

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
ARCHIVES SECTION — NEWSLETTER No. 15
November, 1975

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES LEGISLATION

The Parliament of Western Australia passed archives legislation as part of its Library Board of Western Australia Act Amendment Act, 1974. The Amendment Act contains provisions which seem adequately to cover the ground necessary in a State archives act. Section 3 relates to definitions, and presumably adds to the sets of definitions in the principal act. Section 22 vests in the Library Board of Western Australia the "custody and control" of all State archives. In Section 23, it is provided that certain public records or classes of public records may be declared exempt from some or all of the provisions of the Act, and Section 25 provides that archives already in the custody of the Board shall be deemed to have been transferred to the Board in terms of the Act. Section 26 provides, *inter alia*, for an office to recall from the Board an archive that has been transferred to it. Section 28 provides that the Board shall provide the facilities for the consultation of State archives, and Section 29 lays down some responsibilities for the Board in its relations with offices still creating records. The basic responsibility for the maintenance of the office record is, however, in accordance with Section 30, laid upon the public office creating it. There are a number of sub-sections of this Section, wherein the basic procedure is laid down for the destruction (with approval) of public records, and their transfer to the custody of the Board. In Section 31(3) a provision is made for the circumstances where the Board is unwilling to allow the destruction of public records, but is unable (presumably through lack of storage space) to accept their transfer to its custody as State archives.

Section 32 is an important one, relating, as it does, to public records received by an office, or compiled in it, under conditions of secrecy. It also provides for officers depositing records with the Board to stipulate that restrictions must be placed on public access to them, and for the Board itself to declare that archives in its custody have to be so restricted. A weakness seems to be that though the power is given to the Board to declare that access is restricted to any archives or class of archives, and that access may be granted to any archives or class of archives "subject to conditions", there is no specific provision for the restrictions to be removed. It may be argued that, if an authority has power to impose a restriction, it must also have power to remove that restriction. It may, however, have been wiser to write that more positive power into the Act.

With the passage of this legislation by the Parliament of Western Australia, each of the States now has an Archives Act.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Professor Robert George Neale, M.A., Dip.Ed., took up his appointment as Australian Archives' first Director-General on September 8, following formal confirmation of his appointment on August 21. Professor Neale was Professor of History at the University of Queensland from 1965-1970, when he was appointed Editor of Historical Documents with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

His appointment is, of course, of major significance to Australian Archives and all members of staff look forward to working with him in developing the Australian Government's archive service. Initially Professor Neale will concentrate on work connected with the proposed Task Force. A small group of officers is already working on projects connected with this.

STAFF

There have been a number of other senior staff changes since our last report to *Archives and Manuscripts*.

Mr Ian Maclean resigned his appointment as Acting Director on January 3, 1975, to take up a position as Deputy Keeper, Public Record Office of Victoria. Following this resignation Mr J. P. Dunner returned from duties with the Department of Special Minister of State to his position as Director. On February 14 Mr Dunner transferred to the Department of Minerals and Energy. Since then the Chief Archivist, Dr Keith Penny, has been Acting Director whilst Ms Thea Exley, Senior Archivist, Reference and Access has been Acting Chief Archivist.

Mr George Cavendish, Officer-in-Charge, Queensland, is at present on extended sick leave and Mr Winston Maie is acting in his position.

Ms Rosemary Millar, formerly Assistant Conservator at the National Library has joined the Canberra staff as Conservator.

DISPOSAL AND APPRAISAL UNIT

In order to cope with the increasing demands for disposal work within the Australian Government a new Disposal and Appraisal Unit has been created within Australian Archives. Ms Dianne Easter is at present Acting Senior Archivist, Disposal and Appraisal. Ms Easter recently attended a three week course in Retirement and Appraisal of Records which was conducted by Mr Morris Rieger at the Graduate School of Library Studies, University of Hawaii.

NORTHERN TERRITORY REGIONAL OFFICE

Following Cyclone Tracy a number of officers visited Darwin initially to assess the position and subsequently to supervise the transfer of water damaged records to Brisbane. The Queensland State Archives' willingness to make available its fumigation facilities for the records was very much appreciated. At present Mr Ian Sutherland, Officer-in-Charge, Northern Territory, is operating the Darwin Regional Repository from Brisbane, where records formerly in both archival and departmental custody are stored. Mr Andrew Griffiths is acting as

a temporary Liaison Officer and is continuing to supervise archives work in Darwin.

Australian Archives partially completed new building in Darwin suffered only minor damage during the cyclone even though it is located in the suburb of Nightcliff, one of the worst affected areas. The building has been specially designed for tropical conditions including cyclones. Work on the building has been resumed and the present expected completion date is March 1976. It is hoped to occupy the building by the end of June.

BUILDINGS

A site for an Australian Archives North Canberra Repository has been identified at Mitchell, a new suburb on Canberra's northside. Preliminary work on preparing the site is expected to take place in the current financial year. The building is intended to provide staff and user facilities and additional storage accommodation until such time as the proposed National Archives building is erected.

The initial structure of 80,000 square feet will provide public user areas of 11,000 square feet including search room, reference and guide room and control records room. 15,000 square feet will be provided for A.C.T. regional staff. When the bulk of these facilities are transferred to the National Building the Mitchell repository will revert to its primary function of providing repository services for Australian Government agencies on the northside of Canberra.

On August 13, Stage 2 of the New South Wales Regional Offices' Repository at Villawood was handed over. Records of permanent value will be housed in Stage 2 which is air-conditioned.

ROUND TABLE ON ARCHIVES

It has been decided that it will not be possible to hold the International Conference of the Round Table on Archives in Australia in 1977.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RECORDS

Work is proceeding on the microfilming and return to P.N.G. of Territorial records which were evacuated to Australia after the 1937 earthquake in Rabaul and prior to, and during the Second World War. These records were originated by the Administrations of German New Guinea, the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, and Papua. Since mid-1968 the Australian Archives has been progressively arranging and describing these records, many of which were seriously disordered and in a fragile condition, prior to microfilming them.

Despite the shortage of skilled staff for this work, 360 hundred foot rolls of microfilm have been prepared and approximately 200 rolls, mainly of German New Guinea records, remain to be filmed. The original records are being returned to National Archives of P.N.G., while a copy of the microfilm is being retained in Australia for security and to meet the heavy reference demand by Australian researchers.

With reference to a comment in the editorial in the last issue of *A. & M.*, it may be of interest to note that as a source of information on Australia's colonial administration, these Territorial records

supplement the records of Australian departments having administrative responsibilities in P.N.G. In accordance with the access policy of the Australian Government, the latter records are presently open to public access to 1945 and more recent material will become available as it becomes 30 years old.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

A gift of money from Miss M. Somerville has made possible the employment of a photographer to microfilm material that is in danger of disintegration. The photographer is dividing his time equally between manuscripts and newspapers. The first manuscript series filmed consisted of ships passenger lists, completing a project that was begun in 1962 by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints. The second series, still in progress, is letters and other communications received by the Colonial Secretary, Governor and other Government officials, 1836-51. This is a larger and much more difficult job. It was decided to film the whole series at the same degree of reduction regardless of the page size, thus eliminating movement of the camera up and down, but it is necessary to make frequent adjustments to cope with changes in the colour of paper and ink. In one or two instances the contrast between ink and paper is so slight that it is not possible to make a good copy without more elaborate equipment. A further problem is pages pasted together so clumsily that they cannot be folded back for filming. In these instances we resort to filming transcripts. Preparation of the material for filming is an exacting task, involving a page by page examination, separating sheets that have been stitched together, and attaching identifying numbers to each page so that they can be copied in correct order. This is work for an archivist, and is not paid for by the gift. It costs money to spend money.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

The most important recent event to report is the visit of the County Archivist of Hertfordshire, Mr Peter Walne. During his short visit to Brisbane, he visited the State Archives, the John Oxley Library, the Fryer Library and the Australian Archives. He also addressed a Branch Meeting of the Library Association of Australia. The Queensland group of the Australian Society of Archivists were able to meet Mr Walne at afternoon tea at the State Archives on Tuesday, September 9.

During August, the Assistant Archivist, Ms Lee McGregor attended an ASA Council Meeting in Melbourne and the Archivist attended the LAA 18th Biennial Conference. Mr Jim Bruce took part in a conference Workshop on Conservation.

Recent transfers to State Archives include:

Queensland Government Railways—Drawings of Station buildings; bridge plans. Plans of new lines laid before Parliament. General correspondence.

Department of Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs—Minutes of meetings of the Board of Examiners for Engineers, Engine Drivers and Motor Mechanics.

Magistrates Court, Ayr—Court Records.

Magistrates Court, Townsville—Court Records.
Nebo Shire Council—Council Records.

A visitor to the State Archives during August was Ms Brenda Thomas of Australian Archives, Canberra, who spent a week looking at procedures and working with QSA staff.

J. S. BATTYE LIBRARY OF W.A. HISTORY

The Perth Police Court was recently the scene of an exciting discovery of early State records. Workmen, during the installation of a new recording system, revealed an enclosed room beneath the Chief Magistrate's bench containing records dating from 1850 to 1929. These included convict records, largely district registers and occurrence books for ticket-of-leave men, and court records such as evidence books, charge books, financial records and letter books. They have all been transferred to Archives and work on processing of all but the plaints has been completed.

The oral history programme is well under way. One full-time and one part-time interviewer have been working since May and another is due to begin in the new year. A typist has also been added to the team. It is planned that they will spend about a quarter of their time actually interviewing and the remaining three-quarters in preliminary research and editing. Approximately fifty interviews have been conducted to date with residents in Perth and country towns and have included such occupational fields as the timber industry and nursing.

The RED Scheme has proved a bonus to the Battye Library and has allowed a number of important jobs to be boosted, such as listing of government departmental records, laminating of maps, processing of approximately 1,500 glass negatives, together with a considerable expansion of the photographic index, leather dressing of old volumes and indexing of the Western Australian poetry collection. Other painstaking jobs which there has been little time for previously but which have now been attacked are the unfolding and sorting of court plaints and unsticking of circulars pasted into old Police occurrence books to reveal the writing underneath.

The move to our new annexe has been largely completed. The building is vastly superior to the previous one and has provided much needed space. The new building is being rented and is within walking distance of the library. It is clean, pleasant to work in and its fire precautions are of the highest standard.

To mark the sesqui-century of the State in 1979, it is hoped to have a large amount of work completed on the Western Australian Biographical Index. This Index plans to give a comprehensive coverage of all people in the colony prior to 1870 and a representative selection up to 1914. The project was conceived by Mrs Rica Erickson, a local historian, and is being conducted under the auspices of the Battye Library. The Western Australian Arts Council has made funds available for a research assistant. Chris Brown has been appointed to this position and is at present working on the convict records. The response of individuals throughout the State to appeals for information on their ancestors has been considerable and entries continue to flow in.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA ARCHIVES

Records of administrative departments of the University are transferred to archives at regular intervals. The Registrar's department's records survive from 1891, together with some papers of 1890 relating to the proposal to found a university. Records of affiliated bodies and student societies have also been received.

Acting also as custodian for records of families, business companies and other private (non-governmental) records, the University Archives holds the deposited papers of a number of families of early settlers including the Archer, Butler, Cheyne, Leake, Lovell/Kearney, Mather, Skemp, Terry, Walker and other families. Business records include Chancellor's wine merchants (records 1873-1897 only), William Crosby shipping agents (1867-1950), Huddart Parker, William Webster and many others.

Significant recent deposits include further records (1846-1961) of J. Walch & Sons, printers and stationers of Hobart, a most interesting firm founded in 1846 by Major J. H. W. Walch. The records consist of accounts, correspondence with suppliers, clients and their London agent, papers relating to hire and tuning of musical instruments, file copies of their monthly *Literary Intelligencer*, etc. Although primarily dealing in books and stationery, the firm also sold a wide range of goods and the cash day book of 1846 reflects the life of the town, noting names of purchasers and sales of such varied items as cricket bats, a sword-stick, a bottle of scent, a packet of brown Windsor soap, as well as copybooks, slates and music. A diary (1823-1825) kept by William Sorell (son of Lt.-Governor William Sorell) was recently deposited by a member of the Sorell family. The entries are unfortunately somewhat brief and terse but are interesting especially for the references to the new Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land of which Sorell was Registrar and also the notes of the new arrivals in the Colony. More detailed diaries, kept intermittently by William Gore Elliston from 1832 until 1864 were recently deposited by the Elliston family with other family papers, including accounts and correspondence. W. G. Elliston arrived in VDL in 1832 and during the next forty years was storekeeper, auctioneer, schoolmaster (he opened Longford Hall Academy in 1833), farmer and property owner, newspaper proprietor and editor and Mayor of Hobart (1855).

The Governors of the Friends' School have deposited their records (1887-1960), including correspondence, financial records, registers of pupils, photographs, school magazines, etc. Of particular interest is the correspondence (1885-1924) between the secretary of the school committee in Hobart, Francis Mather, and members of the London Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends who aided the foundation. There are five volumes of filed letters and copies of letters which, written as personal letters between friends, give an exceptionally detailed record of the progress of the school and also refer to other matters of Quaker interest. The Hobart Meeting of the Society of Friends has also deposited some of its records (1838-1941), chiefly correspondence of the Clerk of the Meeting, copies of "epistles" and papers relating to the burial ground.

In August 1974 the University Archives undertook custody of records of the Catholic Archdiocese of Hobart, under an agreement between the University and the Archbishop which ensures that the records remain the property of and under the control of the diocese. (Similar agreements were made with trustees of other similar records such as the Society of Friends and some companies.) Early records have been received into custody and listed, and are available for consultation by researchers (with prior permission from the Archbishop) under supervision. Especially important are several boxes and registers of correspondence (1843-1865) of the first Bishop, R. W. Willson. There is also later correspondence and parish registers of christenings and marriages. To ensure that deposited records still remain an integrated part of the diocesan archives a complete list is gradually being prepared including records not deposited (this is, of course, the aim with all similar continuing records but in practice it depends on the archivist's available time). Further deposits will be made as records are no longer required for current use.

By agreement with the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania we have also accepted responsibility for the custody of the Society's manuscript collection. This collection is well known to historians and includes some important material, notably a few papers of Sir John and Lady Franklin, Boyes diaries and papers, records of St. Mary's Hospital (1846-1863) and of the Dorcas Society (1835-1949), etc.

We have not yet been able to establish a conservation workshop, although some deposits received have been damaged, mainly by damp, in the past, but the University Library has an excellent bindery which helps with certain jobs when time allows. Daily temperature and relative humidity readings in the strong-room and storage area are reasonably reassuring, although there is a little more variability than is desirable. This has to be watched, however, as the main storage area, unfortunately has a large expanse of glass window and also includes both the readers' tables and the archivist's working and sorting area; three factors which hinder the even control of the atmosphere. Storage boxes and protective wrapping have not, however, been a problem as we have so far been able to obtain sufficient of good quality, reasonably acid free material.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

In the field of business history major acquisitions during 1975 include loans and company prospectuses, publications and press-cuttings from the stock-broking firm of J. B. Were and Son; share registers for the Western Mining Corporation and Associated Pulp and Paper Manufacturers' groups of companies, from Secretariat Pty Ltd; minutes, correspondence, reports and photographs from the Printing and Allied Trades Employers' Association of Victoria; additional minutes and accounts of Felton, Grimwade and Co. and subsidiaries, from Drug Houses of Australia Ltd; companies reports and prospectuses from Central Index (Management Consultants); board minutes of Prestige Ltd and personal papers of Mr George Foletta; correspondence, minutes and accounts of Zwar Bros (Beechworth Tanning Co) and associated companies.

A new area of collecting is records of the women's movement from the late 1960s. Acquisitions include the Victorian branches of the Women's Electoral Lobby, Abortion Law Reform/Repeal Association and the Women's Liberation Movement.

In the area of trade union records the most notable acquisition has been the records of the Australasian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation (Victorian Branch). Union records (particularly for the Australian Railways Union) are represented in the Sheehan Family (Castlemaine) collection. This collection extends through the family smithy and foundry, interests in Melbourne and Castlemaine restaurants, and local, State and Federal Labor politics.

Work continues on the holdings of the Percy Grainger Museum. Among recent additions are extensive records of the Royal Victorian Liedertafel: music performed by this all-male society, minutes, membership lists, programmes, photographs together with furnishings and other objects of interest from the society's rooms in the Athenaeum Building in Collins Street, Melbourne. A group of papers relating to the Australian baritone Horace Stevens is a further notable acquisition.

The programme for the acquisition of University records has been accelerated. Departmental records obtained include material from Geology, History, Physiology, Architecture and the Conservatorium of Music.

Additional personal papers of people connected with the University of Melbourne include tapes of Sir Robert Menzies' lectures given at the University of Virginia (1966-67); the papers of the late Professors A. and W. R. Boyce Gibson; notebooks and published papers of Professor E. O. Hercus; bulky additional papers of Sir James Barrett; personal papers of Ken O'way as an executive member of the Staff Association.

The compactus shelving in our largest storage area has increased its capacity by 60%. All areas are now protected by a smoke detector fire alarm system. A new white van, with appropriate emblems, now ferries material between our various camps, thereby banishing irritating use of personal cars.

UNITED STATES IN 1976 — INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

The United States National Archives and Records Service and the Society of American Archivists will host the 1976 Congress of the International Council on Archives (the 8th international archives gathering) in Washington, D.C. The Archivist of the United States has invited us to tell the Australian archival fraternity, through *Archives and Manuscripts*, of the pleasure he will feel if many of the members of the profession in this country can attend.

The theme is to be "The Archival Revolution of Our Time". The dates are to be September 27 - October 1, 1976. Plenary sessions will include "The Pre-Archivage Revolution", "The Archival Technological Revolution", "The Revolution in Access and Use", and "The Geo-Archival Revolution". The Society of American Archivists will meet concurrently with the Congress. Members of the profession from

Australia are invited to go to the Congress to meet archivists from round the world, to participate in the bicentennial of the U.S., to observe events in the midst of a U.S. Presidential campaign, to see Washington, local historic sites, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute and other places of interest, and to tour other parts of North America after the Congress.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The U.S.A. will be celebrating its Bi-centenary in 1976. To help the celebrations along the Library Association of Australia is organising an official group visit of librarians from Australia and New Zealand to the American Library Association Conference in Chicago in July 1976. The visit is being organised by Margaret Trask, Vice-President and John Vaughan, Executive Director of the LAA.

We are planning for a visit to North America of up to four weeks, departing from Sydney on July 11 and arriving back in Sydney on August 7, 1976. There will be a stopover at San Francisco and visits to surrounding places of interest en route to Chicago for the Conference, which will be from July 18-24. It is intended to conclude the official part of the tour on July 25, thus giving those who go the opportunity to return promptly to Australia, to undertake tours of libraries or to indulge themselves with a holiday in the U.S.A. and Canada. Those who elect to stay on will be responsible for organising their own itineraries between July 25 and August 5, when they depart from San Francisco for Sydney.

We will announce further details as soon as they are available. Meanwhile we would be very pleased to hear from those people who expect to be able to join the group. It would help if you also would let us know whether you would expect to return to Australia on July 25 or would be anticipating extending your stay and leaving on August 5.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG ARCHIVES

The archives section at the University of Wollongong has sent a rather striking publication — or, at least, the cover is striking. It asks the question that must occur to many an academic, who wonders why on earth a large collection of mysterious files and volumes should take up space in the sacred precincts of the university — “What *is* in the Archives?”

What is in the Wollongong University Archives is, however, made quite plain by this useful publication. We learn about the papers of trades unions which have operated, or are operating, in the area south of Sydney, and down the coast where all that coal is mined and all that steel manufacture takes place; about political party archives; about the records of women’s organizations; about records of business firms and professional associations; and finally about records of individuals who have contributed to the way of life of the south coast of New South Wales.

All told, the University Archives seems to have been very thorough indeed in collecting material which is important in studying the history of the area in which it is situated.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ARCHIVES SECTION

Minutes of the Biennial General Meeting of the Archives Section of the Library Association of Australia held at 1.30 pm on Sunday, August 24, 1975, in Theatre 8 (James Hardie Theatre), School of Architecture, University of Melbourne.

PRESENT:

The President (Miss E. P. Reynolds) in the chair, Mrs J. Caldwell, Mr G. L. Fischer, Miss A. Green, Ms J. House, Ms M. Hunt, Miss S. King, Miss N. Lutton, Ms Lee McGregor, Miss M. Medcalf, Mr P. Orlovich, Mr M. Saclier, Miss P. Scott, Mr J. R. Thompson, Mr P. Wilson.

VISITORS

Mr A. Ives, Ms D. Patenall, Mr I. Pearce.

APOLOGIES

Mr A. Horton, Mr J. Love, Mr R. C. Sharman.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Section's Biennial General Meeting held in Perth on August 21, 1973, were circulated and confirmed.

(Wilson/Saclier)

BUSINESS ARISING

1. *Progress on the revised Directory of Archives Institutions:* Mr G. L. Fischer advised the meeting that he had no action to report on this matter. He had taken the view that such a project was properly the function of the new Australian Society of Archivists.
2. *Report on the course in Archives Administration, University of New South Wales:* Mr G. L. Fischer reported that no formal examination of the course in Archives Administration at the University of New South Wales had been made. The committee which had been appointed at the previous Biennial General Meeting of the Archives Section had not met. Mr Fischer stated his view that a critical examination of the course in Archives Administration at the University of New South Wales, together with other similar courses elsewhere in Australia, was the responsibility of the new Australian Society of Archivists.

REPORTS

Reports were read by: Miss E. P. Reynolds as President; Mr J. R. Thompson as Secretary/Treasurer; These two reports were accepted.

(Saclier/Medcalf)

In the absence of the Editor of *Archives and Manuscripts* (Mr R. C. Sharman) the Secretary/Treasurer read to the meeting Mr Sharman's report as Editor during the biennium 1973-1975. This report was accepted.

(Fischer/Scott)

Following acceptance of the Editor's Report, four resolutions were moved and carried:

1. That the retiring Editor's action in charging the cost of postage to

- individual subscribers asking for copies of the Index to Volume 4 of *Archives and Manuscripts* be confirmed.
2. That the retiring Editor be asked to produce, by the cheapest satisfactory method, approximately 200 copies of an Index to Volume 5 to correspond as closely as possible to the Index to Volume 4.
 3. That the retiring Editor be authorized to charge 50 cents per copy for the Index to Volume 5 and if this sum is more than the cost of postage the balance be forwarded to the Library Association of Australia.
 4. That the Library Association of Australia be asked to provide in its estimates for 1976 a sum sufficient to provide for the cost of the paper and covers necessary for 200 copies of an Index to Volume 5.
(Saclier/Medcalf)

On behalf of the Australian Society of Archivists, Mr Saclier advised the meeting that if the new Society took over from the Library Association of Australia responsibility for the production of *Archives and Manuscripts*, the present numbering sequence would be continued so that the first issue produced by the Society would be Volume 6, No. 6. The Society would also be willing to accept responsibility for the publication of an Index to Volume 6.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The principal item of business concerned the future of the Archives Section following the formation during 1975 of the Australian Society of Archivists. A brief discussion took place on the implications the formation of the Society had for the Section.

It was then moved and carried that, in view of the recent formation of the Australian Society of Archivists, this Biennial General Meeting of the Archives Section unanimously recommends to Standing Committee of the General Council of the Library Association of Australia the dissolution of the Archives Section under the terms of By-Law 40(c) of the By-Laws of the Library Association of Australia.
(Fischer/Wilson)

The Secretary then read to the meeting a letter he had received in May 1975 from the President of the Australian Society of Archivists (Mr M. Saclier) in which it was proposed that the new Society should take over the publication of *Archives and Manuscripts* from January 1, 1976.

It was then moved and carried unanimously that this Biennial General Meeting of the Archives Section recommends that the Australian Society of Archivists should assume responsibility for the publication of *Archives and Manuscripts* under the terms of Mr M. Saclier's letter to the Section of May 28, 1975, and of Mr R. C. Sharman's report as Editor of *Archives and Manuscripts* 1973-1975.
(Medcalf/Saclier)

THANKS TO Mr R. C. SHARMAN

It was moved and carried with acclamation that this Biennial General Meeting of the Archives Section expresses its warmest thanks to Mr R. C. Sharman for his outstanding work as Editor of *Archives and Manuscripts*.
(Scott/Wilson)

Mr Fischer suggested that a tangible expression of thanks should take place in the form of a publication of a book or series of papers reflecting something of R. C. Sharman's special contribution to the archives profession in Australia.

It was then moved and carried unanimously that this Biennial General Meeting of the Archives Section recommends to Standing Committee that the General Council of the Library Association of Australia support the publication of a *Festschrift* volume in recognition of the contribution made by R. C. Sharman to the archival field in Australia and of the twenty-five years existence of the Archives Section.
(Fischer/Medcalf)

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In view of the motions passed earlier in the meeting concerning the future of the Archives Section, no election of a committee for 1975-1977 took place. Instead, the meeting unanimously agreed to nominate Mr Peter Orlovich to carry out the function of Archives Section General Councillor pending action by the Standing Committee of General Council to ratify the decisions made by this Biennial General Meeting. It was further agreed, that the outgoing executive should hand over to Mr Orlovich all records of the Section to be passed eventually to the Library Association of Australia for permanent preservation as a record of the history of the Archives Section. Mr Orlovich kindly consented to accept nomination to act in the capacity desired by the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of members of the Archives Section, Mr G. L. Fischer expressed thanks to the outgoing President and Secretary/Treasurer for their work during their period of office 1973-1975.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.