

is given in full) on philological matters, written in old age to his daughter, outlining his theory of cognate relationships ('beware of down-worn words. . . Shemetic speech is built in a far different way, from Root-frames of 3 clippings'). Michael L. Turner describes his own copy of the 'second and cheap edition' (June 1930) of Edmund Blunden's *Undertones of war*, which bears a presentation inscription to Richard Cobden-Sanderson and contains compositorial markings which seem to indicate that it was used as copy for the third edition, published in November of that year. Time and again we are reminded that the bibliographical by-ways pursued in *The Warden's meeting* are no more diverse than the interests reflected by the books on the Warden's own shelves.

Several contributors merely describe simple delights which they owe to Mr Sparrow's influence. Elizabeth Knowles, a recent Officer of the Society, was first introduced to Charlotte Mew's poetry at a Warden's meeting, while Helen Peters describes the pursuit and eventual acquisition of her first vellum-bound book after being awed by the Warden's shelves of vellum. Taken individually, these and a number of the other essays, are very slight contributions to bibliographical knowledge; together, they add up to a warm tribute to scholarship at its most humane.

The collection ends with a remarkable forty-page chronological check-list, compiled by Dennis E. Rhodes and Simon Rendall, of Mr Sparrow's published writings, embracing many branches of scholarship and public affairs and beginning with his edition of Donne's *Devotions*, published when he was a sixteen-year-old schoolboy at Winchester. In accordance with what unfortunately seems to be customary practice, the list was compiled without Mr Sparrow's collaboration, and presented to him as a surprise, so that it is almost certain to be incomplete even down to its cut-off date — and it is already notably out-of-date. The contributors to *The Warden's meeting* (which has been advertised unofficially as limited to two hundred copies, though the book itself contains no limitation notice), along with innumerable others, many of whom have known the Warden only distantly, will hope that his retirement will be fruitful of many addenda.

Trevor Mills,
State Library of Victoria,
Melbourne.

NIALL, Brenda. *Martin Boyd*. Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 1977. (Australian Bibliographies) \$4.50.

The first question to ask of any bibliography is: For whom is it intended? The answer to this will determine the standard of bibliographical description required, though the standard of accuracy should not vary between the list of pony-books for a children's library and the *Soho Bibliographies* published by Rupert Hart-Davis. Both these types of bibliography are for people who are only interested in the works *by* an author, in

the one case readers of a specific type of story, and in the other collectors of an author's works.

The *Australian Bibliographies* are intended rather for students, probably at university level, and in the case of the two author bibliographies so far published, even at Honours or Master's level. In the bibliography of Martin Boyd the first fifth of the book is taken up with listing the author's works: first books, then contributions to periodicals and collected works, and finally manuscripts. The descriptions of the books are careful to note such points as revised texts and titles differing between editions, but there is no discussion of different bindings and similar physical points which add little to the information necessary to the critic as distinct from the collector but much to the time and labour of the compiler. This section lists a number of unrecorded works by Boyd, the largest of which is 'Walter Beckett's' *Dearest Idol*.¹ The other four-fifths of the book are taken up with references to biographical and critical material, and the critical material is subdivided, as is customary in Australian bibliographies, into General, and Specific Works. The fact that these critical articles are not further subdivided into "Full reviews" and "Shorter references", and that the author has striven for comprehensiveness even to the point of including foreign-language material, suggests that these bibliographies are aimed at the higher levels of university students; undergraduates now expect to be handed a pre-chosen list of not more than five "best" critical articles. A subject arrangement like this is clearly the most informative, especially when the sub-arrangement in the sections is by date, as here, and not by author's surname, but it must be complemented by a good index. Niall's index is good, though it could have been better if the rows of numbers referring to the individual entries under the larger headings (e.g. periodical titles) could have been broken up as they are under "BA".

A check of the bibliography against the card file of the 'Bibliographical Index' in the Fryer Library, in order to dispose of unnecessary cards, revealed a number of gaps in that index, and two discrepancies in page numbering, probably because a different edition of the newspaper had been used; Niall's page number, however, was the more practically useful in both cases because it matched the page number in the microfilm. The Fryer index has two June 1975 references which are not in the book: Graeme Kinross Smith's 'Martin Boyd' in *Westerly*, pp.33-37, and Susan Harris' 'Five by five: an educational sampling' in the [Adelaide] *A.L.S. Working Papers*, pp.54-64, which discusses *A Difficult Young Man* among other books dealing with their authors' schooldays.

As the preface reminds us, this is the last bibliography that Grahame Johnston was able to edit for the series, and the three volumes which have appeared are a monument to his work and his standards. We must hope that Oxford University Press can find another editor capable of carrying on the series at this very high standard.

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Fryer Library,
University of Queensland.

1. Terence O'Neill and Brenda Niall discuss 'Walter Beckett' and further unpublished (?) novels by Martin Boyd in the May 1978 number of *Australian Literary Studies*, pp.366-371.

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Martin Boyd (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1977). Revised edition. Seven little billabongs: the world of Ethel Turner and Mary Grant Bruce (Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1979). Republished in 1982. Brenda Niall assisted by Frances O'Neill, Australia through the looking-glass: children's fiction 1830-1980 (Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1984). Brenda Niall and John Thompson (eds.), The Oxford book of Australian letters (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1998). Republished in 1999. Jane Austen by Claire Tomalin (Melbourne: Dept. of Discussion Services, Council of Adult Education, 1999). The Boyds: a family biography (Victoria, Australia: Miegunyah Press, Melbourne University Press, 2002). Republished in 2003.