

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, ARCHIVES SECTION
NEWSLETTER NO 3
(November 1972)

1. GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

The 1972 meeting of the General Council of the Association was held in the Council Room of the University of New South Wales, in Kensington, Sydney, on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th August. Miss M.L. Medcalf was the General Councillor representing the Archives Section.

2. APPOINTMENT OF NON-LIBRARIANS

As was to be expected, there was a good deal of discussion on the inroads that have been made into the professional standing of librarians (and archivists) by the appointment to senior positions of persons who have had no formal education, and no previous experience in the practice, of the profession(s). The Council formulated a resolution which is designed to make the Association's views on this subject known, and to protect the interests of the public, who will be the ones who will suffer when unqualified people are appointed to professional positions. This statement has been published in the *Australian Library Journal*, 21 (9), October 1972, p.388.

Under Resolution 20/72, subordinate bodies of the Association are being asked to report to the Committee on Standards and Status any instances which come to their attention of breaches of the principles contained in the Statement. The Convener of the Committee is Mr W.M. Horton, of the Library of New South Wales. New terms of reference have been drawn up with regard to this Committee, which is henceforth "to investigate and take appropriate action in specific cases relating to conditions of recruitment, appointment and employment referred to it by members of the Association and by Subordinate Bodies."

3 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROJECTS

Subordinate bodies are asked to keep the Committee on Continuing Education informed of any projects they may have in the field of continuing education – including seminars, special refresher courses, conferences and workshops. The Convener of the Continuing Education Committee is Mr F.J. Balnaves, but communications on this matter should be addressed to him care of the Library Association of Australia, 32 Belvoir Street, Surry Hills.

4 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Interim minimum standards for public libraries have been published by the Association as part of its continuing campaign to improve libraries and library services. The Association is concerned that adequate funds shall be available for the implementation of these standards, and has appointed Mr C.E. Smith, Librarian of the Newcastle Public Library, to be a consultant to prepare a detailed case for submission to the Federal Government to support an application for Commonwealth finance.

Newcastle City Council has agreed to release Mr Smith from his formal duties and the Association acknowledges with gratitude the Council's co-operation in this matter. Mr Smith is a Fellow of the L.A.A., and has been Lecturer-in-charge of the Newcastle Library School. In 1968 he held the Albert Mainerd scholarship awarded by the Local Government Association of New South Wales, and made an extensive study of libraries overseas. His activities in support of a local archive programme at the Newcastle Public Library should be well known to readers of this journal. In the course of the preparation of the case, Mr Smith will make a survey of public libraries in Australia.

5 NEW ZEALAND INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL

The Committee on Freedom to Read has been asked to examine the question of the operation and effectiveness of the New Zealand Indecent Publications Tribunal. There is some feeling that our colleagues on the other side of the Tasman Sea have developed a better system for the evaluation of allegedly obscene literature than our own, and it is to be hoped that the Committee will be able to assist the Association in developing its views on the matter.

6 ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Committee on the Role of the Association has prepared some papers on the future activities, organization, membership and aims of the Association. The *Australian Library Journal* in September 1972 published these papers. Miss F.M.T. Thomas has been appointed Convener of the Committee, and it is hoped that its deliberations will result in firm recommendations being made to Council in 1973. These recommendations will certainly include some plans whereby the Association's need for stronger full-time direction (possibly by the appointment of an Executive Director) will be met.

7 HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Standing Committee will undertake and complete, by the time of the 1973 General Council meeting, a feasibility study on the proposal to move the Association's headquarters to Canberra.

8 INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

To date, the Committee on Standards and Status has collected information on employment awards and conditions, and other factors relating to the remuneration and status of librarians and archivists in Australia. General Council saw this activity as requiring the attention of persons having freedom to devote to it more time than is possible for a librarian having responsibilities for a full-time job, and agreed that \$3,000 should be set aside to enable information to be gathered on salaries, status and conditions. The new terms of reference of the Committee on Standards and Status have been outlined above.

9 PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE TO MIGRANTS

The Association (arising from recommendations made by the Committee on Social Issues) is to launch a survey of library service to migrants. The sum of \$1,500 is being set aside to meet the costs. Other questions raised by the same

Committee deal with library service in rural areas, and library service to Aborigines. With regard to rural areas, it has been agreed that the survey of public library service generally will pay particular attention to this need. With regard to Aborigines, though no specific funds were set aside for the purpose, it was agreed that the Standing Committee should keep the matter under review.

10 SPECIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

A budget was presented to Council, which demonstrates that the Association is becoming even less magnanimous (if magnanimity was ever the word) in its attitude to special projects of subordinate bodies, such as *Archives and Manuscripts*. A modest request for \$600 to keep this journal in print was apparently considered to be capable of reduction by one third. The Standing Committee is empowered to consider applications for special assistance, and it seems quite certain that one of these applications will come from the Archives Section, for the support of its publication.

11 EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

A series of recommendations from the Board of Examiners was received with interest by the Council, and have been published in the *Australian Library Journal* for October 1972 (p. 391). Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the Council's deliberations on this subject is its enthusiastic support for proposals, mentioned in the fifth report of the Australian Universities Commission, for post-graduate schools of librarianship to be established at the University of Adelaide, and Monash University.

12 THE 18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

While the 17th Biennial Conference is still nine months in the offing, it seems indecent to be planning the 18th. However, Council decided to accept the invitation of the Victorian Branch to hold the 1975 Conference in Melbourne.

13 COMMONWEALTH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The first Council meeting of the Commonwealth Library Association will be held in Lagos, Nigeria, late in November. Council resolved that the Library Association of Australia's delegate should be Mr Harrison Bryan, Vice-President of the Association.

14 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the General Council will be held in Perth at the time of the 17th Biennial Conference – on the 18th and 19th August, 1973.

15 MR G.D. RICHARDSON, O.B.E.

Mr Richardson has served the Association in numerous ways, and has just completed four years' service as a Past President on General Council. He has announced his intention to retire from his position as Principal Librarian of the Library of New South Wales, and though this does not imply that he will take any less interest in the Association, the 1972 General Council meeting did mark

the close of one of the many chapters in the saga of Gordon Richardson's contribution to the affairs of the L.A.A. The Association's thanks and good wishes were conveyed to him.

16 SYMPOSIUM OF EDITORS OF DOCUMENTATION, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES JOURNALS

Mr D.H. Borchardt, Librarian of La Trobe University, attended a Symposium of editors of documentation, library and archives journals held under the auspices of UNESCO in Paris in May 1972 as the official delegate of the L.A.A.

Resolutions included recommendations concerning the abstracting and indexing of literature in the field and that UNESCO should carry out a feasibility study. There was an extended discussion on the relevance of the Symposium to archives work and the considerable differences in archival practice in the many countries represented suggested that archivists had less to gain from a meeting of this kind than librarians. A suggestion was made that an Association of Editors of Documentation, Library and Archives Journals be formed and it was suggested that library associations and similar bodies might care to consider the proposal.

17 GUIDE TO COLLECTIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS RELATING TO AUSTRALIA

As stated in our last *Newsletter* a meeting was held in March of this year to discuss matters relating to the *Guide*. It was decided that a new introduction and new instructions should be compiled for inclusion in the *Guide*. Drafts of both have now been prepared and circulated to contributing libraries. The categories to be included are private papers, including copies (microfilm etc. but not material from the Australian Joint Copying Project), closed or restricted collections, oral history collections and fugitive official collections. Government archives are not to be included except in cases where they exist outside the national or state archives office where it would be presumed they would be held. There was discussion on a change of title for the *Guide* but it has been decided that no alteration will be made and the original title will be retained.

18 INDEX TO AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT MICROFILMS

A calculation has been made by the National Library as to the possible time and cost involved in compiling a detailed index to the microfilms covering Colonial Office Series 280. The result showed that it would take approximately two man days to index each reel and there are 1,558 reels which brings the total time to 13-14 years. Working on a salary of \$6,000 per annum for the indexer, the total cost would be \$100,000.

NEWS NOTES

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

During June, the Archivist visited a number of centres along the Queensland coast from Brisbane to Cairns. The transfer of 1,600 linear feet of records from the Northern Registry of the Supreme Court of Queensland was arranged. Some of these records belong to the original establishment of the Court in Bowen in 1874.