

NEWS NOTES

ARCHIVES AUTHORITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The first portion, comprising three storage cells and connecting corridors, of the new Repository at Kingswood was handed over to the Archives Office on 1st August 1974. It still lacks many facilities, including air-conditioning, a telephone, and most importantly, shelving. Consequently full occupation is not possible and probably will not take place until October. Nevertheless a staff member was installed in one of the corridors on 7th August, and he now has custody of about 1,200 feet of records, most of them stored on the floor. Communication with the Archives Office is twice weekly by note. Although far from ideal this arrangement has provided invaluable relief for the Archives Office storage problems, which in recent months have become quite desperate.

There has also been continuing, if slow, progress on the construction of the remaining nine storage cells of the first stage and it is hoped that these will become available for occupation by the end of 1974. In the meantime, the Premier has approved of funds, to the extent of \$400,000, being provided in 1974-75 to permit the construction of an additional three cells. By the end of 1975 the Repository will therefore consist of fifteen storage cells capable of housing approximately 90,000 feet of records.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mr Moeka Helai has recently returned to his position as Chief Archivist of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea. He began his training at that institution in 1970 under Mr Kevin Green, and spent some months gaining further experience in Fiji. More recently, he has had further training at the Administrative College of Papua New Guinea and then spent six months as Localisation Officer in the Department of the Interior. Mr Helai is now in Europe, attending the Archives Conference in Paris, 23rd - 27th September, 1974.

During September, the former Chief Archivist, and now Director of the Papua New Guinea Records project, Mr Kevin Green has been in Papua New Guinea microfilming manuscripts from different parts of the country. The University Library is hoping to be able to persuade the University administration of the necessity of purchasing similar portable microfilming equipment. Manuscripts which we are unable to secure, but may have a chance to microfilm, would be the archives of the Catholic and Lutheran Churches in particular. The Anglican and United Churches have already designated the University Library's New Guinea Collection as depository for their archives.

The New Guinea Collection will eventually receive all the University's own records, according to the report presented by Mr H. J. Gibbney, who visited the University late last year to advise on the records. Although the transfer of records is not imminent, the New Guinea Collection Librarian, Miss Nancy Lutton, has been endeavouring to speed up the organisation of the present holdings of manuscripts, and expects soon to publish a preliminary listing, to be

followed in due course by a fuller descriptive catalogue. The stack area of the New Guinea Collection has recently been re-arranged and enlarged, unfortunately necessitating the sacrifice of reader and display space. However, this should be remedied when the new library extensions come into effect in 1976. The oral history collection on tapes and photographic collection is also growing by leaps and bounds, and only lack of staff is preventing their earlier organisation and listing.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

The main news from Queensland is that we have decided to abandon the record group shelving system previously in use and to operate from August 1974 a fixed location system regardless of provenance. For some time, we have been concerned with the problem of allocating expansion space for on-going series, with interfiling later accessions to established series and the pushing and shoving required to keep all records from a given group together. The fixed location symbol e.g. A/32 will be the keystone of a system of closer control, using series sheets rather than catalogue cards for series descriptions and incorporating on the sheets much more information about related and controlling series than we have done in the past. Lee McGregor spent a week in Sydney with our good friends at the New South Wales Archives Office, studying the N.S.W. system. We shall not blame the deficiencies (yet undiscovered) in our new system on John Cross and Dawn Troy, but we are very grateful for their hospitality and assistance. Lee McGregor will be offering to the Editor an article on our change of system, hoping that he has not broken off diplomatic relations, seeing that it is *his* system we are scrapping.

Transfers received since last news notes include:

Premier's Department, Executive Council Minutes, 1933-40;

Department of Commercial & Industrial Development, Project files, 1950-63.

Work is continuing on replacing the Gall estrays mentioned in the previous notes. The index to Queensland local government bodies has been completed on cards and sets have been supplied to the Department of Local Government and the Oxley Memorial Library.

Staff changes include the resignation of David Gibson, B.A.(Hons.), who has been appointed Curator, Newstead House, a Trust property operated jointly by the State Government, the Brisbane City Council and the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. Moira Bennett, B.A., has left the archival world for that of library cataloging and changed her marital status in August to become Mrs Brown. Mrs Barbara Bykersma, M.A., has joined the staff to replace Moira and Miss June Cohen, B.A., has replaced David Gibson. Mr John Harris has joined the staff as Photographer. John has had wide and varied experience in photography in the R.A.A.F. Mr Bob Penny, a long-serving member of the clerical staff, retired early in September.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

During 1974 there has been a big expenditure of energy in connection with the Great Collins House Raid.

Collins House, 271 Collins Street, Melbourne, rises high in

Australia's industrial and financial history. The building was the headquarters of the "Collins House Group", comprising companies such as North Broken Hill, Broken Hill South, Western Mining Corporation and Associated Pulp and Paper Mills. Directors have included W. S. Robinson, W. L. Baillieu and Colin Fraser. At the end of 1973 it became known that the building would be demolished. This accelerated work on processing the massive collection of records of Broken Hill South for transfer from the basement vaults of Collins House to the University Archives. Large runs of records of North Broken Hill and Western Mining Corporation were located and transferred as additions to the records of those companies already in custody. The A.P.P.M. material formed a further vast collection to be processed and removed as the wrecker's hammer was ready to fall. Up to twelve final honours and past-graduate students were employed as ancillary help to list and box the Collins House material in preparation for removal. Following the big move detailed processing continues at the University, and the Broken Hill material has been supplemented by intakes from the mine sites at the Hill.

Parallel with this work the University Archives initiated a programme for the collection of Trades Union records. The University had previously avoided collecting union records, leaving the field to the Australian National University. Recurring reports that some unions would release material only to a Melbourne repository, and that some were destroying records, led to the decision to enter this field in an endeavour to secure records not available to the A.N.U. Unions who have transferred records include the Operative Painters, Federated Photo Engravers, Federated Rubber Workers, Foremen Stevedores, Victorian Fibrous Plasterers and the Tramways Union. This programme has been the responsibility of Mrs Carlotta Kellaway, with funding assistance from the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. Results have been excellent.

In July 1974 a grant from the Music Board, Australian Council for the Arts, and matching University funds, enabled appointment of an additional Assistant Archivist (Dr Kay Dreyfus) and a Research Assistant (Mr Tony Prescott) to process the holdings of the University's Percy Grainger Museum, under the direction of the University Archives. This work is supplemented by employment of temporary assistants. Time has been short, but already there are again excellent results from work on this rich resource concerning Australian and Scandinavian composers and musicians.

The proposed new Archives Centre still belongs to the (shorter term, it is hoped) future. Current storage is in three locations. Pressure on capacity has led to a tender being called for equipment of the ground floor of the main (Palmerston Place) repository with powered compactus shelving.

ARCHIVES OFFICE OF TASMANIA

Space continues to be the central neurosis of the Archives Office, with a large transfer of Gaol records, 1860-1960, appearing to be the straw to break the camel's back. Meanwhile, the local branch of the

Australian Archives continues to collect retired churches for its storage needs.

A conservator is being sought following Cabinet authority for the immediate creation of such a post for the Archives Office, and equipment has been provided for in this year's estimates.

The Principal Archivist, Mary McRae, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study current developments in Archives in the U.S.A., U.K., Canada and Europe. She intends leaving Australia in March, saying grandiosely that "I've always been away in autumn or winter before". A major field to be explored is that of microfilming, especially the substitution of film for some categories of original records.

The only staff movement of note recently has been the return of Clare Cowling from a short overseas trip — having diligently not visited any archival institutions — and since her return she has created two new record groups.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

During June and July one of the S.A. Archives staff and an officer appointed by the Public Service Board conducted a quantitative survey of State Government records in the Adelaide metropolitan area, to find out the amount of storage space likely to be required, both for archives and intermediate records, in the next ten or twenty years. At present there is no central intermediate repository: it is hoped that the information obtained will determine whether there is a need for one. The survey took the form of a questionnaire followed by a personal visits. However, the operation is not complete, as some agencies have not yet been visited.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES

Through the Faculty of Economics the University Archives has now acquired all of the papers of the late Francis Armand Bland (1882-1967), former Professor of Public Administration, Member of Federal Parliament, and Chairman of the Commonwealth Public Accounts Committee. Bland was a graduate of the University of Sydney (B.A. 1909, LL.B. 1912, M.A. 1914), and lectured in public administration from as early as 1916; he was appointed to the first Chair of Public Administration in 1935. His papers include some of his own student notes and sources, and a great deal of material arising from the preparation of his lectures, both as lecturer and professor. Bland retired from the University in 1948 and then, aged about 62, embarked on a second career in politics. In 1951 he was elected the Liberal member for Warringah and held the seat until 1961. The Public Accounts Committee under his Chairmanship has been described as "one of the most effective committees that has ever existed in an Australian parliament". His papers strongly reflect his political involvement and include a great deal of material relating to political issues of the time and to the management of his electorate. The papers are at present being given a preliminary arrangement and access conditions are not yet finalised.

The University of Sydney Union celebrated its centenary this year. Its origin is in the Sydney University Union, an all-male debating society established in 1874 along Oxford/Cambridge Union lines. The Women's Union was established as a separate organisation in 1914. Both unions practised a degree of segregation as to the opposite sex right up to the post 1945 years. In 1971 the decision was taken to amalgamate the two bodies under the name of The University of Sydney Union. The Sydney University Union was always keenly interested in the preservation of its own archives and since the year 1911 has appointed an Honorary Archivist; originally held by successive University Librarians, this post has in more recent times been held by the University Archivist. As part of the centenary celebrations, the University Archives arranged an exhibition of documents and illustrations from the archives of both men's and women's unions, and this has led to the deposit in the University Archives of the older records of the Sydney University Union. Records of the Women's Union will be transferred later. Except for a few early years, the records of the men's union are remarkably complete; there are several series of minutes, including those of the Debates Committee which are likely to have particular research interest since they will reveal contemporary attitudes on various subjects. There is also a good deal of correspondence, illustrated material, and, more unexpectedly, some material (originals and copies) relating to the 1914-1918 War. This last material arises from the Union's concern for members of the University serving in the forces and also as a result of its attempt to build up a biographical record of all enlisted persons. Some material gives first-hand accounts of active service conditions.

The *Australian Library Journal* for September 1974 draws attention to the British Standards Institution *Recommendations for repair and allied processes for the conservation of documents* (BS 4971: Part 1: 1973). It is not necessary to write to London for this, copies may be obtained from The Standards Association of Australia, 80 Arthur Street, North Sydney. The price is now \$5.00, plus 30c postage.

AUSTRALIAN MAP CURATORS' CIRCLE — 1975 SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP AT ST. MARYS COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, 19th - 21st FEBRUARY

Papers to be given at this seminar include: "Crossroads of mapping in Victoria" J. E. Mitchell, Surveyor-General; "Map libraries in Australia" T. M. Knight, National Library of Australia; "Co-operation: Key to successful map making" Stan Bond, Ministry of Transport; "The role of the map curator" P. A. G. Alonso, State Library of Victoria; "Mapping data and the National Mapping Programme" D. R. Hocking, Division of National Mapping; and "MARC and maps" D. F. Prescott, Baillieu Library.

Workshops on map user needs, national and state map libraries, tertiary education map collections, departmental map collection, Union List of Topographic Map Series, Map Seminars for Specialists, and AMCC publications.

Study tours of Leigh Mardon P/L, Dept. of Crown Lands and Survey, Division of National Mapping, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, University of Melbourne and Monash University map collections.

Registration fee of \$25 includes luncheons, dinners, morning and afternoon teas, conference facilities, and study tours.

Seminar Programme and Registration Form available from the Convenor, Mrs P. A. G. Alonso, 3 Macfarlan Street, South Yarra, Vic. 3141.

ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENTS AT MONASH UNIVERSITY

Following the announcement in *Archives and Manuscripts* 5(7) May 1974 concerning the steps being taken at Monash University to prepare a scheme for the selection and preservation of its archives, it is pleasing to announce that the university has now appointed a full-time Filing Officer in charge of the Registry, Central Files. The newly appointed officer is Mr Douglas Bishop who was previously employed as an archivist with the Victorian Public Record Office.

VICTORIA THROUGH THE LENS — AN EXHIBITION OF EARLY VICTORIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

On 30 July, Dr Eric Westbrook, Director, Ministry for the Arts (Victoria) opened a large exhibition of Victorian historical photographs in the Irving Benson Hall, La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria. The exhibition, which was based on a selection of photographs dating from the 1850s to the 1920s, concentrated on documentary photography rather than the artistic or technical achievements of the camera. Nevertheless, the exhibition did include some particularly noteworthy historical examples — a highlight was a print from the first paper negative ever taken (by W. H. Fox Talbot in 1835).

The majority of the photographs on display were originals, all of them taken from the pictorial and manuscript collections in the La Trobe Library. The exhibition, which was open to the public until 29 September was a considerable success and attracted many hundreds of visitors.

RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA

Staff of the Archives Section have completed a reorganization of intermediate records at the Bank's Brisbane branch following the branch's relocation to new premises. Some early branch records were transferred to Sydney for accessioning into the permanent archives.

Research is continuing for source material to document a history of the Bank during the period 1945-1960/1968. (Vide *A & M* February 1973.) The study is concentrating on the development of central banking in Australia, the subject of Professor L. F. Giblin's earlier work. "The Growth of a Central Bank", which examined the period 1924-1945. Writing of the history is expected to follow the completion of the preliminary research. The study is being supervised by Professor S. J. Butlin, of Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. Mr K. A. Polden of the Bank is assisting in the research programme.