

offices (*Documentaire verzamelingen in overheidsarchieven*, Ned. Archievenblad LXXI, 1967, 10-34). The head-archivist Carel Bloemen, who had already written a manual for the arrangement and administration of registry records (*Handleiding voor de inrichting en het beheer van de registratuur*, Groningen, 1957), completed shortly before his death two remarkable studies on the history of archive administration in Dutch Limburg. Viz. *De wordingsgeschiedenis van het Rijksarchief in Limburg* (The evolution of the State Archives in Limburg) (Maastricht, 1966) and *De Roermondse archiefkwestie 1889-1901* (The Roermond Archives question 1889-1901) (Maastricht, 1966).

J. H. De Vey Mestdagh's *L'activite des Archives des Pays-Bas 1953-1960* (Archivum XI, 1961, 191-197), provides a good survey of the achievements and activities during this period, not forgetting the instructional meetings for archivists which have been held annually since 1956 and at which foreign speakers are invited to air their views on specific archival problems. Dutch archivists have always attended the international congresses organized by the International Council on Archives and other gatherings, and played an active part in those meetings. One of the first chairmen of this organization was Graswinckel, my predecessor as Archivist General.

One of the most recent advances is the closer contact with the universities, especially with history students. When I consider post-war developments in the Netherlands in connection with Archive Administration I think I may conclude by saying, that the archivists have always remained keenly conscious of their calling and have been an inspiration to younger members of the staff. Consequently we need have no fear about the future of this work.

## BOOK REVIEW

### A Summary of Work 1972

*National Archives of New Zealand  
Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, New Zealand*

Users of archives naturally look to archivists to provide some preliminary information about the services and records of other archives. It is my view that the archivist has a responsibility to build up a collection of directories, guides, reports and journals of other archives to this end. Though it may be claimed that reference libraries can perform this function, it might be questioned whether librarians generally could adequately interpret these archival finding aids.

Annual reports from major Australian archival institutions are varied in information and in extent and in some cases they come plodding along as sections of State Library reports that might take a year or more to metamorphose into print. In the case of the Commonwealth the public at large has for years apparently been considered unsafe to be trusted with any published report at all of its own archives.

The National Archives of New Zealand offers a worthy, if modest, model in its annual **Summary of work** based upon a larger official report — a device which permits a government to hug top secret archival policy to itself if it so wishes (though what this could possibly be in the case of public archives is hard to see) while still telling the people at least **something**. However, the current New Zealand **Summary** is admirably forthcoming, discussing disposal, accessions, destruction, arrangement and description, preservation and repair, use of

archives (with an interesting analysis in tabular form), the work of records centres, records management, and gives a detailed appendix of records received. There is also a second appendix "Sources of Contemporary History" in which the Senior Archivist, Miss Judith Hornabrook, gives a valuable guide to the archives available for the study of comparatively recent events. It is no mere titillating statement, for as Miss Hornabrook says at the outset, in New Zealand "there is no thirty-year rule, although there are restrictions on the use of some archives . . . and recent accessions." The Summary covers the year ending 31 March 1972 and was available in Australia at least at the beginning of this year.

## NEWS NOTES

### J. S. Battye Library of Western Australian History

A volume of the *Perth Gazette* covering the years 1869-72 has recently been purchased by the Battye Library. Previously only a few copies were known to exist for this period. The person who offered it to the Library had found it in the garage when he purchased a house in Nedlands. From the binding it appears to be part of the set which was given to the Library early in the century by the Colonial Secretary's Office. Presumably someone had "borrowed" it long ago from the departmental set and it had never been returned.

A new courthouse having been built in Kalgoorlie an officer from the Battye Library flew up there in January to inspect records still held in the tower of the old building. They were a substantial collection of miscellaneous series of mining and court records for Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and Norseman from as early as October, 1893. Those of value have now been transferred to archival custody. A good collection of early Coolgardie photographs, donated to the Coolgardie Historical Museum has been lent to the Library for copying and these are a useful addition to our growing number of goldfields illustrations.

Records from the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia are at present being microfilmed by the Battye Library. They consist of 13 boxes of correspondence and other papers covering the period 1844-1900 and diaries, letterbooks, etc., of Bishop Salvado and his successors, 1844-1908. The assistance of Professor K. Garrad, Professor of Spanish at Flinders University, has been most valuable in this project as most of the early material is in Spanish. The records have been brought down to Perth and with his help sorted into order for filming. It was hoped at first to make a detailed listing of the records but this proved too time consuming and they are now being copied in a date order arrangement. The records will be returned to the Monastery and a microfilm positive also lodged there.

Mrs. Christine Heagney has resigned from the staff of the Battye Library to go overseas. She has been with this library for four years. A new member of the staff is Mrs. Wendy Sobon who recently completed her Registration Examination.

Father Martin Newbold has been appointed Archivist at the Catholic Archives in Perth as a full-time appointment. Father Newbold is President of the Catholic Historical Society and has been active in historical research for some years while holding the incumbency in parishes in Denmark and Kojonup. Previously the appointment has been a part-time one only.