

NEWS AND NOTES

Australian Society of Archivists

The First Biennial Conference and General Meeting of the Society was held in Canberra from 13 to 15 May at the Australian National University. An airline strike prevented a number of interstate members from attending. Despite this, about ninety were present and heard papers from Mr *Michael Saclier* on Copyright and the Archivist after the Franki Committee Report; from Mr *L. J. Curtis* on Freedom of Information; from Mr *Thomas Wilsted* on administration in archives; from Mr *Robert Sharman* (who was unable to be present and whose paper was read by Mr *Paul Wilson*) on Starting an Archives; and from Professor *R. G. Neale* on problems in the use of archival sources for publication. There were also panel discussions. At the conclusion of the Meeting the new Council of the Society took office. They are:

President:	Mr Gerald Fischer
Vice-President:	Mr Peter Orlovich
Secretary:	Ms Doreen Wheeler
Treasurer:	Mr Robert French
Editor:	Mr Andrew Lemon
Councillors:	Mr Michael Saclier (Immediate Past-President)
	Mr John Cross
	Mr Peter Crush
	Ms Thea Exley
	Mr Winston Maike
	Mr Ian Pearce

Australian Archives

The Director-General Professor *R. G. Neale*, has been appointed a corresponding member of the International Council on Archives' Committee on Conservation and Restoration of Archives Materials. This position involves the collection of news items for their Bulletin on conservation in Australia. It would be appreciated if Australian archival institutions could send any relevant news items to Australian Archives for forwarding to the Secretary of the Committee.

In June, *Murray Miller* took up an appointment as Conservator with Australian Archives in Canberra. Mr Miller was for many years conservator at the Dunedin Public Library in New Zealand. In 1971 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and spent six months in Australia with the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the National Library of Australia. His initial task in Canberra will be to complete planning for the new conservation workshops at Fyshwick and Mitchell and to investigate and purchase the equipment needed for these facilities. While the workshop at Fyshwick is being fitted out he will initiate a programme of conservation treatment for leather bound volumes in the custody of Australian Archives.

Australian National University Archives of Business and Labour

Mr *Charles Dawson* took up duties as Archives Clerk on 23 March replacing Mr *Klaus Inveen*, resigned. Mr Dawson's duties will eventually include, besides clerical and repository management

functions, those relating to conservation and photography (particularly microfilming). Mrs *Janet Howse* left the Archives on 11 March to take up the position of electorate secretary to the State Member for Monaro. Her place has been taken by Mr *Barry Howarth*, B.A., who commenced work on 12 May. Senior Archives Assistant *Judy Day* has gone on long service leave.

M. S.

Archives Office of New South Wales

Several changes in staff have recently occurred. In February *John Burke* was promoted to the position of Archivist in Charge of Processing, based at Kingswood. *Robyn Flynn* was seconded to the Records Management Office for twelve months and *Baiba Irving* was seconded to the Review of New South Wales Government Administration headed by Professor P. Wilenski, to examine areas of discrimination in the New South Wales Public Service. Appointments as archivists were made to: *Roberta Carew*, *Gillian Forrester*, *Patricia Thompson*, *Andrew Wilson* and *Christine Yeats*.

Some interesting accessions have been made this year. These include Premier's Department Files relating to the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1954; Education Department papers of retired Directors-General, including those of Mr J. Buggie and Sir Harold Wyndham; Aborigines Welfare Board Minute Books, Ward Registers and photographs from 1939. Important estrays have also been returned to official custody. These comprise Phillip's Survey of the Settlements in New South Wales, 1792; Colonial Secretary's Electoral Rolls, 1856-61; and a Register of Convicts tried before the bench at Newcastle, 1818-34.

The Archives Office and Records Management Office staff have been engaged, since February, in a campaign to reduce the quantity of records held in Government Offices and the Government Records Repository. Work is proceeding on the new building at the Rocks which will house the Archives Office. It is anticipated that it will be completed by the middle of 1978.

J. K.

La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria

Mr *J. R. Thompson* returned to the State Library of Victoria in February after twelve months leave of absence, which was spent travelling in Europe, Britain, the United States and Canada. During this period overseas, Mr Thompson visited a number of libraries and archival institutions, including the Guildhall Library, the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Hertfordshire County Record Office, the National Library of Scotland, the F. D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, N.Y. and the Dominion Archives in Canada. After returning to his position as Manuscripts Librarian in the La Trobe Library, Mr Thompson has now become Acting Staff Development Librarian in the State Library of Victoria. The position of Manuscripts Librarian is now filled by Miss *Julie Ager*, B.A., Dip.Lib., who has been a member of the Manuscripts staff for three years.

The Manuscripts Field Officer, Miss *Patsy Adam Smith*, has recently visited the U.S.S.R. as a member of a delegation of three Australian writers under the sponsorship of the Literature Board of the Australia Council. Miss Adam Smith has completed work on a major study of Australians and the First World War due to be published during 1978.

Amongst a number of important accessions received in the La Trobe Library in recent months is a collection of twenty-eight letters written by John Lees, a miner on the Victorian goldfields, to his family in England 1852-63. These letters were purchased from a Sotheby's sale in London last December. The Library has also acquired a collection of photographs and newspaper cuttings relating to Dame Nellie Melba c.1892-1907. Most of the photographs are portraits of Melba, many in the costumes of famous roles, and of people associated with Melba's musical career.

J. R. T.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

In September 1976 the Manuscripts and Maps Sections of the Mitchell Library, with some other departments and sections of the State Library of New South Wales, moved to the Eighth Level of the C.A.G.A. Centre, 8-18 Bent Street, Sydney. The move does not affect reader services which, as before, are provided in the Mitchell Library Reading Room.

The Mitchell Library has just acquired, with a special grant provided by the Government of New South Wales, a large collection of records of Angus and Robertson. The records consist mainly of publishing correspondence and manuscripts for the period 1932-1970, with some earlier records. They complement the Library's holding of publishing records of the firm from 1895 to 1932. Other substantial collections acquired this year include records of the Central Baptist Church, Sydney, 1831-c.1961, deposited on indefinite loan; records of the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia, 1908-1976, presented by the Society and further records of the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Methodist Overseas Missions, 1820-c.1974, deposited on indefinite loan by the Australian Methodist Historical Society and the Overseas Missions. Access to the Methodist records is restricted.

S. G. H.

Queensland State Archives

Important accessions to the Queensland State Archives in recent months include the General Correspondence of the Department of Mapping and Surveying and the Office of the Surveyor-General from 1900 to 1970, and General Correspondence and other records of the Surveyors Board. Various court records from about 1860 onwards have been received from the Magistrate's Court, Gladstone.

L. McG.

Riverina College of Advanced Education

Archives Option in Library Science Courses: In the recently-introduced undergraduate course at the College there is an optional subject entitled Archives and Records, and in the graduate diploma an

option called Public and Private Records. The subjects are in both cases worth three units (a full year's work counting for thirty). The intention is most emphatically not to attempt to train an archivist — this is emphasised throughout — but to provide 'an introduction to the study of archives as they may be encountered in normal library and information work'. Many librarians, especially in country areas, find themselves custodians of archives and manuscripts, and may in fact be in the best position to play a positive role in preventing valuable material from being destroyed; so it is considered important to foster an appreciation of the scope of the separate profession of archivist, and to outline the different philosophies and procedures involved.

The undergraduate subject was mounted for the first time last year, for just three students. Assessment was continuous rather than by examination, and the major assignments were designed around the theme of what a librarian should know about archives and what he or she should attempt to achieve. For example, what is, the responsibility of the local librarian, in the absence of an archivist, towards the preservation of local materials? What should he be able to tell inquirers about the existence and collecting policies of archival bodies in Australia and about their published guides? And how should he safeguard the future of the records of the institution his library serves?

In due course the subjects will be offered externally and this will pose a problem: how students can be given some practical experience and some understanding of what is involved in work with archives and manuscripts. Internal students are given work in the embryonic archives section of the Riverina College, but external students can only be given a few days there. Individual arrangements will be made for each student and will depend on his particular situation.

D. H.

South Australian Archives

The retirement of Mr *Robert Haydon Jenkin* took place on 8 July. Mr Jenkin joined the staff of the Public Library of South Australia in 1947 and the Archives staff in 1961. His knowledge of 17th-century English history made him the obvious person to arrange the valuable collection of holograph letters and autographs assembled by Archdeacon G. H. Farr (1819-1904), Headmaster of St. Peter's Collegiate School, Adelaide (the school attended by Mr Jenkin). Mr Jenkin's experiences as a patrol officer in New Guinea during the war (which have often entertained his colleagues), and his thesis for B.A. Honours on 'Australian Administration of Papua' were an appropriate background to work he has done on such groups of business records as Guinea Airways Limited (BRG 8) and Guinea Gold No Liability (BRG 65). His paper 'Guinea Gold and Guinea Airways' was printed in *South Australian* Vol. XI No. 1 (March 1972). In 1965 he visited Penang and obtained a photostat copy of an entry in a Roman Catholic mission baptismal register — the first tangible evidence to come to the Archives of the date of birth of Colonel Light, the founder of Adelaide. Mr Jenkin has often been sought after to give lectures on behalf of the Archives and has contributed a certain amount of

private time to this activity which has fostered goodwill towards the Archives, leading to some important donations of private records.

Mr *Rodney D. Teakle* joined the staff on 21 March 1977.

Extra storage accommodation for about 3,400 linear metres of records has been acquired in the basement of the Public Service Association building in Gilbert Street, and has been in use since April. About 1,000 linear metres of records have already been placed there. A further gift of money has made possible the microfilming of an extensive series (GRG 21/1) of Land Tax Returns made in 1885, when land tax was first levied. A Recordak Motormatic microfilm reader (model MPG-TL) has been installed in a carrel off the reading room.

B. S. B.

University of Newcastle Archives

The University Archives in the Auchmuty Library is well established in the systematic gathering and preservation of the University's and the Hunter Valley Archives. The Archives provides a secure repository for housing the permanently valuable records of the University and other depositors, including businesses, industries, trade unions, churches, cultural organizations, and families. In addition to preserving records, the Archives provides a reference and research service to both research workers and depositors of records.

The 700 volumes of archives available for research in 1975, the first year of the Archives operations, climbed to about 2,500 volumes in 1976, while boxes of documents increased from 200 to about 400 in 1976.

The most valuable and extensive single transfer received during the year was the Archives of the Diocese of Newcastle, together with the Archives of Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. The Diocesan and Cathedral Archives, covering the period 1826-1972, are on long term loan to the University Archives, and are believed to be the most valuable and extensive archives in New South Wales and possibly in Australia outside the capital cities. The Church Archives, weighing about eight tons, include a large number of early maps and charts, rare books and pamphlets, early minute books, artifacts, many handsome illuminated addresses, bishops' correspondence, old legal documents, architectural drawings and plans, parish registers, school and orphanage records, and business records.

Some 250 readers consulted Archives during 1976, many of them being students in the University's Australian History and Honours Courses; post-graduate students from Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney, who had been attracted to our collections; and members of the general public interested in regional history. Patronage by and contact with the general public has assisted the Archives in obtaining further transfers of valuable archival material, and has helped foster a closer interrelationship between the University and the community.

D. R.