

NEWS NOTES

Archives Office of New South Wales

The year 1976 was very significant for the Archives Office and its future direction because the Archives Office formally separated from the State Library of New South Wales. Mr *Ian Maclean* was appointed Principal Archivist, the first who was not also State Librarian, and this marked the official separation of the establishments of the Archives Office and the State Library. This year also saw a direct move into the records management field with the creation of the Records Management Office, which is responsible to the Principal Archivist. The Records Management Office is under *Dianne Patenall*, who was formerly Archivist-in-Charge, Processing, in the Archives Office. The total staff establishment of the Archives Office and the Records Management Office is 40.

Part of the Archives Office establishment has moved to the C.A.G.A. Centre in Bent Street, which is only one block from the State Library Building. Those who moved included the Principal Archivist, the Senior Archivist, administrative unit and the Records Management Office. All correspondence should be directed to this address, which is: Archives Office of New South Wales, Level 8, C.A.G.A. Centre, 8-18 Bent Street, Sydney 2000. Reference services are still based in the State Library Building along with the State archives collection. This split in the Archives Office will be for two years until the new archives building is completed in the Rocks area.

Both Ian Maclean and Dianne Patenall travelled overseas to attend the Eighth Congress of the International Council on Archives and to inspect facilities in various countries.

The publishing programme of the Archives Office is continuing. Supplements to the *Concise Guide* have been published every three months and a five year cumulation (Vol. 5, No. 4) appeared early in 1976. An *Index to Assisted Immigrants arriving Port Phillip: 1839-51* was published late in the year. Inventories scheduled for publication in 1977 include: Colonial Architect; Governor's Court; Ships and Free Passengers; Crown Lands and Vice-Admiralty Court.

Robyn Flynn has started a newspaper cuttings collection and would appreciate any newspaper or magazine items concerning aspects of New South Wales history being sent to her.

Archives Office of Tasmania

The Archives Office of Tasmania has now completed its move into new premises (same building but a different floor—we've gone up in the world). The main gains for all the energy expended in organising and carrying out the move are: a better layout, including windows, in the public area; more working space for the staff; and more space for records storage. The move also provided an opportunity, much needed, to rationalise the distribution of records between our two floors in the Murray Street building and our vault at Franklin Square. The reorganization of the records during the move has also led to the development of a computerised location system. Despite the increase

in storage space, the A.O.T. is rapidly becoming full again. This problem should be solved in the not too distant future as we are in the process of selecting an out of town site for a new building, primarily for the storage of semi-current records.

The last few months have seen two fairly significant transfers of non-State records. These are the records of the Methodist Church in Tasmania covering the period c.1830-1971, and those of the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia, c.1911-1960.

Australian Manuscripts Collection, La Trobe Library

The Manuscripts Librarian, *John Thompson*, who has spent the last twelve months travelling overseas, and has visited the manuscript sections of several major libraries in Britain and the United States, returns to the library in February. A further report of the institutions visited will be provided in a later issue.

The Collection has recently acquired a store room providing approximately 100 metres additional shelf space.

Following a recommendation by the Children's Welfare Commission, the records of several Child Welfare agencies have come into the library, including those of the Try Boys' Society, 1883-1961, and the Gordon Homes, 1887-1953. *Ross Gibbs*, the Acting Manuscripts Librarian, has been involved in negotiations throughout the year with various agencies, and further records are to come to the library early in 1977.

Other major accessions include the records of the Federal Council of the Australian Telecommunications Employees Association, c.1911-1960, a small collection of letters and photographs of W. G. Spence, union leader and parliamentarian, and the papers and some business records of the businessman and philanthropist, *Germain Nicholson*, 1840-1888. The substantial records of *Gollin and Company Limited*, one of the leading merchant houses in Melbourne in the period 1889-1930, have also been presented (Restricted).

Miss *Patsy Adam-Smith*, the Manuscripts Field Officer, has recently visited the Western District of Victoria and has returned with several important collections, including papers of the Henty family of 'Merino Downs' from the period of the 1870s and 1880s. These papers complement the library's present holdings of Henty family material, which includes personal diaries and correspondence and business and pastoral records.

A.N.U. Archives of Business and Labour

Miss *P. A. Pemberton* took up duty as Deputy Archives Officer on 22 November. Miss Pemberton was formerly Group Archivist and Records Manager for Pilkington Bros. Ltd, St Helen's, England. Mr *Klaus Inveen* resigned in July to take up a position with the Parliamentary Library. His position will be filled by a person whose designation is tentatively 'Archives Clerk'. Concurrently a rearrangement of duties is being made and Miss *Judy Day* will become Senior Archives Assistant.

A further deposit of records from C.S.R. — recently discovered at the Pyrmont Refinery — will have been received by the time this note appears in print. Hopefully these will fill a number of gaps in the records reported in the last issue. The Australian Agricultural Company records also mentioned in the last issue are at present being sorted.

The Archives has commenced a wide-ranging examination of its operations, resources and priorities with the intention of developing during 1977 a management plan for the next five years. Significant factors involved in this decision are the rapidly diminishing storage space (with little likelihood of increase in the foreseeable future) and the need to do something positive about conservation.

Queensland State Archives

A significant accession of correspondence and other records of the Queensland Prisons Department and of Brisbane Gaol has been made by the Queensland State Archives. The Q.S.A. has also received Justice of the Peace index cards dating from 1859 from the Justice Department, and Court records from country centres Warwick, Barcaldine, Childers, Chinchilla and Ingham. Shire Council records have been received from Gayndah and Kilkivan. A Guide to the records of the Queensland Colonial Secretary's Office 1859-96 has been published and is on sale.

South Australian Archives

On 6 December 1976 the staff welcomed back *Olwyn Barwick* after her very successful year's study leave during which she read for Year 1 of the Arts course at Adelaide University and obtained four credits. *John Love* having agreed from 29 November temporarily to forsake archival duties and assist the State Librarian (as Acting Assistant State Librarian) until a successor to Robert Sharman can be found, it has devolved on *Brian Baldwin* and *Helen Hoskin* to act respectively as Principal and Deputy Archivist during his absence. John Love will be Acting State Librarian during the State Librarian's annual leave. *Laurie Dillon* left in August to take up his appointment as Archivist at the University of Wollongong.

Gifts of money have made possible the microfilming of a sizeable number of documents at risk because of their fragility or heavy use. Among records so dealt with are the Angas Papers (PRG 174) and letters and other communications received by the Colonial Secretary, Governor and other Government Officials 1836-51 (GRG 24/1).

Papua New Guinea

In a little over a year since Papua New Guinea attained independence, the government has been busy reorganising the public service to give greater effect to its priorities. The Department of the Interior where the Archives formerly belonged, has been abolished and its parts re-distributed. Archives has gone to Education along with School and Public Libraries, but discussion is proceeding as to whether

this will be its final resting place as the National Library Service remains in the Prime Minister's Department. The result is a lot of uncertainty as to the future of the Archives and so forward planning is difficult. The most obvious problem is that there is still no appointment of Chief Archivist. With the change of department, researchers wishing to use the Archives have had to re-submit applications for approval to the head of the new department. The government does have tremendous pressure from many sources for use of its scarce funds and it does seem that Archives will remain low priority for some time to come.

The only other institution with an Archives and Manuscripts Collection, the **University of Papua New Guinea**, is slightly better off, though the lack of funds is a constant worry there too. The New Guinea Collection Librarian *Nancy Lutton*, recently returned from a six months study leave tour of England and America, the whole of which was devoted to collecting, copying and learning about archives. It included a four week Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. As National Library Officers working in the Collection have gained in skill and experience, they are now able to handle most of the library aspects of the work, including the increasing number of reference enquiries, so leaving the Librarian/Archivist more time to devote to the organisation of the archives and manuscripts.

There is a great need to publish an up-dated and fuller guide to the whole Collection and detailed guides to the larger archive groups within it. The Guide to the G.A.V. Stanley Papers should be ready within a few months. The Abel Papers are half way through a complete reorganisation and when that is finished a new guide will be issued. The Anglican and United Church Archives have had so many 'new' additions since the earlier guides were done that reorganisation is necessary there too. 'New' is meant to be taken as new to the Collection. What is happening is that pockets of old archives are being discovered at remote mission stations, and now that the two churches concerned have become archive conscious as we demonstrate this need, staff who visit such stations bring them in. Each of these two archive groups now occupies about 100 cubic feet of space.

Work has proceeded slowly but steadily on the photographic collection with some 6,000 photographs now listed and mostly identified. The next step is to assign subject headings for easier reference access. The tape and cassette collection is also completely listed, but like the photographs needs a lot more work on subject indexing. We hope in time to produce guides to these collections.

The U.P.N.G. library extensions have been completed externally, but internally there are still old walls to pull down and new ones to erect. The New Guinea Collection will end up with twice its present area and not before time. The greatly increased rate of acquisition of archives has us bursting at the seams and we look forward to a period (how long?) of having space to put everything.

This year too we have acquired a portable microfilm camera. It had to be portable as not only being the only type within our budget, but so that remoter centres with archives which the owners do not wish to release, could be visited and the archives microfilmed at source.

People living in the Provinces simply will not buy the idea that the nation's capital is the proper depository for cultural property. Regionalism is very strong in Papua New Guinea. Perhaps they are right—the problem is not unknown in Australia either. Unfortunately these centres do not have proper storage for perishable archives and the sooner the microfilm project gets under way the better. However, at the risk of flogging a dead horse, the same ogre of lack of funds, this time for travel, raises its ugly head.