

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
ARCHIVES SECTION — NEWSLETTER No. 14
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A NON-COMMUNICATING PROFESSION

It is understood that legislation has been passed in Western Australia providing for the control of the public records of that State. The exact terms of the legislation have not been conveyed to the editor of this journal, but there is some expectation that news of this new development will be transmitted shortly.

There is a rumour, emanating from Canberra, to the effect that Professor R. S. Neale, a former Professor of History at the University of Queensland, and until recently the Head of the History Section at the Department of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Director-General of the Australian Archives. The Australian Archives has not officially informed this journal of this appointment. It could hardly be true to say that the archivists employed by Australia's largest archival institution do not think the appointment is important enough to be mentioned in *Archives and Manuscripts*. Perhaps postal strikes have delayed our mail.

In this issue we publish news notes from the Tasmanian, New South Wales and Queensland State Archives Offices.

ARCHIVES OFFICE OF TASMANIA

Mary McRae has just returned from her Churchill Fellowship trip. During her four months away she visited archives institutions in Canada, the U.S.A., and Europe. Hopefully what she thinks about what's going on in those places will be published in a later edition of *Archives and Manuscripts*.

Marg Bryant has also recently returned from the continent of Europe. She enjoyed a three-months' visit, which was non-archival.

A recent appointment to the staff of the Archives Office of Tasmania is Bill Taylor who, in addition to having worked in the Tasmanian Archives in the late 1960s, has worked in the Hudson's Bay Archives and the B.B.C. Archives in London. He will, we hope, be unravelling the rather tangled semi-current records web.

All these arrivals mean that the Archives is now back at full strength and we will be able to think about processing the backlog of records after a few lean months "fighting off the customers" and answering letters.

During the last four months a representative of the Mormon Church's Genealogical Society has been working in the Archives microfilming records of genealogical interest. Copies of these films will be held in the Archives office and will be part of our microfilm resource — that is, part of the end-product of a long-term project to get our more frequently used (and long suffering) records on to film. We are in the process of appointing a person to operate our microfilm camera. Preparation for this has entailed undertaking the rather massive task of paginating thousands of volumes of Colonial Secretary's

Office records (as a beginning) and we have been lucky here in being able to obtain labour under the R.E.D. Scheme (Regional Employment Development Scheme) to do this painstaking and monotonous job.

After a lapse of ten years since Section Three was issued, Section Four of the *Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania* is now being printed and should be available shortly. This is a guide to records relating to immigration. Its preparation represents something of a departure from the principles behind the first three parts of the *Guide* . . . as they sought to describe a single record group, but Part Four will have a subject orientation.

It was mentioned above that the most frequently used materials are "long-suffering". Relief may be on the way, as we are about to acquire a conservator.

ARCHIVES AUTHORITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

During the period August 1974 to January 1975 Government Departments were issued with more than 28,000 cartons and labels for storage of semi-current records in the new Kingswood Repository, a quantity which is almost three times the former average annual increase of semi-current records stored in the Repository. In addition, since February the Archives Office has been engaged in transferring about 52,000 feet of State archives and permanently valuable semi-current records from the Library of New South Wales building and the Shea's Creek Repository to Kingswood. Unlike the 1972 transfer to the Yagoona Repository, this move has been relatively painless, and will be completed by mid-June. However, the combination of it and the heavy demand for storage space for semi-current records has meant that all space in the first twelve cells at Kingswood is now in use or is committed to use in 1975.

In March construction began on the three storage cells which were approved in 1974 and it is expected that these will be completed by the end of 1975. Unfortunately the high demand for storage of semi-current records shows little sign of decreasing, and it is more than probable that space in these three cells will be committed to use months before they are completed. In the meantime, the Archives Authority is pressing for funds to be made available in the 1975-76 financial year to enable the construction of an additional six cells, together with a portion of the Administration Block.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

Recent transfers include:

Department of Works—Photographs of public buildings, plans of primary schools and other public buildings 1870-1915.

Department of Water Resources—Irrigation and Water Supply Commission Dam Site Test drill logs 1945-1975, on 16 mm microfilm.

Department of the Treasury—Card register to inward and outward correspondence 1929-1953.

Department of Marine Services—Marine Board of Queensland Certificates of Competency 1877-1921, 1937-1939.

State Stores Board—Board Minutes and agendas 1923-1967.

During April, the Assistant Archivist visited the Villawood Repository of Australian Archives in Sydney and then spent a week in Canberra with the Australian Archives officers, looking at various aspects of the work of the national body.

In early June the Archivist visited Townsville to supervise the sorting of material prior to the movement of the Magistrates' Court into the new Supreme/District/Magistrates' Court complex.

New equipment is at present on order for the Document Restoration Room, including an Ademco Laminating Press (36" x 42"), a pH meter with a flat-end paper sampling electrode, and a Rota Trim machine of 42" capacity.

NEW ZEALAND NEWS NOTES

A Seminar on business archives was held during the course of the annual conference of the N.Z. Library Association. Valuable papers were presented by Associate Professor R. C. J. Stone (History Department, University of Auckland); Mr Robin Griffin (Archivist, Bank of New Zealand) and Mr Stuart Strachan (Archivist, the Hocken Library). The attendance at this session was pleasing and there promises to be considerable interest in future activities of the Archives Committee of the Library Association. At present a report by Mr Strachan on "Local Archives in New Zealand" is being considered by the Committee and other interested people.

A training seminar sponsored by the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Archives and the New Zealand Library Association is to be