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DIETRICH BORCHARDT

AT THE END OF 1981 Dietrich Borchardt retired from the post of Chief Librarian he had held at LaTrobe University since its foundation in 1965. For many people, and for bibliographers in particular, Dietrich Borchardt was LaTrobe University, so it is peculiarly fitting that that institution decided to mark its appreciation of our former President's massive contribution to its establishment years by calling the intellectual centrepiece of its campus the Borchardt Library. To add to the pleasure this gave his friends in the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand came the public recognition of his work through an Order of Australia award made on Australia Day 1982. With the exception of John Ferguson's knighthood it is hard to think of other examples in this country of imperial or national honours being bestowed for achievements largely or exclusively in the domain covered by our Society.

Nothing could be more inappropriate at this stage of Dietrich's activities than a valedictory or an inevitably lengthy statement of what he has done for librarianship and bibliography in Australia, New Zealand and a number of developing countries. Some responsibilities have been shed, others — like the Editorship of *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, which he founded in 1970 — are being kept, and others again have been taken on in the new freedom of retirement from administrative chores, notably the major role in producing the *Historical Bibliography* volume of *Australia 1788-1988: a Bicentennial History*. We are glad that, after chairing the Society's Publications Committee since 1969, he has agreed to continue as a member of the reconstituted Committee and to give us the benefit of his experience in vetting and encouraging bibliographical work. Rosemary Polya's recent and deservedly praised *Nineteenth Century Plant Nursery Catalogues of South-East Australia: a Bibliography* (LaTrobe University Library, Library Publication no. 24, 1981) is a good example of the way Dietrich has stimulated his associates to chart neglected areas where the bibliographer and the social historian can meet. That that energy, critical acumen and disdain for

the exaggerated politeness with which Australians too often greet shoddy products from home and abroad are to continue to be available to our Society is a matter for considerable satisfaction. We look forward confidently to the fruits of a fresh phase of what has already been an outstanding career.

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