

Recent Publications

BOOK REVIEWS

Australians: A Guide to Sources. Ed. by D. H. Borchardt. Broadway: Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Assoc. 1987. 473p. (dist. outside Australia by Cambridge Univ. Pr. Available only as part of *Australians: A Historical Library* (11v., \$498).

While Paul Hogan, the America's Cup, and the Australian bicentennial have sparked general interest in things Australian, there has been a corresponding interest among American academics. Four years ago the American Association of Australian Literary Studies was formed; in 1987 the Australian Studies Discussion Group was established within ACRL. And last year Robert Hawke, the Australian prime minister, visited the University of Texas-Austin, to announce the establishment of an Australian studies center.

This eleven-volume set was published to commemorate Australia's bicentennial and to provide an easy source of information on the country. Five of the volumes are historical, five reference, and one a general index. (Six of the volumes are reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement*, November 27/December 3, 1987.)

Australians: A Guide to Sources provides essays and annotated bibliographies to fifty-five diverse subjects from aborigines to welfare. Major subjects covered are: resources for Australian studies, general reference works and statistics, environment, aborigines, general history, European discovery and colonization, politics, the economy, society, and culture. There is a

name and a subject index. Each essay, averaging four pages and written by a noted Australian scholar, gives a good description and history of the topic. Some important books/journals are mentioned in the essays; each essay is then followed by an annotated bibliography.

This volume is most useful for those needing a general survey of a particular aspect of Australian society and/or a list of major works on the subject for further research or for information about aspects of Australian life and culture (religion, sport and leisure, telecommunications, for example) not readily available in other sources.

While a useful volume, the book suffers (at least from an American perspective) from some major omissions. The diversity of Australian society is not well represented in this book. The article on aboriginal studies is much too brief; there is no separate chapter on women. Ethnic writers receive little mention. Important journals are cited in some essays and bibliographies but not in others. The indexing is inconsistent—some titles are indexed, others are not. No works published after 1984 are cited, making this volume less valuable for current reference.

Although an attractive book, the failure of the publisher to use acid-free paper means that it will not be available when Australia celebrates its tricentennial.—*William Schenck, Library of Congress.*