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International Dateline

Glen M. Secor

Yankee Book Peddler, Inc.

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International Dateline

Section Editor: **Glen M. Secor** (YBP, Inc.)

.....U.K. News.....

by **Liz Chapman** (Oxford University)

The Consortium of European Research Libraries is to establish a database of all European printing of the hand-press period c.1455-1830, with **RLG** (Research Libraries Group) supplying the technical database facilities. It will be known as the HBP Hand-Press Book Database and will be a catalyst for library activities such as preservation, interlending, and substitution programmes. As many files already exist in machine-readable form, it is expected that it will only take a year to get to 1 million records, with a final target of 4.5 million records.

The **British Library Document Supply Centre** has this year processed its 70 millionth request for a document. This is

counting from 1962, when the service opened. The request was for **Arthur Ashe's A Hard Road to Glory: A History of the African-American Athlete**.

The Dutch company **Swets and Zeitlinger** and the **European Foundation for Library Cooperation** jointly carried out a survey on the use of acid-free/permanent paper in 18 European countries. Sixty-eight publishers from 13 countries, mostly science publishers, are using permanent paper. Twenty-one of them are British publishers. A majority of this group do not find such paper more expensive, but half of them do not bother to announce the use in their publications. Seventy-four publishers from 14 countries, however, do not use acid free paper, while 1,800 publishers did not bother to reply to the survey.

.....Australia!.....

by **Vicki Nicholson** (James Bennett Library Services)

AUSTRALIAN BOOK FAIR — The Third Australian Book Fair was held at Sydney's Darling Harbour Convention

Centre at the end of June. Both trade and public attendances were up on last year, although the Fair was reported to have been seemingly quieter . . . than the past two years' events. I felt that this was the best Fair to date, but perhaps I am just

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getting the hang of doing the round of the exhibits! Along with local publishers, a UK contingent in association with the **Publishers' Association** exhibited in a group stand sponsored by the **British Chamber of Commerce** and the **Department of Trade and Industries**. A large group of New Zealand publishers also attended and exhibited. Librarians were again a major group attending the trade days of the Fair; however a proposed Library Fair in conjunction with the Book Fair to build on this attendance ran into difficulties and was postponed until next year. The **ABA Library Suppliers (Vendors) Group** met during the Fair; however the meeting was poorly attended.

At the **Australian Book Industry Awards Dinner** following the Fair, **Penguin Books Australia** were awarded 1994 Publisher of the Year, **Dymocks Queen Street, Brisbane** were awarded Bookseller of the Year, and **Sara Henderson's From Strength to Strength** (Pan Macmillan) was named as the inaugural **Australian Booksellers Association Australian**

Book of the Year. **The National Book Council's** annual literary awards, the **Banjo Awards**, were also presented at the Dinner. **Elisabeth Jolley's The George's Wife** (Penguin) received the fiction award, **Hazel Rowley** won the non-fiction award for **Christina Stead** (Heinemann), while **Dorothy Hewett** was awarded the **Turnbull Fox Phillips Poetry prize** for her collection **Peninsula** (Fremantle Arts Centre Press).

Whilst on the subject of awards, the 1994 **Miles Franklin Literary Award** of A\$25,000 has been won by **Rodney Hall** for **The Grisly Wife**, the second volume of his trilogy. This year's award, however, has been notable due to the suggestion that three novels nominated for the award were commended by the judges as being outstanding but ineligible . . . on the grounds that all three are set, in varying degrees, overseas. The terms of Miles Franklin's will stipulate that eligible books are those which deal with Australian life in any of its phases. Legal action has been mooted. If it wasn't serious for the authors, it would be funny; could it happen anywhere else?

.....Europa!.....

by **Gilles de La Rochefoucauld** (Aux Amateurs de Livres)

VOLTAIRE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 1994 — The standing of Voltaire as a major figure in European literature and thought does not need to be emphasized. The celebrations of the tercentenary of his birth, from 26 September to 5 October, will therefore be a major event in 1994. Oxford (in Great Britain) will be at the center of the celebrations in more than one sense. The first reason is that the **Voltaire Foundation**, set up in the University thanks to the bequest of **Theodore Besterman**, is the place to which all specialists in the field gravitate. It is the Foundation which is carrying forward the mammoth task of publishing the **Complete Works of Voltaire**, as well as the important and distinguished series of **Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century**. In addition, it acts as the secretariat for the **International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies**.

The second reason is that, because of its crucial position in this area, the **Voltaire Foundation** is responsible for the

organisation of the **Voltaire celebrations** in 1994. It is perhaps a natural consequence that the commemorative events will start off in Oxford (28-30 September) before transferring to Paris on 1 October to begin a series of sessions there (2-5 October). It perhaps goes without saying that the main part of the celebrations will be a major congress, with the title **Voltaire et ses combats** (Voltaire and his fights). About 300 participants have registered and something on the order of 180 papers have been proposed. These communications will be published in two major volumes by the Foundation.

The importance and the prestige of the event is indicated by the support it has received. **President Françoise Mitterand** of France has written to give it his official patronage. Both the **British Academy** and the **Académie Française** have agreed to patronise the tercentenary (the British Academy backing its support with a significant contribution toward the cost). **The French Celebrations Nationales** is both giving financial support and participating actively in the organisation of the French end of the celebrations. ☞

Book Buyer's Guide

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him that things were not always as bad as they seemed — that he was liked and respected throughout the publishing industry and that I felt sure something would turn up to keep him active in the world of books.

Later, I returned to my office where I related my lunch experience to my employer, **Ben Russak**, president and founder of the **American Elsevier Publishing Company**. Russak was an old-time gentleman bookman whose life was also a total involvement with books and publishing. Russak had known Short for many years and held him in the same high regard as I did. When I quoted Short's tearful lament, Russak directed me to advise Short not to worry — that he would have a job at American Elsevier as long as he lived. I got back to Short almost immediately and gave him the good news . . . More

tears and a "God bless you; I'll never forget what you've done for me," are in my own memory.

I never spoke with Short again. I had left the building to work with a publisher in New Jersey when the *Guide* ceased publication. I understand that Short passed away a short time after. Neither *The New York Times* nor *Publishers Weekly* carried an obituary on Frank Short, so his passing went without publicity. However, Short's lifelong contributions to the book industry were not completely forgotten by many of us. For myself, I dedicated the first volume of *The Book Marketing Handbook* (Bowker, 1980) as follows:

"Dedicated to the memory of Frank Short, bookman, who gave more than fifty years of devoted service to the book industry." ☞