

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
ARCHIVES SECTION — NEWSLETTER No. 13
May, 1975

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Many of Australia's libraries as well as the Library Association of Australia and a number of its subordinate bodies are actively participating in International Women's Year.

Altogether, there must be many programmes being introduced, surveys undertaken, and bibliographies and other publications prepared, but we are not keeping one another aware of what they are.

We would like to hear from you briefly, the details of any activities to celebrate IWY in which your library or special interest group of the Association are involved. A list will be prepared and published in the *Journal*. It will act as an information exchange so that you might collaborate, or gain mutual benefit from getting in touch, with those running similar programmes. It would also allow us all to see the extent of IWY activism in a profession that is, largely, of women.

Would you please send your notices to Mrs Sue Phillips, Library Association of Australia, 32 Belvoir Street, Surry Hills, N.S.W. 2010 as soon as possible.

Mr PETER WALNE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

It has been announced that Mr Peter Walne, M.A., F.R.H.S., County Archivist of Hertford in England, will be an official guest at the 18th Biennial Conference of the Library Association of Australia, to be held in Melbourne in August. Mr Walne is well known as the Honorary Secretary of the Society of Archivists, and as the writer of a number of extremely important works of reference, including the work on the British Record Commissions to which Australian archivists have often referred with gratitude.

The Library Association of Australia has never before been able to foster the Australian visit of an archivist. The present Editor of *Archives and Manuscripts* remembers wistfully the "almost" visit of Mr Roger Ellis, of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Mr Ellis was scheduled to visit Brisbane for the 1967 Conference of the LAA, and it was only at a late hour that he was obliged to withdraw. Every archivist in Australia will look forward to the visit of Peter Walne, and hope that his stay in our country will be enjoyable to him, as it will surely be profitable to us.

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY OF NORTH QUEENSLAND

The *North Queensland Register* of 23rd November, 1974 contains a news item about the collection of business records by the Library of the James Cook University of North Queensland. Miss Patricia Scott kindly forwarded the cutting to the Editor. Mr Chris Hunt, Librarian

of the University, is shown in a press photograph receiving from Mr Rod Newell some records of the prominent Far North Queensland firm of Jack and Newell. The records handed over include account books, ledgers and letter books dating from 1879 till the First World War.

The Company was founded in 1879 by William Jack, of Herberton, trading under his own name. In 1880 John Newell joined the firm. As new mining areas were opened up, branches of Jack and Newell were established in them to cater for the interests of the miners. Branches were established in many places in the far north of Queensland, including towns which will not be known to many southerners, like Montalbion, Koorboora, Bamford and Lappa Lappa, as well as more widely-known places like Port Douglas and Herberton.

Mr Hunt, in receiving the records, said that they were almost certainly the most important collection surviving in private custody of business records relating to Far North Queensland.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Melbourne University is also in the news for much the same reason as that which explains the previous item. Mr Henry Thorburn has forwarded a cutting from *The Age* of 4th February, 1975 which relates to the donation to the Archives at Melbourne University of material concerned with the women's liberation movement. Records which have been added to the Melbourne University collection include those of the Women's Electoral Lobby, Women's Liberation, and earlier groups like the Women's Action Committee. The material was received on behalf of the University by Mr Frank Strahan, Archivist of the University, and an assistant archivist, Dr Mark Richmond.

ASSOCIATION FOR A NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVES

The Editor has been kept well supplied with newspaper cuttings during the past quarter. A third cutting supplied deals with the efforts being made by ANFA (Association for a National Film Archives) to have changes brought about in the National Library's policies with regard to the collection and storage of film. There is criticism of the National Library's decision to devote resources to the conversion of films from the old inflammable nitrate stock to acetate stock, and of the comparative neglect of films of the 1950s and 1960s. There is also spirited defence of the National Library's policy from Mr Ted Vellacott, the Chief Film Librarian. The cutting comes from the *Canberra Times* of 19th December, 1974, and is well worth reading.

SEMINAR ON ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS ADMINISTRATION TO BE HELD IN WELLINGTON

A Seminar to give specialized training to archivists, records managers, records clerks and librarians will be held in Wellington, 22nd to 26th September, 1975. Topics will include conservation, starting an archives, or manuscript collection, records management, developing finding aids and tours of libraries and archives in

Wellington. The programme is aimed at employees or volunteers with business firms, local bodies, museums, libraries, universities, and churches. The Seminar is being sponsored by the New Zealand Library Association, the National Archives of New Zealand and the Alexander Turnbull Library. If you wish to receive further information or a programme please contact Mr T. Wilsted, Manuscripts Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, P.O. Box 8016, Wellington.

NEWS NOTES

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

The main items of news relate to acquisitions. The Association of Railway Professional Officers of Australia has decided to deposit its records with the Archives Unit. Arrangements are also under way for the microfilming of the minutes of the Waterside Workers' Federation, Sydney Branch and of the Tasmanian Trades and Labour Council.

The first of the new series of guides mentioned in these notes in the November and February issues of this journal, that relating to organizations about which material is held in the collection, is completed and will be issued in May (printing pool permitting) or June. The lists of deposits which it supplements will be reissued in an up-dated form at about the same time.

For various reasons the vacancy mentioned in the last issue has not yet been filled but should be advertised shortly. Anyone interested who has not yet seen an advertisement by the time this appears in print should write to the Archives Officer.

The University was host to the conference held on 5th and 6th of April at which the new Australian Society of Archivists was formed. Despite some minor hitches caused principally by the inexperience of the organizers the social part of the gathering seemed to go off very well and was (we hope) enjoyed by all who participated. The business side of the meeting is reported on in *Miscellany*.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

Recent transfers include:

Police Station, Aramac: Station records, including records of the Clerk of the Court and Clerk of Petty Sessions.

Queensland Government Railways: Commissioner's correspondence, 1902+.

The transfer of the Railways records represents the first important accession of the period (1887+) following the administrative separation of the Government Railways from the Public Works Department. Before 1887, Railways records lie within the provenance of the Department of Public works (1866-87) and Department of Lands and Works (1862-66).

Work has commenced on a *Guide to Queensland State Archives*. This, our first essay into the publications field, will be a list of series