

NEWS NOTES

NEWS NOTES FROM STATE ARCHIVES INSTITUTIONS

Archives Authority of New South Wales

Mr D. J. Cross, B.A., Dip. Lib., has been appointed Senior Archivist in succession to Mr R. F. Doust. Mr Cross joined the staff of the Library of New South Wales in 1963 and has worked in the Dixson Library, the Mitchell Library and the Archives Office.

The Archives Authority has published the first *Supplement* to its *Concise Guide*. This is issued free of charge. The Archives Office is investigating ways of publishing the *Supplement* in a more attractive form, and hopes to cumulate it annually.

Archives Office of Tasmania

Staff changes of note have been the resignation of Mr W. K. Taylor and the appointment of Miss E. Berry and Mr G. Young. Miss Berry has taken up Mr Taylor's post and Mr Young has been appointed temporarily for special purposes. Mr Taylor, who has gone to Great Britain hopes to undertake Archival Training there.

Work preparatory to the move into the New State Library building continues. It has been found that with the growth of the collection, the elegant series arrangement created by the late Peter Eldershaw is no longer adequate and for this reason and in order to conserve space a location number system will operate in the new building.

The basic finding aid will be a Description Sheet similar to that used in the Archives Office of N.S.W. Location will be by item number within each bay. This, it is hoped, will give a greater flexibility of approach, more options in arrangement and a more economical use of space than either the present system or the block numbering system practised in Sydney.

Before the move can take place, however, a description sheet must be completed for each series including basic physical data and accession information. The actual description and detail shelf-list for each series is a long term goal which will be attained over a number of years.

The need to include accession data (and access classification) has meant also an overhaul of the formal accession documents ("Accession Records") signed by the Principal Archivist and the head of the transferring department. These will become in practice (as they have always been in fact) the primary documentation of accession. The cumbersome (and now hopelessly out of date) Accession Book will be discarded.

No firm date had yet been announced for the move which is expected to take place some time in mid 1971.

NEWS NOTES FROM UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES INSTITUTIONS

The Australian National University Archives Institution

The Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, A.N.U., is at present undergoing the traumatic experience of moving into new premises. Visitors to the A.N.U. campus will be aware of the existence of (it would be untrue to say that they are familiar with) the H.C. Coombs Building, which in a perplexing way houses the joint Research Schools of Social Sciences and Pacific Studies. The former confusing design, a pair of hexagons linked by a "bridging" wing, has now been made totally confounding by the addition of a further hemi-hexagon which, along with the bridging wing makes a third hexagon. The business and trade union archives which go to make up the collection are, at the moment of writing, located in their former accommodation, but it is expected that by mid-June a start will have been made in removing them to a new repository (if the staff employed can find the way). Meanwhile the Archivists are cut off from the records they wish to process by a long walk in which several turns of 120° have to be made, or by a stairway which has yet to be completed.

Changes in procedures for registering deposits are under way. The former somewhat untidy methods of registering series and items in type-written sheets is being discontinued, and a series of Accession Registers, similar to those used to such good advantage in the Tasmanian and Queensland State Archives, are being adopted.

Miss D. Wheeler, who was in 1963 and 1964 the Deputy Archivist in the Queensland State Archives, has been appointed Deputy Archives Officer in the A.N.U. Archives, in succession to Mrs Gillian Marsden.

The University of Melbourne Archives

Increasing interest in the value for research of business records held by the University continues to bring a gradual increase of use of this material by post-graduate scholars.

More spectacularly, in 1970 twenty-seven third year undergraduate students (Economic History B) did 10,000 word research essays from a wide variety of material concerning Australian mining, manufacturing, marketing, retail trading, commercial education and industrial relations. In all but a couple of cases, performances were good. This means that the policy, initiated three years earlier, of introducing undergraduates to selected pockets of original records is having a real effect.

The records of The Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Co. Ltd. and associated companies are an outstanding recent addition to the collection. This is an extensive acquisition, ranging in date from the 1880s to the 1960s. Mining records can

interlock like a maze of underground workings. The Mount Lyell material marries well with the previously reported Western Mining Corporation, Broken Hill Associated Smelters and North Broken Hill Ltd. records, and the personal papers of W.S. Robinson.

Other notable recent acquisitions are the records of D & W Murray Ltd., Flinders Lane soft goods warehousemen (1870s - 1960s); Croft Stores Pty Ltd. (1920s - 1960s); the two firms of Slater and Gorson and Maurice Blackburn & Co., solicitors biased towards matters concerning trade unions and workers' compensation.

Like all similar institutions the University Archives continues to lack sufficient money and facilities. However the dividend flag can still be raised, and the implementation of a recent University Statute giving departmental status with direct responsibility to a Board of Management opens some promising paths to the future.

The University of Tasmania Archives

Probably the most significant development in relation to the deposit of fresh material was the decision of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce to transfer its minute books to the custody of the Archives, Morris Miller Library, University of Tasmania, and it is expected that they will reach the Archives within a few weeks of the date of writing. Other transfers have been made by the estates of Sir Robert Cosgrove (whose papers included miscellaneous political material relating to election campaigns and some early photographs of trade union and Labor Party conferences) and Professor Alan Burn (lecture notes and papers relating to conferences of the Australian universities and the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee). Several papers and photographs relating to the A.L.P. have also been transferred, from various sources.

On the university side, a definite program to collect all staff, departmental and university publications has been undertaken. This is being organized by Mrs L. Rodda, who works part-time in the Archives Section in a voluntary capacity.

The Royal Society of Tasmania is transferring its manuscript collections to the Archives Section. Though this will entail a considerable amount of work, no assistance is being made available. The Royal Society papers will be housed in the Archives Section, but written permission to use the material must be obtained from the Council of the Society before access will be granted. It is planned to make entries for the *Guide to collections of manuscripts relating to Australia* for this material.

OTHER NEWS NOTES

Bank of New South Wales Archives

For the past five years the resources of the Archives have been devoted to work in connection with the Bank's history (R. F. Holder, *Bank of New South Wales: a history*, 2 vols., A. & R., 1970), which was published in January of this year. During this period a considerable back-log of accessions has built up, and the move of several head office departments to a new building, which is at present taking place, has caused an increase in the volume of records flowing to the Records Store and the Archives. A circular sent late last year to departments involved in the transfer has brought to light a few small personal collections of papers formed by officials of the Bank, which will be deposited with the Archives.

Miss Iris Smyth, who was seconded to assist the Archivist during the preparation of the history, has returned to the Economic Department of the Bank. Her successor has not yet been appointed.