

by Miss Woodhouse in her article) bespoke in a more general context the end of an era. But Heenan, too, had his blind spots; the tidying up of the Turnbull Library, getting it a reasonable minimal post-depression staff and funds was a straight administrative job; when the Librarian had helped him do this the Librarian would be ready to do other things, hence the curious and anomalous involvement of that person in film censoring which persisted for some twenty years. A decade later for example, we find one almost testy frustrated comment from the kindest of colleagues: 'I have made several attempts to get you on the telephone but always seem to strike one of the days when you are busy with films . . .'⁶⁰

Meanwhile things continued to look up; in 1936 there was even direct ordering from publishers – an almost revolutionary step, and a little earlier a very bold decision to place a subscription for Sotheby's auction catalogues. The Library could never catch up with Sydney but it might manage not to get further behind.

The showing of visitors round the building was another of the last Andersen ditches to be filled if not to the top at least to within a few inches. In February 1936 the Librarian wrote to the Under-Secretary reporting that there had been over 300 visitors during January. '[they] get from half an hour to two hours or more according to the interest shewn by them'.⁶¹ In future, exhibition cases would reduce if not yet eliminate this time-consuming chore and reduce unnecessary handling of the Library's treasures – And the culminating short-term triumph of the new order: Taylor as Acting Librarian reported on 30 September 1936: 'Since I have had the door open (in the last six weeks or so) many people have been encouraged to visit the Library.'⁶²

With the formal retirement of Andersen at the end of the year and the appointment of Taylor as his successor the new order became fully effective. There was, slowly, more staff, improved routines; indexes even, for things that no one had thought of using before; better cataloguing – but why did it have to be the multigraph – improved acquisitions for which there was almost but not quite a policy; more exciting manuscripts. Although the stimulus of centennial-induced research was offset by the threat and actuality of war the ground gained was substantially held until 1945.

Are we to sum up; to pronounce on trends? Was the seeming neglect only one of ignorance or national poverty and not of jealousy or malevolence? In modern parlance was there at some point a 'crisis of confidence' in Johannes Carl Andersen, this antipodean polymath – who in a number of his activities we feel strongly has been undervalued – and hence indifference to his institution? Perhaps there were occasions (little touched on in these notes) when he appears confused about priorities in his various interests. The presumption of judgement,