

5. Sub-Professional Staff.

A request has been made to the L.A.A. from the Technicians Course at Whitehorse Technical College, Box Hill, Victoria, that consideration be given to the formation of a Section of the Association to cover the interests of library clerks and technicians.

6. Bibliographical Services.

In April the Victorian Branch of the L.A.A. held an advanced workshop on Australian bibliographical services. The general view emerged that the top priority for the National Library of Australia should be to achieve excellence in the creation and dissemination of current bibliographical data. The view was expressed that the state of retrospective bibliography of Australian publications should be improved, including the closing of the so-called "Ferguson gap". The use of ultra-fiche, microfilm and MARC also came under discussion. On local and local government publications it was recommended that State and public libraries should be asked to participate more actively in tracing local publications and to assume greater responsibility for ensuring that local publications were listed in the national bibliography. The need for a current Index to Australian newspapers was urgent and a union catalogue of documentary films was recommended. It was regarded as highly desirable that legal deposit provisions for audio-visual materials including, but not restricted to, sound tapes, recordings and Australian prints should be introduced into Australian legislation.

7. Guide to Collections of Manuscripts Relating to Australia.

In March 1972 a meeting to discuss matters concerning the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts Relating to Australia* was held at the National Library, Canberra. The discussions covered the size limits of collections and the desirability of including official records, copies (Xerox, microfilm, etc.), closed or restricted material and tapes from oral history projects. A possible change of title, the form of the *Guide* and the subject index were also considered.

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NEWS NOTES

The Archives of the University of Tasmania

Some recent transfers to this repository have included a large collection of Midwood cartoons, 1900–1904; the files of the Australian Labor Party (the opposition in the Tasmanian Parliament, 1969–72); and some very early letters of the Grant family of "Tullochgorum", Fingal, 1823–26.

The Archbishop of Hobart, the Most Reverend Dr G. Young, has established an Archives Committee of the Catholic Church in order that Church archives may receive the attention they merit. The University Archives has been named by the Archbishop as the official repository for Catholic archives in Tasmania.

Archives Office of Tasmania

The year began with the introduction of a new award which provides for a separate salary scale for archivists and recognizes, to some extent, the inappropriateness of requiring librarianship qualifications. The award now provides for a category of "archivists-in-training" carrying a qualifying pre-condition of an honours degree in History. This is a two-year training period at the end of which the trainee enters the career range.

Regrettably, the Public Service Tribunal did not accept the arguments placed before it, and chose to insert a clause requiring three papers of the L.A.A. examinations as a pre-requisite for progression from the first to the second year of the training period. This means, of course, papers 101, 102, and 103, than which, in the opinion of the retiring Principal Archivist, few subjects could be more irrelevant.

The long awaited move into the tower block, Phase 2, of the State Library building took place in May. It was traumatic but not more so than had been expected, except that because at the time of writing (end of June) some 40% of the shelving had still not been erected, the floors of the office were encumbered with several hundred feet of volume material for which there was no shelf space. The latest waterside strike being now over, this shelving has started to arrive and should be completed before these notes go to press, shortly after which we can look forward to the normalisation of appearances and activities.

Two honours graduates started work in the Archives in January, Miss Clare Cowling and Miss Margaret Bryant. A third Archivist-in-training position was advertised in June, as was that of the Deputy Archivist which has been vacant since April 1971. The Principal Archivist, Mr M. Saclier, has resigned to take up the position of Archives Officer, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, and has, at the time of publication of these notes, left Hobart.

The Australian National University Archives

The position of Archives Officer of the Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, has been offered to and accepted by Mr Michael Saclier, Principal Archivist of the Archives Office of Tasmania. At the time of writing Mr Saclier informs us that he hopes to take up office in the first week in August.

Since January a part-time map-mounter-and-cataloguer has been employed to deal with this lesser-known but exceedingly valuable part of our holdings. The map collection includes a variety of detailed nineteenth century maps of pastoral stations, urban subdivisions and colliery plans. The young man has calculated that it will take him approximately 40 years to complete this task, as there are possibly 3000 maps in the collection. We feel his present youth and strength are a decided advantage.

At the end of last year alphabetical lists of our holdings of both trade union and business records were re-issued and circulated to libraries, university departments with relevant interests, and archival institutions. Although these lists have a fairly primitive format, and are nowhere near the kind of *Guide* we would like to produce, they appear to have been well received, and have brought us new clients and many interstate inquiries about the records. We would appreciate reciprocal arrangements with other institutions, particularly university archives with similar collecting interests.

A recent survey of our users (calculated on 1971 figures) indicates that 53% of our users are from universities other than A.N.U. Although on a total count of material produced for users the demand for both types of records was fairly evenly divided, we found that 69% of our interstate visitors used trade union records. The most recent development in user services, occurring mainly since January, has been the increased use of the Archives by undergraduates. This is due mainly to increased cooperation with the staff of the School of General Studies following the introduction of an Honours course in Australian History with emphasis on research. The undergraduates have made most use of our large collections of pamphlets, a fine body of left-wing material which is known by repute in universities, but perhaps not outside these bodies, since we have not to date found a workable method of publishing a Guide which would give adequate description and coverage.

Queensland State Archives

Since the last report, a number of staff changes have taken place. Mr P.D. Wilson, B.A. Dip. Lib. was appointed Archivist on 27 January 1972. Miss Suzanne Geddes, B.A. and Mr D Tupicoff, B.A. have resigned and their places have been taken by Miss Lesley Evans, B.A. Dip. Ed. and Miss Moira Bennett, B.A. After twelve years continuous service, Mrs Beris Wood, of the stenographic staff, resigned early in April. Mrs Wood was associated with the Queensland State Archives from its inception and capably performed a wide range of duties during her long period of service. Her assistance in the production of *Queensland Heritage* will be sorely missed. Her place was taken by Mrs Linda Simpson. An appointment to the position of Assistant Archivist has been made, and Miss Lesley McGregor B.A. Dip. Lib. will commence duty on 3 July.

The program of microfilming Queensland newspapers is progressing

satisfactorily, using the Fuji L2 Camera installed in 1971. The films completed so far include:—

Cairns Morning Post,
Charters Towers Mining Standard, and,
Western Star 1875—1890.

Mr J. Bruce, Document Repairer/Bookbinder, completed a prolonged restoration job recently. The Births, Marriages and Deaths register from Murray Island, in Torres Strait, which was transferred from the Aboriginal and Island Affairs Department, needed close to 400 hours of work to collate torn pages and silk fragments. The Register consists of 1,000 pages, each 18" x 12". Mr Bruce used plate glass to flatten the fragments on to wax paper at first, but later replaced this method by the use of a non-stick teflon-coated glass cloth.

The Archivist is visiting during June all the Harbour Boards along the Queensland coast in an attempt to have those Boards transfer their records to Brisbane.

J.S. Battye Library of W.A. History

In 1969 the Battye Library ordered an Ademco hot press and a quantity of Postlip laminating tissue for the purpose of laminating frail and frequently used material. The prime benefit of this tissue for the small repair shop lay in the deacidifying property which it possessed and therefore no special deacidification process was required prior to lamination.

Before the order was fulfilled the manufacturers of the tissue went out of production and since mid-1970 both the Public Record Office and the India Office have been experimenting in an endeavour to find a substitute. Evans Adlard & Co. Ltd. have now produced such a tissue which has been found acceptable by the Public Record Office.

The Battye Library has taken delivery of the Ademco press and the tissue is on order.

A Plea for State Aid in Publishing

A committee in Perth has made representations to the appropriate Commonwealth authorities for the establishment of a scheme for assisting financially in the publication of certain categories of original documentary material and completed research work.

Under the conditions presently existing in the publishing industry, and particularly because of the limited local market for some material of this kind, a

considerable quantity of valuable source material and research is unlikely ever to be published or reprinted. Support of the kind given to creative or imaginative literature by the Commonwealth Literary Fund could be expected also to stimulate the production of further research.

The committee was convened by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and includes representatives of half a dozen different bodies. Suggestions and support would be welcome from similarly interested bodies in the other states, and correspondence can be addressed to the Secretary of the R.W.A.H.S., 49 Broadway, Nedlands, W.A. 6009.

An Oecumenical Historical Exhibition

An exhibition of documents and illustrations showing local church history is arranged for the fortnight beginning 22nd August at the ANZ Bank, Perth. Material is being provided by the denominations which were established in Western Australia before 1890, namely the Anglican, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches and the Salvation Army. The display relates in each case to the first decade of the particular denomination's history in the colony. Sponsored by the Catholic Historical Society, this is the first such 'oecumenical' archival exhibition in Perth, and it is hoped that churches which have not yet established their own archival repositories will be stimulated to make better provision for the safekeeping of their records.

Acquisitions, documentary and human

A valuable acquisition was received recently by the Battye Library as a bequest from the late George Spencer Compton who was well known as a historian of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia. He had been collecting and researching in this field from the time that he went to the Goldfields as a geologist early in the century. The collection is mainly in the form of notes and articles, but also includes some original documents and photographs. It is sorted into locality and subject files and covers ten feet of shelving.

Miss Anne Wythes has joined the staff of the Battye Library. For the past 3½ years she has been at the Ku-ring-gai Municipal Library.

The Archives Office of New South Wales

The Archives Authority of New South Wales is hopeful that its many problems of space will shortly be overcome by the construction of the proposed new Government Records Repository at Kingswood, for which land was acquired in 1964. In 1969 the Public Buildings Programming Committee placed the repository on its "A" priority list, and in 1970 a preliminary cost estimate by the Government Architect of \$1,950,000 was received and approved by the Authority, but

no funds could be released to enable construction to commence. However, following a suggestion by the Committee that construction might be staged to limit the extent of outlay in any one financial year, the Government Architect prepared a proposal for a revised first stage. This was received by the Authority in April 1971, and envisaged the construction of twelve of the original thirty-six storage cells, providing accommodation for an estimated 66,000 feet of records, instead of the 200,000 feet originally contemplated, together with an entry and receiving area, plant room, and essential facilities. The preliminary estimate of cost for this reduced first stage was \$700,000, which, with an allowance for shelving and equipment would make a total estimated cost of \$800,000. In December 1971 the Authority was informed that the Premier and Treasurer had authorized the preparation of working drawings for this first stage and work on these is proceeding at present. It is hoped they will be completed by the end of this financial year and that it will be possible to commence construction in 1972-3.

An important inventory of the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence records, which has been awaited for some time, is now in the hands of the printer and should be published towards the end of this year.

Late in 1971 the Public Service Board approved the re-grading of one of the archivists' positions in the Archives Office as Assistant Senior Archivist and Mr P. Orlovich, M.A., Dip. Ed., Dip. Lib., was appointed to the position in May, 1972. Mr Orlovich recently completed the requirements for the degree of Master of Librarianship in the University of New South Wales. For this degree he submitted a thesis on "Free Library Legislation in New South Wales, 1867-1937".

Reserve Bank of Australia

A recent archives display featured the recovery of the gold from the R.M.S. "Niagara". It will be recalled that the "Niagara" struck an enemy mine in June 1940 about 15 miles off the New Zealand coast. Salvage of the gold which was valued at £A2.5 million was arranged by the Commonwealth Bank at the request of the owners, the Bank of England.

Work is in hand on another display which will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the opening on 15 July 1912 of the first office of the Savings Bank Department of the Commonwealth Bank in Melbourne.

A high speed laminating machine was recently purchased and has already proved its worth in the repair of some of the Bank's Bonds and Stock Department's old ledgers. However, the lamination of our archivally valuable records will continue to be done on Morane presses.