

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In my Q.S.A. news notes for the November issue, I might have given the impression that we seriously believed that the Editor would take umbrage at our "scrapping" of the record group shelving system hitherto used. In fact I meant these remarks in flippant vein, as it should be a well-known fact that Robert Sharman has always expressed doubts about the system, and, in fact, drew my particular attention to its shortcomings whilst I was a student at C.C.A.E. in 1971. We are now carrying out a change which he has advocated for some considerable time. Material already processed under the record group system, up to August 1974, will not be re-processed. We do not consider it economically realistic to re-process this considerable amount of material.

P. Wilson

NEW ZEALAND NEWS NOTES

The staff of National Archives farewelled with regret one of its longest serving archivists, Tim Lovell-Smith, who travels overseas on leave without pay and expects to further his archival experience. It is hoped he will return to National Archives in due course. Brad Patterson has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Rosemary Collier has taken up the post of Senior Archivist. Miss Collier was formerly on the staff and returns with a Diploma in Archive Studies from University College, London. She had already acquired a qualification in document repair in London.

The temporary assistance of a supernumerary clerical assistant who has been primarily engaged in indexing passenger lists has enabled some progress to be made. The work is being continued by a permanent office assistant.

Approval for the increase in the establishment of National Archives by the addition of two archivists is a most heartening development.

One of the archivists, Owen Davie, has spent three weeks in Niue and Western Samoa giving advice and assistance and selecting records of the Niue and Tokelau Islands Administrations for permanent preservation.

Most notable of accessions are Legislative Department committee papers for the period 1854 to 1951.

Education Department files—covering every aspect of education during the period from about 1900 to recent years.

Police Department files 1877-1942; and papers of the late Hon. W. Lee Martin, Minister of Agriculture 1935-41.

Tom Wilsted has joined the staff of the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, as manuscripts librarian. The library has been active in gathering archival material recently. Accessions include letters of Thomas Arnold, 1850-97; a diary of William Jowett describing a visit on H.M.S. Dromedary 1818-21; minutes and records of the New Zealand Farmers Union and the Wellington Chamber of Commerce; records of the New Zealand Shipping Company and the Wesley

Methodist Church, Wellington. The Chief Librarian should be consulted regarding the use of these records.

Mr R. Griffin has been appointed archivist for the Bank of New Zealand—the first such appointment in New Zealand. He has begun the collecting and organising of the archives of the several branches of the Bank in New Zealand and is compiling historical booklets to commemorate the centennials of branches.

Amongst notable accessions to Auckland University Archives are the records of the Auckland University Lecturers Association; N.Z. Labour Party and Trade Union records; sundry Maori Council papers and a notebook of the Maori “prophet”, Rua Kanana.

Mrs N. Russell has been appointed librarian-archivist of the Nelson Provincial Museum. Letters of the early magistrate H. A. Thompson who perished in the Wairau affray, 1843, have been an exciting acquisition.

The Hocken Library, Dunedin, has gathered material from a wide selection of organisations including Mosgiel Woollens Limited 1871-1973; N.Z. Medical Association 1962-72; Otago Southland Division of the National Party; Otago Printed Related Trades Industrial Union of Workers; and West Winton River Board, 1912-69. Personal and literary papers of R. A. K. Mason and a World War I diary of J. A. Smith, 1st Infantry Brigade, A.I.F., were also accessioned and the Council records of the University of Otago 1944-63.

The major event on the New Zealand archives scene is perhaps the formation of an Archives Committee of the N.Z. Library Association. We hope it will lead to progress in archives. The formation of the Committee followed a seminar on local body archives held during the annual conference of the Library Association. The Committee has already begun the issue of a bulletin, *Archifacts*, edited by S. R. Strachan, archivist, the Hocken Library, Dunedin. At the same time local interest in establishing archives is increasing throughout the country.