

have been better to prepare an index in alphabetical order, with identifying description of office held or reason for inclusion, instead of indicating the relation of a list to subject matters of the papers. However that would be asking far too much of anyone who has other full-time duties. It may come in time, but the task grows steadily greater, and when someone faces the problem of accomplishing that job, it will simply be too costly in time and money. We can thank Mr Gibbney and Mrs Burns for the trouble they have taken to open up this goldfield.

The *Index* is divided into fifty-five general subject headings, some with a number of sub-headings, nearly each of which refers to all three States.

If the reception of the present volume proves the work is justified the publication of further indexes will be considered.

K.A. Patterson

NEWS NOTES

Archives Authority of New South Wales

The *Concise guide to the State archives of New South Wales*, which has been awaited for some time is now in the hands of the printer. Publication is expected about the middle of 1970, and the Archives Authority of New South Wales hopes to be able to give full details about this publication in the next issue of *Archives and Manuscripts*. The selling price has not yet been determined but will be not less than \$10.00. The *Concise guide* will list all series in the Archives Office of New South Wales which had been processed for use up to September 1969; descriptions of most of these series are included.

Mr R.F. Doust, the Senior Archivist, has recently completed a thesis in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales, for the award of its degree of Master of Librarianship. The thesis was "The administration of official archives in N.S.W., 1870-1960". Mr Doust has now had the degree of M. Lib. conferred upon him, and *Archives and Manuscripts* extends congratulations to him.

Queensland State Archives

After more than ten years' service as Archivist, Library Board of Queensland, the present Editor of this journal, Mr. R.C. Sharman, has resigned from his Queensland appointment, and has taken up duties as Archives Officer, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra. The vacancy in the Queensland State Archives had not, at the time of going to press, been filled, though applications had been called for. Mrs Janet Shield (the

former Miss J.M. Carroll) resigned from the Queensland State Archives staff at almost the same time that Mr. Sharman made his departure. Mrs Shield is now working at the Library of the Australian Council for Educational Research, in Melbourne. Mr M.J. Ryman also resigned from the Queensland State Archives staff, to pursue studies full-time at the University of Queensland. Two appointments made to the staff to replace these vanishing archivists were those of Miss S.M. Geddes (a former staff member, returned after an overseas trip), and Mr A Cominos.

South Australian Archives

Mrs Nadine Cooper has resigned from the staff of the South Australia Archives to return to Hobart, and her place has been taken by Mrs Olwyn Barwick.

Commonwealth Banking Corporation Archives

Recent new accessions include three depositors' passbooks relating to an account opened in 1875 at Newcastle, N.S.W. branch of the former Savings Bank of N.S.W. (the "Barrack Street Bank"), established 1832. The account was continued with the Government Savings Bank of N.S.W. (1871-1931) which absorbed the Savings Bank of N.S.W. in 1914. Following the 1931 amalgamation of the G.S.B. with the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia, today a member bank of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation, the account was continued with the latter bank until the depositor's death in 1941.

Exhibits comprising archival records dating from 1819, the year in which Australia's first savings bank, "Campbell's Bank", was established, were staged in several branches of the Corporation during the Cook Bi-Centenary celebrations.

Mr G.C. Wotherspoon, a former staff member of the Corporation's Archives Section, has resigned to take up an appointment as tutor in the Department of Economic History, University of Sydney.

Reserve Bank of Australia

London Branch

Miss B.M. Vaughan, Records Control Officer, is to visit London for three months to reorganise records services at the Bank's branch office. While engaged on her assignment, she will be keeping a "weather eye" open for any records of possible archival value for return to the Head Office Archives Repository.

Note Issue Department

The Note Issue Department of the Bank, which includes a large printing division responsible for the printing of notes, postage stamps, bonds and other forms of security documents, is located at Fitzroy, Melbourne. The Department's records services conform to the Bank's standard procedures and are broadly supervised by the Archives Section at Head Office, Sydney. A new non-current Records Repository has recently been constructed at Fitzroy. It is housed in a dust-free vault formerly used for security storage. The room has been equipped with Compactus mobiles having a shelving capacity of 1,200 feet. Mr. Howard Day, of Head Office Archives Section, is at present visiting Fitzroy to supervise the transfer to the new Repository of the existing accumulation of non-current records from other parts of the establishment and their orderly arrangement. Under the Bank's standard practices, obsolete material is withdrawn annually and destroyed by burning. At the same time, permanently valuable archives 40 years old are transferred to the Bank's Archives Repository at Sydney.

Photographic Plates

The Bank's photograph series includes about 600 glass plates more than 50 years old. During their lifetime they have been carefully stored in slotted wooden cases. We noticed recently that the emulsion on some of the plates is beginning to lift from the edges. A firm in the photographic trade has offered the services of their laboratory to determine whether these plates can be treated with a readily available spray-on type fixing agent which is in common use for fixing the emulsion on modern negative film. The problem is now being investigated.

University of Melbourne Archives

The University continues to concentrate on the acquisition of business records. Holdings now exceed 11,500 linear feet, from some 200 sources.

The most notable acquisitions in the past twelve months have been the records of T.B. Guest & Co. Pty. Ltd. (biscuit manufacturers), the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Pty. Ltd., and Western Mining Corporation Ltd.

The T.B. Guest records date from the 1850s and are notable for material concerning biscuit manufacturing and marketing, sugar and dried fruits supplies, tariff matters and exports to near Asian countries. This collection is an excellent complement to the Swallow & Ariell collection obtained earlier by the University.

The Broken Hill Associated Smelters records commence with the formation of the Company in 1915 when a consortium of Zinc Corporation, North Broken Hill, Broken Hill South and British Broken Hill acquired the major interest in the Broken Hill Pty's. lead smelters at Port Pirie, South Australia. This is a big collection, strong in material concerning base metals mining, metallurgical and technological problems and innovations in metals treatment, and industrial relations. The value of the collection is enhanced by the voluminous personal papers of Colin Fraser, managing director from 1915 to his death in 1944. Fraser was concerned with many of the major Australian mining and manufacturing ventures in this period. Acquisition of the collection will be completed in May 1970, with the transfer of an additional 118 cases of material from Port Pirie.

The Western Mining Corporation records commence with the depression of the 1930s, the time of a great revival of gold mining in Australia. The most notable figure in this revival was W.S. Robinson. The activities of Robinson and his associates led to formation of many associated companies, notably, Gold Exploration & Finance Co. of Australia, Gold Mines of Australia and their ultimate parent company, Western Mining Corporation. These companies introduced modern methods of finance, exploration and mining methods to the industry in Australia. Minutes, reports and correspondence of the various companies are now with the University. Transfer of the collection will be completed with the acquisition of financial and accounting records by mid 1970.

Accessions such as these place continued strain on the physical resources of the University Archives. It is therefore unfortunate that there have been delays in obtaining a proposed new Archives Centre. Recent developments, however, have advanced this project and relief is being found in additional interim quarters.

Australian National University Archives

As announced elsewhere in these news notes, the Editor of this journal, Mr R.C. Sharman, has relinquished his post as Archivist in charge of the Queensland State Archives, to take up the position of Archives Officer, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. Mr Sharman recently spent six weeks on official duty in Brisbane overseeing the micro-filming of records of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Workers' Union.