

NEWS NOTES

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I refer to the item in your News Notes on the Archives Office of Tasmania which appeared in the February issue of *Archives and Manuscripts*.

The facts about Anne Picot are as follows:

1. She was awarded a Sir John Morris Scholarship by the Tasmanian Library Board to study for the Diploma in Archives Administration at the University of New South Wales.
2. She successfully completed her course.
3. Whilst the bond relating to the Sir John Morris Scholarship requires a person to work in Tasmania for a year it does not and cannot guarantee employment since the Tasmanian Library Board is not an employing authority.
4. The Public Service Board, the employing authority, did not create any new position in the Archives Office of Tasmania.
5. When it became obvious that there were to be no staff vacancies by resignation in the Archives Office of Tasmania Anne Picot was advised to seek employ elsewhere.
6. Subsequently the Tasmanian Library Board released her from the bond — to which it obviously could not hold her since she did not find appropriate employment.

W. L. Brown
Secretary,
Tasmanian Library Board.

Western Australian Archives

Some major developments have been occurring in the Battye Library and State Archives in Western Australia. One of the library's acute problems has been overcrowding through lack of space for both staff and stock. An architectural brief for a new Library Services building has been drawn up and accepted by the Public Works Department. An architect has been commissioned to prepare a plan and it is hoped that the foundation stone for the new building will be laid next year to commemorate the State's 150th anniversary. The Battye Library and State Archives will be housed in this building.

In the meantime, a new factory-type annexe has been rented in East Perth, approximately a kilometre away from the library. Material which has been stored in four other locations will be moved to the new annexe and there should be space for a four-year expansion for archives.

A new Art Gallery is under construction in Perth, due to be completed in 1979 and an area on the ground floor is to be made available for the storage of Battye Library records. It is proposed to locate maps in that area.

Some staff changes have been made. A new position of Principal Librarian, West Australian History, has been created and *Margaret Medcalf* has been appointed to it. Another new position of Deputy State Archivist has been made and *Christopher Coggin*, Assistant Director of the National Archives of Rhodesia has been appointed. However, it is likely to be some months before he will be able to get to Western Australia to take up this post.

Resignations from the staff of the Battye Library have included *Ruth Allender*, who is completing her B.A. full-time and *Frieda Evans* who has moved to Darwin.

Another development in Western Australia has been the decision that the Library Board will assume responsibility for the State Film Centre as from 1 July 1978. The State Film Archives are part of the State Film Centre and they will now fall under the jurisdiction of the Battye Library. The Film Centre has previously been part of the Technical Extension Service of the Education Department. A separate building not far distant from the library is to be acquired for the Centre's new location.

Archives Office of N.S.W.

In February 1978, Ms *Amanda Barber* and Ms *Jenny Stapleton* were appointed as Archivists, and in May 1978, Mrs *Roberta Carew* was appointed as a temporary Archivist for a period of six months. On 8 May the Principal Archivist Mr *Ian Maclean* resumed duties in the Archives Office after returning from his UNESCO Mission to the National Archives of Kenya. Mr Maclean reported to UNESCO on a records management programme for the Kenyan Archives and training of staff for that purpose.

The new building in the Rocks area of Sydney to house the Archives Office of New South Wales, the Records Management Office and the Automatic Data Processing Service Bureau will be completed by September 1978. It is to be named the State Archives Building. Records from the Archives Office will be moved from November 1978, and staff are expected to occupy the building in early 1979. Details of services during this period have yet to be decided, however some disruptions to service will inevitably occur.

Some important accessions have been received recently. They include the records of the Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons 1977; the Investigation into the Granville Railway Accident 18 January 1977; Cabinet documents 1925-1927; Cabinet Meeting Papers 1935-1941; Index to Cabinet Decisions 1931-1947; Minutes for Consideration by Cabinet July 1947 - October 1964; and Office Papers of the Hon. W. F. P. Sheahan, who was a Cabinet Minister from 1947 to 1965, during which time he held various portfolios.

Part of the sub-basement area of the State Library of New South Wales used by the Archives Office received considerable water damage from heavy rain in June 1978. It was necessary to remove approximately 400 feet of water-logged volumes and boxed records to another area of the State Library. Fortunately most of the records

appear to have dried without apparent damage to their contents, although a final assessment of their condition is not possible as yet.

The *Concise Guide to the State Archives, Supplements* Vol. 7 No. 4, Vol. 8 Nos. 1 and 2 have now been published, as well as the *Guide to the Occupation of Crown Lands*. A number of *Information Leaflets* relating to various subject areas have been printed and are available on request from the Archives Office. The *Guide to the Records of the Colonial Architect* will be published later this year.

P.T.

Archives Office of Tasmania

Very little outside the normal routine of the Archives Office has happened in the last few months. There has been quite a significant transfer of local government records from the Hobart City Council and various satellite bodies which has filled a number of gaps in our holdings. *Ian Pearce* and *Margaret Bryant* recently spent some time working through the badly-damaged contents of a newly-discovered vault under one of Hobart's public buildings. This involved, among other things, sorting through loose papers (and mud) which were up to thirty centimetres thick on the vault floor. The records recovered included those of a number of departments from the 1850s onwards.

Another interesting recent transfer relates to the organisation of Hobart's ferry service during the rebuilding of the Tasman Bridge.

The Cartland Committee to consider the revision of the Tasmanian Archives Act (and the Library Act) has had a number of meetings. While there is not, unfortunately, an archivist on the committee, a number of submissions have been made by Archives Office staff and other interested individuals and organisations including the Australian Society of Archivists. The main points in these submissions have been the Archives' administrative links with the State Library and the strengthening of the sections of the Act dealing with records management.

I.P.

Australian Archives

Legislation: On 9 June, the Archives Bill 1978, the Freedom of Information Bill and the Copyright Amendment Bill were introduced into the Senate by the Attorney-General. Once passed, the Archives legislation will provide comprehensively for the management of the non-current records of the Commonwealth Government as well as for the preservation and use of the nation's archival resources at Commonwealth level, and at the same time, furnish a much-needed and long-awaited statutory basis for the operations of the Australian Archives.

Staffing: *Lindsay Cleland*, who has been acting Senior Project Officer for the last four years, has now resumed duty as Senior Archivist A.C.T. (Reference and Access). *Christopher Hurley*, who has also been acting Senior Project Officer for some years and has been closely involved with the preparation of the Archives legislation,

will shortly resume duty as Senior Archivist, A.C.T. (Registration and Disposal). New members of staff include *Barry McGlashan*, *Michael Orchard*, *Stephen Yorke*, *Elizabeth Nathan*, *Sigrid McCausland*, *Paul Feldman*, *Anne Picot* and *Robert Darby* (A.C.T.); *John Hewison*, *Debbie Keane*, *Gregory O'Shea* and *Anne-Marie Schwietlich* (New South Wales); and *Judith Phillips* and *Dennis Kishere* (Victoria). *Jane Hamilton* and *Betty Eltringham* (A.C.T.) have transferred to the Central Office of the Department of Home Affairs; *Margaret Jennings* (Victoria) has resigned to become Records Management Officer at the University of Melbourne; *Peter Crush* (Officer-in-Charge, South Australia) has resigned to take up the position of Archivist with the Corporation of the City of Adelaide; and *Jan McKinnell* (A.C.T.) has resigned to undertake a post-graduate secretarial course.

Records: Major recent releases in the A.C.T. include the open-period portion of CRS A2910, the main correspondence series (1918-1960) of the High Commissioner's Office, London. In Victoria, detailed description and access clearance of the Essington Lewis papers has now been completed; and conservation work on files damaged during a fire at the office of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal in Melbourne is being carried out under the direction of the Conservator (N.S.W. Branch), *Neville Corbett*.

Exhibitions: In May, the Officer-in-Charge of the Northern Territory Branch, *Ian Sutherland*, in conjunction with the Northern Territory Historical Society, mounted an exhibition in the Archives building as part of the 'Back to Darwin Campaign'.

Buildings and Equipment: At Villawood, the Newton Hobbs Replay Studio for Audio-Visual material, a records airing room and a vacuum fumigation chamber have now been completed. New equipment includes transmission equipment for the Studio, special mobile plan cabinets, and computer racking.

La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria

Julie Ager, Acting Manuscript Librarian for twelve months, resigned in April to travel overseas. *John Thompson* has returned as Manuscript Librarian. In June he made a short study tour of Danish libraries.

Significant accessions in recent months include papers of the Geelong and Dutigalla Association 1835-1836; records of the Victorian District of the Independent Order of Rechabites 1847-1970; papers of the Henty family c. 1829-1882; and records of the Victorian Children's Aid Society 1893-1976.

P. McP.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Miss *Shirley Humphries*, Manuscripts Librarian, has been transferred to the position of Assistant Mitchell Librarian. Her place has been taken by Miss *Anne Robertson*, formerly Field Librarian. Mrs *Betty Goodger*, Manuscripts Cataloguer, has been promoted to the

position of Field Librarian. Her place has been taken by Mr *Paul Brunton*.

Significant accessions during the period January - June 1978 have included papers of Admiral Phillip Parker King and Philip Gidley King, the younger, 1826-1894, including two surveying notebooks of P. P. King 1826-1832, and P. G. King's journal on H.M.S. Beagle, December 1831 - April 1833, and letters from Charles Darwin to P. G. King; papers of Clive William Thornton Henderson, mainly re shipping, 1839-1975; letters and sketches of Hugh McCrae and three autograph manuscripts of Georgiana McCrae; papers of William Noel Hogan, 1935-1977, mainly re the rice industry.

The Library Council has published a *Guide to the papers of George Ernest Morrison in the Mitchell Library, Sydney*, which includes a detailed index to correspondents, and this will be available shortly. There is no charge for this publication but persons or organizations requesting copies should include the cost of postage with their orders.

P.B.

Public Record Office, Victoria

Mr *Bruce Burne* took up duty as Deputy Keeper in February. He was formerly on the staff of the Australian Archives in Melbourne, Canberra, and Sydney, Director of the National Archives of Zambia, Director of the Western Pacific Archives based in Suva, and Archivist to the Governments of the Gilbert Islands, the Solomon Islands, New Hebrides British Service, and Tuvalu. Mr *Michael Cannon* was appointed Publications Officer in May. Mr *Jim Varghese* was promoted to the position of Assistant Keeper of Public Records. Mr *Harry Nunn*, the Keeper of Public Records, in June chaired a meeting on Integrity in Records Management arranged by the Records Management Association of Australia. He also spoke on archival legislation with particular reference to the Victorian Public Records Act, at the Seminar/Workshop sponsored by the Victorian Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists. Mr Burne and Mr Varghese were speakers at other sessions of the Seminar/Workshop.

B. T. B.

Queensland State Archives

Files on companies registered between 1863 and 1975 but which are no longer in operation have been transferred from intermediate to archival status. The index cards for the Treasury Department general correspondence series 1941-1944, which had been missing, have been located by the Department and transferred. Lower Court records were received from Magistrates Court Offices at Maryborough, Wynnnum and St Lawrence.

L. McG.

South Australian Archives

A significant accession has been the papers of the Dutton family. These comprise letters, diaries, photographs and other documents dating from the appointment of Frederick Hugh Hampden Dutton

as British Vice-Consul and agent for packets, Cuxhaven, in 1821. Apart from the South Australian careers of William Hampden, Frederick Hansborough and Francis Stacker Dutton and their descendants from 1839, the pursuits of the two former brothers in New South Wales and Victoria prior to this time are documented. The group includes extensive business records of Anlaby Station.

Courses attended by staff this year include a series of Conservation Workshops at the School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales, attended by *Hank Bohmer* the Manuscript Repairer, and a series of lectures on A.D.P. Appreciation conducted by the South Australian Department of Further Education attended by *Helen Hoskin*, the Acting Deputy Archivist. *Olwyn Barwick* took part in a talk-back radio session on the work of the Archives on 7 February. In the course of an overseas visit in June and July *Susan Woodburn* did some research in the Public Record Office and other repositories. The Public Record Office was also visited by *Rodney Teakle*. During August and most of September, Helen Hoskin will be Acting Principal Archivist with Olwyn Barwick as Deputy.

A thermohygrograph has been purchased to study temperature and humidity in the main archives building, while the Gilbert Street repository has been made more secure by the installation of an intruder alarm.

H.K.H.

University of Wollongong Archives

In October this year, this Archives will reach the five year old mark under a full-time archivist. Its evolution began some five years before this appointment, with a member of the History Department of the then Wollongong University College establishing the first rudimentary repository off campus.

Staff changes have been greatest in 1976, with the departure of the first and second full-time Archives Officers. From early 1977 professional staff has been *Laurie Dillon* and *John Shipp*. The positions they occupy are now styled Archivist and Assistant Archivist respectively.

Recent accessions of note include two hundred letters of an Australian soldier in the Great War, J. R. Hawke. He saw service in Egypt and France, including the Somme and Ypres. Mr L. B. Kelly, M.L.A., Speaker of the New South Wales House of Assembly donated personal political papers at a small University ceremony. Television Wollongong Transmissions Ltd (WIN 4) donated colour videotapes of the first University graduation ceremony held in 1976. The installation of the University's first Chancellor, the Honourable Mr Justice Robert Marsden Hope is recorded on these tapes.

With generous assistance from Mr *Gerald Fischer*, University of Sydney Archivist, a successful display on the working life of John Anderson was mounted during the 1977 Annual Conference of the Australasian Association of Philosophy held at the University late last year. Also last year, the University was pleased to approve

archives staff hosting a one-week practicum for two Graduate Diploma in Archives Administration students from the University of New South Wales.

The production of distributable guides and finding aids is advancing. In the interim, telephoned or written enquiries are welcome. The main themes of present holdings are business and labour, local government, politics, the environment and social welfare. Most, but not all, material relates to New South Wales and in particular to the south coast of the State.

L.T.D.