

Qantas winter special fares (with minimum 6 night stopover) are \$A380 return from Sydney and \$A390 from Melbourne.

British library suppliers, Blackwell's of Oxford have purchased the Australian supplier James Bennett Library Services. It is not yet known what effect the takeover will have on either or both of the companies. Meanwhile, patrons of Blackwell's are enjoying the benefits of having their purchases air-freighted to Australia at the cost of normal surface mail. Delivery times have been cut to weeks instead of months.

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REVIEWS

GORMAN, G.E. and B.R. Howes *Collection development for Australian libraries* Wagga Wagga: Centre for Library Studies, 1988. 564 pp. RRP A\$45.00. ISBN 0-9-19060-00-3

The first in a new series entitled Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies, this volume uses both theoretical and practical aspects of collection development, including policy statement development, collection evaluation, and selection and weeding of resources.

It is divided into 5 Parts; Parts 1 to 3 cover respectively collection development policies, collection evaluation, use and user studies and selection and weeding of resources. Part 4 contains 21 of the most important readings in the various areas, in over 280 pages. The work finishes with a 40 page select bibliography.

The volume is designed to introduce practising librarians to the techniques of developing collection policies, implementing them through resource selection and weeding, and evaluating the results through use and user studies.

The 21 readings have been chosen as representing important contributions to the literature of their topic areas, and the bibliography should provide both libraries and student with a more than adequate listing of the most useful and important books and articles of recent years. The text and readings focus on the Australian scene, in recognition of both a dearth of indigenous professional literature and of unique features of Australian libraries.

The inclusion of sample development policies and of details of typical selection sources will provide ample material for both students and practitioners to use in the study of, and working in, this most professional of all the aspects of librarianship.

Available from: Centre for Library Studies, RMIHE, P.O. Box 588, Wagga Wagga, 2650. Tel: (069) 232.584.

**IN BLACK AND WHITE AND COLOUR
A SURVEY OF ABORIGINES IN AUSTRALIAN
FEATURE FILMS
Peter Malone MSC**

Nelen Yubu Missiological Unit, Series No. 4, 1987.
Available from NYMU, 4/17 Jersey Avenue, Leura, NSW
2780. RRP \$9.95 plus \$1 p&h. Pp156 (text 139 pp)

This is the latest book in the Nelen Yubu Missiological series which aims to produce publications which examine black and white relations in Australian religious and social life.

The author, Peter Malone MSC, is a well known film reviewer and commentator. In this publication, Malone is primarily concerned with the feature film produced in Australia up to 1986.

The survey is intertwined with a commentary concerning the role that these films play in the depiction, development and reflection of white attitudes about Aborigines in the community. It should be noted that in this short study Malone does not concentrate on themes of racism or the half caste/black dimension which more polemical critics have elaborated upon. There is a brief chapter and some interrelated

interrelated comment about the documentary film. Overall some two hundred films are mentioned in the book.

Malone's survey is essentially a chronological history, though there are three distinct parts and thematic breaks. The first part surveys cinema from 1900-1970. In this part Malone examines the silent period: 1900-1930, sound: 1930-1960 and major films of the pre 1970 revival period. Part two is entitled Transition: Walkabout. This chapter is dedicated to the Nicolas Roeg film *Walkabout* (1971). Malone notes the changed portrayal of Aborigines within the context of this film and the new Australian cinema which had such an impact on the film industry. There is a more sensitive and positive depiction of aboriginal culture and life.

The third part, New Australian Cinema: 1970 - is divided into functional chapters including Children's films and telemovies, Small Budget Features, 19th Century Images, Into the 20th Century and Personal Mythologies.

About two thirds of the book is devoted to the New Australian Cinema. This arrangement is due not only to the resurgence of the film industry and the deepening of white Australian awareness of aboriginal life, but also to Malone's own experience in film writing and reviewing. He became the film reviewer for *Annals* in 1968. Very few films made before 1970 were (and are still) available for viewing. He points out that he has been quite reliant on other studies, notably Pike and Cooper's book *Australian Film 1900-1977* for information about the period 1900-1970.

It is worth noting that the first known reference to any aboriginal presence in a feature film was in *Moonlite* (1910). In this bushranging adventure, the director's wife played an aboriginal woman in black face. A feature of films up to 1970 was the portrayal of Aborigines by whites and the confusion of Hollywood style African cultures with aboriginal cultures. Some films examined aboriginal culture (and even controversial issues eg land rights) seriously, but most still portrayed Aborigines in a patronising way. Malone's discussion of Francis Birtle's *Coorab in the Island of Ghosts* (1928) provides an excellent example of this last point.

A film which could have been examined further is *Shadow of the Boomerang* (1960). This film was made after the Billy Graham crusade of 1959 by the Graham Association film group, World Wide Pictures. The study concerns a white racist American and his sister in outback Australia. The American's conversion through Graham's message and the witness of his tolerant sister lead to his change of heart toward the Aborigines.

Other films examined include the Chauvel classic *Jedda* (1955), a unique film for its time and Chauvel's last production, *Journey Out of Darkness* (1967), an enigmatic title and film, in which the aboriginal roles were played by actors in black face. The comparisons with *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1978) are worth noting, but perhaps a better comparison at least for *Journey Out of Darkness* would have been *Backlash* (1986).

There are excellent discussions about small-budget features like *Come Out Fighting* (1973) and *Wrong Side of the Road* (1981) and *Backroads* (1977), in which Gary Foley was actively involved.

The chapter entitled Personal Mythologies is also worth noting for the sympathetic and spiritual examinations of the controversial Herzog film *Where the Green Ants Dream* (1984) and Michael Lee's *Turn Around* (1984). The extensive discussion about *The Last Wave* (1977) is also a significant contribution to the debate within Christianity about mystery, myth and other religions. A separate chapter examining in detail the film images of aboriginal religious traditions and the portrayal of the conflict and union between Christianity and aboriginal religious experiences would have provided a valuable link with the wider aim of Nelen Yubu. The notes and indexes are helpful, though a chronological listing of the surveyed films in the context of a comprehensive Australian film list would have been a useful comparative appendix.

In any survey there are necessary limitations. Peter Malone has provided a comprehensive survey which will be enhanced by further exploration of the many themes and questions he has raised.

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[Reprinted with permission from *Christian Book Newsletter* v.6, no 1, March 1988].

Lippy, Charles H., ed. *Religious Periodicals of the United States: Academic and Scholarly Journals. Historical Guides to the World's Periodicals and Newspapers.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1986. xix + 607 pp. A\$162.95 cloth ISBN 0-313-23420-5

One picks up what appears to be a 600-page bibliography of religious periodicals with more than a slight premonition of tedium and boredom, and in the end one puts it down reluctantly. Why this change in attitude? First, it is not a bibliography but an "historical guide" to a selection of academic and scholarly journals in all areas of religion. Second, it is extremely well written, combining detailed content analysis with interesting historical factors and complete bibliographical data. The editor has done his work exceedingly well, coordinating more than fifty contributors and ensuring that their contributions meet a high literary standard and common format.

In Lippy's words, "this book represents an effort to survey more than 100 periodicals and journals in the field of religion to provide students and scholars with an introduction to the kinds of periodical literature available and the types of concerns manifested in their pages" (p. vii). Given the nature of religious and theological literature, it is most important for the reader to be aware of bias and denominational or theological focus; for those journals analyzed, Lippy succeeds admirably in facilitating such awareness. In addition, "... the profiles also provide a history of religious periodical publishing in the United States and the ways in which periodicals mirror not only the changes in religious scholarship over the years but also the impact of other social and cultural forces on the character of academic work in religious studies" (p. vii). Again, the entries on

the whole succeed admirably in this task; for example, the five-page analysis of *The Catholic Historical Review* includes inter alia the most concise summary of modern Catholic historiography I have seen.

The contents are arranged alphabetically by current titles or, in the case of defunct serials, titles at the time of cessation. All variant titles have "see" references in the main listing, which is a significant aid to those who may not know the current or latest title. Entries range from three to six pages and consist of detailed publishing and editorial history and fully footnoted discussion of contents, including major changes in focus and controversial issues; in every case such commentary is by far the most illuminating and useful part of the book. Each analysis is followed by a bibliography of information sources, a partial listing of American Library locations and details of publishing history. This last section provides a bibliographical summary of the journal: title changes and dates, volume and issue data, publisher and place of publication, editors, circulation. For current titles there is no editorial address or subscription price, both of which could have been provided quite easily. While these data are not the main *raison d'être* of the compilation, they could have been placed more suitably at the *beginning* of each entry as a bibliographical-historical summary of the analysis. Appendix A is a chronological listing of periodicals in relation to movements in American religious history; this is an excellent way to contextualize in tabular form the individual journal histories of the preceding 550 pages. Appendix B lists journals by either religious orientation or name of sponsoring body, and the index covers names, titles and topics. Each entry is signed, so the concluding list of contributors, including their institutional affiliations and areas of expertise, is a welcome addition. The preface and brief (9 pp.) introductory essay aids greatly in explaining the purpose and setting the context for this admirable work.

Aside from the minor organizational criticism noted above, one inevitably contests the inclusion/exclusion of some titles; most are as much a matter of personal taste as any objective criteria. But can *The Christian Science Monitor*, a newspaper, really be justified in a selective guide to academic and scholarly journals? Similar studies of religious magazines and

newspapers, as well as guides to religious journals outside the USA, would be most welcome. Lippy is an essential reference work for any serious theological or religious studies library in the tertiary sector; it also belongs in collections with a focus on publishing, history or library science.

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PTCA BULLETIN : PROGRAMME FOR THEOLOGY
AND CULTURES IN ASIA
(Kyoto: Singapore : Programme for Theology and
Cultures in Asia. v.1, 1988)

Programme for Theology and Culture in Asia (PTCA) grew out of seminar workshops, the first one held in 1983 as a cooperative venture between Tao Fong Shan Ecumenical Centre, Hong Kong, and Kansai Seminar House, Kyoto. Themes for these workshops have included 'Doing theology with Asian folk-literature' (1984), 'Doing theology with people's movements' (1985), and 'Doing theology with religions of Asia' (1986).

The Programme states as some of its aims : to strengthen the formation of a living theology: to facilitate the growth of a creative theological community in Asia: to equip theologians and leaders with Asian resources for their ministries: to promote creative indigenous theological writing and to recover Asian cultural and spiritual resources.

Understandably, the contextual character of the bulletin is central. Contributions by such important authors in the field as Choan-Seng Song, Takenaka Masao and Yeow Choo Lak are an indication of its focus. It will act as a support and interesting counterpoint to other serials, most noticeably the thriving *Asia Journal of Theology*.

The bulletin keeps detailed records of PTCA workshops, as well as notices and news. Extensive bibliographies are a welcome feature for librarians, the first two issues containing a select list

of basic sources in Asian Christian theologies, subdivided by country.

Subscriptions from: Programme for Theology and Cultures in Asia, 23 Takenouchi-chô, Ichijôji, Sakyo-ku, 606 Kyoto, Japan.

Philip Harvey

CRITICAL REVIEW OF BOOKS IN RELIGION. (Scholars Press. 1988-) Individuals US\$20 AAR/SBL members US\$15. Institutions US\$25, JAAR/JBL subscribers US\$20.

This single volume annual is a collaborative undertaking by the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, stemming from their two main serial publications, the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and *Journal of Biblical Literature*.

The editor explains: "*Critical Review* expands and enhances the existing book review sections of *JAAR* and *JBL* by offering serious critical reviews of those books which are important for a broad range of scholars in the field of religious studies." The book reviews are arranged into subject areas, e.g. biblical studies, comparative studies, Judaism, Islam, psychology and religion, women and religion.

The length of reviews ranges from three to five pages on average. They are both descriptive and critical in content, serving as a bibliographic access to necessary recent literature, and also as a reference work of critical depth for scholars and researchers. Author and reviewer indexes are supplied; I suggest that a title index would be a welcome addition, especially where the work is under an editorship.

The inaugural volume also contains a section of review articles on textbook literature in some of the sub-disciplines of religious studies. This section promises great rewards. The articles give excellent overviews of current work and are a good guide to recent thinking on religious literature, its uses and organization. Detailed bibliographies come with each article.

Critical Review is an annual. Its accomplished presentation and firm direction are an assurance of long life. This serial could well become indispensable.

Philip Harvey

Subscriptions from: Scholars Press Customer Services, PO Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14851, USA.

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