

to have a life-span of only five to ten years.

It is hoped that in the future archivists will become increasingly aware of the social importance of tourism and recreation and allocate some space on their shelves for pertinent raw materials.

RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN McLELLAN

On 31 October 1960 Mr. John McLellan resigned from his position as Archivist in the Archives Department of the Public Library of S.A. Mr. McLellan joined the administrative staff of the old Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery Board as far back as 1915 and continued in this office until 1936 when he took up an appointment as a librarian in the Public Library. 1936 was the Centenary of South Australia and such an occasion naturally meant that the Archives Department of the Public Library became the centre of a great deal of reference and research activity, and Mr. McLellan was appointed as an assistant to the then Archivist, Mr. G.H. Pitt.

The Archives Department held particular interest for Mr. McLellan and his talents and abilities were especially suited to the indexing and organising of historical material for reference use. In his official capacity he was responsible for building up much of the carefully catalogued collection of the Archives Department which is the delight of research workers and the envy of less fortunate Australiana collections. Apart from this important work Mr. McLellan devoted a great deal of his private time to the making of specialised indexes, all of which have contributed greatly to the efficiency and accuracy of the Archives' reference work. Of special interest among these self-imposed tasks are a detailed index and locality guide to the licensing of hotels in South Australia, indexes to immigrant arrivals from 1845 to 1887, and to the establishment of Methodist and Anglican churches.

During the latter part of the 1939-45 War the material in the Archives Department was dispersed throughout the State for security reasons and the work of the Department virtually ceased, and from 1942 to 1945 Mr. McLellan was the officer in charge of the Periodicals Section of the Public Library. At the end of the war Mr. McLellan returned to the Archives, and, following Mr. Pitt's appointment as Principal Librarian, he took charge of the Department. He was appointed Archivist in 1948 - a position he filled with distinction until his retirement.

During his twenty-four years service in the Archives, Mr. McLellan's expanding knowledge of the Archives' collection and his continual study of South Australian history made his ready assistance and wide knowledge greatly valued and sought after by professional historians and the public alike. He carried out original research on his own account and some of this work has been published, and he gave expert and willing assistance to the State Nomenclature Committee and to the Historical Memorials Committee and the

Historical Division of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, S.A. Branch. It is in keeping, too, that he should have given honorary service as historian and archivist to the Presbyterian Church in South Australia. His work in both his official and private capacities will remain of immense use and value to everyone interested in the history of South Australia.

At a farewell gathering held at the Public Library on Friday 11 November 1960, the Principal Librarian (Mr. H.C. Brideson) presented Mr. McLellan with an inscribed tray and a book on behalf of the staff of the Public Library.

G.L.F.

THE ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SYSTEM

A genius, his name unknown, conceived long years ago
A filing system known to us as Annual Single No.
The essence of this system is that nothing you will find
Filed by the number that at first you unto it assigned;
And so from age to age passed down this system enigmatic,
Enabling records clerks to show their pref'ence for the static.

O Gov'ments come and Gov'ments go but please remember this
Our way of life is founded on the Annual Number Sys.

The letter first upon the file is from the Premier's pen
It came quite early in the year and so is number'd ten;
The honourable judge then wrote, so numb'ring it anew,
Away with care was stowed the file and called six-twenty-two,
The months flew past - no action done - I wrote myself a line,
So that it all could be refiled as batch two-five-one-nine;
And as the last thing on the file was personal to me,
You'll find it home upon my desk - it's four-three-eight-nine-three.

Let Socialism come and go! Adopt the welfare state!
And if the Tories landslide in, leave Labour to its fate.
We don't need Ministers of State, or Departmental Heads,
We'll govern this and every land on Annual Single Scheds.

So through the ages, clerk to clerk, the System passes down,
The acme of good government; all our achievements crown
This product of our way of life - and this the acid test -
That never shall a file be found, where it was meant to rest.
And as one records clerk expires, he says most urgently,
"O alter not the System lad - it's more than life to me".
The innovators tried their hand, their bosses soon dismissed 'em,
For tamp'ring with that sacred thing, the Single Number System.

And archivists are giving up - their resignations tender,
They've battled on for years and years, but victory's chance is slender.
And if they're asked "Why'd you resign? Why follow Allan Horton?"
They all reply - with one accord - "It's Single Number sortin".

R.C. Sharman.