronological Checklist of Contributions to Journals* (B883), i.e. :-

1. Items were listed chronologically under each of *The Herald* publications. Those published on the same day were then listed alphabetically. As mentioned previously, when an asperate was omitted in Dennis's use of the vernacular, a title was filed under the first printed letter.
2. Entries were not fully checked back to the original publications but were compiled as explained in the previous paragraph. Other contributions are possible, both within the periods stated and in the years beyond the time limits considered.
3. Listings were made in the following order : date of publication under the general year heading; title, with any variations or alterations noted. When the title of a contribution differed in a published book, that version then followed in parentheses. Where the work was included in a published book (including those of the compiler) or was part of a series, initials were given in accordance with 'References and Abbreviations'. Unless indicated otherwise, an entry is assumed to be in verse -- the major form of Dennis's writing.
4. Only contributions directly attributable to Dennis were included.
5. Entries in the *Chronological Checklist for The Weekly Times* (C851-53) were re-entered and re-numbered to complete *The Herald* publications.
6. The problem of dealing with undated news clippings was partly overcome by listing them (H3081-89) with the possible period shown in bold type.
7. Reprints or offprints have also been listed (H3168-78).

Dennis wrote 34 series under a series title heading. These are listed under 'References and Abbreviations' with their commencement date, on pages xiii-xv. The series code is shown on the right of each subject entry, together with references if the verse had been published in one of Dennis's collected works. The series on the letters of Ben Bowyang is represented by BBL against more than 300 entries; whilst Kindergarten Talks (KT) did not continue after the first entry on 4th December, 1929.

There is no title index to *The Herald and Weekly Times Checklist*. This would have doubled the size of the publication; and it was intended to include titles in the consolidated index. Instead, there is a two page select index that follows the *Chronological Checklist* method: listing illustrators, photographs, references by and to Dennis, reviews of books and theatre by him, and reviews of Dennis's books. These items are all contained within brackets (to distinguish them from Dennis's own contributions) throughout the body of the text. The purist might question, and indeed separate the chronological arrangement of an author's writings and items written about him and his works. This would diminish the value of contemporary sequence. Nevertheless, the procedure of division has been followed in my *Marcus Clarke Bibliography* (1982).

5. *Talking about C. J. Dennis* (Melbourne, Dalriada Press, 1982)

This is a collection of fourteen papers that I prepared, mainly during the Dennis Centenary celebrations in 1978. Although no index accompanies this work, page references in brackets are listed in the consolidated index. The mixture of numeric references to item and page requires great care, both in recording the notation and subsequent reference use.

6. C. J. Dennis : *Supplement to a Comprehensive Bibliography* (Adelaide, Libraries Board of S.Aust., 1982)

This work is to be published as an addition to all the previous ones. It includes several major collections, additions and new imprints. The same categories as in the *Dennis Bibliography* are used, with a similar consolidated index. Briefly, some features are :-

- (a) Publications and titles by Dennis. It is estimated that some four thousand items are listed. Separate publications are denoted by italic print.
- (b) Persons, places, events; book and journal titles relevant to Dennis. This field has been expanded to provide an alphabetic index of newspaper references under the internal general heading of 'Newspapers and Journals'. Those items in the McLaren Collection are distinguished by the prefix M.
- (c) As stated earlier, a select guide to the subject matter of Dennis's writings was prepared but has not been included. His selection of titles was diverse, clever, and seldom self-explanatory.

Finally, let us take as an example of the listings, one of Dennis's finest poems.

"Green Walls"

I love all gum trees well. But, best of all,
I love the tough old warriors that tower
About these lawns, to make a great green wall
And guard, like sentries, this exotic bower
Of shrub and fern and flower.
These are my land's own sons, lean straight and tall,
Where crimson parrots and grey gang-gangs call
Thro' many a sunlit hour.

This title was duplicated by Dennis :

- (i) H1618 *The Herald*, 6th May 1931, item 1618
- (ii) B404, 556, 559, 597a, 688; H1834

Bibliography :

- B404 *The Sentimental Bloke and other Selected Verse* (1965)
- B556 *The Singing Garden* (1935)
- B559 *Selected Verse* (1951)
- B597a *Pickering's Salute to the Sentimental Bloke* (1978)
- B688 *Philosopher's Scrapbook*, by Monty Blandford (1950)

Herald Checklist

H1834 item 1834, 17th June, 1932 IFG, SG

(In a forest garden (series); *The Singing Garden*)

SALVETE

The Society welcomes the following new members. The President and Committee hope to do this personally at the next meeting on 16th June.

Mr Chris J. COOK : Serials Librarian, La Trobe University Library,
Bundoora, 3083.
Miss Joanne EINHORN : 2/81 Clarence Street, South Caulfield, 3162.
Ms Essie MARENDY : 10 Errol Street, Prahran, 3181.
Mr Ian G. POWELL : City of Hawthorn Library, 584 Glenferrie Road,
Hawthorn, 3122.

Mrs. Margery E. PRICE : 10 Maleela Avenue, Balwyn, 3103.
Miss Gloria SIMOS : 8/31 Union Street, Brunswick, 3056.
Miss Ann B. TAYLOR : Reference Librarian, City of Moorabbin Library,
161 Jasper Road, Bentleigh, 3204.
Mr. John D. THAWLEY : 150 St. Helena Road, Greensborough, 3088.
Ms Glenys TOWNSHEND : 89 Dover Road, Williamstown, 3016.

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NEXT YEAR --- NEW HORIZONS AT BRISTOL

AN INVITATION from John Gordon, Chairman of The Society of Indexers.

In the English summer of 1983, the Society of Indexers hopes to enjoy the company of numerous members of the affiliated societies at a weekend conference on NEW HORIZONS IN INDEXING, to take place at the University of the historic merchant city of Bristol.

One of the principal aims of this conference will be to explore present and future relationships between the four affiliated societies: one complete morning is being programmed for open-ended discussion of our similarities and our differences, and of ways in which we can learn from each other, so that we may work together even more closely for the advancement of our common aims.

Details of residential fees, programme, the speakers and all the other features you will want to know, will be announced at the earliest possible date. Meanwhile, please make a special note of these dates :-

FRIDAY, 8th to SUNDAY, 10th JULY, 1983.

If you can arrange a visit to Europe next year, your British colleagues do hope that your itinerary will include Bristol at just the right time to join in this gathering of our world-wide family.

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BOOK REVIEWS

AUSTRALIA IN FIGURES: by William G. Coppel (Penguin, Melbourne, New Edition (n/d)

Set on pages twice the width of most Penguin publications, this book is the ideal ready reference for trend watchers. Although Dr. Coppel states in the introduction that it is "a statistical analysis of the Australian society and environment", his classification and subdivisions lead the diffident inquirer on and on ... There is no list of contents, but major topics are headlined on each page, ranging from CLIMATE, POPULATION, HOUSING, FORESTS, AGRICULTURE, LABOUR FORCE, COST OF LIVING, eventually to THE MEDIA, DEFENCE and last but not least, the INDEX. The whole is an exemplary statement of facts with considerable historical perspective in some instances. Graphs and diagrams display trends at a glance. Janet Green is acknowledged for the cover design.

This work was recently awarded the \$500 Andrew Fabinyi prize by the Australian Book Publishers' Association.

INDEXING AND ABSTRACTING; an international bibliography. (American Society of Indexers and The Society of Indexers, Santa Barbara, Calif., ABC-Clio 1980)

This article is reprinted from *Academic and Research Libraries* vol. 12: 214 (1981) by kind permission of the reviewer, D. H. Borchardt.

The fraternity of indexers as well as the profession of librarianship are indebted to Dr. Hans Wellisch for the compilation of this survey of the indexer's and abstracter's art. Almost 2,400 references cover the literature on this topic of the past hundred years; they are sensibly arranged under specific aspects and embrace most of what has been written in English in this field. The cut-off date is about 1975.

Those involved in indexing and abstracting will undoubtedly benefit from this useful reference tool. The introduction is full of learned snippets and the notes accompanying most entries are very helpful and will save much labour when chasing a particular problem through the literature.

Indexing in Australia is slowly improving thanks to the efforts of the Australian Society of Indexers and to those of many concerned individuals. Though our preoccupation with quality indexing is not of long standing, there have been quite a few Australian articles and conference papers on this subject during the past 30 years. Some, but not all, have been traced by Dr. Wellisch; a more comprehensive listing of the Australian contribution might be a worthwhile project for the Australian Society.

The bibliography contains author and subject indexes, including a separate listing of authors with names in non-European scripts: one in Arabic, three in Hebrew, fifteen in Japanese and about 200 in Russian.

It would be a pity if this fine contribution to an important subject were left to gather dust on the reference shelves of libraries. It should be used by librarians as well as by indexers to guide them in their reading for a better understanding and practice of this art.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From D. H. Borchardt

Le carrefour des métiers

I have recently corresponded with Professor Hans Wellisch, the author of *Indexing and abstracting* which I reviewed last year in AARL. Professor Wellisch would like to include more Australian references in a revised and up-dated bibliography on indexing and abstracting which he proposes to publish in 1982.

I should be grateful if members would alert me to any articles, papers, pamphlets or books on Australian contributions to indexing and abstracting which they may have written themselves or become aware of during the past five (5) years. Please type the references onto a card or slip of paper, together with a very brief abstract or note on contents, and send them to me at the above address before September, 1982. I shall then prepare a list for Professor Wellisch.

* * * * *

FEEES FOR CONTRACT INDEXING

In September, 1981, the Executive Committee issued a statement on contract fees; recommending that 'payment for contract work should be negotiated from a minimum rate of \$1.30 per 1000 words for texts of low information density.' (*AusSI Newsletter* vol. 5 (3) p.20)

This minimum rate was based on an appropriate hourly payment estimated at the end of 1980. From December, 1980 to December, 1981 the Consumer Price Index, as published in the Australian Bureau of Statistics bulletin, rose by 11.3%. Applying

this percentage approximately to the present suggested rate, the Committee recommends that the minimum rate should now be \$1.50 per 1000 words of low information density.

The original statement also mentioned 'it is unlikely that density and obscurity would attract a price higher than \$3.50 per 1000 words of text'. With \$1.50 now as the basis, this figure should be altered to \$4.00. These recommendations, amended for 1982, are repeated below in full.

In future, the Committee intends to review the rate at the beginning of each year.

The Australian Society of Indexers recommends that payment for contract work should be negotiated from a minimum rate of \$1.50 per 1000 words for texts of low information density.

The rate is based upon equivalent hourly payment of persons employed in fields requiring similar standards of education and ability to those required by an indexer. To this has been added a percentage covering overheads and compensatory allowances. This total has been applied to the time taken to index 1000 words of text, as agreed by several experienced workers. It has been estimated that material with low density of information can be indexed at a rate of some 8000 words per hour, while only about half that rate can be maintained on a text with high information density.

This method, which appraises material to be indexed rather than the 'average indexer' provides a practical guide to basic cost of a project. A specific quote is justified by appropriate sampling. In the course of this operation, most prospective problems become evident. It is unlikely that density and obscurity would attract a price higher than \$4.00 per 1000 words of text for general works.

On occasions when a project differs from normal book production (e.g. text volume is not measured in words, the work is unusually demanding, or of serial nature) an alternative framework of rates may need to be negotiated.

In any case it is recommended that the terms of an assignment should be confirmed in writing before the work is begun.

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BOOKS REVIEWED --- STATUS OF THE ART

The Victorian Historical Magazine 52 (3) August 1981. 'BIG' CLARKE; by Michael Clarke (Queensberry Hill Press) reviewed by Joan Campbell. " ... the reader or researcher not familiar with the totality of Clarke's landholdings cannot at present gain access to this information without working through the entire index as the entry under 'Land' does not aggregate Clarke's holdings."

I REMEMBER BLAMEY; by Norman D. Carlyon (Macmillan) reviewed by John Robertson. " ... an interesting, readable personal memoir which is not meant to compete with scholarly works. It has no scholarly apparatus, and Blamey himself is not mentioned in the index, a limitation on the book's usefulness."

The Age (Melbourne) 20th February, 1982. HAKLUYT'S VOYAGES: A Selection; edited by Richard David (Chatto and Windus) reviewed by Olaf Ruhen. "He has provided a good glossary, an excellent index and significant illustrations."

13th March, 1982. MAKERS OF MODERN CULTURE; edited by Justin Wintle (Routledge and Kegan Paul) reviewed by Roger McDonald. "At times the compilation seems too high-minded, too toffee-nosed about who matters and who doesn't. ... There is an index of names ... but no comprehensive index of ideas. To the extent that it presents a mosaic of high culture in Britain and North America it is undoubtedly useful, but it should be emphasised that from a 'Commonwealth' and regional viewpoint it barely rates."

20th March, 1982. THE MACMILLAN FAMILY ENCYCLOPAEDIA; Sal. J. Foderaro, editor-in-chief (Macmillan) reviewed by Peter Bunworth. "The 21 volumes, including a 640 page

index, are brilliantly bound in green cloth with gold embossed lettering. Like most modern encyclopaedias, the arrangement is alphabetical ... The publishers claim (it to be) an international and multi-cultural reference work. ... The omission of references and mistakes are bound to occur in publications of this size. However, there is no excuse for a reference under the heading 'Australian Literature' which directs readers to a non-existent Henry Lawson article. ... Cross-references are diligently included by either subject or the use of upper-case letters in the text. Quite often an additional reading is required to determine the second type of reference."

23rd April, 1982. *CHEAP PLANTS AND GARDENS*; by Margaret Knight (Horan, Wall and Walker) reviewed by T. R. Garnett. "There is an index of nurseries and an index of plants." (Our copy has also a supplies index -- very detailed, for a 95 page text. For instance, under 'pots' we have 15 subheadings, including ceramic, dragon, glazed, handmade, Italian terracotta, Japanese, terracotta, unglazed ...) The reviewer continues: "If, however, someone could sit down with the catalogues or plant lists of the nurseries mentioned and make a complete plant index using botanical names and a code showing where each plant could be found, the result really would be fab. This might be a laborious job, but no more time-consuming than visiting all the nurseries." (Although he remarks upon "an appalling, but mercifully inaccurate title ... an even more off-putting style of writing" the present plant index provides accurate access to locations for inquiry about the various sorts of plants (e.g. cactus; carnivorous) in addition to conscientious alphabetic arrangement of plants mostly as mentioned in the text. Obviously in accord with the marketing objectives (readership) preference is given to vulgar names (impatiens -- see busy lizzies). Some perception is needed: neither *Musa* nor banana tree is mentioned, only the avid index scanner will find dwarf banana. This book is marvellous value for \$3.95; it would be interesting to know the significance of costing for typography of latin names -- all alas *sans caps*, *sans ital*. Errors like *opontia* and *grevillea repends* will not discourage the keen collector, who should also be capable of heeding the publishers' warning: *Caveat Emptor* -- (caps and all).

24th April, 1982. *THE DOCTOR WHO DARED*; by Joan Clarke (Tully Press) reviewed by Olaf Ruhen. "... this book is still better. Print and presentation are also excellent, and it carries a useful index."

15th May, 1982. *THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY*; An Illustrated History; by George Odgers (Child and Henry) reviewed by Dacre Smyth. "Talking of arks, it is interesting to see that, presumably as a last-minute addition (for it did not even make the index), a photograph appears of HMS *Invincible*."

Family History News and Digest 3 (2) Autumn 1981. (Federation of Family History Societies) (Publishers not stated).

MT. BALLYN AND THE BUNNS OF ST. ALBANS; by Elizabeth Grace Roberts, reviewed by Derek A. Palgrave. "The Mr. Ballyn referred to in the title is Mrs. Roberts' grandfather, Clifford James Ballyn (1846-1911) In 1872 he married a Welsh girl, Grace Hughes. It is to this couple and their descendants that a substantial portion of the book is devoted I was disappointed to note the omission of an index: in a book of this sort an index is essential, as it is likely to be used as a reference work by researchers into the families concerned."

LA BOUCHARDIERE --- A One Name Study; by Basil La Bouchardière, reviewed by Derek A. Palgrave. "The author is anxious to contact bearers of his unusual surname or any descendants of the La Bouchardières he has compiled an interim study as a draft or first edition. ... There is an extremely useful section which lists births, marriages, deaths and an all-important index."

The Australian Book Review, March, 1982

THE HERITAGE OF AUSTRALIA: the Illustrated Register of the National Estate (Macmillan) reviewed by Neil Clerehan. "The bulk of the book (1164 pp.) is taken up by the listing of every item classified by the (Heritage) Commission: every natural feature, every building, every artifact The register is divided into the five

states, two federal territories and Antarctica. The majority of items are buildings but listed also are entire areas and specific landscape features The book is backed by an index that I found implacably unhelpful; but to restate a pragmatic attitude, it is here, beautifully set down at last. Take it with the shortcomings ... Think of it as a grand telephone directory ...

POLICIES AGAINST STAGFLATION; edited by J. W. Nevile (Longman Cheshire) reviewed by Ken Wilson. "This is the third contribution to the series of *Readings in Australian Economic Policy*, ... There is little doubt that this book will be of considerable assistance to both students and practitioners of economics, ... Overall the editor has made good choices and the book is well produced, printed, indexed and devoid of many of the errors of presentation which seem to plague texts of this sort".

Quadrant, May, 1982. Bad History (An analytical review of *A HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA* vol. V, *The People Make Laws*: by C. M. H. Clark (Melbourne University Press)) by Claudio Veliz. (This paper provides a rare tribute to the use of indexes in the development of argument. Professor Veliz states: "Professor Clark would have his readers believe that during the quarter of a century that preceded the First World War Australia was constantly on the verge of mass violence. ... (Numerous dramatically phrased examples are followed by:) the Index to Professor Clark's fifth volume -- which covers the period from 1888 to 1915 -- lists thirty-four entries under the word REVOLUTION. ... This obsession becomes even more striking when compared with the treatment accorded to the same period and the same events by other historians of Australia. Only one of ten books chosen at random had the word REVOLUTION in its Index and this one -- *Australia, A Social and Political History* edited by Professor Gordon Greenwood -- listed three entries under it, all referring to events in the decades after 1920. ... Australia is among that very small minority of countries that has been spared those harrowing experiences, and this virtual absence of serious social strife can appropriately be described as a distinctive feature."

A footnote states: The other nine books are Russel Ward, *The Australian Legend* (Melbourne 1958). This book includes 'republicanism' and 'romanticism' in its Index, but not 'revolution'. O.H.I. Spate, *Australia* (London 1968); G. Blainey, *A Land Half Won* (Melbourne 1980); F. K. Crowley ed. *A New History of Australia* (Melbourne 1974); M. Barnard, *A History of Australia* (Sydney 1962); R. Lacour-Gayet, *Historie de l'Australie* (Paris 1973); R. M. Younger, *Australia and the Australians* (Adelaide 1970); Russel Ward and J. Robertson, *Such Was Life. Select Documents in Australian History* vol. II, 1851-1913 (Sydney 1980); C. B. Christesen ed., *On Native Grounds* (Melbourne 1968)."

(The splendid increase in scope of these notes is due to contributions from Jennifer Challis, Theo Sharples and Vera Wicks.)

* * * * *

LIAISON WITH KINDRED INTERESTS

Last year the Society increased the *Newsletter* exchange list (see vol. 5 (4) pp.41-2) and we received material from the Society of Business Communicators, Tasmanian Fellowship of Australian Writers, Australian Society of Authors, Association of Australian University Presses and the Australian Book Publishers' Association.

Contributors to and collectors of articles on indexing will be interested to know that ACHLIS: Australian Clearing House for Library and Information Science will be obtaining appropriate material from the *Newsletter*, beginning with volume 6. This service is being developed at the Library of the Footscray Institute of Technology (Victoria) in conjunction with the Australian Education Index and LISA (Library and Information Science Abstracts (U.K.)). Co-ordinator is Mrs. Janet Droogleever.

Our Executive Committee recently decided to seek institutional membership of two national associations.

Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services (AACOBS). The Council, which has been in existence since 1956, adopted a new constitution on 1st March, 1982 wherein membership is based on subscription and open to institutions concerned with organized collections of information and bibliographic data.

Briefly stated the objects of AACOBS are :-

- (1) to encourage the development and use of Australia's library and information services;
- (2) to promote and facilitate cooperation among libraries and other institutions to work towards the acceptance of national and international standards
- (3) to initiate and support research
- (4) to advise and make recommendations to government on issues affecting libraries and information handling generally.

In joining AACOBS the Society will be aligning itself with the Australian information world and with the body which can speak for that world in government and international circles. The Society should benefit from results of the Working Parties, especially those on bibliography and research and development.

As a member of AACOBS, the Society will receive the annual reports and newsletters. From these the Committee can report matters of particular interest to members and contribute opinions on relevant topics.

NATIONAL BOOK COUNCIL. Established in 1973, membership of this Council includes all sections of the book world. The Council issues a newsletter and other publications from time to time, and conducts functions; enabling members to meet and hear local and overseas authors. It also engages in promotional activities, including the annual Australian Book Week.

The Society will benefit from this active source of information on matters relevant to published indexes, and by participation in activities of interest to members.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

The South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society is sponsoring the preparation of a 'Biographical Index of South Australians, 1836-1885'. This Index is to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of that State and a Committee of that Society is planning to publish a multi-column Index by 1986.

If you know of ancestors who lived as adults in South Australia for any period between 1836 and 1885 and wish to have them included, please supply information to :- Biographical Index, P.O. Box 13, Marden, S.A., 5070. If acknowledgment is required, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

-- From *The Genealogist*, March, 1982.

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ASSISTANCE TOWARDS PUBLICATIONS

From The Literary and Historical Committee
For Victoria's 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Members may be aware that the above Committee (chaired by Sir John Holland) is proposing to grant financial aid towards publication of material related to history of the State of Victoria and the Anniversary, that may not be entirely viable commercially. Some further details will be of interest.

Materials appropriate for consideration include biographies, histories, memoirs, family life, flora and fauna, publication of historical documents, prints, paintings and photographs; and indexes of various source materials. Publication no later than early 1985 is an essential condition.

Before seeking support, publishers or authors (including organizations) should be able to answer the following questions affirmatively :-

- . is the project of good quality in conception and execution ?
- . is it likely to contribute to the literary and cultural history of Victoria ?
- . does it have an appeal wider than specialist interest ?
- . would a subsidy result in better quality work; or by reducing retail price of a book, be likely to increase circulation ?

As a guide to applicants subsidies will be calculated on categories of significance -- from \$15 to \$25 per page, with an upper limit of \$8,000 or 75% of direct production costs, whatever is the lower amount. Costs shall include all production expenses directly attributable to the title. These include design, printing and binding, but not administrative overheads. Assistance to authors may cover stenographic or research assistance, necessary travel within Australia, photocopying costs, copyright or reproduction fees, proof-reading and other editorial responsibilities.

The Committee considers that all production processes or supporting projects should be carried out within Australia. Normally a subsidy should be used within the financial year of granting and the Committee will recommend payment upon receipt of authorised spending. At its discretion, the Committee may authorise progress payments.

Applicants for the financial year 1982/83 should be made on or before 30th June, 1982. Applications for assistance in subsequent years will be called for in due course.

John L. Birrell; Executive Director, Victoria's 150th Anniversary Celebrations,
18th Floor, Collins Tower, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000.

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

From *The Society of Indexers*

The Twenty-fifth Annual Report of The Council, 1981-82. The Society now has a total membership of 671 "the reduction in the number of new members ... is due mainly to the fact that the information literature now heavily emphasizes the formidable difficulties facing new indexers; the economies forced on publishers often lead to a book index being abridged or even abandoned, and there is a scarcity of commissions for indexes for all but the most experienced and entrenched indexers. ... Approximately half the Society's members are active indexers -- the other half being active well-wishers, and in many cases, active workers for the cause ..."

The 1980 Wheatley Medal was won by L. J. Taylor, compiler and indexer of *A Librarian's Handbook* vol. 2 (London, Library Association, 1980). The Society has undertaken responsibility for the 1981 medal.

The Council increased the basic minimum recommended fee to £4 per hour from 1st June 1981, and will be proposing a further rise in 1982 to keep some parity with inflation. (£1 is equivalent to \$A0.59)

A watching brief has been held by several members on developments in the micro-computer field ... Four expert members have expressed themselves willing to advise other indexers who wish to pursue the possibilities offered by the use of micro-computers, and to demonstrate their own methods.

To mark the Society's Silver Jubilee, an article by the Information Officer on the Society's development over 25 years was published in *The Times Literary Supplement* for 29th January 1982.

The Society of Indexers Newsletter, May 1982

Tasmanian Fellowship of Australian Writers: *Hobart Newsletter*, May 1982