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MONASH UNIVERSITY
recursive model theory. This meeting was attended by leading mathematicians from many countries throughout the world.

Accommodation

Building extensions to provide space for Botany, Psychology, and Genetics were nearing completion at the end of the year and have been partially occupied. Further extensions of the science north building, to provide space for Mathematics, Earth Sciences and general teaching areas, scheduled for occupation by the end of the year, were not completed on time. Lack of access to these teaching areas in the early months of 1975 will undoubtedly cause severe difficulties, while the department of Earth Sciences will be compelled to continue for some months in temporary quarters that it has now outgrown.

The increased interest in studies in astronomy will occasion an increased use of the Jeffree Telescope Observatory at Mt Burnett, so that the provision of overnight accommodation and display facilities for visitors has become more urgent—a grant of $10,000 for the cost of construction has quickly lost much of its effectiveness owing to spiralling cost estimates.

LIBRARY

Librarian: Mr T. B. Southwell, B.A. (Syd.), A.L.A.A.

The report for 1973 told of an extremely busy year, in terms both of the acquisition of new material and of its use, and predicted that this activity would continue in 1974. The expectation was fulfilled.

In terms of intake, almost 67,000 volumes were received—about 10 per cent more than in the previous year. In part this was a result of money made available by the Universities Commission to provide the base material Monash was too young to have acquired. This intake figure is actually an understatement because much of the material is available now only in microform, and even an approximation of the volume equivalent of the microforms received during the year will have to await full cataloguing. The number will be many thousands. Total stock, even without them is approaching 700,000. About 12,000 periodical titles are under current subscription.

One effect of broadening the base of the collection can be seen in its increased use by and value to other parts of the community: interlibrary loans rose during the year by over 25 per cent, to 16,416, while borrowings remained stable at 6,500. Overall loan figures can be misleading, but it is significant that, in spite of deliberate restriction of loans in some areas to provide more assured access, loans generally were again higher by 6.6 per cent; their total number including reserved book issues was about 505,000.

Another inevitable result of the increased book intake was, of course, greater pressure on space. The main library book stack was over-full at the beginning of the year. The planned vertical extension could not be begun until after mid-year, by which time complete chaos was being averted only by the ingenuity of the staff and the patience of them and the readers. The clearance of areas required by the builders and therefore the temporary re-location of parts of the collection, frequent minor flooding and the noise and vibration inevitably associated with such an extension fully extended that patience.

Various proposals for easing the pressure on the biomedical library were discussed during the year and one was adopted which provided more adequate staff working space by relocating a bag room. In view of the uncertainty surrounding the proposed hospital (and then of the relationship between the University and the relocated Queen Victoria Hospital) and the attitude of the Universities Commission to the whole medical school development, the building of a bag room seemed an expensive, short-term solution to a small part of a very large long-term problem. The library is now a
more efficient and pleasant place to work, and to work in, but its approaches are both unsightly and dangerous from a carpet of bags.

In all the libraries the programme of reader education was extended during the year, and closer integration established with the teaching courses. To this end, the help and advice of HEARU were of great value, both in themselves and in their promise of further co-operation as the techniques of tertiary education continue to develop. The rapidly growing library collection of non-book materials can be viewed as a matter of embarrassment or pride; the latter only if they are used as part of the learning process.

Two significant appointments were made during the year. Mr P. J. Mitchell was created technical services librarian, as a step in the integration of the processing departments. Mrs V. J. Richards was appointed to a position of training co-ordinator, with the hope that new staff members would be more quickly of value and at ease in the library, and that the potential of others would be more fully realized.

The law librarian, Mr E. J. Glasson, was enabled by a grant from the Victoria Law Foundation, to represent Australia at a board of directors meeting of the International Association of Law Libraries, to attend their short courses, and to visit a variety of law libraries in England and North America.

This was only the latest example of the Foundation's generosity. For example, a very comprehensive collection in the field of criminology is being assembled from Foundation funds. The parents' association too, was again most generous, and the support received from graduates, friends and the general public for the library appeal will be quite essential in what promises to be a most difficult year ahead.

Computer developments were limited to the rounding-out of the acquisitions programmes, general maintenance of the existing wide range of operations, and the phased transfer of these to the newer equipment which became available during the year.

The revaluations of the Australian dollar in 1973 were effective in insulating us from the rapidly rising costs of books and, especially, periodicals. In 1974 this rise was accentuated and devaluation left an unexpectedly high commitment to be met from a proposed lower budget. After a year of expansion in 1974, in terms of both the collection and of services offered, it would be reasonable to look forward to a year of consolidation: it appears rather that it will be one of reduced service in the face of raised expectations and legitimate demand.

7. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Alexander Theatre

In 1974 the Alexander Theatre Committee implemented the plan worked out in the previous year for the formation of a professional company. This was made the responsibility of the Alexander Theatre Guild under the chairmanship of Dr Logan Fracey, director of the theatre. Mr Don Mackay was appointed executive officer to the guild and his company, previously known as the Players' Caravan, became the nucleus of the new professional company, with Mr Mackay himself as the artistic director.

The company, which was given the name of the Alexander Theatre Company, provided two seasons of plays for adult audiences. The first consisted of three productions: Puckoon by Spike Milligan, adapted for the stage by Don Mackay, Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas, and The Signalman's Apprentice by Brian Phelan. The first two were highly successful and ran for extended seasons. Puckoon was enjoyed by a wide variety of audiences; Under Milk Wood was a production of very high quality but owed a fair measure of its success to the fact that it was a higher school certificate
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In the latter part of 1974, it became clear that 1975 would be a financially stringent year and it became necessary to reduce staff to some extent in anticipation. Since material purchased from the Universities Commission’s equipment vote continued to pour in, and since supplementation of the normal recurrent vote provided a continuing normal intake, the beginnings of a processing back-log very quickly appeared. Nevertheless the cataloguing staff in spite of reduced numbers, were able to contain the situation, and in fact to reduce it to manageable size by the end of the year.

Intake during the year totalled a dramatic 97,000, of which 42,000 ‘volumes’ were in microform.

Builders were in occupation of the main library’s book stack through most of the year. A building workers’ strike extended the construction period and forced the University to take over the building incomplete. The entire book stock was re-located, and various special collections brought back from distant storage before the end of the year.

The problem of the minor extension of the biomedical library needed to provide space for bags, came no closer to solution.

Whether because of increased space now available for readers (in all areas except the biomedical library on campus), more attractive bookstock, or a simple change in reading habits, borrowing from the library continued to rise faster than the population served. Total loans (including reserved books) were 540,000.

Inter-library relationships were much under discussion during the year. The concept of an Australian Library Based Information Service, which had excited many librarians, seems to have been replaced by a completely centralist approach based on the National Library. Dialogue arising from the common cataloguing project continued sporadically between a sub-committee of the Victorian Universities Colleges Committee and the university librarians, leading most hopefully to the appointment at the end of the year of a management consultant to report on the possibilities of combined action in this and other ways. As for the library’s interloan traffic, loans increased to 17,745 and borrowings again fell, to 5,659.

Mrs Fay Baker of the biomedical library was once again seconded to the World Health Organization, this time for a survey of medical libraries in South Korea. Mr E. J. Glasson, law librarian, was again able to attend a meeting of the International Association of Law Libraries, this time in Germany and Norway, the theme being the legal literature of the European Economic Community. The biennial conference of the Library Association of Australia was held in Melbourne during the year. Most members of staff were involved either in its organization or as delegates, and the library was visited by a great number of librarians, from other parts of Australia and abroad.

The cost of books and especially of periodicals continued to rise, at an apparently increasing rate. This problem has been added to by considerable increases in postal rates in many countries, with the result that extensive cancellations of subscriptions are a world-wide fact of life and the continuing viability of very many titles is in doubt.

Many Monash graduates, notably in Medicine and Law, are now finding that the professional reading necessary to their adequate performance is not available, particularly in country areas. Increasingly, they are turning back to Monash for service. This is gladly given, where possible by reference to a more appropriate local authority, or by an inter-library loan to a local library, but also often directly. Several visits have been paid by the biomedical librarian to country hospitals to ensure smooth running of the service, and it is clear that it is valued. It will be extended in 1976 following talks initiated by the Australian Hospital Association,
the intention being that the biomedical library should provide reference service to hospitals and their administrations throughout Australia. If the pilot scheme is successful in 1976, the prospect of the library, with help from the Association, widening its service and experience and rounding out its stock of books is exciting.

Less hopeful are other plans for widening service. The development of the National Library of Medicine's MEDLARS service into an on-line mode is indefinitely postponed as are most of the initiatives for communication and co-operation lately proposed by the National Library of Australia.

Data processing activities were limited by the introduction of a new computer. Re-programming for this and maintenance and upgrading of existing programmes absorbed all available manpower.

The library again received support, both moral and financial from many well-wishers, in particular the Friends of the Library, the Monash Parents' Group and the many others who contributed to the University's library appeal.

8. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Alexander Theatre

In 1975, the ninth year of its existence, the Alexander Theatre was more heavily booked than ever before. Apart from a short break in February, it was used almost continuously from January to December for occasional lectures, meetings and conferences, for films, concerts and dance performances, and for a wide variety of dramatic productions. In accepting bookings, priority is given as far as possible to groups within the University to whom a minimal charge is made. Net profits from hiring to outside bodies are used to help maintain the activities of the Alexander Theatre Company.

The most notable performances by University groups were given by the Monash Players, the Monash University Musical Company and the Modern Dance Group. The Monash University Film Group arranged an average of two to three screenings a week during terms.

The Alexander Theatre Company, with the help of grants from the Australia Council and the Victorian Ministry for the Arts, recovered the deficit incurred in the first year of its operation, but at the cost of mounting fewer productions and employing an artistic director only for the first eight months of the year. Of three plays produced by the company for adult audiences, by far the most successful was Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, directed by Peter Batey. In place of a fourth production of its own, the company sponsored a two week season by the Ensemble Theatre, of Sydney.

In addition to the January pantomime, the company staged productions for children in the May and August holidays. Another children's activity is the Saturday Club, which has been in existence for some years and now provides regularly on Saturday afternoons through the greater part of the year entertainment for children in two age groups (five to eight and eight to twelve). The programmes include musical and dramatic performances, puppet theatre, dance and films.

With the aim of bringing playwrights into closer association with the Alexander Theatre, the committee announced in September a playwright competition. In addition to a money prize, the winning play will be given a professional performance in the theatre. The competition has attracted some 200 entries and the winning play is to be announced in April 1976.

The policy of the theatre company is under continual review. Without substantial financial backing it has proved impossible to retain the services of an artistic director and a nucleus of actors over a long period. While this leaves the committee free to select a director for each production, or at most for a season of two or three pro-
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MONASH UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

Librarian: Mr. T. B. Southwell, B.A. (Syd.), A.L.A.A.

Academic and research libraries throughout the world have been caught between the rising costs of books and periodicals and the lowering of the financial support available. The problem is being felt particularly in Australia, whose currency levels had given some protection against the worst of the cost increases; when that protection was suddenly withdrawn by the November devaluation the wind blew very cold indeed.

The most serious effects will not be felt until 1977, but those periodical subscriptions which were paid in the last month or so of the calendar year were seriously inflated.

Book intake fell from the peak of 97,000 in 1975 to 57,000. The staff establishment was held at the 1975 level, though some unexpected supplementation made possible the employment of temporary staff at times through the year; this gave particular assistance to the cataloguing department which was faced with a heavy load from the previous year's intake and the incidence of long service leave. Some reorganization of cataloguing resulted in the cataloguing throughput being raised considerably. There has also been some reorganization of the acquisitions department and the Government publications section was expanded to include monographs as well as serials and came under the control of the humanities and social sciences librarian.

The last annual report noted that borrowing from the library was continuing to rise faster than the population served. This trend continued and was most marked in the humanities and social sciences library where a more liberal lending policy on overnight loans was clearly appreciated, this type of loan increasing by 142 per cent. Total loans across the system were 615,628, as against 540,000 in the previous year. It became clear that for such a volume of work the interim loan system, which depends on key-punched input to computer, was too labour-intensive and prone to human error, and investigations were conducted into alternative automatic data collection systems.

The concept of the library as part of a much wider network has been gaining acceptance for many years, and the constantly increasing inter-library loan traffic has underlined it. In 1976 loans reached 21,469 and borrowing also rose, to 7,468. However several developments in the year suggest that in this regard library cooperation is entering a quite new phase. On-line interrogation of bibliographical data bases is now a reality, and from September the biomedical library has been regularly conducting searches of the MEDLINE base mounted on the Department of Health computer in Canberra. A demonstration of access to the educational data base ERIC ran for three months between the RMIT and the National Library, and since Monash holds the massive microfiche file which supports the data base, the library has been pressing for access to it through a local computer bureau. This possibility has now been taken up by the National Library, with the chance (if finance can be found) of expansion into several other of the major data bases, or of construction of new ones, purely Australian.

At the same time, the long, desultory negotiations aimed at improving cooperation between the academic libraries, led at the beginning of the year to a survey by an outside consultant, of means to set up a joint office with its primary task the support of cooperative cataloguing. The consultants' report was received by the VUCC and the concept of CAVAL (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries) has been recommended to participating institutions (including the State Library). The National Library is also promoting a joint cataloguing venture, and it is the firm hope of those associated with CAVAL that the two operations may be developed in double harness.
The biomedical library's pilot operation as a reference centre for the Australian Hospital Association ran for six months, with some help towards the staffing provided by the association. No finality has been reached in the matter of long-term funding, but the association's satisfaction with the services has been indicated by an extension of the temporary finance for a further six months. Information on a wide range of matters relating to hospital administration was supplied to inquirers from all across Australia.

The library welcomes the establishment of the Graduate School of Librarianship and believes that such a centre of expertise can only be of value, both in the provision of advice and assistance and in keeping staff conscious of goals and values beyond the immediate work situation.

It was the library's good fortune to be exposed to another searching eye when Professor Perry Morrison of the University of Oregon's School of Librarianship spent nine months in the library as a "participant observer". His day-to-day comments on the several departments in which he worked as well as his formal report at the end of the period were stimulating and provocative; the very anomaly of his experience and expertise as against his low nominal position in the organization made the newer attitudes and techniques he was able to impart so much more acceptable.

Several departments within the University have an interest in physical bibliography and it is therefore particularly appropriate that the library should now house a quite well-equipped printing shop, complete with an Albion press and a Columbian and an Arab jobbing press, as well as a cylinder press and a considerable collection of furniture and type. It is possibly symbolic of the James-like quality a modern library must display, that these working symbols of the nineteenth century should be housed in the next room to the library's data processing centre.

The press, the equipment and the work involved in setting up the operation have all been donated, with the exception of the Albion, which is on indefinite loan by the trustees of the State Library. To them and the other donors we extend our thanks, as we do to those who each year support the library's book purchasing programme. Without them it would be the poorer; funds have never run to treasures and now will hardly support working acquisitions.

7. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Alexander Theatre

The year provided another full programme for the Alexander Theatre, with activities ranging from University lectures for the public to visits from international theatre productions such as the Canadian Mime Company. The theatre is now active in three main areas: (a) as a centre serving the academic and student needs of the University; (b) as a source of quality dramatic activities from the Alexander Theatre Company and from the entrepreneurial activities of the management committee; and (c) as a venue for community-based theatre.

Student use of the theatre is actively encouraged, and during term time the traditional groups—the Monash Players, the Monash University Musical Theatre Company, and the Modern Dance Club—made a significant contribution to the theatre's programme, together with regular screenings by the Monash Film Group. The annual pantomime, in 1976 Jack and the Beanstalk, was presented by an ad hoc student body, "Pan Paws 76", with great success and with considerable assistance from the theatre.

Grants from the Australian Council, the Victorian Ministry for the Arts, and the Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, together with the theatre's revenue from rentals and general trading, enabled the Alexander Theatre Company to complete its third year with a programme of four plays for adults and two productions for
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ordering and subsequently recalling for use all the many different kinds of knowledge that are the provinces of all other disciplines. It is probable that this subject will be taught in first year in 1979—we are now reliant on the computer to help us to re-arrange the first-year lecture timetables so that the extra time slots needed for computer science 101 can be found without having recourse to lectures at 8 a.m., or lunchtime, or on Saturday mornings!

A booklet 'Introducing the faculty of Science' was again widely distributed to Victorian schools and is also sent to all students being offered a place in Monash Science through the V.U.A.C. system. A commendable innovation has been the production of a sixth-form school mathematics magazine, Function, by the department of Mathematics. It is hoped that this very useful educational aid to prospective Monash students (and their teachers) may set an example that will be followed by the physical and biological sciences.

Research

There were 59 degrees of Doctor of Philosophy and 23 degrees of Master of Science awarded in the faculty in 1976.

Research and the publication of new knowledge continues to be an important aspect of faculty activity. Support for research from sources outside the University, but excluding the Australian Research Grants Committee (A.R.G.C.) totalled nearly $385,000, while A.R.G.C. grants for 1976 announced in 1977 totalled $520,000. This total of $878,000 is a measure of the quality of research being conducted in the physical, biological, and mathematical sciences within the faculty.

Personal

Professor J. M. Swan completed his second year as dean. He continued to represent the University on the Australian-Asian Universities Cooperation Scheme, on the Council of the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences, and on the executive of the Victorian Universities Admissions Committee. He remains a member of the Victoria Conservation Trust, chairman of the State Committee of C.S.I.R.O., and a member of the C.S.I.R.O. Advisory Council.

Professor B. O. West served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor to the University in 1977 on a part-time basis, and also resumed duties as professor of Inorganic Chemistry. Professor W. J. Ewens took up duty as professor of Statistics in January. Professor G. B. Preston was appointed chairman of the department of Mathematics. Professor W. A. Rachinger completed a three-year term as chairman of the department of Physics. Professor M. J. P. Canny continued to serve as associate dean, Professor P. D. Finch as acting associate dean (as required), and Mrs Betty Cumming continued in the office of sub-dean.

LIBRARY

Librarian: Mr T. B. Southwell, B.A.(Syd.), A.L.A.A.

As forecast, the devaluation of Australia's dollar cut very seriously into the library's finances, so much so that 1977 began with a considerable deficit, and continued with a promise of worse to come. Until finances could be reorganized, it was necessary to stop the placing of new orders, and this situation continued for some months.

Staff numbers were reduced further, and a considerable programme of cancellation of periodical titles was commenced. Other University funds were found for the library and the country's creeping re-valuation combined with periodical price rises of a lower order than expected acted to reduce commitment well below the level expected only a few months before. The library enters 1978 much more confidently than had been thought possible.

This was not easily achieved. Periodical sets are perhaps the major asset of most
research libraries, and cancellation of any title may mean a great loss to the future, not only to the home institution, but to others in the region as well. Contact was kept with other major libraries throughout the exercise, which involved some 540 titles. Within the University, the review necessary before cancellations began was long and tedious, and involved consultation and committee work with hundreds of members of the teaching staff. In spite of the potential for conflicts, the exercise was carried out in a general spirit of co-operation. The warning was still clear: that any further cuts would be into sensitive areas of scholarly growth.

Book intake was apparently only slightly reduced, at 56,250 (as against 57,700 in 1976). This figure, however, represents catalogued volumes, and the cataloguers made notable inroads into their back-logs. In fact, the number of monograph volumes acquired was much reduced, particularly in the science areas, where maintenance of periodical subscriptions was rated more highly. The filling of gaps in the collection, by retrospective purchasing, came to an almost complete stand-still. A pause such as this does little harm, if current publishing output is not neglected, and it is not too prolonged. If extended, both staff expertise, and the quite essential contact with specialist suppliers are easily lost, and may take many years to re-build.

Indeed, the acquisitions department, which bore the worst brunt of staff cuts is reduced to the point where the effectiveness of its service is declining, and the morale of its staff with it.

Less hard hit, though badly affected by sickness and long service leave, the cataloguing department reacted by producing a very welcome increase in output, amounting in fact to nearly 60 per cent in some months. The reduction in the cataloguing back-log mentioned earlier resulted from this as much as from reduced intake.

Development of the agency known as CAVAL (Cooperative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries) was unfortunately slower than had been hoped. The Victorian Universities and Colleges Committee confirmed in March the temporary steering committee as its Committee on Library Cooperation with a brief to set up the agency. Much useful work has been done, in creating a formal structure and identifying possible interim systems. Advertisements for staff were placed and interviews conducted without, however, a firm appointment by the year’s end. A meeting of participants in December made clear how much was expected of the agency and at the same time how much impatience was resulting from the slow visible progress.

Another co-operative venture is that which has been named AUSINET. The last report referred to moves by Monash to tap into the on-line data base of educational material known as ERIC, using a local computer bureau. This was taken up by the National Library, and Monash is now one of ten libraries across Australia in daily conversation with a range of data bases in education, the social and the physical sciences. A much wider range is available from several American services and is in principle immediately accessible. The local network is providing invaluable experience to both users and reference staff, and is also prompting the development of new information services with a distinctly Australian flavour. The graduate school of Librarianship and the faculty of Education provided both the enthusiasm and early funding for the venture. In a year in which we seemed forced to cut back on service, it was stimulating to have this new and exciting service come so quickly into play.

The cuts in service resulted directly from staffing reductions. Hours of opening were reduced, by 1½ hours per day in the main library, and by closing the other branches on Saturdays. Service points were staffed with fewer staff, and staff of a generally lower level. It is a tribute to them all that service was affected as little as was the case. It should be pointed out that, as always, the most vulnerable were those to suffer: casual staff and staff depending on overtime, on one side of the counter, and part-time students on the other.
Work had been going on through the previous year in specifying an automatic data collection system for circulating purposes. This was progressively installed during the second half of the year, and the long vacation saw teams at work in the main library, equipping the open access collection with machine-readable badges. The system should give better control and greater accuracy, with less work for both users and staff. After operation for a year in the main library it is planned for extension to the Hargrave and biomedical libraries in 1979.

For the first year in Monash history, loan numbers fell as compared to the previous year: 516,000 as against 527,000 in 1976. This had followed a total of 427,000 in 1975 so, for whatever reason, it seems that 1976 was the special case. Observation suggests a greater tendency now to read in the library rather than to borrow.

The pattern of inter-library loans remains unchanged: we are still lending more (23,234 as against 21,469) and borrowing fewer (5,903 against 7,648). Two factors may be expected to change the picture in 1978. The introduction of machine-searched bibliographic files tends to point research workers to a wider range of material than they had been used to consulting, so that inter-loans in both directions may tend to rise; and the projected introduction by the Library Association of Australia of an 'interloan currency' to allow for easy payment for photocopies supplied to other libraries may change the distribution of demand across Australia. Until we know the charging policy of other libraries, we cannot estimate the impact, but suspect that demand on Monash may well slacken.

A procedural change initiated during the year is hoped both to economize on staff and improve service. The receipt and recording of new periodical parts, previously a central operation, has been de-centralized to all branches. Some duplication of work has been eliminated, and we hope that the close knowledge that branch staff have of 'their' titles may make for quicker recognition of irregularities in supply.

One indicator that the growth of the library had reached some sort of plateau is that no building operation, extension, even major reorganization was undertaken in the year. An examination was made of the needs for access to the biomedical library of handicapped people; the costs involved in a new lift, which seemed the only solution, were daunting, and it was soon clear that the problem extended also to the Hargrave library and perhaps other essential areas in the University. The Vice-Chancellor therefore set up a committee chaired by the Deputy Chancellor, which is examining the needs of the handicapped throughout the University.

Reference service to Australian hospitals and their administrators was continued by the biomedical library on a pilot basis with funds provided by the Australian Hospital Association. We were most encouraged by the visit during the year of the Vice-President (Programs) of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, resulting in a grant of approximately $150,000 to expand and consolidate that service for the next three years. The grant is gratefully acknowledged; the strength in both staff and resources it will provide can only be of benefit to the University as well as the hospital community.

Another substantial donation was a set of the United States Statutes at Large by the faculty of Law as a memorial to the late Professor F. R. Beasley whose wide knowledge and patience as law library consultant contributed so much to the reasoned development of that library.

A donation from the Monash Parents' Group again made the purchase of much student reading material possible; The Friends of the Library supported the purchase of several Fanfrolico items and the beautiful reproductions of Humphrey Repton's Red Books and a number of other additions were made to the rare books collection, notably by Professor and Mrs G. R. Manton. Cash support, in response to the library appeal and otherwise, continues to be most encouraging. Formal acknow-
nowledgement has been made to each donor. In a year in which governmental support seemed fragile, it is more than usually fitting that such help should be gratefully acknowledged here as well.

7. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Alexander Theatre

1977 was a full and active year for the Alexander Theatre, after a rather slow beginning caused by the re-painting of the interior of the building. The theatre continued to offer interesting and varied programmes in each of the three main areas which it regards as its special responsibilities; serving the academic and student needs of the University; mounting professional dramatic activities by the Alexander Theatre Company or other groups engaged by the management committee; and providing a venue for theatrical enterprises staged by groups based in the local community. The theatre also undertook two shared cost productions.

Student use of the theatre was actively encouraged and two established groups, the Monash Players and the Modern Dance Ensemble contributed notably to the year's programme. The Players, in particular, produced a memorable performance in their production of Macbeth. Regrettably, the Monash University Musical Theatre Company failed to mount a major production during the year. However, the Monash Film Group increased its number of screenings, and helped maintain the level of student use of the theatre's facilities. The annual pantomime in 1977, The Little Tin Soldier, was presented by the student theatre co-operative group 'Pan Pow', and was an outstanding success, both artistically and financially.

An attempt was made to consolidate the Alexander Theatre Company's activities into a single season during the winter months. Mr Peter Oyston directed two large-cast productions, The Cherry Orchard and The Crucible. Both deservedly received high praise from critics and public alike and, thanks to grants from the Victorian Ministry of the Arts and the Australia Council, the Alexander Theatre Company managed to show a small surplus of receipts over expenditure.

School-holiday productions and the ever-popular Saturday Club serving the very young, and two presentations designed especially for school audiences, formed an important part of the year's programme.

By way of experiment, the committee undertook two cost- and profit-shared productions with outside companies: the Victoria Shakespeare Company staged Romeo and Juliet, in a stimulating and original interpretation by Harold Baigent, and Lolly Levi Productions presented Geoffrey Leask's Thunderbolt Rides Again, an original production for children featuring delightful music and a lively script. In each case, the salary costs were assured by the company and mounting costs by the theatre, which retained first call on the box office revenue. In both instances, the theatre recouped its expenses plus a rental. Unfortunately, the companies concerned failed to recover their investments although both shows certainly deserved a fuller success.

As a gesture of good-will to the local community, the theatre was made available on a cost-only basis to the Waverley Festival of the Arts. The Waverley Eisteddfod and a number of other activities were presented during this period. It is to be regretted that this and several other ventures were damaged by the need to buy auxiliary power during the S.E.C. power crisis of the latter part of the year. That, however, was a problem which could not mar what was generally an exciting and prosperous year for the theatre.

Careers and Appointments

The employment situation for graduates has continued to be difficult throughout 1977. Graduates from most disciplines have had problems, with some being unem-