

the process of research, I have fulfilled my promise to your editor to fill a few pages, now to turn back, in such time as can be found between such mundane academic tasks as lecturing, marking essays and answering queries from students, to writing, from my thousands of pieces of paper culled from libraries, something historically significant about Sir William MacGregor.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

BOARD OF EXAMINATION, CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF LIBRARIANS

NEWS RELEASE

To meet the criticism often made that news of the Association's activities does not reach members, the Board of Examination has decided as an experiment to publish a news release after its meetings. If this is welcomed by members it will be continued. The Board will be happy to receive comments on the idea.

Following the decision made by General Council last year that the Board of Examination should meet twice a year as a normal matter, a meeting was held in Sydney on 18-19 April 1962. On the first day the Board sat from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., on the second from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The composition of the present Board is representative of the whole of the Commonwealth and of all types of library. Two members (Miss Radford, the Chairman, and Miss Whyte) come from New South Wales, two from Victoria, (Miss Doubleday and Mr. Lodewycks) and one each from Queensland (Mr. Sharman) Tasmania (Miss Ramsay) and Western Australia (Mr. Sharr).

The major topics discussed were: examination papers from 1962, the new syllabus, clash of dates with university examinations, regulations for the Registration Certificate in Archives, school librarians, and the examinations and the appointment of senior examiners. This may not seem much to occupy eighteen hours of discussion but must be remembered that a certain amount of the Board's work is confidential or is concerned with the mechanics of running the examinations throughout Australia and abroad and which is not newsworthy.

Examination Papers

Every question was closely scrutinized to ensure that it was clear, unambiguous, definitely within the syllabus and of the type and standard required for the new examinations.

It was decided that in the compulsory papers the number of questions to be answered should remain at six; in the optional and more advanced papers however only five questions should be answered.

#### Amplification of the Syllabus

A request was received from the Western Australia Branch for an amplification of the syllabus of Papers 1-3 to make clearer the difference in standard from the old Preliminary Examination.

No change in the formal wording of the syllabus is possible at this stage in the year, though the new Board to be elected in August might wish to amplify or clarify particular parts in the light of experience.

The Board is, however, both conscious of and sympathetic towards the degree of uncertainty which must exist in the minds of tutors and students when a new syllabus is introduced, which is intended to be of higher standard. On the other hand a standard is almost impossible to define in a reasonable compass, it can only be exemplified. When the papers from this year's examinations are seen, the position will no doubt be clearer to all concerned, but in the meantime this year's tutors, students, and private-study candidates may be assured that in marking the papers, all reasonable allowances consistent with the new standards will be made.

#### Clash of Examination Dates

A request was received from a university librarian for the dates of the examinations to be varied to avoid clashing with examinations in his university. It would clearly be impossible to take into account all examination dates at all universities in fixing the Association's examinations; it would not be desirable to curtail the period of study by bringing forward the examination to October, nor would it be possible to publish the results in time for next year's enrolments, if the examinations were put back to December. In any case, the Board doubts the wisdom of encouraging students to attempt both university and professional examinations at the same time. The Board therefore could not agree to the request.

#### Registration Certificate in Archives

After three years of discussion the draft Regulations for the Registration Certificate in Archives were approved for submission to the General Council. This bold statement implies the completion of a major change in Association policy - achieved with complete agreement and harmony. If General Council approves the Regulations in August, the Association will become the recognised examining and professional body for archivists in Australia as it is for librarians. The Registration Certificate will be issued in two forms, both of equal standard, one in archives and the other in librarianship. Provision has also been made for those who may wish to qualify in both disciplines.

## Examinations for School Librarians

The last meeting of General Council referred to the Board a request from the Children's Libraries Section for the addition to the Registration syllabus of some papers on subjects of particular importance to school librarians. The Board decided that school librarians be invited to submit concrete proposals of what they have in mind, but that before this was done personal discussion should take place between representative school librarians and members of the Board, so that each should understand the others' point of view. This procedure was followed in framing the syllabus for archives and proved successful.

### NEWS NOTES

#### Reserve Bank of Australia

Mr. K.A. Folden, B.A., A.B.I.A., has been appointed Archivist of the Reserve Bank of Australia in succession to Mr. T.E. Sparrow. Mr. Folden joined the Bank in 1941 after a short period with the New South Wales Public Service and has spent the past seven years in the Secretary's Department of the Bank.

During his term of six years as Archivist, Mr. Sparrow fostered the Bank's records management programme, carrying its development to an advanced stage. He has now transferred to the Capital Market Section of the Investment Department of the Bank.

The Reserve Bank is at present erecting a new Head Office building at Martin Place and Macquarie Street, Sydney. Planning provides for about one-half of the sixth floor being equipped for the archives and records management functions. The building is expected to be ready for occupation around the end of next year.

#### Tasmanian State Archives

Mr. K.A. Green, B.A., and Miss Jill Hansen have joined the staff of the Tasmanian State Archives.

#### Queensland State Archives

Mr. R. Tan, B.A., has joined the staff of the Queensland State Archives.