

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

to the valuable collection of nineteenth-century fiction published in English acquired by the University of Sydney Library from the Dorking bookseller C.C. Kohler in 1975-77. The collection consists of nearly sixteen hundred titles — almost all in their first English edition — published in more than one volume between 1800 and 1900. Although including titles by such major figures as Scott, George Eliot and Trollope, the collection is chiefly made up of works by minor writers. As Dr Harris points out in her Preface,

only one in four of the authors represented in the collection figures in the *New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature, 1800-1900* (ed. George Watson, 1969), and about the same proportion appears in Michael Sadleir's *XIX Century Fiction* (2 vols., 1951). (p.v)

Hence, since the *Checklist* also lists thirty-two titles not included in the British Library catalogue, its value as a guide to the byways of nineteenth-century English fiction will be readily perceived.

The *Checklist* is clearly and concisely set out, with the main entries arranged alphabetically according to the name under which the author published. Extensive cross-referencing allows for the inclusion of all known pseudonyms or variations of name. For each author, titles in the collection are itemized according to date of publication; besides the standard bibliographical details, other editions held by Fisher Library are indicated. As well, the main entry for each author includes a short-title list of Fisher Library's other holdings of titles by, and works about, the particular author.

Besides the main numbered listing of the 1597 titles in the "Three-Decker" collection, Dr Harris has included two very useful appendices. The first, a chronological list of titles in the collection, lists the titles published in each year from 1800 to 1898. This will be of considerable help to anyone studying the fiction of a particular period of the nineteenth century or wishing to set individual works within their broader literary context. It is, for example, instructive to note that that Australian classic, Henry Kingsley's *The Recollections of Geoffry Hamlyn*, appeared in the same year, 1859, as two very different novels, George Eliot's *Adam Bede* and George Meredith's *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel*.

Appendix II is an alphabetical list of titles in the collection, keyed to the number of the main entry. Anyone who has worked on bookselling or bookcollecting in the nineteenth century will have experienced the frustration of trying to track down the authors of novels listed in advertisements and catalogues or mentioned in letters and diaries by title alone. This appendix, limited to titles in the "Three-Decker" collection, will not provide all the answers but will still prove useful, especially for titles not included in the British Library catalogue.

It is to be hoped that Dr Harris's *Checklist* will inspire others to produce similarly thorough guides to the often underused special collections of Australian

libraries. At a time when postgraduate student numbers are growing and opportunities for overseas research diminishing, it is good to be reminded of the resources available within Australia. As Dr Harris notes, the Fisher Library holdings she has made so readily accessible, combined with those of the New South Wales State Library, “together make available in Sydney a high proportion of the notional forty thousand works of fiction published in English in the course of the nineteenth century.” (p.v).

Two hundred and fifty copies of the *Checklist* have been printed and are available from the General Office, Department of English, University of Sydney, N.S.W., 2006.

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