

EDITORIAL

After a preliminary meeting held during the General Conference of the Library Association of Australia in Melbourne in July 1950, the Archives Section was formally constituted in 1951. Its title uses the word archives in its widest sense to include government, private, business, local and institutional archives, and private papers are also considered to be in its field. Put briefly the aims of the Section are to promote the preservation and study of archives and manuscripts. Its main interest lies in the Australian field but it does not exclude consideration of archives and manuscripts in general.

At the recent Conference in Brisbane the Section decided to publish a semi-annual bulletin. This is the first issue and it has been titled ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS. It is hoped that it will be published in November and May of each year and will be distributed free to members of the Section and to a selected list of interested persons and bodies.

The editorial policy is to include articles of interest to both professional and research workers among archives and manuscripts. There will also be notes on Section activities and news of members. Later issues will contain reviews wherever possible. The journal will thus supersede Occasional Papers and Circulars issued to members. It is also the successor to THE BULLETIN FOR AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVISTS, which was produced privately by the archivists, who attended the Seminar held in Canberra in 1954 during the visit of Dr. Schellénberg, a member of the staff of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

The editors believe that ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS will fulfil a long-felt need in Australia. It can only be a success, however, if all members and correspondents will contribute articles and notes whenever they have information of interest to archivists, custodians of manuscripts, historians and other research workers.

Contributions to the first number for 1956 should be sent to the incoming Honorary Secretary, Mr. H.J. Gibbney, Archives Division, the Commonwealth National Library, Canberra, A.C.T. by March 31st 1956.

Phyllis Mander-Jones and

Allan Horton.

Editors.