

NEWS NOTES

Queensland State Archives

Notable transfers received in the Queensland State Archives over recent months include:

Port of Brisbane – Vessels piloted 1899-1959.

Port of Brisbane – Pilotage record books 1938-59.

Northern Registry, Supreme Court of Queensland (Townsville) – Court Records 1874-1950.

Health and Home Affairs Department – Records of this Department and of Home Secretary's Office (not yet accessioned).

Irrigation and Water Supply Commission – Maps and plans of various water supply projects, stock bores and major dams including the Nathan Dam on the Dawson River, 1893-1952.

Gladstone Harbour Board – Correspondence, ledgers and cashbooks, 1917-51.

Reference and research work has continued at a high level, with several large projects being undertaken for Government Departments. With many schools in Queensland reaching their centenaries and even half-century marks, there has been a large increase in demand for school and community histories.

The fumigation plant has been fully occupied during the summer months, working on archival material primarily, but also processing material for the Oxley Memorial Library of Queensland and the State Library.

Early in 1973, the Archives received a copying machine – a Nashua Savin 220. The provision of this machine avoids the previous necessity for sending all material to the State Library for copying.

The Archives Photographer has continued the programme of newspaper filming which the Archives is undertaking on the State Library's behalf. The list of newspapers filmed now reads:

Cairns Morning Post – 1902-03.

Charters Towers Mining Standard – 1896-1904.

Western Star (Roma) – 1875-1929.

Townsville Daily Bulletin – 1919-27.

Wild River Times – 1897-1900.

It is hoped to make copies available for sale shortly. Two registers of pre-Separation land sales have been microfilmed and a start has been made on filming the Colonial Secretary's Office series dealing with the annexation of New Guinea in the 1880's.

Staff changes at the Archives include the transfer from State Library of Miss Rita Boote who joined the staff in April, 1973. Mr. Jim Bruce, Document Repairer/Bookbinder is in London at present as part of his study tour under the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship he was granted early this year. He reports that he is very busy working and learning in the Preservation Section of the Public Record Office and in the India Office Library. Mr. Bruce will return in August, 1973 after visiting various centres in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

The accommodation in the main Archives building at Dutton Park, in Brisbane, is being extended by the enclosure of the rear section of the lower ground floor. A new working area is being provided for the Document Repairer and the space gained thereby on the main floor will be used as office space for Graduate Assistants.

The Microfilm Vault operated for the Department of the Public Service Board has been in full use for some months and is proving satisfactory. More than 300 reels of film are now stored in closely controlled temperature and humidity conditions.

The Archives Authority of New South Wales

Following negotiations earlier this year with the Department of Public Works and the State Planning Authority the site of the proposed Government Records Repository at Kingswood has been exchanged for a similar site of 51 acres about one mile to the east of the original. Planning for the erection of the Repository on this new site has proceeded rapidly and preliminary excavations will begin late in June.

It is expected that at least three cells, capable of storing about 18,000 feet of records, will be available for occupation by January 1, 1974 and the remainder, which should be capable of storing a further 50,000 feet, available by the middle of the year.

In the meantime the Government Records Repositories at Shea's Creek and Yagoona have both been filled to capacity and are now unable to accept further accessions of semi-current records.

In April the Archives Authority reviewed the 35-year restriction period on access to State archives and most State archives are now available for use by approved persons 30 years after the date on which they were created. Naturally some series of records, particularly those affecting the privacy of individuals, will continue to be restricted for longer periods.

Mrs. Dawn Troy, B.A., Dip. Lib., has been appointed Assistant Senior Archivist following Mr. Peter Orlovich's resignation in February.

South Australian Archives

The Libraries Board of South Australia is about to publish an English translation of Nicolas Baudin's journal of his exploratory and scientific expedition to Australia in 1800-1804. The journal was translated by Christine Cornell, an Honours History graduate of the University of Adelaide, and daughter of Professor J. G. Cornell, who, before his recent retirement, occupied the chair of French in the same University. Miss Cornell's studies included a thesis 'Questions relating to Nicolas Baudin's Australian expedition, 1800-1804', which was published by the Libraries Board in 1965.

There will be a foreword by Dr. J. P. Faivre, of Paris, whose writings on the history of Pacific exploration have included studies of Baudin. There will also be a frontispiece showing Baudin's ships *Geographe* and *Naturaliste*, two maps and an index, the whole amounting to a little over 600 pages. Griffin Press is doing the printing. The book is expected to be on sale late in 1973 or early 1974.

The translation was commissioned by the Libraries Board several years ago, after a microfilm copy of the journal had been obtained from the *Archives nationales*. However, publication has only recently been made possible by a generous gift — the J. D. Somerville Trust — from the daughter of the late J. D. Somerville, who was for many years a frequent visitor to the State Library and particularly to the Archives.

La Trobe Library. State Library of Victoria

Miss Clarice Kemp, Manuscripts Librarian in the La Trobe Library of the State Library of Victoria retired after 17 years of service on May 14, 1973.

Miss Kemp was appointed to what was then the Public Library of Victoria on February 15, 1956. In those days there was no separate manuscripts collection as such and no La Trobe Library though the latter had been the dream of a number of strong supporters since the early 1950's. Although Miss Kemp was nominally a member of the Research Department, the care and administration of the Public Library's small but precious collection of manuscripts was placed in her charge.

For many years, Miss Kemp worked without the assistance of a staff, a situation which prevailed for a short time even after the opening of the La Trobe Library in 1965. However, even in these difficult circumstances, Miss Kemp succeeded in organising a considerable mass of material and establishing a card catalogue, supported by a series of detailed inventories as guides to material held in the collection. Miss Kemp's own knowledge of the collections was unsurpassed and just tribute has been paid to her by many authors who benefited from her assistance. Alan Moorhead in *Cooper's Creek* is a case in point, and even now, Miss Kemp's advice on the rich holding of Burke and Wills papers in the La Trobe Collection has been valuable to her successors.

Miss Kemp was fortunate, in the two or three years before her retirement to see a considerable improvement in the staff situation, both in the La Trobe Library generally and in her own department. At last positive efforts could be made to reduce the backlog of cataloguing and processing of collections of papers though in practice much of Miss Kemp's own time was absorbed by administrative responsibilities. In her last year, Miss Kemp was Acting La Trobe Librarian during the absence overseas of Miss Patricia Reynolds. The strong growth of the collection in recent years was a source of pride and satisfaction for Miss Kemp. The State Library of Victoria will long be grateful for her care of the Australian Manuscripts Collection and for the service she offered to both the staff and the public in enquiries connected with original sources. Miss Kemp has been succeeded by Mr. John Thompson.

Australian National University Archives

Since the last News Notes were published from the A.N.U. in August, 1972 (Vol. 4, No. 8) a year of considerable activity has ensued. The Archives Officer has spent a good deal of "settling in" time travelling to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in quest of records and the Deputy Archives Officer has also visited Adelaide and Sydney.

Notable deposits have been received from the Seamen's Union of Australia (Head Office), the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce Inc., the Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Co. Ltd., the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations and the N.S.W. branch of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union of Australia (now merged with the Amalgamated Engineering Union).

As a result of a campaign to include more employer associations in the collection arrangements have been made to microfilm the minutes of the Victorian Employers' Federation and the Australian Council of Employers' Federations.

The installation of compact shelving has now brought the present archives area to full capacity with a potential holding of approximately 13,000 linear feet. This is expected to last until about 1978 although deposit rates being even less predictable in this field than in some others no great faith can be attached to such predictions.

A new position for an Archives Assistant has been approved for the 1973-5 Triennium and now that the Campbell Report on academic salaries has been published it is hoped to be able to advertise this soon, probably before these notes go to press. One other vacancy is likely to occur in the Unit towards the end of the year. New salary rates have yet to be announced but will be in the vicinity of \$6,200-\$7,800.

University of Tasmania Archives

In May the Archivist, Miss M. S. Littlejohn, B.A. (Tas.), A.L.A.A., resigned to be married. Miss Littlejohn joined the staff of the Morris Miller Library in 1969 after a period of some years during which the Archives Section had not been staffed at all. She has left for her successor a fully functioning unit established and run on archival principles.

Mrs. L. Rodda, M.A. (N.Z.) will act as Archivist on a part-time basis until a new appointment is made.

The most recent acquisition is an instalment of the records of the Postal Telecommunication Technicians' Association, Tasmanian State branch.

Reserve Bank of Australia Archives

Recently Miss B. M. Vaughan visited the bank's Perth branch to undertake a preliminary appraisal of their records services prior to their transfer to new premises in August. In the early part of next year it is proposed that Perth will be converted to the Bank's standard filing system and that a repository for non-current records will be established.

With the completion of the Bank's Brisbane premises in August, current records services will be re-organised and the non-current records will be re-arranged in the new repository. During this 'upheaval' watchful eyes will be on the look-out for items that could be of archival value.

Two displays have been prepared to coincide with the opening of the new premises at Brisbane and Perth. The displays will be shown simultaneously at Head Office and the two capitals, highlighting the premises occupied by the Bank since opening for business in September, 1912 and January, 1913 respectively. While researching the Bank's representation in Perth, it was disclosed that the new building is located next door to Occidental House, the Bank's original site 60 years ago.