

# NEWS NOTES

## **J. S. Battye Library of West Australian History, Perth**

*Correspondent: Jack Honniball*

Before going on overseas holiday recently, Miss Mollie Lukis submitted her resignation from the State Film Archives Committee, the advisory body which assists the Film Archives Officer at the Battye Library. Her resignation marked the end of an official association with Western Australia's archival institutions which spanned more than thirty-five years. Miss Lukis was appointed State Archivist within the old Public Library of Western Australia in 1945, and continued as Librarian of the Battye Library under the Library Board of Western Australia from 1956 to 1971. In her "retirement" she remained closely associated with the guardians of the State's history, serving as a member of Council and honorary secretary of the National Trust (W.A.) and as a member of the Maritime Archaeology Advisory Committee of the Western Australian Museum. She was made Fellow of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in 1971, and in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1976 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. With one short break, she was a member of the State Film Archives Committee from its inception in 1969, and for its first two years was its chairwoman. Miss Lukis won a well-earned place in the handsome book recently published at the instigation of the Women's Committee of the State's 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee, *Reflections: Profiles of 150 Women Who Helped Make Western Australia's History*, edited by Daphne Popham.

Barrie King, also a member of the State Film Archives Committee since its inception and currently its chairman, attended the 36th general meeting of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) held in June at Karlovy Vary in Czechoslovakia. He is Physicist-in-charge of the State X-Ray Laboratory at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre in Perth, and has long had a keen personal interest in films and their preservation. Taking advantage of frequent visits to eastern Australia, Mr King is able to maintain a valuable liaison with the National Film Archive in Canberra, and while on earlier overseas trips, attended previous FIAF conferences at New York in 1969 and at Varna in Bulgaria in 1977. On returning from Karlovy Vary he submitted a substantial report on the meeting to his committee, and arrangements are being made for its wider dissemination. This year the State Film Archives was granted Observer status with FIAF, and is the only Australian

institution in this category. Full membership, which the National Film Archive enjoys, is limited to the one organisation, if any, in each country which has status and responsibilities at the national level.

Margaret Medcalf was seconded recently from her post as Principal Librarian: Battye Library, and for five months was Acting Assistant State Librarian pending the filling of the vacant position. At the invitation of the Northern Territory government, she went to Darwin for ten days in June to make a survey and report on the current situation and recommended future developments with regard to the Territory's own archives and printed records. During Miss Medcalf's absence from the Battye Library, the Acting Principal Librarian was Christopher Coggin, normally Deputy State Archivist.

Nancy Lutton returned to Perth in June after nearly fourteen years in Port Moresby, where she latterly had charge of the New Guinea collection at the University of Papua New Guinea, the largest and most comprehensive assemblage of the whole island's documentary history in that country. In July the University awarded her the M.A. degree for the biographical thesis she presented concerning Charles Abel, the missionary at Kwato who was a leading proponent of industrial education for the indigenes. Miss Lutton has been appointed to the Battye Library as Executive Librarian: Printed Records.

### **National Library of Australia**

*Correspondent: John Thompson*

The Manuscript Collection has continued its steady growth during the past year with notable accessions in the field of politics, literature, theatre history and in the early maritime history of Australia and the Pacific.

Substantial additions to the Library's holdings of political material included the papers of the Hon. R. V. Garland. The Hon. Peter Howson, a former Minister for Air, has deposited an extensive collection of correspondence and diaries. Both collections are held on restricted access.

The Library has acquired a substantial collection of the papers of the playwright and novelist Barry Oakley; it has also received the research materials, drafts and correspondence relating to Roger McDonald's award-winning novel *1915*, papers which complement a collection of McDonald's literary manuscripts acquired some years ago.

Steele Rudd's *Dad and Dave* series has a secure place in the popular culture of Australia and in the folk memory of generations of Australian audiences. It is pleasing, therefore, to report the accession of a collection of the papers of Bert Bailey, the actor who brought *Dad* to life on stage and screen. These papers document much of the production history of *Dad and Dave*, both in Australia and in England and include some excellent photographs.

Following the presentation by the Commonwealth Government in 1976 of the notebook kept by William Bligh during his voyage in an open boat after the famous *Bounty* mutiny, the Library has acquired at auction in London four hand-drawn charts prepared under Bligh's direction. Two of these charts describe the route taken by *Bounty's* launch and are based on readings taken by Bligh during the voyage from Tonga to Timor in 1789 which he recorded for the first time in the modest little notebook which is now regarded as one of the Library's great treasures.

Over recent months, the Library has been making an intensive effort to work on a number of new instalments of the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts relating to Australia*. Good progress has been made and there is now a distinct possibility that the Library should be in a position to publish at least two instalments during the first half of next year. New entries will be welcomed so that additional instalments may be prepared.

The Library has recently published a guide to the papers of Sir John Latham who had a distinguished career as a diplomat, politician and jurist. The collection of Sir John's papers is one of the most extensive to have been preserved by a man in public life in Australia. The guide is the first in the series produced by the Library's Manuscript Section to appear on microfiche, a decision influenced by the high cost of conventional publication. It is hoped that the cheaper format of the Latham Guide will ensure the best possible access to the papers by scholars throughout Australia and overseas. The guide is available at a cost of \$3.50 through the Sales and Subscriptions Unit of the National Library.

### **CSIRO Archives**

*Correspondent: Colin Smith*

CSIRO Archives has begun receiving records from Fishermen's Bend in Melbourne.

The Division of Industrial Chemistry, which carried out its protean research functions between 1940 and 1958 from this sprawling cluster of makeshift laboratories, has long since ceased to exist as such. However a dozen or more current divisions trace their origins to it and, in particular, to its identification of industry's problems, and creation of sections to address them. The records include over 2,000 records of conversations of the Division's scientists with representatives of mining and industry all over Australia, between 1940 and 1949. Keyed as these are to related correspondence, they should provide a valuable source for research into the development of the Australian economy, and productive capacity, in this interesting decade.

Over the past two years, incidentally, CSIRO Archives has had about 50 customers, about a third of whom could be described as making substantial use of CSIRO records in the course of significant pieces of research.

## **University of New South Wales**

*Correspondent: Laurie Dillon*

A University Archives Advisory Committee has been established to assist in the development of the University Archives. The Vice-Chancellor, whose committee it is, has appointed the following as members: Professor Ray Golding, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Chairman); Professor Frank Crowley, Dean of the Faculty of Arts; Professor Mel Weinstock, Head of the School of Librarianship; Professor Doug McCallum, Chairman of the Professorial Board; Mr Peter Orlovich, Senior Lecturer in Archives Administration; Mr Jack Owens, Senior Deputy Bursar; Mr Allan Horton, University Librarian; and Mr Laurie Dillon, University Archivist.

The University Archivist is placed within the Vice-Chancellor's Unit and is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor through a Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Golding).

Air-conditioning space in the Chancellery, formerly occupied by a computer, is being prepared to ensure the satisfactory development of operations over the next few years.

## **Australian Manuscripts Collection, La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria.**

*Correspondent: Paul Macpherson*

Recent significant accessions include the records of the Riversdale Golf Club, 1895-1979; the records of the bloodstock auctioneers, Wright Stephenson and Co., 1920-1950; the records of Hans Irvine and Co. of Great Western Vineyards, 1880-1936; the records of the Anglican Archdiocese of Melbourne, 1846-1950; the records of St. Stephen's Church, Richmond, 1849-1976; further records of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria; the papers of the Winter Cooke family of Murndal, 1830-1937; the papers of Sir Robert Gibson, 1916-1934; the diaries of Isaac Edward Dyason, 1851-1915; and the papers of the Honourable John Matthew Tripovich, 1937-1975. The Manuscripts Collection has also obtained copies of the caucus records of the Victorian State Parliamentary Labor Party and further microfilms in the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and Australian Joint Copying Project series.