

NEWS NOTES

Archives Authority of New South Wales

Miss Dianne Patenall returned to the Archives in October 1972 after attending the 1972 International Seminar on Archives in Paris from January to March. Miss Patenall had been awarded a scholarship from the French Government to attend the Seminar and this also provided for a further period of study of archives administration in France.

Provision was made in the 1972/73 Loan Estimates for funds for the construction of the first stage of the proposed new Government Records Repository at Kingswood.

The Assistant Senior Archivist, Mr. Peter Orlovich, M.A., Dip.Ed., M. Lib., resigned on 16th February, 1973 to take up a position as Lecturer with the School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales. Mr. Orlovich will be lecturing to students undertaking the new Diploma in Archives Administration. **University of Tasmania Archives**

In February 1973 the Archives Section was moved from the basement of the Morris Miller Library to the ground floor. This has made the Section more accessible, although compactus shelving, the major benefit of the former location, has been lost, as it is not possible for technical reasons to locate this on the ground floor.

Some recent accessions include material from the Society of Friends, the Tasmanian Dental Mechanics' and Dental Employees' Association, C. Piesse and Co, and records of Huddart Parker & Co's Hobart office.

Commonwealth Archives Office

In January 1972 the then Prime Minister, Mr. William McMahon, announced that the government had decided that the 30-year access rule should in future apply to Cabinet papers, as it has since December 1970 to the generality of departmental documents, and that the remainder of the war Cabinet papers covering the years 1942 to 1945 should also be released for public examination. Papers were to be made available in groups as they were processed. The first group, covering the period 1939-1941, was released in October 1972.

The first part of Stage 1 of the new Repository at Villawood, in the Sydney metropolitan area, providing some 175,000 shelf feet of storage space, is now complete. The move of material from the Bunnerong repository is under way, and all material should have been transferred to the new building by the end of March.

Mr. J. Morris resigned from the position of Senior Archivist, Victoria, in December 1972.

Miss T. M. Exley, Senior Archivist, Reference and Access, represented the Office at the Seventh International Congress on Archives of the International Council on Archives in Moscow in August 1972, making brief visits to archives institutions in Britain, France, Canada and New Zealand on the return journey.

The Archives Office of Tasmania

Mrs. Mary Milne McRae has been appointed Principal Archivist in the place of Mr. M. Saclier who, in August 1972, took up the position of Archives Officer at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. Mrs. McRae was formerly employed in the Archives Office, but latterly resigned from the profession in order to follow full-time post-graduate studies at the University of Tasmania. Mrs. McRae took up duties in a part-time capacity on 23rd October, 1972, but shortly after took leave in order to be able to accompany her husband, University Reader in History, Malcolm McRae, on an overseas study trip. On her return from the United Kingdom at the middle of January, Mrs. McRae took up the duties full-time.

Mrs. Shirley Eldershaw, the widow of former Tasmanian Principal Archivist Peter Eldershaw, has been appointed to the staff of the Archives Office of Tasmania as a trainee archivist.

Since the Archives Office moved to its new quarters in Stage 2 of the State Library Building, a quantity of records, described by the Principal Archivist as "alarming" in bulk, has been transferred to the Office. Both floors of the Archives area in Stage 2 are now full, and records from the Lands Titles Office threaten to occupy the entire space in the vaults of the Public Buildings, Macquarie Street, from which records have recently been moved to the new accommodation.

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

The Battye Library is endeavouring to overcome the problems caused by increasing demands of readers and shortage of staff by the recruitment of part-time and temporary employees. For just over a year now Mrs. Stephanie McNamara has been employed part-time on the compilation of a bibliography on a subject/area basis covering the North-West and Kimberley in the fields of biology, zoology, geology, history, etc. The long-term object of this is to prepare portfolios of relevant local material for libraries in the different areas. Mrs. McNamara was a member of the staff of the Battye Library from 1957 to 1961 when she was appointed the inaugural librarian of the Music Library on its formation as part of the State Reference Library.

Another past employee of the Western Australian State Library who has rejoined the staff as a part-time indexer in the Battye Library is Mrs. Florence Sharr who was the original Accessions Librarian when the Library Board commenced in 1951. She is at present compiling an index to early Public Works Department plans. A temporary typist is at present employed on typing such items as the 1837 Census from the Colonial Secretary's Office records, compilations of family trees, an index of arrivals, 1829-91 etc., so that they can be made more readily accessible to the public.

Miss Mollie Lukis who retired as Librarian of the Battye Library in August 1971 has been appointed Honorary Secretary of the National Trust of Australia Inc. (Western Australian Branch).

Western Australian Institute of Technology

The Western Australian Institute of Technology is planning to establish an Archives. A Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Mr. G. G. Allen, the Institute's Librarian, and members held their first meeting on 23rd November. They are working in close conjunction with the State Archivist and propose to introduce a planning programme for current records and an eventual archival repository. The collecting of external records is not envisaged.

New Premises of the Western Australian Museum

The opening of a new eight-storey building on 22nd November, has given the Western Australian Museum vastly improved display, technical and storage facilities for its various sections and spheres of interest, among them the collections pertaining to the State's history. The opening was performed by the Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, and at the ceremony the chairman of the Museum Board, Sir Thomas Meagher, announced the imminent establishment of a fund for the purpose of buying objects of local historical interest and so preventing them from leaving the State. The Curator of History, Mr. David Hutchinson, has shown his regard for the Battye Library as the appropriate repository for documentary material in that he directs to it any historical records which come his way.

Recent accessions to the Battye Library include the manuscript diary of Richard Brinsley Pitt kept during a little-known expedition in 1884 led by Harry Vane Stockdale from Cambridge Gulf to the Victoria River. The expedition was financed by Pitt's brother, a well-known Melbourne architect, the Hon. William Pitt, M.L.C.

Another interesting accession is a collection of programmes, plays, invitations and photographs dating from 1903 which belonged to the late Mrs. Fanny Herman. Mrs. Herman was an accomplished singer, actress and pianist and after her marriage to a member of the dental profession, became involved in the social and charitable activities of Perth.

Publications of the Royal W.A. Historical Society

The Society has recently published its first monograph – *Yours is the earth – the life and times of Charles Mitchell*, by J. P. Gabbedy. Publication was actually undertaken by special arrangement with the University of Western Australia Press, but, through the kind provision of the author, profits will ultimately go to the Society as sponsor. The subject of the biography was an important and colourful figure in the history of the Agricultural Bank, and a brother to Sir James Mitchell, Premier and Governor of Western Australia.

The Society is proud of its journal *Early Days*, which has been a valuable avenue for the publication of Western Australian history since 1928. The latest issues, Vol.7, parts 3 and 4, contain a list giving the dates covered by the first six volumes and the number of parts in each. This should be particularly useful in view of the journal's somewhat unstable title and changing styles of numbering. The bound volumes and individual parts available for sale are indicated, and a title-contents page for Vol.6 (1962-9) is issued free on application to the Secretary, 49 Broadway, Nedlands, 6009.

Bank of New South Wales Archives

Miss Lynette Milton, B.A. Dip. Lib. has been appointed Assistant Archivist.

The Archivist spent five weeks in Perth in February and March arranging and listing the records of the Western Australian Bank. This bank was established in Perth in 1841 and amalgamated with the Bank of New South Wales in 1927. The original collection of its records had been accessioned some years ago, and further material was added during a visit to Perth and Kalgoorlie in 1971, and during the recent visit to Western Australia. This group of archives now comprises 260 feet of records with small collections of photographs and relics. Because of the Western Australian Bank's close connection with the development of Western Australia, its archives have been located for the present in the Library of the Bank of New South Wales Chief Manager's Office at Perth. The same conditions of access will apply as to the main Bank of New South Wales archives at Sydney.

Reserve Bank of Australia

Mr. K. A. Polden, a former Archivist of the Reserve Bank of Australia, has commenced a preliminary assignment to collect and assemble information for a proposed history of the Bank from 1945-1960/68. The research is under the general guidance of Professor S. J. Butlin, Australian National University. The work will involve an examination of the Bank's post-war development up till 1960, when the Commonwealth Bank was "separated" into the Reserve Bank and the Commonwealth Banking Corporation, and of the working of the 1959 Banking Legislation.