

## BOOK REVIEW

South Australian History; a survey for research students, by F. K. Crowley, Professor of History in the University of New South Wales. Adelaide, Libraries Board of South Australia, 1966. Price \$4.00. Reviewed by J. H. Thorburn, B.A., of the staff of the Queensland State Archives.

A book can only satisfactorily be judged on whether it achieves its aims or intentions. In few books are the aims more clearly stated than they are in this book by Professor Crowley. In succinct but definite terms the author has tried to answer the first question that arises in any historical investigation: "What has been done?" He further delimits his field by making clear that the book is not chiefly concerned with the raw material and it does not indicate the types and extent of the records available for historical research but is concerned with "the use already made of them".

In his earlier work, *The Records of Western Australia* (published 1953), the author had the entries divided

Public Records (with sub-divisions on the basis of governmental function);

Private Records (with sub-divisions according to type of publication); and

Bibliographies.

Contrasting with the above method is that in the book at present under review where a subject basis has been used to classify the works in divisions, as far as this has been possible. While this has led to a degree of over-lapping and repetition in itself this enhances the value in having the subject division on the broadest scale. As the index is only the names of persons mentioned in the book one has cause to be thankful that some of the entries are repeated.

It would have been an ambitious job to have gathered together all those printed works dealing with South Australian history, but the author has gone much further in including anything that contained formal historical writing. Considerable value is added to the work by including university theses and in particular historical articles from professional and quasi-professional journals.

Among the capital cities of Australia, Adelaide has long been held to be the city of churches. This may well be so, and the section on Religion in this book would seem to show that there has been no lack of writing on churches and religion in South Australia. Apart from those works mentioned in the introductions to the sections there are, for Religion, almost half as many again specific entries as for Social History. However, Crowley has earlier made it quite clear that the volume of entries is not an accurate criterion for measuring progress made in historical writing.

As a very useful "extra", the author has included the lists of South Australians for whom entries were being prepared for publication in the first two volumes of *The Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

No claim has been made that this book is a definitive listing of the works relevant, for H. C. Brideson in the Preface has said that it is to be hoped that the book will stimulate interest in bringing to light new or rare publications which may be included in later editions.

The book more than adequately lives up to the aims of the author and future students of both South Australian and Australian history will be heavily in debt to the work of Professor Crowley. The Libraries

Board of South Australia is to be commended for publishing this survey and in particular for the speed with which it has been published. It contains entries for works published as recently as June 1965.

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## **NEWS NOTES**

### **A.A.C.O.B.S.**

P. R. Eldershaw, Principal Archivist in the Archives Office of Tasmania, has been appointed to represent archival interests on the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. He would be glad to hear from any archivist in Australia who has ideas on how those interests may best be served by that body.

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### **NEW STAFF**

Miss M. C. Carter, B.A., has joined the staff of the Queensland State Archives.

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## **WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY'S COMPUTER INVESTIGATION**

Washington State University Library has received a grant of \$69,300 from the National Science Foundation. This one-year grant is for the analysis and design of an on-line computer based technical services system, book catalogue cost study, and for the development of specifications for an on-line library terminal. The library will utilize the facilities of the University's IBM 360/67 computer.

The technical services design will include all the library functions of ordering, receiving, searching, cataloguing, catalogue book, and/or card production, and book marking.

All activities which can be automated in these functional areas will be included in the study. The book catalogue production cost study will cover all methods of reproducing computer produced catalogue copy to determine cost trade-offs. It will also include a study of computer printer output rates as determined by the printer's character set.

The library terminal design study will develop the specifications for on-line library terminals. These specifications will include features which are unique to library applications. Particular emphasis will be placed on circulation and Technical Services process control.

Dr G. Donald Smith, Director of Libraries, Washington State University, says that he is fortunate to have the interest and support of the NSF in our library automation project. This long term project started last year and is expected to be completed within the next three or four years. The goal for the project is the automation of all library activities where the computer can offer an improvement in services.