

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.