

EDITORIAL

This issue of *Archives and Manuscripts* marks a change in our format. Twenty-four issues of this journal have appeared over the past fourteen years, and exactly half of them have been produced in letterpress print. The other (earlier) half were produced in cyclostyle format. The present style, though comparatively free from the disadvantage of the high costs associated with letterpress print, lacks nothing in clarity or attractive appearance.

More changes are in store, however. The Library Association of Australia has for many years been generous to its Archives Section, and indulgent towards the Section's desire to have its own journal. Funds have been made available to enable letterpress printing to be used, but archivists and other readers of this journal have long believed that the journal should do something to make itself self-supporting. It was therefore decided at the annual meeting of the Section held in Adelaide during the 15th Biennial Conference of the L.A.A. that from 1970 onwards *Archives and Manuscripts* would be available on a subscription basis only. Hence it will be possible for persons to receive this journal on the payment of a subscription, which has been fixed at \$1.00 per annum for members of the Library Association of Australia, and \$2.00 per annum for non-members.

Early in 1970 a prospectus will be distributed to those who received the journal in 1969, and this will set out the details of the subscription, and will incorporate an order form, which intending subscribers will be asked to return to the Editor. The charges to be collected will be covered by invoices, to be sent out with the first 1970 issue.

It is also planned to produce a comprehensive index for the first three volumes (i.e. all issues from the beginning in November 1955 till vol. 3, no. 8 in May 1969). Miss J. D. Hine, B.A., A.L.A.A., has agreed to prepare the index on a voluntary basis. Many members of the Archives Section will be aware of the fact that Miss Hine has previously compiled indexes to the first fourteen volumes of the *Australian Library Journal* and to subsequent annual volumes of that same journal. The Section is grateful to Miss Hine for agreeing to carry out this work, and can be confident that the same high standard will characterize her work on the *Archives and Manuscripts* index as has been a feature of her *Australian Library Journal* indexes. When the prospectus is issued in 1970, a request form will be included, giving subscribers the opportunity to place orders for the comprehensive index to our first three volumes.

Archives and Manuscripts has established a reputation for itself amongst scholars and research workers, as well as amongst archivists and librarians. It will be part of our aim to make its appeal to the users of archives more pronounced as time goes on; indeed, when the journal is firmly established on a

subscription-only basis, we trust that quite a large amount of its support will come from those who make their contribution to the furtherance of historical knowledge, not by arranging, describing and caring for archival materials, but by exploiting them. Though it is no part of our intention to trespass on the field of the historical journal, we do believe that *Archives and Manuscripts* can achieve a great deal by making known the ways in which documentary materials can be used in historical and allied research work, and we believe that historians can contribute articles on this theme which will be equally appreciated by their colleagues and by archivists.

ARCHIVES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

SOME BRIEF IMPRESSIONS

by

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In October 1968 I was one of a group of eight Australian women who spent four weeks in Germany as guests of the Federal Republic on a study tour organised to give an insight into cultural, social and economic conditions in Germany. It was not possible for members of the party to deviate from the program to any great extent in order to follow special interests but arrangements were made for me to visit the Federal Archives and State Archives at Bremen and Munich.

No attempt will be made to give a comprehensive description of the institutions visited but instead reference will be made to certain aspects of their work which were found to be of particular interest. Readers who seek a general background of knowledge about Archives in Germany are recommended to read the excellent article by Dr Alfred Wagner on "The Administration of Archives in Germany". (*Archives* Vol. 6, No. 30 Michaelmas 1963 p. 67.)

There are certain similarities to the situation in Australia with regard to State and Federal Archives in Germany. As in Australia the State Archives are autonomous bodies and there are no administrative ties between them and the Federal Archives; again, as in Australia, the bulk of the records in the Federal Archives are recent in origin compared with those held by most of the States. It was interesting to find also that to date archives have not been controlled by