

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA ARCHIVES SECTION NEWSLETTER No. 7 – NOVEMBER, 1973

The Seventeenth Biennial Conference

1. General

The Conference was held in Perth from August 20 to 24, and in every respect was a very successful gathering.

Attendance at Archives Sessions was very good – indeed, the present observer cannot remember archives sessions at a Conference which were so consistently well attended.

The President of the Section, and Librarian of the J. S. Battye Library of Western Australian History (Miss M. L. Medcalf); the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Section, Mr. J. H. M. Honniball; the former Librarian of the Battye Library, Miss M. F. F. Lukis; and all the present staff of that Library and of the Commonwealth Archives Office in Perth deserve our heartfelt thanks. The dinner, the Biennial General Meeting, and the archives tour were very well organised, and maintained (at the very least) the high standard that has been achieved in other States at the Biennial Conferences.

If nothing else, archives sessions have a sense of intimacy and camaraderie which is not in evidence in the functions of the larger Sections of the Association. At Perth, the Archives Section meetings and archives sessions had this inestimable virtue, and much else besides.

2. On Monday, August 20, the sessions of interest to archivists got under way in fine style when Mr. Graham B. Stone, Senior Specialist Librarian (Films) in the National Library of Australia, gave a paper on the National Film Library and Archive. The following day, a threesome was to the forefront – Mrs. Pauline Fanning, Mr. Warren Horton, and Mr. John Love – members of the staffs, respectively, of the National Library of Australia, the Library of New South Wales, and the South Australian Archives. The subject of this session was “Coping with increased research demands from the public”, and those present were treated to a very instructive and even entertaining session.

On Wednesday, August 22, Mr. D. J. Cross gave a paper on the new building to house the State Archives of New South Wales. Mr. Cross had “lived” with the problem of the new building for the New South Wales Archives for some years – in fact it was a problem when Mr. R. F. Doust was the Senior Archivist. He therefore knew his subject very well, and it was very interesting to hear how problems relating to the accommodation of the Archives of the Senior State were going to be solved.

On Thursday, August 23, Mr. H. E. Hayward of the Archives of the Reserve Bank of Australia addressed a group on the organisation and management of a business archives institution. The session partook some of the best qualities of a workshop, with a level of audience participation which almost belied the appropriateness of the word “audience”.

On Friday, August 24, Mr. P. D. Wilson gave an excellent paper on the subject of the State Archives of that most distant of States, Queensland. This was interesting because the problems of which Mr. Wilson spoke, being parallel to those which formed the subject of the panel discussion held on the Tuesday, were being approached in a way significantly different from those being encountered in the National Library, the Mitchell Library, and the South Australian Archives.

3. Associated meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services, the two-day meeting of the General Council of the Library Association of Australia, and other meetings took place in Perth at the time of the Biennial Conference of the Association, or just before it. The Biennial General Meeting of the Archives Section was held in Stirling House, the headquarters of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, on Tuesday, August 21. This was followed by an informal meeting at which some of those

who had been to the Biennial Meeting made comments on the need for a separate Society of Archivists, and took action which may well lead to the formation of such a group. Mr. Michael Saclier mentions this in this quarter's "Miscellany".

4. Incoming Executive

The Section will be led by Miss E. Patricia Reynolds, the La Trobe Librarian (State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne) in 1974 and 1975, for during those years Miss Reynolds will be President and General Councillor. Mr. John Thompson is to be the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Thompson is Manuscripts Librarian at the State Library of Victoria. There has not been any change in the Editorship of this journal. The Committee is to consist of:

Miss P. Scott, Messrs. J. Cross, J. Love, M. Saclier, P. Wilson; Miss M. L. Medcalf; and a representative of Tasmania to be selected by the rest of the incoming Committee; in addition, the President, Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, and Editor of *Archives and Manuscripts* (Mr. R. Sharman).

5. Outgoing Executive

The former President and General Councillor, Miss M. L. Medcalf, and the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. J. H. M. Honniball, have contributed a great deal to the work and life of the Section, and their service has been much appreciated.

6. Liaison Officers for Archives and Manuscripts

There are to be liaison officers in each Capital City of Australia and its presently largest overseas Territory; these people to be asked to solicit articles for *Archives and Manuscripts*, to suggest the names of persons likely to be willing and able to write suitable articles, and to assist the Editor in seeing that editorial deadlines are met. The Liaison Officers are to be:

Sydney – Mr. G. L. Fischer.

Melbourne – Mr. J. Thompson.

Port Moresby – Miss N. Lutton.

Brisbane – Mr. P. D. Wilson.

Perth – Mr. J. H. M. Honniball.

Canberra – Mr. M. Saclier.

Hobart – Mrs. M. McRae.

Adelaide – Mr. J. Love.

7. Section Dinner

The Biennial Dinner of the Archives Section was held at the Palace Hotel, a venue chosen for its historic importance. Twenty-seven members and their guests attended, and it was a function most keenly enjoyed and appreciated.

8. Tours

Local members of the Section took visitors in four cars to the State's two leading archival repositories – the Commonwealth Archives Office at Karrakatta, and the Battye Library in the State Reference Library, Perth. The comparatively small number of people involved enabled the function to be managed readily, and there was no pressure to hurry or to keep to schedules. The visitors were very appreciative of what they saw.

NEWS NOTES

Archives Authority of New South Wales

Work has begun on the first 12 cells of the new Government Records Repository at Kingswood. Preliminary excavations and filling were completed in August and the Government recently awarded a contract to W. McNamara Ltd. for the construction work.

August was also marked by the publication of the long awaited inventory of the *Colonial Secretary's Correspondence* records. Apart from being extremely voluminous and heavily used these records are perhaps the most important of any held in the Archives Office. The inventory was prepared over a number of years by the Assistant Senior Archivist Mrs. D. Troy.