

financial effect". Let us hope however that the cutbacks and cost analyses do not prevent the future writing of such mellow and witty autobiographies as that contained in *To be a printer*.

Colin Steele,
The Australian National University Library.

A Short-title catalogue of sixteenth century printed books held in libraries and private collections in New South Wales. Compiled by John Fletcher and Rose Smith, Sydney, The Library Council of New South Wales, 1979. pp.[vi], viii, 230. \$8.00.

This modestly priced and produced catalogue is a welcome addition to a small but growing collection of guides to early printed books held in Australia and New Zealand. In 1966 the Public Library of New South Wales published H.G. Kaplan's *A First census of incunabula in Australia and New Zealand*. As a pioneering work it brought attention to the range of fifteenth century printed books in the two countries. Likewise, the publication of John Fletcher and Rose Smith's catalogue marks a step forward in our knowledge of the holdings of sixteenth century books which have found their way into the libraries and private collections of New South Wales. This localised catalogue, prepared and published in less than four years, presents a range of library resources in the state which will benefit scholars in the years to come.

The catalogue records 1,988 titles from thirty-one public, university, and other institutional libraries and twenty-two private collections. The most important and substantial holdings are at the Mitchell Library, the State Library of New South Wales, St. Patrick's College at Manly and the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney. Professor A.J. Dunston of Sydney University, with his twenty-eight books, has the largest private collection.

The British Museum series of short title catalogues of the fifteenth and sixteenth century for specific languages are the guiding models for this catalogue. The titles are arranged in alphabetical order of 'author' headings. Bibliographical detail is kept succinct though informative: short title, place of publication, name of printer or publisher where known, date of publication, format, and present location or locations. In most entries no collation is given and when required only a simplistic number of parts or the number of distinct volumes. Following the titles the compilers have given an admirable range of lists and indexes: an index to printers, publishers and booksellers, places of printing, proper names (excluding printers, publishers, booksellers) and provenances. These are all extremely useful

aids to the scholar and show the thoroughness and care with which John Fletcher and Rose Smith have prepared this work.

John Fletcher in his *Short title catalogue of German imprints in Australia from 1501 to 1800*, and more recently in *The Book Collector* (vol. 29, No. 2); 'The Library of St Patrick's College, Manly', has already publicised the strong holdings of sixteenth century Reformation pamphlets to be found in Sydney. So it is with no great surprise to find that 277 titles of Reformation material dominate the contents of this sixteenth century catalogue. Two authors who give the catalogue not only quantity of items but also depth are Martin Luther and Philipp Melancthon. There is also a large number of histories: six titles by Francesco Guicciardini and Holinshed's *Chronicles* are amongst the varied 212 items. Bibles as one would expect are in large numbers. But other subjects are well represented: the classics by the main Greek and Latin authors; English literature, to take a few examples, by four Chaucer titles and a 1596 volume of Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* printed by Richard Field; Italian literature by Petrarch, Dante, Boccaccio, Ariosto and Tasso. This only gives a glimpse at the wide range of materials that the catalogue now makes accessible.

The list of provenances provided at the end of this book is an invaluable aid to anyone interested in the history of book collecting in Australia. But, other interesting finds are in store in this list: John Dee's copy of Johann Mueller's *Tabulae directionum profectionumque non tam astrologiae* . . ., 1548, Dante Gabriel Rossetti's copy of Boccaccio's *Amorosa visione* . . ., 1549, and Maurice Hewlett's copy of Dante's *L'amoroso convivio* . . ., 1531, to take three examples.

Finally, it remains to thank John Fletcher and Rose Smith for compiling this catalogue which will not only provide librarians and specialist scholars with an extremely useful tool, but also give those interested access to some of the printed works of Renaissance Europe. As the introduction suggests, 'this work may be seen as one of the opening shots of the EIP's ambitious and far-reaching campaign'.

John Hetet,
Alexander Turnbull Library,
Wellington.

Margaret Harris. *A Checklist of the "Three-Decker" Collection in the University of Sydney Library*. Sydney, Department of English and the Library of the University of Sydney, 1980. pp.ix, 340. ISBN 0 86758 034 8. \$10.00.

This well-produced *Checklist*, the result of several years of work, draws attention

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