

NEWS NOTES

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

Correspondent: C. D. Pitson

ACTIVITIES

Substantial progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Joint Management Review of the Australian Archives completed in March 1981. A new organisation structure, including the division of the Central Office into a Records Services Branch and a Business Management Branch and a substantial up-grading and re-arrangement of positions in the Central and Regional Offices has been approved. The new structure strengthens the capacity of the organisation in relations to personnel management and development, to systems, methods and ADP applications and to the planning and acquisition of facilities. It also provides specialised resources for planning, co-ordination and review of the delivery of services to users and equips the organisation both to respond to and to initiate policy developments relating to the broad management of the whole body of Commonwealth records. Particular attention is being given to improving the effectiveness of the records disposal programme and to developing a capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate essential information on Commonwealth records.

Most of the top structure positions in both Central and Regional offices have been filled and recruitment action for the understructure is well advanced. As recommended by the Joint Management Review, the Archives has completed a review of all its work programmes, and allocated priorities accordingly, so as to make the most effective use of its resources.

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

The Tasmanian Regional Office has completed the move into the new \$2 million building at 4 Rosny Hill Road, Rosny Park, Hobart (telephone (022) 44 0111). The repository on Rosny Hill is prominent and has generated considerable local interest. The building contains a full range of facilities for the servicing of Commonwealth agencies in Tasmania and for consultation of records by members of the public. Storage accommodation has been provided for over 11,000 linear metres of records, including environmentally controlled rooms for housing permanent value

records and audio-visual and machine readable material. The building also contains a modern conservation laboratory and a range of search rooms to meet a variety of uses.

The Victorian Regional Office has recently opened a new repository at Dandenong. The building, acquired to house semi-active and inactive temporary value records, has a capacity (utilising static shelving) of over 40,000 linear metres and replaces the former Moorabbin repository.

At Villawood in New South Wales, commissioning of the unique low temperature and humidity film vault continues. The breaking of new ground with this facility has had its problems which are now expected to be overcome with the environmental standards set for the storage vault and transition rooms.

The Townsville Office and Repository are now located at:

30 Casey Street

Aitkenvale Qld. 4814

(P.O. Box 902, Aitkenvale Qld. 4814

telephone (077) 72 3197)

RECORDS

Recent accessions by the New South Wales Office include:

- records of the (Campbell) Committee of Inquiry into the Australian Financial System;
- personal records of Dr L. R. Hiatt, Chairman of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee Inquiry.

A recent digital reprocessing of seismic data stored on analog tapes held at Villawood has led to the discovery in Western Australia of two new sources of energy: the Tubridgi gasfield, and the Blina oilfield in the Canning Basin.

The New South Wales Conservation staff has undertaken the preservation of World War II recruiting and loan posters and pamphlets produced by the Commonwealth Advertising Division.

Correction to news note published in *Archives and Manuscripts* Volume No. 9 Number 1, page 106: "A copying project recently completed in the A.C.T. entailed making a partial [not 'full'] set of duplicate negatives and contact prints of Lantern slides of Papua New Guinea, Norfolk Island and Java, 1908-1925 (CRS A24) . . ." The error was in copy supplied by the A.C.T. Office.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Correspondent: Pam Ray

A significant acquisition of recent date is the collection of papers of the

poet David Campbell, spanning a long period of his working life. An unusual addition to the Library's Manuscript collections was the purchase of five volumes of *Kookaburra*, an illustrated journal compiled by Sydney schoolgirls in the early 1900's. Other acquisitions of note have been further papers of the Late Ulrich Ellis (writer, former public servant, actively involved with the Country Party and in the New States Movement); papers of the Cunningham family of Lanyon, A.C.T.; a volume of transcriptions of letters of the Rev. E. L. Lyth, an early New Zealand missionary; diaries of Robert McGeoch, Grazier, 1883-1926; diaries of Victor Jelliman, describing his service in South Africa in World War I, and experiences in the Australian Army in World War II as a prisoner in Changhi and on the Burma-Siam railway. A large volume of material added to the collection consisted of records compiled by Harold Williams, an Australian who spent many years living in Japan. These records include much photographic material.

The project of copying onto microfiche the Otley-Beyer collection (on the Philippines, especially ethnography and linguistics) is almost complete.

A large number of theses have been acquired and staff are presently engaged in entering these in the ABN (Australian Bibliographic Network) system. It is intended that all thesis cataloguing will be included in ABN from now on.

Australian Joint-Copying Project

Correspondent: Mary-Ann Pattison

Since the last report on the A.J.C.P. in *Archives and Manuscripts* we have received 45 new reels of microfilmed records from our Officer in London. The major collection filmed is the records of Antony Gibbs and Sons Ltd. 1853-1930. This London merchant house established branches in all the Australian states and New Zealand developing extensive shipping, pastoral, importing, mining and timber interests. The records, which mostly date from 1881-1930, include private letters of the Gibbs family, letterbooks of the Australian manager, reports, agreements, annual accounts and chartering ledgers.

Five reels of microfilm were filmed at the Corporation of London Record Office. Consisting of the Indexes to persons indicted and the Gaol Delivery, Oyer and Terminer Entry Books listing convicts sentenced at the Old Bailey, the records relate to the period 1791-1834. Similar records for 1783-93 have previously been filmed by the A.J.C.P. on reel M580.

Selected papers were microfilmed of the London Chamber of Commerce (Australian and New Zealand Trade section) 1885-1958; Free Church of Scotland, 1851-54; Zoological Society of London, 1821-1903;

and the London Guildhall Library (miscellaneous collections). Copies of papers of Australasian interest amongst the collections of Robert Brown (botanist) 1800-1854; Brigadier A.T. Shakespear 1934-42 (relating to Singapore, Malaya and Ceylon) and the photographs of Sydney taken by W.S. Jevons in 1858 were also received.

Further information on the contents of any of these collections can be obtained by writing to the Principal Librarian, Australian Reference, National Library of Australia, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Australian National University Archives of Business & Labour

Correspondent: Michael Saclier

It is now well over a year since the writing of the note which appeared in *A. & M.*, v. 9, no. 1. Looking back over such a period is a little like a Lenten examination of conscience — assuredly, one feels, there are things which one ought to have done and others that one ought not. Never mind, perhaps the Great Archivist will balance it all out in our favour when he comes to enter us in the accesssion register.

Normally, staff changes are noted in the *Bulletin* rather than here, but I feel that the departure of Mrs Judy Day from our staff merits special mention. She came to the Archives in 1967. At present she is on sick leave pending retirement on 13th April. Her career in the Archives thus spanned more than fourteen years of development. During that time her ability, her dedication and her personality ensured that she was a highly valued colleague and an equally valuable guide to those people using the Archives who were lucky enough to find themselves in her care. She will be missed by all at the A.B.L. and all those who came in contact with her here. Judy and her husband have moved to Queensland (near Bundaberg) on a trial basis, and we hope that they will continue to enjoy the pleasures of retirement there for many years to come.

The Archives was formally opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Ross, acting on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Low, who was prevented at the last moment from officiating. Guest of honour and speaker at the ceremony was Mr Cliff Dolan, President of the A.C.T.U. About one hundred depositors and University, archival and civic notables attended.

A publicity booklet on the Archives which was planned to coincide with the opening was unfortunately delayed and will appear, it is hoped, by mid-April.

On a more mundane plane notable accessions during the year have come from the Australian Farmers' Federation, the Australian Wool Industry Conference and the Australian Boot Trade Employees' Federation.

Arrangement and description of the A.C.T.U. records has now been completed and that of the Tooth and Company deposit is well advanced.

Archives Office of New South Wales

Correspondent: Michael Allen

The new exhibition, entitled " 'North-South Dialogue' — Harbour Crossing Proposals, 1815-1922", commemorating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, was opened to the public on Saturday 30th January 1982. On 16th March 1982 the exhibition was officially opened by Mr Philip Geeves, journalist and broadcaster.

Material exhibited was drawn not only from the resources of the State archives but also from the family of the late Dr J.J.C. Bradfield, Chief Engineer, Sydney Harbour Bridge. Items loaned by the Bradfield family include a solid silver casket presented to Dr Bradfield, Dr Bradfield's copy of the Official Souvenir Programme, an original piece of ribbon used in the bridge opening ceremony, and one of the flags flown on the opening day.

An inventory of the N.S.W. Clerk of the Peace Quarter Sessions records and a new edition of the N.S.W. Colonial Secretary: Naturalization and Denization Records, 1834-1903 have been sent to the printer.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Correspondent: Anne Robertson

In the past few months, the Mitchell Library has received a variety of interesting manuscript collections. David Ireland, three times winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, has recently donated the manuscripts of his published works to the Library. The papers include the initial notes for his novels, several typescript drafts and, in some cases, the publishers' galleys. The collection shows the development of works such as *The Unknown Industrial Prisoner*, *A Woman of the Future*, *City of Women* and *The Glass Canoe*. A display in the State Library vestibule, illustrating the growth of *The Glass Canoe* from the germ of an idea recorded on cards to the published work, gave a rare and intriguing glimpse of the writer's working method.

Another notable accession was the records of the Society of Friends, New South Wales, covering the period 1867-1978. These include minutes of meetings, 1887-1934; general correspondence and financial records; births, marriages and death records, and pictorial material. The records may only be issued with the written authority of the Society.

The records of the Wallarah Coal Company Ltd., 1888-1963, have also been donated to the Library. The Company was incorporated in England

in 1888 to develop coal mining property at Catherine Hill Bay, New South Wales, and later took control of part of the foreshore area at Ball's Head, Sydney Harbour, developing a coal depot and operating coastal shipping to bring coal from the Wallarah Colliery to Sydney. These records, which include minute books, 1889-1951, journals, ledgers and cash books, are temporarily restricted.

Other significant accessions included Diaries of Rev. George Hunn Nobbs, 1853-1861, kept during his time at Pitcairn Island and Norfolk Island, and the papers of Richard Pennington, 1917-1970. Pennington, Secretary of the International Univeresity Society in Sydney in 1926 and Librarian of the University of Queensland, 1939-1945, corresponded with Christopher Brennan, R.G. Howarth, Thea Proctor and Norman Lindsay, among others. *A Guide to the papers of John Le Gay Brereton* was published during 1981 by the Library Council of New South Wales as Mitchell Library Manuscripts Guide No.5. Brereton (1871-1933), was Librarian of Fisher Library, Sydney University, from 1915, a well-known Elizabethan scholar, and the University's first Challis Professor of English Literature from 1921 to 1933. The *Guide* to his papers is available free of charge from the State Library of New South Wales.

Queensland State Archives

Correspondent: Paul Wilson

The Queensland State Archives building at Dutton Park should be completely air-conditioned by mid-year. A contract has been let and work has started on two separate systems. One will condition the large repository on street level, the public search area, office space and sorting room. The second unit will condition the lower ground floor repository. Funding limitations have prevented the equipment being fitted with a pH stabilisation facility, but the advent of stable conditions of temperature and humidity will be most welcome in helping to ensure good preservation conditions.

South Australian Archives

Correspondent: John Love

The Archives, which is a Branch of the State Library, is to become a Division in the Department of Local Government, like the State Library Division and the Public Libraries Division. As a step towards this re-organisation, the Archives has been divided into two units, one dealing with acquisition and processing of Government and non-Government records and the other providing direct service to the public. This is to

form the basis of the administrative structure of the new Division in which the two branch heads will be responsible to the Archivist who will be responsible to the Director of Local Government. New legislation is being prepared. This will be a separate act, distinct from the proposed new libraries act. However, as the latter is likely to be passed first, it will contain revised provisions for archives as an interim measure until the new archives act comes into force.

University of Tasmania Archives

Correspondent: Shirley King

The archives of the University of Tasmania have recently moved into new premises on the top floor of the University Library. The new strongroom has better humidity and temperature control and the small reading and work room adjacent has better ventilation and a fine view of Mount Wellington. There is a new direct telephone number (002) 20 2222, but the postal address is still: University Archives, G.P.O. Box 252 C, Hobart, Tas. 7001.

The University Archives holds the records of the University from its foundation in 1890. Until the Second World War Tasmania was a small university in an old, stately building, formerly the Hobart High School. The first bachelor degrees were awarded in 1895 to five graduates. There were thirteen graduates in 1914, rising to thirty four in 1934, but the majority of students then were part-timers from the Teachers' Training College. After the War the University moved to a new campus in Sandy Bay and expanded considerably to the current enrolment of over five thousand.

Records consist of Council and other Board and Committee minutes, Registrar's correspondence, examination results, buildings and maintenance records, staff records, etc., and some records of affiliated colleges and societies. Recently the routine records were enlivened by the gift of a 1930 university blazer of Oxford blue, rose and primrose and a "blue" blazer, both with the badge of an open book and punning motto *In Uni.Tas Unitatem*, originally adopted by the University Union. The original badge was based on the University's first common seal which was actually the seal of the Tasmanian Council of Education, established in 1859. The Council held various annual public exams for scholarships for further secondary education, for the award of an A.A. (associate of arts) degree (equivalent of matriculation) and for two scholarships for study at British universities. In 1890 its functions were taken over by the new University of Tasmania and its records are with the University Archives.

The University also took over the seal until it adopted its own heraldic badge and seal in 1938.

The University Archives also looks after a number of deposited private family and business records, including some interesting material relating to pioneer families and early business and trade. Between 1951 and 1968 the University History Department surveyed and published reports on historical records of Tasmania in private hands. Many were lent to the Department for the purpose and were deposited in the University Library. In 1968 a professional archivist was appointed to look after these deposited archives as well as the University's own records.

More recently three independent institutions have made agreements with the University to share its archival facilities for their own archives, so that these can be preserved in proper conditions and administered by a professional archivist while still remaining under the institutions' own control. These are, first, the Royal Society of Tasmania for its records and its historical manuscript collection, which includes papers of early settlers and such bodies as the Dorcas Society (1835-1949) and St. Mary's Hospital (1846-1864) which were entrusted to the Royal Society before any other archival repository existed in Tasmania. Second, the Hobart Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends for their records from 1833, records of the Friends' School from 1887 and records of some Quaker families. Thirdly, the Archbishop of Hobart for the earlier administrative records of the Diocese (Catholic). Most interesting of these is the correspondence of the first bishop, R. W. Willson, relating to the conditions of convicts. There are also a few early parish registers of baptisms and marriages with the Diocesan Archives but most of these remain in current use at the parish churches.

These private records can only be consulted with permission from the owners, and many of the University's own records may require special permission, so it is advisable to write first to the Archivist to enquire about the availability of records and to make an appointment. Staff consists of the Archivist with part-time assistance two afternoons a week and a voluntary helper who is making a descriptive list of an important family collection.

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

Correspondent: Tony Marshall

On 10th March 1982 the Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Norman Lacy, opened an exhibition entitled "Trepassers and intruders: the Port Phillip

Association and the founding of Melbourne". The exhibition includes most of the Port Phillip Association papers recently purchased from the estate of Sir William Crowther as well as many other items from the La Trobe Library's collections. The opening was also the occasion for the official presentation of the Port Phillip Association papers to the Library.

Recent acquisitions of note include papers of Sir Rupert Hamer, formerly Premier of Victoria, and the late Sir John Jungwirth, Secretary to the Premier's Department 1935-1962; records of Christ Church, South Yarra; further records of the printers Troedel and Cooper; and records of the Victorian branch of the Howard League for Penal Reform and of the Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society.

Dianne Reilly has been appointed as La Trobe Librarian. Miss Reilly was formerly in charge of the External Services Section of the State Library. An article about her appeared in the *Age* on 27th February.

Paul Macpherson, formerly Manuscripts Librarian, has been appointed Deputy La Trobe Librarian. Patsy Adam Smith retired from the position of Manuscripts Field Officer on 2nd April 1982. Since her appointment in January 1970 to that position (which was originally funded by the Potter, Sunshine and Myer Foundations and later became part of the State Library's establishment) Miss Adam Smith has played a large and invaluable part in the growth and development of the Collection.

Public Record Office, Victoria

Correspondent: Ian MacFarlane

Staff changes, the location of a regional base repository at Ballarat, and the publication of the first volume in the foundation series of Historical Records of Victoria were among the developments and highlights of 1981.

Mr Rod Smith, who had made a long-standing and significant contribution in the reference area, took up an appointment as Archivist, Monash University. The vacancy — of Senior Archivist, Reference — was filled by Ms Fiona Meyer. Mrs Pauline Jones, Publications and Publicity Officer, took up a position with the Victorian Institute of Secondary Education. Her replacement was Mr Ian MacFarlane.

A base repository at Ballarat — part of a regionalisation of storage, reference and retrieval facilities — is being developed on the ground floor of the new State Offices in that city. In addition to housing records of particular relevance to the Central Highlands, the repository will have available for public access duplicate microfilm copies of records available already through the city and Laverton search rooms. More than 3,500 shelf metres of storage are planned.

The first volume of *Historical Records of Victoria: The Beginnings of Permanent Government* was published in 1981. The volume, which has a date range of 1836-40, has been enthusiastically received, due in part to the technical aspects of production which have enhanced readability, and durability with the use of archival-quality stock. Editor-in-Chief, Michael Cannon predicts the second volume of the foundation series may be available in 1983.

Statistics regarding the base repository at Laverton, as at March 1982, show that 35,617.3 linear metres of shelving in standard compactus mobile, and 2,500 linear metres in standard static, are in use for storage. A consignment system for departmental records is being adopted in which records will be either classified as permanent, temporary or reviewable. A Standard for disposition procedures is anticipated for later in 1982.

A number of records of the Parliament of Victoria have been accessioned recently. These include the bulk of papers laid on the tables of both Houses, dating from the 1850s to the 1970s. The records are generally in printed form.

The vacuum fumigation chamber at Laverton is nearing completion. The large and modern unit replaces a small tent that continues to function intermittently at the rear of the repository.

Several new staff positions have recently been created by the Public Service Board. They include:

★ Director, Development and Consultancy (\$27,601-\$28,896 p.a.)

Duties: Under direction, to develop procedures for the implementation and monitoring of programs in public offices for the management and disposal of non-current records; to be responsible for appropriate publications, remedial records programs, vital records programs and systems for the co-ordination of records storage space.

★ Administrative Officer (\$22,220-\$23,256 p.a.)

Duties: To assist the Director (Development and Consultancy) in the management of non-current records in public offices in relation to the preparation of guides and handbooks, disposal scheduling and the development, implementation and maintenance of procedures for the management of non-current records.

★ Administrative Officer (\$22,220-\$23,256 p.a.)

Duties: To assist the Director (Development and Consultancy) in the management of non-current records in public offices in relation to records surveys, remedial records programs, improving record keeping systems and access to information.

★ Administrative Officer (\$22,220-\$23,256 p.a.)

Duties: To assist the Director (Development and Consultancy) in the management of non-current records in public offices in relation to the development of budget-based control systems and the efficient and systematic use of records storage space.

★ Director, Client Services (\$27,601-\$28,896 p.a.)

Duties: To administer the client services functions of the Public Record Office; under the general direction of the Keeper to exercise delegations related to the selection, disposal and preservation of public records; to advise public offices on the application of standards pursuant to the Public Records Act (1973); to develop facilities for the use of public records under the control of the Keeper.

The last position replaces that of Deputy Keeper.

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

Correspondent: Jack Honniball

The general service offered the public by the Battye Library and the State Reference Library has been considerably modified by a reduction in the hours. The new opening hours, effective since December 1981, are:

Mondays and Fridays — 9am to 5.30pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays — 9am to 9.45pm

Saturdays and Sundays — 2pm to 5.30pm.

Needless to say, the retrograde measure was brought about by the straitened condition of the State's finances and the Nation's economy.

Again, it will be of little surprise to colleagues elsewhere to learn that the size of Battye's staffing establishment has remained static for a full two years, while the volume and pressure of work has steadily increased. One advance at the end of 1981, however, was the higher status awarded the Deputy State Archivist, Chris Coggin, whose classification was raised from the level of Executive Librarian to Divisional Librarian. He has particular responsibility for archives, manuscripts, maps and conservation and in these areas has the assistance of four qualified librarians/archivists, a conservator, clerk and typist.

National Archives, New Zealand

Correspondent: Judith Hornabrook

Mr R.F. Grover has been appointed Director of National Archives and took up his position in August 1982. Mr Grover, who gained his B.A. at Victoria University of Wellington and has a Diploma of the New Zealand Library School, was for several years on the staff of the Alexander

Turnbull Library. He was Assistant Chief Librarian from 1968 until 1979 when he was appointed Librarian-in-Chief of the Teachers' College Library in Auckland. In 1969 he visited Australia as an Anzac Fellow surveying archives and manuscripts relating to New Zealand in Australia.

Staffing recommendations made in an official Management Audit report in 1979 have begun to be implemented. Four additional positions on the staff have been approved. Of these two are currently being advertised; the other two have been filled by the appointment of Kathy Marr as Assistant Archivist and Ivan Bootham as Administration Officer.

Bruce Symondson is undertaking the Diploma Course at the University of New South Wales.

Appraisal staff have been active during the year. Notable accessions have included records of Cabinet Office to 1960; several commissions of enquiry, including that on Official Information 1981, and papers of Ministers and ex-Ministers of the Crown following the 1981 election.

National Archives has been heavily involved in the drafting of model guides to current records in anticipation of a more open official information policy.

Significant improvements are being made to the arrangement and description practices (following an examination of overseas practices — notably those of Australia). Topic finding aids are being prepared for heavily used series of archives and Genealogical Society volunteers are assisting by indexing passenger lists and registers of intentions to marry. These projects should help to relieve the pressure of growing demands on the reference service.

As part of a programme to promote better use of archival resources, talks are being given to branches of the Society of Genealogists throughout the country. It is hoped to arouse the interest of the several branches of the Society in participation in indexing projects.

During the year National Archives undertook responsibility for the national collection of War Art. A great deal of work is involved to ensure the full registration, cataloguing and conservation of the collection.

On the conservation side, conservation technician Robert Kerr-Hislop participated in the salvage of records during flood emergency in the north of the North Island in the winter of 1981.

Bank of New Zealand Archives

Correspondent: Robin Griffin

During 1981 the B.N.Z. Archives published five centenary booklets for the B.N.Z. Branches at Manaia, Opunake, Hastings, Feilding and Paeroa.

Where the information is available, each booklet usually contains: a brief historical background of the area; the township in 1881 compiled mainly from newspaper sources; descriptions of the local scene through the years from Bank Managers' Reports held in the B.N.Z. Archives. Always included is early history of the B.N.Z. in New Zealand and the region surrounding the town; descriptions of the Bank's buildings based on architectural records held in the Archives; information about some Bank staff drawn from personnel records and reminiscences. Where the Colonial Bank of New Zealand was represented a brief history is given of that institution. The gold industry receives extensive attention in the Paeroa booklet. Each booklet concludes with a brief description of the town in 1981 which will be historical in the years to come.

Illustrations in each booklet are drawn from the Bank's own collection, local historical societies, historians and photographers and, where all other sources fail, our great standby, the photographs section of the Turnbull Library.

While the texts of each booklet do not suffer from "foot and note disease" sources of information are usually woven skilfully into the text and are listed at the back of each booklet. The Paeroa booklet is notable for having a list of probably every booklet published about Paeroa, based on the General Assembly Library catalogue in Wellington. The booklets are intended to appeal to as wide a spectrum of Bank customers and others as possible.