

## EDITORIAL

### THE CONFERENCE

The last issue of *Archives and Manuscripts* dealt with the proposed visit of Mr Roger Ellis to Australia. In a burst of editorial enthusiasm, the editor described the news of Mr Ellis's visit as the best piece of intelligence that this Journal has ever been able to publish. It follows, therefore, that the announcement of the cancellation of this visit is the worst piece of news we have ever had to publish. However, the fact that Mr Ellis is now not going to visit Australia (at least, not in 1967) has been published elsewhere, so there is no need to pretend that this present editorial is going to have any sensational effect upon its readers.

However, the Conference at which Mr Ellis would have been present is still going to take place, and it seems likely that those sessions which will be of interest to archivists will be important and useful, even if lacking the appeal which an overseas "presence" lends to almost any gathering.

The Conference takes place from 21st August to 25th August, 1967. It will be held at the University of Queensland, St. Lucia, and Plenary Sessions will take place in the Students' Union Relaxation Block, which is in close proximity to the University Library. Apart from the State Archives, in William Street, Brisbane, places of interest to archivists visiting Brisbane are the Commonwealth Archives Office at Cannon Hill (a south-eastern suburb), the Oxley Memorial Library at the Public Library, William St., the Thomas Welsby Library at the Royal Historical Society of Queensland's premises at Newstead House, and the Fryer Library at the University of Queensland. No formal tour of archival establishments is being organized, though one of the Scenic Tours on Sunday 20th August will include a visit to Newstead House, and one of the Library Tours on Monday 21st August will include visits to both the Oxley Memorial Library and Newstead House. The State Archives will do what it can to show visitors around, though there is likely to be a shortage of staff because the Archivist happens to be Conference Organizer.

The sessions during the Conference that will interest archivists include:  
Tuesday, 22nd August:

- 10.00 a.m. Presidential Address, to be given by Mr G. D. Richardson, M.A., F.L.A.A., Principal Archivist of the Archives Authority of N.S.W.
- 2.00 p.m. Dr E. F. Kunz will speak on "Co-operation in the acquisition, cataloguing and use of special materials" (Chairman Mrs P. Fanning).
- 4.00 p.m. Miss M. Pamplin will speak on "Archive Training in the Bodleian Library".

Wednesday, 23rd August:

- 11.00 a.m. Professor F. K. Crowley will speak on "Archives of Australia — a user's view". (Chairman, Mr R. C. Sharman).
- 2.00 p.m. Miss M. Medcalf will speak on "The J. S. Battye Library of W.A. History. Two decades of development". (Chairman — subject to consent — Mr G. L. Fischer).
- 4.00 p.m. Messrs R. F. Doust and P. R. Eldershaw "Symposium on archives guides and inventories". (Chairman — subject to consent — Mr J. L. Cleland).

Thursday 24th August:

- 11.00 a.m. Mr P. R. Eldershaw "Archives and the winds of change". (Chairman, Mr A. Wilkes).

In addition, it is hoped to be able to arrange for some specialized sessions to be held on Monday 21st August when the Conference will be divided fairly rigidly on sectional lines. Invitations have gone out relating to some of these sessions, and replies are awaited.

However, the present Editor believes that archivists stand to learn quite a lot from other branches of the profession, and it is his earnest hope that all members of the Section will take part in the Conference to the fullest extent possible. The Conference will offer social functions including a welcoming social and a farewell party, and it is hoped that visiting archivists will attend these functions and (if need be) make themselves known to their colleagues. The number of practising archivists in Brisbane is small indeed, and even on the State Archives staff there is no person apart from the Conference Organizer who could possibly have been described as a professional archivist eighteen months ago. This means that it will be difficult to organize functions of especial interest to archivists: the Conference Organizer, for obvious reasons, will have larger responsibilities and more general commitments.

The Annual Meeting of the Section will take place in the late afternoon or evening of Tuesday 22nd August. It is hoped that a circular about this, and a possible Section Dinner, will be inserted in this Journal for distribution to all members of the Section.