

**Sydney. Volume 223 World Bibliographical Series.** By I. Keparas (Oxford: Clio Press, 2000), xxv + 164 pp. £33.00.

I. Keparas' annotated bibliography of Sydney, a recent addition to the *World Bibliographical Series* of Clio Press, fails to achieve the compiler's stated claim. The informed general reader may indeed find *Sydney* a good starting point from which to delve more deeply into the literature on Australia's first permanent European settlement. So, too, may tourists and migrants, though one would hope that they do not wish to dwell on the chapter entitled "Crime and Social Problems" for a few insights on the seedier aspects of Sydney's past. Serious scholars, on the other hand, would find little to interest them in this work, even if they were seeking information in a field other than their own, "his own" as the compiler insists. Presumably, there are no female scholars. Regardless of their gender, they would undoubtedly find it far more fruitful perusing the vast array of journals which are not included in this volume.

Clearly, the addition of journal articles was outside the publisher's prescribed limitations, and to be sure, such an inclusion would be an immense task in itself. That omission nevertheless highlights the restricted scope of this work and its usefulness. Relying solely on published books, there is simply too little on any particular topic, although from an historical point of view a number of sections do offer passing interest. The section entitled "Food and Drink", for instance, serves to remind us that they are very much an under-researched aspect of our social history. This is particularly applicable to our culinary tastes, which have altered significantly over time, but until recent decades have been virtually ignored by scholars. They are still virtually ignored here, for of the seven entries, two are on wine and four are solely concerned with Sydney restaurants. Such a focus is likely to date this book very quickly indeed. Food for thought perhaps?

It also appears rather absurd that an annotated bibliography on Australia's largest city is dependent on a Canberra repository. Surely the works referred to would be, or should be, available in the subject city, or is it simply that this work is intended as an advertisement for the National Library of Australia? Put succinctly, this work has little to recommend it, and both the informed reader and the scholar could find much more of interest by searching a library catalogue. For that, they do not have to venture to Canberra.

MURRAY JOHNSON

*History, The University of Queensland*

**A Past Displayed: Public History, Public Memory and Cultural Resource Management in Australia's Northern Territory.** By David Carment (Northern Territory University Press, 2001), pp. 133. Illustrated with maps. \$42.00.

In this "year of the outback", it is timely to reflect upon public history, public memory and the Northern Territory as "*A Past Displayed*". This monograph enables us to consider the many strategies by which public historians have interpreted and made historical sites and themes accessible. *A Past Displayed* presents a respectful though unabashed overview for this vast region of Australia provided by a historian who originally came to the Territory as Director of the National Trust.

The first chapter provides an extremely valuable survey of the literature and issues relevant to cultural resource management. Carment is well versed in the debates on cultural landscape, history curatorships in museums and the challenges of integrating cross-cultural perspectives in heritage legislation. Controversies include the

relationship between heritage and history, the possibilities of “shared heritage” between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, and the gradual achievement of federal and state heritage protection.

Carment surveys cultural resource management in national parts including Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Northern Territory Parks and Reserves, the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, non-government museums, heritage trails, highway monuments and urban heritage. The range of public historical display on offer is mind boggling. That a single author would attempt to cover the whole gamut of public representations across so much geographical space and variety of medium is awe-inspiring. On the down side, it has deterred Carment from following through some of the big issues raised in the excellent first chapter.

Carment is even-handed about what he judges as limitations and failures of historical displays. For example, he notes what is *not* displayed in a heritage building that once served as an Aboriginal children’s home. Given the small community he addresses, he is brave in naming the names, the exhibitions, the places. He hints that there is sometimes a too-small pool of sufficiently qualified historians and financial resources to do the work required.

*A Past Displayed* is well researched and clearly written; its subject matter should ensure the book is recommended for courses on public history and heritage. The Northern Territory University Press is to be commended for the vital role it plays in regional publishing. Regretfully, Carment explains that, in the interests of accuracy, he had to stop in 1998 because so many small museums and other places had changed significantly in the years since his research trips. While all the “in 1998s” are irritating, this feature underlines the dynamic nature of such public presentations.

Readers of *A Past Displayed* will now not need to travel the thousands of hot, petrol-guzzling kilometres that David Carment obviously clocked up. Public historians and amateur enthusiasts will or will not be pleased to see that the products of their work have been seriously scrutinised. Yet everyone who reads *A Past Displayed* will witness how, over the past two decades, the public display of the Territory past has become far, far more inclusive. During my own residence there from 1979, the society was so polarised that I could not have imagined the current diversity and richness of current historical displays. Yet as Carment reminds us, with fresh stakeholders entering the display economy, community ownership can lead to new sets of omissions. As he aptly demonstrates in regard to an exhibition called *Sweet and Sour: Chinese Families in the Northern Territory*, this can make for history that is more functional than balanced. In this case, the community’s agenda to create a positive community-building story made its flavour way too sweet.

ANN MCGRATH

*National Museum of Australia*

**Rolf Bouldrewood: A Life.** By Paul de Serville. (Melbourne, The Miegunyah Press at Melbourne University Press, 2000), pp.403. Illustrated. \$65.95.

This biography discusses the concerns of the early settlers in Victoria and New South Wales during the pre gold-mining period in Australian history. As stated by the author, Paul de Serville, he set out to present his view that Thomas Alexander Browne, writing under the nom-de-plume of Rolf Bouldrewood, was much more than a bridge between two cultures as he has previously been regarded by well-known Australian literary critics and historians. He succeeds by showing Browne to be representative of his fellow Australians in the nineteenth century in his outlook and interests.

Oral history is inherently about memory, and when oral history interviews are used "in public," they invariably both reflect and shape public memories... 3 Mapping Memories: Oral History for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales, Australia. (pp. 47-64). Maria Nugent. In May 2000 I drove five hours north up the coast from Sydney, Australia, to record oral history interviews with Aboriginal people in two communities. This would be the first of many such trips over the following two years, resulting in more than thirty recorded interviews and many more unrecorded ones. Australia is a diverse and fascinating country, with an Aboriginal population dating back many thousands of years. This very basic overview is our starting point for international students wanting to know more about the nation's background. Aboriginal Origins. This means they have the oldest living cultural history in the world. When the British arrived in 1788, as many as 250 different languages were spoken across the nation. The discovery of gold in Australia (in Bathurst first, then Ballarat in 1851) kickstarted the economy and created the idea of Australia as a desirable location. The year 1854 saw the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat, a rebellion against taxation that some see as a crucial event in the evolution of Australia's democracy. Cultural resource management is an effort to revitalize culture in the present, and the aim of such endeavours is to provide stability for future generations in navigating culture. This theme runs throughout my preliminary fieldwork in Wadeye, as I sought to collect traditional narratives of the mythic "Dreaming" song cycles. One of the goals of my volunteering and fieldwork in this region was to help make history relevant to future generations of Aboriginal Australians by providing them with resources from the local Kanamkek-Yile Ngala museum. In this thesis, I explore how culture as presente