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*Through the Opera Glass - A Chronological Register of Opera Performed in South Australia 1836-1988*, Adelaide, Friends of the Opera of South Australia 1991, 369p.

The data provided in this book was compiled by a large group of volunteers connected with the Opera of South Australia. Robyn Holmes was editor and Kathleen Steele Scott was project coordinator. The bulk of the book is a register of the operas produced, with title, composer, producer, conductor, designer, but, strangely, no casts for individual operas. If there were two conductors on the roster, both are listed. However, the names of the singers comprising each of the various companies who performed there are provided. Indices, including, but not limited to singers and operas are also given.

Even without casts, the scope of the information is overwhelming. But the lack of casts is frustrating to the researcher. Thus, while it is nice to know that stars like Toti Dal Monte, Nino Piccaluga, Francesco Merli and Apollo Granforte sang there in 1924 and/or 1928, it would have been nicer to know what operas they sang (an exception is made for Nellie Melba). Alison Cyger's *Opera in the Antipodes*, published in 1990, can help in this regard. It gives full casts for Melbourne, but, while it provides no dates or operas for Adelaide, does indicate cast changes from those given in Melbourne.

Considering the extent of the information that this volume does provide, it is hard to conceive that a collector of chronologies or a researcher into the history of opera in far-flung places would want to be without it.

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