

News Notes

Australian Archives

Correspondent: Professor R. G. Neale

Activities

The implementation of the recommendations arising from the recent Joint Management Review of the Australian Archives (referred to in recent issues of the *Bulletin*) is proceeding at a brisk pace.

- The Public Service Board has approved the recommended top structure of the Central and regional offices;
- The new positions of Assistant Director-General, Business Management and Director, Management Services have been filled on promotion by officers from the Public Service Board and the Department of Transport;
- Officers of the Australian Archives have been selected to act in the new Central Office positions of director, Policy and Director, Planning, Co-ordination and Review, and the positions of Regional Director in Canberra, Darwin and each State capital, pending action to fill these positions on a permanent basis;
- A priorities review committee of senior staff is meeting regularly to draw up a corporate plan of action covering all aspects of the Archives' activities, and to determine the resources to be allocated to each activity in each region;
- The decisions of the committee will be implemented by means of a detailed review and revision of the organisation's 'understructure', and the promotion and transfer of staff to new or re-classified positions;
- An urgently needed increase in staff numbers is being sought;
- A weekly staff bulletin has commenced publication, to keep all staff informed of the latest developments.

The Acting Director, Planning, Co-ordination and Review, Dianne Easter, visited Washington, Ottawa and London during October to study disposal and appraisal practices and procedures at the National Archives and Records Service, the Public Archives of Canada and the Public Record Office.

Records

Recent accessions by the New South Wales Branch include:

- records of the (Holcroft) Committee of Inquiry into Domestic Air Fares;
- records of the Dix Committee on the A.B.C.;
- records of the General Manager of Qantas;
- the first transfer of Trade Practices Tribunal records;
- very early meteorological records of the Parramatta Observatory;
- personal papers of Mr V. D. Summerhays, formerly Registrar of the Courts Martial Appeal Tribunal and Registrar in Bankruptcy.

The New South Wales Branch has recently commenced the major task of appraising seismic exploration records, including machine-readable records in both analog and digital format.

Buildings and facilities

The recent Cabinet Review of Commonwealth Functions (the Lynch Committee) recommended the sharing of archival facilities, wherever possible, not only between Commonwealth agencies, but between the Commonwealth and the States. In Melbourne, a joint Australian Archives — Public Record Office building is under consideration. In Perth, it is proposed that a planned Australian Archives fumigation chamber be shared by the State Archives. In Adelaide, a building leased by the Australian Archives, and vacated by us following the equipping of the ground floor of the Collinswood repository, was shared for a time with the State Archives, who have now taken over the lease. In Darwin, the Northern Territory Government is planning to establish its own Archives, and the possibility of sharing the Australian Archives' building and facilities is being considered.

At Villawood, our NSW Branch has taken delivery of an Archives-designed processing vehicle with a dual cabin and a capacity of 600 standard boxes; a box store is under construction; and conservation facilities now include a slow transport film winder and drying racks.

Australian Joint Copying Project

Correspondent: Mary-Ann Pattison

The Australian Joint Copying Project is to continue unchanged now that the results of the investigation by the Review of Commonwealth Government Functions Committee are known. Mr Graeme Powell and his assistant will remain in their present quarters at Australia House, The

Strand, London and would welcome visits from Australian researchers in London. They are able to provide information about English records and repositories, as well as advice on current A.J.C.P. projects.

Microfilm received in Australia during 1981 of records held in the Public Record Office, London, include a large collection of Colonial Office records on emigration from Britain to all the dominions (C.O. 721 and C.O. 791). Produced in co-operation with the Public Archives of Canada, these 101 reels are of correspondence relating to the administration of the Empire Settlement Act 1922 and letters from Dominion governments, High Commissioners and Agents General on settlement within the Empire 1918-26. An additional 43 reels have been filmed of Admiralty 51 records. These represent further selections of Captain's Logs from ships that visited Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific 1669-1852.

Amongst the collections filmed outside the Public Record Office for the M series were the papers of Lord Bathurst, Lord Goderich, William Huskisson and Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton which related to their periods of occupancy in the position of Secretary of State for the Colonies. Miscellaneous collections were copied at the National Library of Scotland, mostly of the 18th and 19th centuries; various collections in the Dorset Record Office, notably the Dorset Quarter Sessions transportation orders, 1783-1851; papers which relate to the service of the 39th Dorsetshire Regiment in New South Wales 1827-32 held in the Dorset Military Museum; and various papers in the Hertfordshire Record Office and the Institute of Geological Sciences. Smaller private collections range from the autobiographical papers of John Clunies Ross 1824-54 held in the British Library; the letters of Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey on life at the Australian station; an album of watercolours and sketches presented to Richard Jones Jnr. when he left Sydney in 1840 to the papers of naturalist, Sir Joseph Banks, 1768-1820, held in the British Library, London.

Unfortunately, it has been found necessary to increase the price of copies of A.J.C.P. microfilm. The increase is due firstly to increases in the price of film from suppliers and secondly to the need to spread the costs more evenly amongst participating libraries. The four major partners, namely the National Library of Australia, the Mitchell Library at the State Library of New South Wales, the State Library of Victoria and the New Zealand National Archives, have to date borne most of the cost of producing the master negative reels. These costs have increased sharply in the past few years. For instance, a negative reel filmed at the Public Record Office, London, in 1979 cost £92, but in 1981 cost £150. From 16 November 1981 prices for the purchase of A.J.C.P. microfilm will be:

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| 35mm diazo reel | \$15.50 |
| (N.B. Archival quality not guaranteed but durable under normal conditions). | |
| 35mm silver halide reel | \$23.50 |
| (Archival quality) | |

A second supplement to the A.J.C.P. *Handbook* Part 8 is currently being prepared describing in more detail the new accessions mentioned above. Major libraries will be sent a copy of this list when available. Other institutions or individuals may request a copy of this list or order microfilm by writing to the Principal Librarian, Australian Reference, National Library of Australia, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Australian Manuscripts Collection, La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria

Correspondent: Tony Marshall

The Collection has received wide media coverage of its recent purchase from the estate of Sir William Crowther of a collection of documents concerning the Port Phillip Association and the settlement of Melbourne. An exhibition based on this material is to open early in 1982.

Among other noteworthy accessions are the records of a number of organisations and institutions, including the Victoria Division of the Institution of Engineers, Australia; the Royal Society of Victoria; and the Lyceum Club, Melbourne. We have added to our holdings of the records of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union; the Congregational Union of Victoria; the Graziers' Association of Victoria; and the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce. We have also received the records of the ecclesiastical architect Louis Williams; the architect and town planner Frank Heath; the Chirnside family; and the Melbourne Steamship Co. Ltd. Additions to our collection of sound archives include recordings of the proceedings of the "Communists and the Labour Movement" conference held in Melbourne in August 1980; and interviews with many of the people involved in the establishment and work of the Victoria Institute of Colleges.

The October, 1981 issue of the *La Trobe Library Journal* was devoted to a number of previously unpublished works by Henry Lawson which are among the records of the Lothian Publishing Company Ltd. Copies of the *Journal* are available from the Library.

Australian War Memorial

Correspondent: Michael Piggott

Recent acquisitions of personal records include additional papers of the 1939-1945 official naval historian, G. Hermon Gill; letters of Lt. (later

Colonel) F. J. Hill, written while serving with the Royal Horse Artillery in the Crimean War; letters, notebooks, souvenirs maps and books of Fl. Lt. Sidney Cave, documenting his service in the War of 1939-1945; and an equally valuable collection of a photographer with the Directorate of Public Relations in the R.A.A.F., Fl. Lt. Alexander Stewart.

Memorial staff were greatly saddened in August by the death of Mrs Anne Lu, M.A. As the Donated Records Librarian, Mrs Lu sorted, listed and catalogued virtually all personal records received since her arrival in 1973. This achievement was all the more remarkable for the fact that during this period, several large collections, including those of Dr C. E. W. Bean, Brigadier John Field, Sir Iven Mackay, Sir Sydney Rowell, Professor J. S. Butlin and Major David Twigg-Patterson, were fully listed.

Archives Administration, University of New South Wales

Correspondents: Ann Pederson and Peter Orlovich

The new Diploma in Information Management — Archives Administration course has enjoyed an eventful and successful first year. In March, 1981, Ann Pederson, former Director of the Archives Division of the Georgia Department of Archives and History in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, joined the School of Librarianship as Lecturer in Archives Administration and Records Management.

April brought the Course Recognition Committee of the Library Association of Australia to campus to accredit the new curriculum. The programme provides a core of nine team-taught subjects designed to introduce students to concepts and elements common to the document handling professions. They are: Data, Records and Files; Information Processing Technology; Information Environment; Description, Classification and Indexing; Conservation of Information Media; Information Agencies as Organizations; Human Information Processing Behaviour; Quantitative Methods; and Information Retrieval Laboratory. Specific instruction appropriate to the archives environment is treated in seven additional subjects: Archives Theory and History; Administrative History; Management of Archives; Records Management; Conservation; Field Work; and Special Projects. In their favourable report the Committee described the archives administration course of study as 'very sound and relevant to the needs of a wide cross-section of archivists'. The two components of the course that were particularly commended were the practical application of archival principles during the full year of field and special project work and the regular use of practising professionals as guest lecturers. Anyone interested in the archives administration

programme may address an inquiry to the School of Librarianship, University of New South Wales, P.O. Box 1, Kensington, New South Wales, 2033.

The Diploma in Information Management — Archives Administration students made valuable contributions to the archival resources of New South Wales in several capacities. Projects to organize and describe the archives of the Royal Agricultural Society, The Australian Jockey Club, the YMCA (Sydney), Captain Cook's Landing Place Historic Site, and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences were ongoing throughout the academic year.

Individual special projects yielded guides, indexes, or inventories to selected archival records held by the Archives Office of New South Wales, Community Research Archives (NSW), Macquarie University, Mathison Congregational Church (Croydon), Mitchell Library, Municipal Council of St. Peter's, Municipality of Leichhardt, Penrith City Council, St. Jude's Anglican Church (Randwick), St. Stephen's Church (Sydney), Salvation Army Emergency Home (La Perouse), Sutherland Shire Council, UNSW Archives, and the University of Sydney Archives.

Another notable student/staff project was a pilot survey of Land Board Office records held in the New South Wales Government Records Repositories with a view to determining the desirability and practicability of selective culling of large volume holdings of mixed archival values. Peter Orlovich directed the work of two students in conducting the study for the Archives Authority of New South Wales.

Archives Office of New South Wales.

Correspondent: Michael Allen.

During 1981 the Archives Office published a number of reproductions of State archives for sale to the public. These consist mainly of maps and posters such as James Wyld's *Outline of the Settlement in New South 1817* and the *Government Emigration to Sydney Poster, 1884* but also include two attractive colour Christmas and New Year Cards originally produced by the New South Wales Government Tramways for the 1901/2 and 1902/3 festive seasons.

The Guide to the State Archives No. 23, NSW Surveyor General: *Select List of Maps and Plans, 1792-1886* was also received during 1981.

In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in March 1982, the Archives Office has produced a set of six postcards depicting the Bridge at various stages of construction and has reprinted the Sydney Harbour Bridge Celebrations Colour Poster

which was originally part of the document kit "The Changing Face of the Rocks", now out of print. A colour postcard and a greeting card depicting this poster are being prepared and should be available in the new year. A full list of Archives Office publications including descriptions, prices and an order form is available on request.

Staff are currently preparing a new exhibition to commemorate the Harbour Bridge opening. It will feature sketches and plans of early proposals for harbour crossings, together with photographs, paintings, documents and memorabilia relating to the construction and opening of the Bridge.

Significant accessions in recent months include: records of the Inquiry into the Proposed Logging of Terania Creek, 1979-81; Industrial Registry: Industrial Commission and Conciliation Committee files, 1970-78; and Maritime Services Board; various records relating to the registration and certification of masters, pilots, and seamen.

The Shea's Creek Repository, which mainly holds semi-active records, was severely damaged in strong winds on 21st August, 1981. This Repository is regarded as obsolete and the clearance of remaining records is underway. Many of the records still held at Shea's Creek are time-expired and can be destroyed, although about 10,000 linear metres will need to be transferred to the Kingswood Repository. It will not be possible to arrange this until the extension to the Kingswood Repository is completed. This extension, designated "Stage II, Phase II", will cost \$3,000,000 and provide 60,000 linear metres of compactus storage space. The extension is some months behind schedule although it is hoped to have it completed by late 1982.

Archives Office of Tasmania

Correspondent: Ian Pearce

Public use of the Archives Office continues to grow with the main increase being attributable to genealogists. The transfer to the Archives of all records of births, deaths, and marriages prior to 1900 has contributed significantly to this growth particularly in the form of written enquiries which are presently being received at a rather daunting 300 plus per month.

Records are also being made available for transfer to the Archives at an increasing rate although processing of these has been slowed down by lack of shelving.

As space in our leased premises is rapidly running out planning has again started on a possible new out of town building for less frequently

used archives and temporary records. Our microfilming programme is proceeding satisfactorily and an increasing number of frequently used series of records are now available for use on microfilm. It is anticipated that these records will eventually be moved out of the central city office.

In conjunction with this planning the Archives is in the midst of conducting a combined propaganda exercise and survey of the records keeping needs and problems of all state and local government agencies. This is the first formal survey done for all such agencies and should provide a useful basis for future archival planning.

Most accessions in the past few months have been from those agencies which transfer records on a regular basis but one significant transfer has been the records c.1830-c.1930 of the Royal Derwent Hospital, established in the late 1820's as the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum and currently controlled by the Mental Health Services Commission.

The J. S. Battye Library of West Australian History, Perth.

Correspondent: Jack Honniball

A Register of Photographic Collections in Western Australia is the designation of a new project that is now well under way within the Battye Library. The first aim of this venture is to determine the nature and extent of photographic collections, large and small, historical and current, that are held by government agencies, historical societies and museums, business and industry, and individuals. Entry forms have been widely distributed for this survey of the State's resources which will doubtless become a useful reference tool.

The launching of a *Select Bibliography of the Natural History of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia* took place before a large gathering on 16 July. Comprising 114 pages and selling at \$7, it is the first major publication that has been produced by the Battye Library and is planned as the first of a series.

The launching ceremony was also made the occasion for the inauguration of the Friends of the Battye Library, an association whose main aims are to raise additional funds for the Library and to assist it in specialised areas of acquisition. Two general meetings have followed. In September Dr Alan Brissenden described the Early Imprint Project in South Australia, and in November Miss Mollie Lukis spoke on the early years of the State Archives and its successor the Battye Library. So far 140 Friends have been enrolled, and an interim committee has been working on a formal constitution. The first annual general meeting is to

be held on 16 March 1982 and is due to be addressed by the foundation president, Sir Paul Hasluck.

A Perth Regional Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists was established in May 1981, and so completed the Society's formal embodiment in all of the state capitals. Since then, general meetings have been addressed in turn by three wise colleagues from the east — the first by Doreen Wheeler, corporate archivist of BHP, the second by Mike Lynskey, curator of the National Film Archive, and the third by Jim Gibbney, sub-editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

The first of these visitors went on from Perth another 2,000 kms to the West Kimberley for a joint project with an oral history officer from the Battye Library. While Doreen pursued and sifted company records, Chris Jeffery interviewed numerous people who have been prominently associated with iron-ore operations at Yampi Sound over the past half century.

A pleasing degree of contact and co-operation has lately been achieved between the State Film Archives and its national counterpart in Canberra. Closely following upon Mike Lynskey's visit in August in preparation for the Last Film Search, a fortnight was spent on attachment to the National Film Archive by Jack Honniball, the State Film Archives Officer. The attachment followed his participation in the first Australian History and Film Conference that was held at the National Library in November.

Jim Gibbney began his library and archival career in Perth, but *floruit* chiefly in Canberra. As requested, he spoke to the assembled archivists about his professional experiences generally, and although mainly a private one, his visit emphasised once again the co-operative character of a great national project.

National Library of Australia

Correspondent: Pam Ray

John Thompson, formerly Manuscript Librarian, has been transferred to act in the position of Principal Librarian, Australian Reference. Within the National Library and as part of the Australian Studies Branch, this position has overall administrative responsibility for the Manuscript and Pictorial Sections and for the specialist Australiana reference service which is centred on the Petherick Reading Room. The former Australian Joint Copying Project Officer, Pam Ray, has moved to the Manuscript Section to act as Chief Librarian. Mary-Ann Pattison is acting as A.J.C.P. Librarian. During the year Mark Cranfield, formerly of the Australian

Archives in Canberra, joined the Library to take up his appointment as Oral History Officer.

During 1981, the Manuscript Section continued to acquire significant collections of personal papers many of them adding to the strength of the Library's research holdings in fields such as national politics, administration and Australian literature. It also acquired the records of a number of national and local (A.C.T.) organizations. Notable accessions included the papers of the Earl of Gowrie, Governor-General of Australia (1936-1944), Sir Timothy Coghlan, the distinguished pioneer Australian statistician and Agent-General for New South Wales (1905-1926), Commander Alan Villiers, the Australian-born maritime adventurer and writer, Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams, founding member of the Royal Australian Air Force and Sir Ernest White, soldier, businessman and a founding member, with Sir Robert Menzies of the present-day Liberal Party. A substantial addition was made to the papers of Andrew Fisher, Prime Minister of Australia (1908-9; 1910-1913; 1914-1915). Senator Neville Bonner, the Hon. R. V. Garland and the Hon. Justin O'Byrne transferred extensive collections of their personal and political papers to the Library.

Amongst accessions of the personal papers of leading Australian writers and dramatists, the Library acquired records of Murray Bail, Alex Buzo, Jack Hibberd, Roger McDonald, Les Murray, Barry Oakley, Henry Handel Richardson and Betty Roland. A notable single accession was a diary kept by George Johnston during his term as an official war correspondent based in New Guinea during 1941.

Holdings of institutional records acquired include those of the Australian Association of Social Workers, the Returned Servicemen's League and Queanbeyan Hospital.

Staff of the Manuscript Section, assisted by members of a special library task force, completed compilation of four new instalments of the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts relating to Australia*. These instalments which make up Series D are now being prepared for publication and should be available early in 1982. Entries for further instalments may be submitted at any time. Intending contributors should send new entries to the following:

Manuscript Librarian,
National Library of Australia,
Parkes Place, A.C.T. 2601

At a national conference of librarians and archivists responsible for specialist services in the field of Australian Studies, held at the National Library in September, a small editorial committee was appointed to act

as an advisory body for the *Guide to Collections* Membership of this committee comprises Ken Smith (University of Sydney Archives), John Shipp (University of Wollongong Archives), Michael Saclier (Archives of Business and Labour, A.N.U.), Paul Macpherson (La Trobe Library, S.L.V.), Margaret O'Hagan (Fryer Librarian, University of Queensland) and Dr. Chris Cunneen (Australian Dictionary of Biography, A.N.U.). It is expected that this committee will offer advice on the format and presentation of the Guide.

Public Record Office, Victoria.

Correspondent: Pauline Jones.

In May Mr H. W. Nunn retired from his post as Keeper of Public Records. Mr Nunn was Victoria's first Keeper of Public Records and served for 25 years with Victorian archives. He led the office during the implementation of the Public Records Act 1973, the establishment of the Base Repository at Laverton, the beginning of regional development and the introduction of records management services.

Mr Chris Hurley, who joined the Victorian Public Service from the Commonwealth, succeeded Mr Nunn as Keeper of Public Records.

Mr Jim Varghese ceased duty as Deputy Keeper on 18 December. He had been with the Public Record Office for five years and is Federal Delegate to the Records Management Association. He is now Records Manager for the Education Department of Victoria.

Mr Rod Smith left the PRO, where he had charge of reference services, in September for work in the archives of Monash University.

In November Miss Fiona Meyer returned to the Public Record Office, having been on study leave to complete the postgraduate Diploma of Archives Administration at the University of New South Wales. She is now senior archivist in charge of Reference Services.

A position of Corporate Manager was created in the Public Record Office and Mr Terry Seymour was appointed.

Two appointments as Assistant Keeper have been made. Mrs Judith MacKinnon is Assistant Keeper, Records Services, and Mr Brian McInerney is Assistant Keeper, Context Control.

The first regional repository has been opened at Ballarat with Mr Greg Coleman as senior archivist in charge.

A fumigation chamber has been installed at the Laverton base repository and is now operating.

October saw the launching by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke of *Beginnings of Permanent Government*, edited by Pauline

Jones. The book is published for the Public Record Office by the Victorian Government Printing Office. It is the first volume in the new series 'Historical Records of Victoria' with Michael Cannon as editor-in-chief.

The 576-page book, printed on archival paper, describes how all aspects of the life of the Port Phillip District developed between 1836 and 1839. The documents are arranged thematically to enable the foundation story to be told with immediacy through the records created by the people who were there. *Beginnings of Permanent Government* is designed for reading as well as for reference and is comprehensively indexed.

It is available in three formats — clothbound at \$22.95, paperback at \$15.50 and a leatherbound de luxe edition at \$75 — from good booksellers and from the Victorian Government Bookshop, 7a Parliament Place, Melbourne 3002.

Queensland State Archives

Correspondent: Paul Wilson

An era in the history of Queensland State Archives ended on 9 October 1981 with the retirement of Jim Bruce as Conservator. Jim is well known to many throughout Australia for his pioneering work in paper conservation and for his unfailing willingness to assist others in this complex field. Jim was a Churchill Fellow in 1973 and his career is remarkable in that although originally trained as a bookbinder, he worked his way to the position of Conservator through his own application to his work with his customary enthusiasm for experimentation and problem solving. Jim has retired to give full attention to his interests in fishing and his new house.

The continuing high level of demand by genealogical researchers has continued to place strains on accommodation and staff. Limitation to fourteen (14) researchers in the public search room at one time has had to be introduced and entry to children under ten (10) is not now permitted. As well, mail and phone queries continue to run at a high rate.

Departmental file issue and transfer procedures have been extensively reviewed, with resultant tighter control of overdue and long withdrawn files and registers. In general, Departmental reaction to the new procedures and to more stringent pre-transfer bundling and listing requirements has been favourable.

The microfilm unit of the Genealogical Society of Utah has been busy at Queensland State Archives in the filming of Public Curator deceased estates, the Archives created card index to immigration 1848-1920 as well as other finding aids. The State Archives own microfilming project on electoral rolls is proceeding.

Air conditioning plant (motors and compressors) have been replaced to maintain the standard of environmental control in Repository One of the Dutton Park building and tenders are currently being called for the air conditioning of all remaining untreated air space in the building excluding the fumigation area.

Riverina College Archives and Records Service

Correspondent: Don Brech

Shelving of the ground floor repository was completed during 1981 bringing the total shelf capacity in this area to 742 shelf metres.

Recent accessions have included the records of the Riverina University League, 1952-1981, Illabo Shire Council, 1907-1975 and 1980 news film from Riverina & NE Victoria TV Ltd.

A newsletter, *Riverina Archives News*, will be published in January 1982. It will be issued 3 times each year and distributed to selected institutions in Australia and overseas.

South Australian Archives

Correspondent: B. S. Baldwin

Following a submission to the Premier, at his request, in March 1980 by the Minister of Local Government of 'a statement of needs and objectives in the area of archives', action was taken in November 1981 to implement an archival and records management programme within the restrictions of the present economic climate.

The spirit of the proposals — for six additional positions to establish a Records Management Unit and for a consultant to be engaged to prepare a report on the appropriate legislative framework for archival services and related records management functions — has been met in the following way. An Acquisition and Processing Unit consisting of the former Deputy Archivist, two full time and three part time officers, has been carved out of the existing staff without additions. A member of the staff (Colleen Pritchard) has been promoted to head a Services Unit consisting of one other full time officer, five part time officers and the Manuscript Repairer. The Principal Archivist has been removed from the scene without an acting replacement — seconded for possibly six months — to fulfil the role of legislation consultant.

It is anticipated that the Archives, organised as above, will be given the status of a State Records Division (independent of the State Library) within the Department of Local Government before the end of the financial year 1981-82.

The division into two units and the consequent allocation of specific functions to each within the present manpower restraints has necessitated the shortening of the public opening hours by $6\frac{3}{4}$ hours out of the former 45 hours per week. This took effect from 12 November 1981: The Archives is now closed to the public on Thursday mornings and there is no Saturday morning opening.

An investigation has begun into the problem of cellulose nitrate film, both motion picture film and still negatives. The officer in charge of the investigation (in conjunction with the Manuscript Repairer, Hank Bohmer) is Mark Brogan, who joined the staff on 19 May 1981 after completing the Diploma in Archives Administration in 1980.

A lease has been secured, as from 1 September 1981, of the Somerton Park building vacated by the Australian Archives.

Approval has been given for the Northern Territory Department of Education to publish diaries written by Frederick Emil Renner while medical officer attached to the Overland Telegraph construction parties in the Northern Territory in 1871-72 (South Australian Archives accession 1303).

University of Sydney Archives

Correspondent: Ken Smith.

1981 has been a year for the critical assessment of space available, the repository area being almost full. One large group of files has been thoroughly examined, and some ephemeral material culled. There will be over a hundred separate accessions by the end of 1981, representing approximately 50 metres in terms of shelf area. With only 49 vacant shelf metres available at the beginning of the year, the problem will be immediately obvious.

By the end of the year also the University of Sydney had formulated a firm Policy statement regarding deposit and access. There will perhaps be a greater emphasis in the future upon the transfer of the records of the Central Administration, always, in any case, the largest component in the Archives. Two notable accessions of private papers during 1981 were those of the late Professors R. N. Spann and F. May. These papers will require a good deal of work in processing.

University of Western Australia Archives

Correspondent: Christine Shervington

The University of Western Australia Archives have been established now for nearly two years. During this period the Registrar's Office series and

four Archival general file and non-current staff file series, comprising about 4,000 items dating from 1911 to 1960, have been sorted, accessioned and listed. These listings, together with a listing of minute books and brief historical details of the central administration committees, a listing of examination registers, and other Registrar's Office miscellaneous records (for example, *ad eundem gradum* register of degree holders 1913-1916, Physical Society minute book 1915-1921, etc.), have been amalgamated into a 570 page *Listing of the Registrar's Office Archives 1913-1980*.

The Bursar's Office financial records from 1904 (when the University Endowment Act was passed appointing a body of trustees to manage all real and personal property vested in, or acquired by them for the purpose of establishing the University of Western Australia) until 1960 (when a new accounting system was introduced) have also been sorted, accessioned and listed. A *Listing of the Bursar's Office Archives 1904-1960*, detailing these 337 volumes has recently been released.

Several collections of personal and research papers of retired or deceased staff members have been received. These include material from Professors Edwards (Law) and Sanders (Education), Mrs May Hodgkin (Anthropology); and the late Professors Posner (Animal Science), Underwood (Agriculture), and Waring (Zoology) etc. Past students have also donated memorabilia. For example, amongst others, John La Nauze, graduate and Western Australian Rhodes Scholar has donated several volumes of notes taken from Professor E. O. G. Shann's economic history lectures; several biology students have donated a collection of verse entitled *Songs of the Senior Lab*, and a past member of the Choral Society has donated some correspondence and programmes.

Many ex-students have also lent for copying their photographs dating back to the twenties, to augment the official photographic collection previously scattered throughout several University offices. This collection of about 5,000 photographs has now been centralised, accessioned and indexed. An exhibition of early photographs was mounted late last year for an official function, and has been circulated to several metropolitan libraries, including the State Reference Library.

Record management functions undertaken include the compilation of a retention and disposal listing and schedule for the Registrar's Office current general file series and the Bursar's Office accounting records respectively. More recently a review of the current records system has been conducted with a view to improving its efficiency.

The execution of these tasks was made easier by the temporary appointment of an assistant, Mrs Christine Brown, who holds a Graduate

Diploma in Library Studies from the Western Australian Institute of Technology and who formerly worked at the J. S. Battye Library of West Australian history.

University of Wollongong Archives

Correspondent: John Shipp

After a long period of negotiation, the Archives collection has been re-located on the University campus. Previously the collection was stored in the basement of a multi-storey carpark in central Wollongong. The nature of the building made the control of environmental factors difficult. Whilst the new repository is not ideal, it is a marked improvement on the old repository.

In November, the University Archives sponsored the preparation of *Illawarra Bibliography: Monographs*. The bibliography is part of a long-term project to document printed and archival source material relating to the Illawarra district of NSW. It is hoped to publish a combined bibliography in 1988 covering monographs, journal articles, films and archival material.

A project to survey multicultural history resources in the Wollongong region was finalised in December. Work on the survey began in 1979 but funding problems delayed its completion. The project co-ordinator, Hermine Rainow, has been associated with the migrant population in Wollongong for more than twenty years.

All correspondence regarding editorial matters should be addressed to: The Editor, Australian Society of Archivists Inc., P.O. Box 83, O'Connor, A.C.T., Australia 2601.