

NEWS NOTES

South Australian Archives. Mr J. McLellan, who was for many years the Archivist of the South Australian Archives, died suddenly on 7 March 1966. An obituary will appear in the *Australian Library Journal*.

Mr Colin Kerr, M.A., has joined the staff of the Archives Dept., Public Library of S.A.

Work on the new Public Library building continues, and it is expected that it will be occupied toward the end of this year or early 1967. The Archives Department will be housed in section of the basement area. Reading, working and storage areas will be air-conditioned, and compactus shelving will be installed throughout. Boxing of records has been proceeding for some time to facilitate the transfer to the new building.

Queensland State Archives. Miss A. L. Green, B.A., Acting Assistant Archivist, has resigned to take up a position in Melbourne. Miss A. P. Harvey, B.A., has also left the staff of the Queensland State Archives. New members of staff are Miss E. F. Maughan, B.A., Miss C. J. Spence, B.A., and Mr J. H. Thorburn.

Australian National University Archives.

Records of Australian Agricultural Company. After five years of negotiation, the University has received the greater part of the London head office records of the Australian Agricultural Company. These records fill the main gaps in the company's records which Professor Butlin collected from its Newcastle office in 1955. The London records date from 1824 and their use would enable the writing of a fuller history of the company than that recorded by Jesse Gregson in his "Australian Agricultural Company 1824-1875", which was published in 1908. The records occupy 45 feet of shelf space, making a total of 425 feet of Australian Agricultural Company records in the Business Archives of the University. Among the documents just received are copies of the despatches sent by the Court of Directors in London to the Company's servants in the colony for the years 1824-1916, as well as all the very detailed despatches, letters, reports and enclosures sent from the colony in reply over the same period. There are, in addition, the despatches and financial records covering the foundation and subsequent history of the Peel River Land and Mineral Company for the years 1853-1916. These documents throw light on a great many aspects of the economic, social and political life of early New South Wales. For example, they cover events concerning the Macarthur family, the beginnings of the coal trade in Australia, treatment of aborigines, bush-rangers, operation of the convict system, early Australian steam-boats, the northern gold-fields, railways and the operation of the land laws. They also describe in detail every aspect of coal mining and the operation of pastoral runs in colonial New South Wales.

Commonwealth Archives Office. Mr Ian Maclean, Chief Archivist of the Commonwealth Archives Office, has been representing Australia at an Extraordinary Congress, with the U.S. National Archives as host, in Washington from 10th to 13th May. The theme of the conference is "Archives for Scholarship: Encouraging Greater Ease of Access".