Unique botanical work discovered

Mueller’s mock-up for second ‘Flora’

A unique interleaved and handworked version of the nation’s first botanical guide, *Flora Australiensis*, has been discovered in the Monash Library.

It is believed the 19-volume set, containing hand-written notes and original drawings, was being prepared by the then Government Botanist of Melbourne, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, as a mock-up for a second edition.

Mueller, who was also the first director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, had collaborated with British botanist, George Bentham (1800-1884) in the writing of the seven-volume *Flora Australiensis: A description of the plants of the Australian territory*.

But his 15 years’ involvement in the collection, identification, description and despatch of specimens was given scant recognition.

Rare Books librarian, Mrs Susan Radvansky, who discovered the unique set, said it would not be surprising if Mueller had been contemplating a second edition given George Bentham’s prominence as author in the first (the title page merely states “assisted by Ferdinand Mueller”) and their differences over terminology.

The first volume of *Flora Australiensis* appeared in 1863 and the seventh in 1878. It contained 7000 species and was the most extensive Flora ever completed.

“No other known copy has illustrations and all comprise seven volumes,” Mrs Radvansky said.

“This variant set contains the same text bound in 19 volumes and it was interleaved with hundreds of blank pages, many of which now contain complete or unfinished illustrations.

“Their quality varies from highly professional botanical drawings and lovely watercolors to more amateurish efforts.”

The printed plates are from Mueller’s other publications, including the 12-volume *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* (in Latin), published by the Victorian Government between 1858 and 1882.

All the original drawings and paintings have been identified in manuscript and one hand in particular showed European style, Mrs Radvansky said.

“We thought it might be Mueller’s, and asked the herbarium for copies of his handwriting and that of his associates.

“We can now confirm that the writing was definitely his.”

*Flora Australiensis* is one of more than 700 items of early Australiana acquired during Monash’s first 25 years.

The origins of many are obscure because they arrived in boxloads and while the names of the donors were noted, there were no records kept of the contents of the boxes.

It was not until research began in the late 1970s on a bibliography of Australian holdings that the value of some items was recognised.

The variant *Flora Australiensis* has been kept a close secret since then, while efforts have been made unsuccessfully to trace its origins.

Research into bibliographical, botanical and historical aspects is still under way.

* A Monash supplement to Ferguson’s Bibliography of Australia listing the early holdings was published in 1980.

Using still waters to test flow patterns

A team of mathematical researchers, led by Professor Bruce Morton, has challenged the traditional model for the effects of water flow in scouring beds around bridge piers.

Engineers have for many years believed that water flowing past piers created horseshoe-patterned swirls which eroded the bed and could threaten foundations.

In the past, this theory has been tested in water channels using obstacles either fixed to the floor or through a bed of sand.

But a new 10-metre tank being built in the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory will approach the problem from the opposite direction - an obstacle being towed through still water.

Professor Morton is particularly interested in the origin and structure of the whirls, eddies and patterns of water flow.

The advantage of doing research on a moving obstacle in a fixed tank is that the water may be stabilised into different strata.

“The question is whether the flow past a fixed obstacle is the same as that produced by an obstacle being towed through still water,” Professor Morton said.

The results are also applicable to air flow around hills.

To illustrate water flow patterns, researchers add small flakes of mica to the tank and take time-exposure photographs of light reflecting the mica particles.

A striped effect is produced and the faster the water flow, the longer the stripes.

* See centre pages

• Mrs Susan Radvansky and Dr Maureen Mann examine some of Mueller’s books in the Rare Books room, Main Library. Photos — Tony Miller

• See page 7
Architects seek the classical norm

Ask 10 people what classicism is and you'll get 10 different answers, says architect Alex Selenitsch, who organised with his colleagues the projects now on show in New Classicism at the Monash University Gallery.

"A hard and clear definition of classicism appears to be a folly but common threads are strung through all of these interpretations," he says in the exhibition catalogue. "They arose from a number of meetings and discussions and from my hunch that, for architects, the difficult and contradictory notions of classicism might be best explored through a number of theoretical projects. We are using a typical classicist method: argument by example."

The gallery's curator, Jennifer Duncan, said the projects were both speculative and critical, in response to various classical premises. The architects, Peter Crone, Suzanne Dance, Norman Day, Ian McDougall, Stephen O'Connor, Howard Raggatt, Ivan Rijavec, Alex Selenitsch, Francesco Timpano and Anne Butler had been enthusiastic participants. The exhibition also included a profile photographic survey of "classical" buildings selected by Dr Conrad Hamann of the Visual Arts department, Ms Duncan said.

New Classicism: Ten Melbourne Architects can be seen at the Monash University Gallery, 7th floor, Menzies Building, until August 15. Hours: Weekdays, 10am-5pm; Saturdays, 11am-3pm.

Above: Howard Raggatt's Resurrection City II. Left: Suzanne Dance's Arch ... "based on urban monuments, and the triumphal arches set up for Federation, state anniversaries or the visits of portly princes". Below: Francesco Timpano and Alex Selenitsch for the Department of Public Works ... design for a new prison at Castlemaine "to look more like a retirement village".
Japan awards prize to ‘Monash’ translation

Prize-winning author, Professor Rokuro Hidaka has been described as one of the greatest living Japanese humanists.

Although he resigned enshoached in 1970 from a chair in sociology at the University of Tokyo, he has remained in the centre of Japan’s struggle for peace, democracy and social justice, said Professor Jiri Neustupny, chairman of the department of Japanese.

Hidaka’s book, The price of affluence, which was translated by Australian academics at the Japanese Studies Centre Inc. (now housed at Monash) and elsewhere, has been awarded the International Publications Cultural Award.

The Japanese original, Sengo shiso o kangaeru (Thinking about Japan’s postwar thought), won the 1981 Mainichi Publications Cultural Award, and became a bestseller in Japan.

It was selected for translation because Australian academics considered it a fine example of contemporary Japanese thought.

The promotion of Hidaka’s work was also seen as a possible means of overcoming the Fraser Government’s ban on Hidaka and his wife, Nobuko, who were refused entry visas in 1980.

New dole rules hit students

An amendment to the Social Security Act makes it impossible for most tertiary students to get unemployment benefits.

The new section prevents payment of the benefit to a full-time student eligible for TEAS, and to a full-time student who would be eligible but for the income test or the academic progress rules.

Students not eligible for TEAS or other allowances should also take warning from a recent case cited in the June issue (No 31) of the Social Security Review.

In the case (No 185/122, decided March 25, 1986), Paul Mathews received unemployment benefits from the end of the 1982 academic year until he re-enrolled for fourth year honors in March, 1983.

At the end of that year he again applied for unemployment benefit and received it until March 1/4 when he resumed full-time studies or a Ph.D.

The Department of Social Security then cancelled Mathews’ unemployment benefit and decided that he had been overpaid $1065 because he had not been entitled to the benefit during the periods mentioned above.

These decisions were upheld by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

It supported the recovery decision because Mathews, who had intended to proceed with his studies, could not be treated as “unemployed” during the two long vacations.

The cancellation decision was upheld because the tribunal accepted evidence that full-time unemployment was “fundamentally incompatible with full-time study for a Ph.D.”

Mathews was not “unemployed” under the relevant terms of the Social Security Act, and was therefore not eligible for unemployment benefits.

“Social Security Reporter is published by Social Security Services Bulletin Co-operative Ltd, c/- Law Faculty, Monash University.”

Hidaka had been invited to Australia by the Monash department of Japanese and the La Trobe department of Sociology, but the ban was imposed amid accusations of his involvement with terrorists.

“The incident remains unexplained,” says Professor Neustupny.

“It was formally closed when the Hawke government reversed the original decision; Hidaka came to Melbourne in 1983, and lectured at Monash.”

The book is anchored in Hidaka’s personal experiences. He was born and raised in Cinghadao, in Japanese-occupied China, and had firsthand experience of Japanese colonialism.

“It shows the origins and vitality of the non-establishment thought of postwar Japan,” said Professor Neustupny.

“But its leading line is Hidaka’s discussion of the trend of contemporary Japan toward a ‘controlled society’ and the social and political apathy of a large section of Japanese youth.”

“The book provides a wealth of information and will make Australian readers think about contemporary Japan.

“What is going to become of the country which controls so much of our own future — who are our enemies, and who are our allies?”

“Hidaka’s text ends with the question: What will happen to Japan, the traveller in a blizzard across a lake on very thin ice?”

“The context of the book is more optimistic.

“Perhaps we can count on the students who lose their sense of time when they listen to Hidaka’s lectures; the hundreds of thousands who buy and read his books, and all those he speaks about who ignore personal inconvenience in favor of the work for peace, democracy and justice.”

– Professor Thorburn

Riddles of life’may be used to choose medical students

‘What price human life?’ is an impossible question to answer, but it is one of the questions posed to test the moral judgement of students hoping to be accepted into Oxford University’s medical school.

The university is one of several in Britain which sets its own medical aptitude examinations designed to explore the students’ capacity to think in an abstract manner.

Professor Geoffrey Thorburn from the Physiology department would like a similar system introduced into Victoria. In a proposal written during his overseas study leave in Britain, he suggests that a two year selection procedure be introduced, beginning at the start of Year 11.

“As potential doctors, medical students need more than academic ability,” Professor Thorburn says.

Victoria must define its policies and objectives in seeking suitable people.

He believes the current system fails to obtain sufficient information about students’ personalities, previous academic performance, desire to specialise or knowledge of the medical profession.

To be eligible for entry, a student would need to complete an application form, pass an aptitude test and convince an interviewing selection committee that he or she is suited to be a doctor.

A conditional offer, dependent on the maintenance of academic standards, would then be forwarded to the successful students.

A student’s ability to succeed at university is currently judged on performance in a single public examination—HSC.

The proposed system would eliminate this problem while assessing qualities not examined under other circumstances.

“It should identify the more imaginative candidates, who can think and write on abstract and general issues,” Professor Thorburn said.
Sweden shows the way on research

The most appropriate way to harness Australia's great intellectual resources was to begin a reform of the research funding structure, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Staff), Professor Mal Logan, told graduates at the Footscray Institute of Technology.

"Australia had much to learn from Sweden," Professor Logan said.

Sweden has a small population and sparse natural resources, Sweden had an educated society with a long-standing national commitment to both public and private investment in research and development.

"There is an explicit R and D policy quite frequently debated in parliament and a long tradition of co-operation between government and strong and highly enlightened trade unions and business organisations," he said.

Professor Logan recently visited a number of European countries including Sweden.

"Sweden has been a world leader for decades in numerous aspects of the pharmaceutical and biomedical industry," he said.

"Currently the Swedish government allocates 15 per cent of its R and D expenditure to this industry, with a total per capita expenditure on biomedical research higher than the United States."

Outstanding

Quoting from an OECD draft examining report on Science and Technology Policy, Professor Logan said the Swedish view of the status of science was exemplified by the fact that the Prime Minister chaired the special Advisory Research Board.

This board had been an active intermediary for politicians, eminent scientists and the community.

"The terms of reference, with the view that research matters are part of the decision-making process in every government department, is to the Minister of Science. But, in 1982, the co-ordination of science and technology questions was put in the Cabinet office.

"The result is an outstanding governmental structure which nurtures and actively promotes the interface of basic science and industry with a co-ordinating overview on national behalf," the report said.

Professor Logan said his recent visit to Europe and his personal knowledge of the United States had confirmed his view that Australian higher education institutions were simply not seen as major contributors to the nation's future direction.

"There is a desperate need to harness Australia's great intellectual resources to promote economic and social growth. "The Australian Research Grants Committee has done a great job, under extreme difficulty, but the time has come for it to be restructured in order to achieve a number of functional objectives," he said.

These were:
- To provide a mechanism whereby research activity of all kinds will be seen to be contributing more directly to overall national development; and to seek a balance between the demands being articulated by industry with the general criteria of the academic world;
- To allow research links between government, industry and higher education institutions to be more firmly established;
- To encourage government to identify its own research priorities;
- To increase the amount of funding for both basic and applied research;
- To give research generally, and science and technology in particular, a much higher public profile.

Following the British and Swedish cases, I believe there is a strong case for the establishment of some kind of national research board, consisting of representatives of government, the academies of science and employers' organisations which would have an overall responsibility to consider the national research funds, Professor Logan said.

The national board would operate through a number of specialised councils covering such fields as science and engineering, medicine, social sciences and the humanities and so on.

"Allocations to institutions and individuals would be through the normal peer group review process, but, as in the UK, the councils should have the right to establish research programs of their own."

"The Science and Engineering Research Council in the UK, for example, has established a number of special directorates (with fixed terms) whose aim is to design and implement research policies in areas of perceived national need."

"Similarly, the UK Department of Industry launched in 1963 a program of research on four main technological areas — software engineering, very large scale integration, man-machine interfaces, and intelligent knowledge-based systems."

Military techniques used in management

It may not be pure coincidence that operations research sounds like a military manoeuvre.

This practical means of applying analytical techniques was developed during the Second World War, and is now used to solve day-to-day problems in commercial management.

It came about because extensive military operations required that people be trained in analysing statistical data so they could produce models for the safe transportation of machinery and personnel.

Nowadays, it means the application of computer, mathematical and statistical techniques to complex management problems.

It involves forecasting, scheduling and producing computer simulations for large organisations.

Operations research is offered in the Faculty of Economics and Politics as a one-year post-graduate diploma and as a research subject for students in engineering, science, economics, and mathematics.

A forum for prospective students, organised by Professor Nicholas Hastings from the department of Econometrics and Operations Research, will be held in Lecture Theatre 457 (Menzies Building), from 1.15-3.15 pm on Wednesday, September 10.

Mr Dudley Foster, Operations Research Manager for the Shell Company of Australia will be among representatives from the Australian Society for Operations Research who will be available to give brief presentations and answer questions. Inquiries should be made to Professor Hastings, ext. 2441.
**Furtheing the study of Malaysian law**

For Australians, recent events have brought Malaysian law and its constitution into focus in a dramatic way — but the two countries have a more enduring legal connection than the fate of drug traffickers.

Some years ago, Tun Mohamed Suffian, then Lord President of the Federal Court of Malaysia, co-operated with Monash academics Francis Trindade and H.P. (Hoong Phun) Lee in the editing of a book about his country's constitution.


Acting Professor Trindade and Dr Lee, both of the Monash Law School, have now produced a second volume, The Constitution of Malaysia — Further Perspectives and Developments, at the invitation of the now-retired Tun Suffian.

This second volume of essays, also published by Oxford University Press, has been dedicated to Tun Mohamed Suffian in recognition of his work in developing the constitutional law of Malaysia.

In a foreword to the first book, Tun Suffian said: "The idea of compiling this book was conceived — of all places — in the Law Faculty of Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, by Professor Francis Trindade and Dr H. P. Lee, whose love is constitutional law."

"Living in far-away Australia they see more sharply than those living in Malaysia that our constitutional developments during the first two decades merit examination and study." The second volume deals with topics not covered in the first, and with other areas which have seen considerable development in the past few years.

In a tribute to Tun Suffian, co-editors Trindade and Lee say the constitution continues to remain alive and workable in no small measure due to the contributions of this fourth Lord President.

"Not only did he hold the highest judicial office for eight of the last 28 years, but he also influenced the development of the Malaysian Constitution in a very significant way during the entire period."

The contributors, who include many people involved in Malaysian decision-making processes, have agreed that royalties should be used to establish the Suffian Public Lecture Fund. About $20,000 has already been collected from earlier royalties and through donations from Oxford University Press and the Kuok Foundation.

This will pay for a public lecture every second year on the topic of constitutional law, as well as a yearly award for the University of Malaya student with the highest mark in constitutional law.

Both Monash authors have an abiding interest in Malaysian constitutional law; Dr Lee, a native of Penang, did his LL.M. at the University of Malaya after obtaining an LL.B at the University of Singapore.

Professor Trindade has lectured on Malaysian and Singapore constitutional law at the University of Singapore.

Mr Tun Suffian recently became the first Asian to be appointed a Judge of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organisation, replacing Lord Devlin of Britain.

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**An English view of Chinese mathematics**

Two Monash mathematicians have completed a translation of the history of Chinese Mathematics from Chinese into English.

"We wished to maintain the Chinese flavor and translated the work accordingly," said Professor John Crossley, who worked on the translation of Chinese Mathematics: A Concise History with Dr Anthony Lun.

In a foreword to the book, Sir Joseph Needham said mathematics was a universal language which any trained person was capable of understanding.

The Chinese had recognised this and prepared for it.

"The characters of their written script have exactly the same meaning, no matter how you pronounce them — and in some dialects the pronunciation might be very strange," he wrote.

This had partly arisen because mathematics in China had developed very early but such development was to be expected in view of the advanced nature of astronomy in China.

"If China developed no Euclidean deductive geometry, there was plenty of empirical geometry there; and if one thinks of the crystalline celestial sphere, one might argue that Europe had more than was good for it," Sir Joseph wrote.

Perhaps, like the ancient Babylonians, the Chinese always preferred algebraic methods; indeed, by the 13th century they were the best algebraists in the world.

His own work was done from the viewpoint of a sympathetic westerner, rather than through the eyes of a Chinese person.

The book was written in the 1930s by Li Yan (a noted Chinese mathematics historian, who died in 1961) and one of his students, Du Shiran.

The book was originally written in the 1930s by Li Yan (the most noted Chinese mathematics historian, who died in 1963) and one of his students, Du Shiran.

It covers the history of Chinese mathematics from its beginnings a few thousand years ago to the early 1900s.

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**Apex helps to fight cot death**

- Mr Graeme Aspinall, centre, from Apex, presents the Dean of Medicine, Professor Graeme Schofield, with a cheque for more than $20,000, a quarter of the Apex Foundation Trust's contribution this year to the Monash Faculty of Medicine. Miss Rosemary Horne was also present at the ceremony on behalf of staff from the Centre for Early Human Development at the Queen Victoria Medical Centre, where the money will be used to continue research into Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Photo — Trevor Zylstra.
Hand-drawn pages make Flora unique

The photographs at left and bottom right show illustrations which were hand-drawn last century on the blank, interleaved pages of the variant 19-volume *Flora Australiensis* discovered in the Monash University Library. (See story page 1). The set of volumes contains many hundreds of drawings and paintings, with artists’ comments and hand-written notes from botanists, including Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. (See below). He collaborated with English botanist, George Bentham, to produce the original 7-volume *Flora*. Some volumes from the variant set, now held in the Rare Books room at the Main Library, are shown at right. The oval picture, centre, shows Mueller’s Botanical Gardens, taken from an 1890s *Album of Melbourne*.

Gardens owe much to Baron von Mueller

The Melbourne Botanical Gardens owe a lot to their first director, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, who was appointed in 1857 and immediately established the National Herbarium.

Mueller, who later helped write the major botanical work, *Flora Australiensis* (see separate story), quickly established relations with similar institutions throughout the world, arranged plant exchanges, extended the area of the gardens and encouraged native vegetation.

He had earlier been appointed first Government Botanist for Victoria and held the two posts concurrently.

German-born Mueller (1825-1896) arrived in Adelaide from Holstein in December, 1857, and moved to Melbourne in 1852.

He made exploratory and collecting trips to most parts of Australia, and from 1858 to 1882 produced the 12 volumes of *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* (in Latin), published by the Victorian Government.

In 1861, Mueller was made a Fellow of the Royal Society and about the same time he agreed to collaborate with British botanist, George Bentham on the writing of a systematic monograph with full descriptions of Australian flora.

He provided most of the 7000 specimens for *Flora Australiensis*, either from his own travels (more than 35,000km) or from collections entrusted to him.

In identifying these, he differed on many counts with the opinions expressed by Bentham, who wrote: 'There are many forms which I have adopted as species which Dr Mueller is disposed to reduce.

"Wherever there is a difference of opinion between Dr Mueller and myself, I have adopted the conclusion which has appeared to me the most probable, and mentioned the objection to it for the consideration and, if possible, the decision of future botanists.

One of Mueller’s hand-written notes in the 19-volume Flora supports this discord: "I do not see the remarkable reticulation of the leaves", he has written, in reference to Bentham’s text on the opposite page.
Testing the waters

Professor Bruce Morton from the department of Mathematics is pictured, above, with the new 10-metre flow tank being built in the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory. It will be used in a continuing program of tests on flowing water, and specifically to test the effects of water flow around bridge piers. (See story page 1).

The tank is one of a number of channels and other receptacles used in Professor Morton's work. It is expected to be operating before the end of the year.

Construction was financed initially by a Monash University Special Research Grant, and later through the Australian Research Grants Scheme.

The time-exposure pictures at right and below show how research is done in this field. They show flow patterns of light reflected off mica particles added to the water — the faster the flow the longer the stripes of light.

At right, water is being driven vertically through a heated section of pipe (between the collars) but the fluid at the centre top is almost stationary. This is an effect of buoyancy, where hot fluid near the pipe walls interacts with colder fluid from the centre to significantly reduce the heat transfer from walls to fluid.

The picture below, taken in a flow channel, shows that water moves more slowly in the vortices. Engineers have believed faster-flowing water in vortices causes foundation erosion, but it is apparent in this photo that water flows faster as it prepares to enter the vortex (brighter image) and slower within (dark area).
Putting PSZ through the toughness test

The toughening processes of a new wonder ceramic developed by the CSIRO are being studied in a joint project by Monash and CSIRO staff.

The material, PSZ (partially stabilised zirconia) could be extremely important for Victoria as it appears to have great commercial potential, says one of the researchers, Dr Barry Muddle, a senior lecturer in Materials Engineering.

It could be used in die manufacture, and had also been proposed as the material of choice to construct a more efficient diesel engine which would be able to run at much higher temperatures without lubrication or cooling.

PSZ was one of the main incentives behind the recently announced Victorian government initiatives in advanced materials technology, Dr Muddle said.

Together with Dr Richard Hannink of the CSIRO, he is studying the microstructure of PSZ and planning a detailed study of the way samples are prepared for the electron microscope using the latest equipment.

The project began informally and has just received recognition with an $11,000 grant from the CSIRO/Monash University Collaborative Research Fund.

Sixteen grants totalling $120,000 were awarded for 1986/87 to support projects being undertaken jointly by Monash departments and CSIRO divisions.

• Dr Barry Muddle, left, and Dr Richard Hannink in front of the electron microscope they are using to study the toughening processes of PSZ.

Education journal gets brave new look

The History of Education Review has been given a facelift in a bid to increase its international market.

The changes were brought at Monash by Professor Richard Whishaw and Dr Marjorie Theobald from the Education Faculty.

They are now joint editors of this twice-yearly journal produced by the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society.

"The society decided articles were of international standard but the format lacked a contemporary appearance," Dr Theobald said.

Changes include an expanded layout, more book reviews and a new cover design featuring different illustrations.

Libraries and institutions in Britain, Canada, Japan, the US and a few European countries subscribe to the journal.

"In past years articles have been a little parochial but we are trying to find a balance between local and international contributions," Dr Theobald said.

"The subject matter is changing and we hope this will encourage general historians as well as education researchers to contribute and subscribe.

The Australian Academy of Science is inviting applications for the 1987/88 exchange program with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Proposals in any field of natural science will be considered but low priority will be given to proposals where the primary purpose is to attend conferences.

Senior scientists may apply for short-term lecture tours or fact-finding visits. Long-term post-doctoral fellowships to carry on work for the period of the scheme between October 1986 and December 1987 are invited to discuss their interest with Associate Professor Walter Veit, department of German, CSU, 2244.

Under an agreement between the Australian and Chinese Governments, a vacancy exists for an Australian teacher of English as a foreign language to take up a tertiary appointment in Shanghai, China, from September 1987 until July 1988.

Applicants must be Australian citizens, qualified and experienced in the teaching of English as a foreign language, preferably at tertiary level. Benefits include economy class travel to and from Shanghai, maintenance allowance, accommodation, some medical expenses and internal travel.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from, The Secretary, Department of Education, (Australia/China Teacher Exchange), P.O. Box 826, Woden, ACT, 2600.

Applications close on September 12.

The Australian Academy of Science is inviting applications for the 1987/88 exchange program with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Proposals in any field of natural science will be considered but low priority will be given to proposals where the primary purpose is to attend conferences. Senior scientists may apply for short-term lecture tours or fact-finding visits. Long-term post-doctoral fellowships to carry on work for the period of the scheme between October 1986 and December 1987 are invited to discuss their interest with Associate Professor Walter Veit, department of German, CSU, 2244.

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Evaluating Major Agricultural Problems in Samut Songkhram Province, Thailand

Environmental Report No 21 (Monash University Graduate School of Environmental Science), by Sittipong Dilokwanich, John Melville, Vivim Prasertpong and Greg Terrana.

The authors of this absorbing monograph were, until recently, graduate students at Monash, working in co-operation with Mahdol University in Thailand.

The study itself was funded by the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges, aided by a grant from the Thai Forestry Department. Dr Tim Ealey, who has ably edited the book for publication, also acknowledges the assistance of 16 other Thai instrumentalities.

Conceived modestly as a "student exercise", the study represents a kind of spin-off from our MA dissertations about Samut Songkhram, prepared earlier by the authors.

Samut Songkhram is a rich, relatively waterlogged province facing the Gulf of Thailand some fifty miles west of Bangkok. The major ecological problem the province faced in the early 1980s was increased salinity in its soil, which led to extensive damage of its most valuable resources, coconut palms and other fruit-bearing trees. While some people in the province benefited from increased salinity (or at least from encroachments of salt water) those further inland found their livelihoods threatened by the change.

After presenting detailed information about the physical geography of Samut Songkhram, the authors go on to discuss demography and traditions of land-use. These pages reveal that continuing out-migration, particularly of young people, combined with high birth-rates, has kept the population of the province fairly steady since the mid-1970s. More than half the land in the province (50.5 per cent) is covered with coconut plantations; prawn farms along the coast cover some 5000 hectares, or 12.5 per cent of the total.

Agricultural issues are examined from several perspectives in a section entitled Social and Physical Survey, 1983, which leads on to a series of recommendations, particularly for extending educational facilities to farmers, so they can cope with developments as they occur, and also the installation of "salt water impermeable boundaries" inland from the coast, at an estimated cost of A$5 million.

Three aspects of the study struck me as particularly praiseworthy. The first is that it is clearly written, meticulously organised, and held my interest. Maps, photographs and charts, scattered through the text, clarify many of the arguments.

Secondly, the study offers insights into a particular region, using investigative skills that could easily be transferred elsewhere. Two Thai experts have been trained at examining their country; two Australians have learned about field work abroad. Finally, these students have clearly benefited from such prolonged co-operation; and so have the two universities involved in sponsoring the book.

But the exercise would be idle if the farmers of the province, who cooperated willingly with the investigations, failed to benefit from the suggestions that have been offered on their behalf. For this reason it is to be hoped that a follow-up study can be made to check on the progress of the province in the remainder of the 1980s.

David Chandler

Prospects for democracy in Indonesia were discussed at a special two-day conference at Monash, convened by Herb Feith of the Politics department and David Chandler, research director of the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies.

The conference, on The Politics of Middle Class Indonesia, was organised in cooperation with Daniel S. Lev of the Political Science department at the University of Washington, who also presented the opening paper.

Two important Indonesian speakers were Abdurrahman Wahid, chairman of Nahdatul Ulama, a large Muslim organisation, and Aswah Mahasin, head of the LPPPES, a Jakarta institute for social and economic research.

"Speaking on Indonesia's Muslim Middle Class, Mr Wahid said the role Islam should play was as an inspirational base for national frameworks of a democratic society," said Dr Feith.

"Prospects for democracy were involved in planting the first trees and planning the sportsfields.

The second David, centre, came to Australia first — in July, 1960 — and started at Monash the following February. He is a carpenter (technical officer) in the Chemistry department and the recipient of the 25-year medalion. David junior — or Wee David as he is known in the family — the 21-year-old grandson of the first and son of the second David, has been a technical assistant in the Chemistry department since April, 1983.

Dave Anderson times three

Three generations of David Andersons — all with a Monash connection — attended the Silver Jubilee Graduation Ceremony, where the son of one and the father of another was presented with a 25-year medalion.

David senior, at left in the picture below right, came to Australia from Scotland in January, 1962. He worked in the Grounds department at Monash from April that year until he retired in 1974, and was one of the people involved in planting the first trees and planning the sportsfields.

The second David, centre, came to Australia first — in July, 1960 — and started at Monash the following February. He is a carpenter (technical officer) in the Chemistry department and the recipient of the 25-year medalion. David junior — or Wee David as he is known in the family — the 21-year-old grandson of the first and son of the second David, has been a technical assistant in the Chemistry department since April, 1983.

The faculty farce

Faculty meetings have discouraged many a university scholar. Here is the philosopher George Santayana reflecting on them at Harvard near the turn of the century. He is quoted in Glimpses of the Harvard Past (Harvard University), by Bernard Bailyn, Donald Fleming, Oscar Handlin and Stephen Thernstrom.

"The faculty meetings were an object lesson to me in the futility of parliamen­

tary institutions. Those who spoke spoke badly, with imperfect knowledge of the matter in hand, and simply to air their prejudices. The rest hardly listened. If there was a vote, it revealed not the results of the debate, but the previous and settled sentiments of the voters. The uselessness and the poor quality of the whole performance were so evident that it surprised me to see that so many intelligent men — for they were intelligent when doing their special work — should tamely waste so much time in keeping up the farce."

— University of Canterbury Chronicle

Participants in the conference, from left, Aswah Mahasin, David Chandler and Daniel Lev, discussed by Ulf Sundhaussen of the University of Queensland, and R. William Liddle of Ohio State University.

Papers presented at the conference will be edited into a volume by Daniel Lev, Richard Tanter (Monash) and Ken Young (department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University).
Doing snogging: a seminal view

Author's Note: 'Snogging' is British juvenile argot for low-profile, high-intensity, dyadic interaction. The research of which this paper is a part was supported by Air Force grant no. 9995.

The central recommendation of the following is that the proper brief of sociological inquiry is not the arid systematics of formalistic neo-Paronsonian positivism, in which that which should be the proper brief of sociological-enquiry is taken-for-granted; but, rather that snogging - far from being the monistic, role-specific cultural reification that sociologists of the past three generations have taken as the unreflective cultural residuum of life-as-usual - is an ongoing, artful, negotiation of nonspecific role eruptions.

What more proof is required that a hundred years of sociology has mistaken the explanans for the explanandum?

Method of Research

The aid of graduate students was enlisted to test the basic theoretical infrastructure of the problematic, as well as the long-standing professional curiosity of the author and some of his similarly inclined colleagues, to wit, generations of unscrupulous ingestion of sociological positivism has lent - on the social construction of reality thesis - a verisimilitude to everyday lexical items that - unsubstantiated in roles - gives them a veneer of veracity that - on the surface - supports the formalistic assertions of 'normal' sociology. In other words, for the reasons that we have outlined and critically disposed of above, orthodox sociological theory appears, to the unreflective sociologist, to be true.

Example of a Protocol

With the aid of the research grant already mentioned, it was possible to assemble video tape equipment, a parking lot, some cars and several inquiring graduate students. Following is an abbreviated excerpt of just one session in which the poverty of the accepted orthodoxy position was demonstrated.

Snogger = XY
Snoggee = XX

XY, 1.111. Humm!
XX, 1.111. Eh?
XY, 1.112. Com'ere!
XX, 1.112. What's up?
XY, 1.121. Here?
XX, 1.221. Whoocith!
(Chant. Bluste.)
XY, 1.121. Careful!
XX, 1.211. Hai!
(Scrape. Chant.)
XX, 2.112. There's my friend... er...with camera.

Conclusion

The shortfall of functional imperativistic sociological theory's ability to comprehend the emergent mechanics of this ongoingly negotiated piece of social interaction becomes obvious in a 1:1 correlation with the apparent - but as far as the deep structure of the interaction is concerned, spurious - normality of the unfolding dramaturgical throughput. In other words, there was more to this brief interaction than would be visible to the 'normal' reader of most of our acceptable sociological journals.

The conclusion of such preliminary research is to us as profound as it is simple. A thoroughgoing and complete revolution is called for in our approach to so-called sociological problems. A mere ninety degree turn left or right would be no more than a quarter of the reorientation that is our central recommendation. A little more or less than this would merely render the questions more obscure and their solution more acute, respectively. The time for combating tautologies is past. Tomorrow's sociological theory will turn full cycle from the orthodoxy of today - it will be revolutionary sociology!

NOTES

1. See Karl Glotz, 'Ethnoepidemiology and the Negotiation of Sexuality on a Rural California Campus' (unpublished).


3. My neologism for the unreflective axiological base and taken-for-granted of a theoretical body.


6. By 'normal' sociology, I mean the pre-paradigm variety which, when compared to the history of the theoretical revolutions, belies its claim to the status of a paradigm. (See Gad Flyburg, 'Introduction to Critical and Relaxed Sociological Theory'.)


8. 360 degrees

9. A phenomenologically grounded sociology has no political axes to grind.

- Ross McLeod

Musicale first for Halls

The Mayor of Oakleigh, Councillor James Hargrave, speaks with Ingrid Burke (soprano) after the first Halls' musicale, held last week to coincide with the end of the Roberts Hall art exhibition. Pictured with them are Gill Wood (pianist), Tung Ngoc Ngh (violonist) and Carolyn O'Brien (soprano), the Wardens of Roberts Hall.

Also performing in the program of classical works for violin, piano and voice was baritone Soong Chung Wai.

The musicale, organised by Ingrid Burke and Carolyn O'Brien, was the first in a proponent series which will help to make the Halls more accessible to the public, said Roberts Hall Warden, Dr Terry O'Brien.

Nearly 600 people visited the art exhibition, opened by Professor Margaret Plant, of the Visual Arts department following the second Tom Roberts Lecture the previous week.

Works came from the combined collections of the City of Oakleigh and the Clayton Arts Council. It was the first time the city had co-operated with the University in such a venture, and the first time the total collection of the city's paintings had been catalogued and displayed, Dr O'Brien said.

Councillor Hargrave closed the exhibition at an afternoon tea organised by the City of Oakleigh, Dr O'Brien told the Deputy Mayor, Mrs Joyce McGill, who is president of the Clayton Arts Council, was also involved in organising the exhibition.

$5000 from Parents' art sale

The Chancellor, Sir George Lush, opened the Monash University Parents' Group Jubilee Art Exhibition and Sale at Roberts Blackwood Hall last month.

More than $5000 raised from entry fees, sale of catalogues and commission will be given to the university for the library and for purchase of student equipment.

The works, collectively valued at $16,000, included 193 paintings and 23 ceramics. Many of the 18 artists represented attended the opening of the two-day event.

Parents Group president, Mrs Elizabeth Orr, organised the exhibition with the help of her husband, Robert, who set up all the displays.

Commission was paid direct by the artists who included John Downton, Michael McCarthy, David K. Taylor, Peter Hawthorn, Donald Cameron, Robert T. Miller, Judith Wills (Connard), Eric Minchen, Ernie Trebath, Charles Bock, Wesley Penberthy, Ben Shearer, Paul Margoczy, and ceramicist Merylene Pearce.

LETTERS

Road runners at risk

A number of drivers have reported to the Safety Committee white faced and shaking after close encounters with joggers and runners on campus roads.

Invariably the runners have appeared suddenly out of winter's gloom, apparently oblivious to their surroundings.

There have been no accidents, but there have been some very close calls.

If accidents are to be avoided, joggers and runners must accept some of the responsibility for their own safety.

Two very old slogans are worth remembering: be seen, be safe.

Look before you leap. Especially before leaping onto the road from behind bushes or between parked cars.

Runners, please exercise road sense at all times. It is in your own interest in the long run.

Alan Wilson, Safety Officer

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Jangling coins make music

- Noted Vietnamese music scholar, Tran Quang Hai, plays the coin clappers while his wife, Bach Yen, sings at a lunchtime workshop in the Music department's auditorium. Tran Quang Hai teaches at the Musee de L'Homme in Paris. During his Monash performance, he also played the dan tranh, a 16-string instrument with origins in the Chinese zither. Photo — Tony Miller.

- The University Bookshop sale began yesterday. There are thousands of bargains and titles added daily.

Ready reference to Law School theses

The Law Faculty has marked the university's jubilee and its own 22nd anniversary with the publication of a guidebook titled Thesis and Research Publications 1964-1985. The book lists works by Ph.D, L.L.M., and LL.B Honors students of the Law School, research reports by members of staff and publications written jointly with people from outside Monash. It provides a ready reference for researchers and it will be regularly updated.

CONFINING
OF
DEGREES 1987

Applications to Graduate are now available from the Students Records Office, University Offices for Bachelor degree candidates in their final year who expect to qualify for their degree at the 1986 annual examinations and who wish to graduate at a ceremony in 1987. Applications should be lodged by Monday, September 1, 1986.

Students in those faculties in which honors are taken in an additional year who intend to proceed to honors should not complete an Application to Graduate until August in their honors year. If the honors year is subsequently abandoned an Application to Graduate with the pass degree should be lodged forthwith.

IMPORTANT DATES

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in August:
1. Application to Graduate Forms are now available from Student Records for Bachelor degree candidates in their final year who expect to qualify for their degree at the forthcoming annual examinations and who wish to have their degree conferred at a graduation ceremony in 1987. Bachelor degree candidates must apply to have their degrees conferred. Forms should be lodged at Student Records by the beginning of third term.
2. Third Term begins for Medicine VI for it to be classified as failed. In exceptional circumstances the dean may approve the discontinuance of a subject or unit that is continued until the end of the appropriate teaching period.
3. Second Term begins for Medicine I, II and III.
4. Second Term ends for Medicine I, II and III.
7. First Term ends for Medicine IV.
8. Examinations commence Medicine III.
10. Second Term ends for Medical Science IV.

ANZAAS calls for papers

Papers are invited for the 56th ANZAAS congress, to be held at Palmerston North, New Zealand from January 26-30 next year. The congress will have as its theme Science in a changing society and it will be divided into nine "interest groups" including social, physical, community and education sciences, and a Youth ANZAAS.

British, American and Australian speakers have already accepted invitations to address congress sessions.

Those interested in presenting papers should contact the Administrative Secretary, 56th ANZAAS Congress, P.O. Box 5158, Palmerston North, New Zealand for program details.

Space: The last frontier

Dr Eric Jones, a Fellow at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the United States, will give a talk on Lunar Settlement: Frontier Thoughts, sponsored by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and ANZAAS.

The talk, about human aspects of space development, will be held at Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, Parkville at 7.30 pm on Thursday, August 7.

Inquiries should be directed to Mr Alain Grossbard, SEC Education Officer, on 615 2766.

SHELL POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS 1987

For higher degree studies in Arts, Engineering and Science in the UK. Benefits include living costs, tuition and other allowances, plus return fare. Applications close in Melbourne on September 30, 1986. Inquiries to Clive Vernon, Graduate Scholarships Officer, ext. 2009.
With green eyes flashing...

It was the Day of the Dragon for a group of young schoolchildren recently when they enjoyed the results of a creative project by residents at the Monash Halls.

Four dragons — three movable and one in kite form — were built for the Chinese New Year competition, and demonstrated to visitors from the Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children.

The winning dragon breathed fire, flashed its green eyes and was a threatening five metres long. It danced to Chinese music with the help of a few human participants.

The fascinated children investigated all the dragons, heard dragon stories and sang dragon songs.

Roberts Hall warden, Dr Trudy O'Brien, said the Dragon Day was part of a conscious effort to include the community in the Halls of Residence's activities.

All the creations were donated to the Krongold Centre afterwards.

Top: It was a great day for kites, and the children saw this one in action. Right: Jake McCarthy, Matthew Gait and Sym Jackson have a lot of fun playing in the "jaws of death". Below: This mighty movable dragon kept the children intrigued. Photos — Richard Crompton.

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