

## UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES EXHIBITION

During a lunch break of the 1970 LAA General Council meeting some delegates were able to make an unscheduled inspection of an exhibition of documents and illustrations from the University of Sydney Archives. Held between 13 August and 9 September, and titled *Students and Societies*, the exhibition was displayed in the War Memorial Gallery on thirteen wall panels and in two glass cases. As well as documenting some aspects of extra-curricular activities of students over the last century, the exhibition gave some indication of the extent and nature of student society archives. Predictably, minute books are strongly represented in such archives and they testify, *inter alia*, to the young Edmund Barton's interest in cricket in the 1860s, to the arrogant indifference of 19th century men students to women students who were thus forced to form their own undergraduate society, and to H.V. Evatt's interest in constitutional issues of the Undergraduates' Association c. 1914. The autobiographies of some past students (notably Garnet Vere Portus and Donald Horne) provided first-hand and humorous background to some of the exhibits. One annual report of the Literary Society of 1940 needed no supporting humour — it bluntly described the non-appearance of a scheduled student speaker as being due to 'a sudden attack of the horrors'. Combined with other more direct approaches to student societies, the exhibition has played some part in encouraging the deposit of further records in the University Archives.

## SYDNEY ARCHIVISTS' GROUP

On 30 June 1970 an exploratory meeting of about 20 archivists, manuscripts librarians, and representatives of historical societies and related bodies was held at the Library of N.S.W. In a general discussion on the need for some professional contact among archivists, it was agreed that meetings might be held quarterly. R. F. Doust, G.L. Fischer and K.A. Polden were asked to act as a Steering Committee to plan meeting topics and dates. The first meeting was held on 1 September at the Library of N.S.W. when Miss Pat Quinn (Bank of N.S.W.), K.A. Polden (Reserve Bank of Australia) and Mr F. Scott-Halliday (Commonwealth Banking Corporation) gave introductory papers on the subject of Bank Archives and discussion followed. There were fifteen people present and the papers were well prepared, informative and amusing, and were well received. Interest in the meetings is keen and suggests that it will continue. The group is quite informally organized; it is not part of any existing professional association and is not seeking to establish any new society. All archivists, manuscripts librarians, and those interested in archives work would be most welcome to attend the meetings. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 1 December 1970, at 5.45 p.m. in the Seminar Room of the Library of N.S.W. Two speakers will lead a discussion on problems of arrangement and description of archives and manuscripts, the discussion to some

extent being geared to the interests of special problems experienced by non-professional custodians. Visitors to Sydney may obtain further details about the group from G.L. Fischer, Archivist, the University of Sydney, 2006, N.S.W.