

BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by Colleen Pritchard

C. Jones, *Britain and the Dominions: a guide to business and related records in the United Kingdom concerning Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa*. G.K. Hall & Co., Boston, 1978.

This is not a book with which Australian historians and archivists can feel comfortable. While as a source of information for researchers its importance is unquestionable, this *Guide* also serves to emphasise the degree to which the preservation of business records for purposes of historical research has been neglected in Australia, when compared with Great Britain.

Charles Jones' *Britain and the Dominions: a guide to business and related records in the United Kingdom concerning Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa* is, among other things, a salutary reminder of how underdeveloped are any national, or regional efforts to undertake the preservation of such records in this country. Just as it may be argued that business history has suffered in Australia by comparison with other fields of research, so has the collection and preservation of business records often been relegated to a subordinate role in the priorities of many Australian archives and manuscript collections. So often cultural or political records with their readier audience have proved more attractive and apparently more profitable. Even Australia's trade union movement, that inevitable corollary of industry and commerce, has fared well by comparison.

It is evident that from the earliest days of the project, the author conceived the value of this *Guide* in the context of the considerable publication of both general and thematic guides to British manuscript collections, particularly those of the last decade. Richard Storey's unpublished "Sources of Business History in the National Register of Archives" and the work of Cook et al, *Sources in British Political History 1900-1951* (London 1975-7) still have no Australian equivalents; perhaps Mander-Jones' *Manuscripts in the British Isles relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific* (Canberra 1972) comes closest, although as a general survey it ranges a good deal wider than business and related records.

The value of such previous work for Jones' *Guide* is readily apparent from the breadth of representation in the book and from his generous

acknowledgements. It was such publications, as much as diligent footwork, that provided the framework of collections and contacts upon which Jones' *Guide* was organized.

The *Guide* itself is the product of an exhaustive survey of recognized British record repositories, pre-eminently county and regional record offices, supplemented by reference to a number of metropolitan libraries and, to a lesser extent, museums. Jones also approached more than 500 firms known to have engaged in substantial trade with British colonies in an attempt to locate additional relevant manuscripts. This approach, as he admits, was necessarily the most tenuous aspect of the project. The majority of Britain's nineteenth century trading houses, both large and small, had either disappeared or survived under changed circumstances. Similarly, in the equally profitable export of technology that assumed such an important role in imperial economic relations, firms establishing agencies or licensing manufacturers have either disappeared or were difficult to trace. Incidentally, although Jones makes reference to the use of London directories, he does not appear to have made use of similar Australasian series, such as Sands & MacDougall's Melbourne and Municipal (later Victorian) Directory, which could have been of considerable assistance to his search.

The entries have been organized by location, so that collections, together with repositories, are grouped under their particular local government area, i.e. Avon, Bedfordshire, Berkshire. This has the unfortunate consequence of breaking up the collections representing Britain's major economic regions and significant export industries. But the scope of the *Guide* is what one constantly returns to, the feature that is most immediately convincing. Some 620 collections drawn from over 200 archives, libraries, museums and private collections are represented in the *Guide*, and to pinpoint those as relevant to imperial trade from among thousands of British firms and dozens of archives is no mean feat. Moreover, having discounted the inevitable collections still in private hands that eluded discovery, it is not unreasonable to describe the bulk of the research as exhaustive, the result of considerable persistence on Jones' part. The more obvious repositories and archives are well covered, as are Britain's major export industries, in particular mining, engineering, textiles and capital investment through the mediums of banking, insurance, and land investment, but Jones has also included more obscure and unconventional sources.

No guide or reference book can ever hope to be entirely error free, and a number of corrections are necessary, while post 1978 accessions have already set in train the inevitable process of obsolescence which accompanies archival guides. Some errors, of course, are more significant than others. In the entry describing material held by the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation Ltd (p61-2) Jones concludes that while "the Zinc

Corporation had been active in Australia since 1905, records of the operations are to be looked for in Australia, not England". Certainly, a significant collection has been preserved at the Zinc Corporation's Broken Hill mine, but until this year Rio Tinto in London retained minute books, letter books and guard books of the Zinc Corporation dating from 1905 as well as records of New Broken Hill Consolidated. It now appears that these records, or elements of them, are to be transferred to Australia, to the advantage of Australian researchers. That such errors occur emphasises one of the perils of a reference book such as this and its degree of reliance upon the accuracy of information supplied second-hand, information often beyond Jones' ability to verify. While the benefits of including collections of business records still in private hands cannot be contested, the position of dependence in which this places Jones does lead to errors and, one suspects, omission of other relevant sources. A number of post 1978 accessions to various archives extend this *Guide's* relevance to Australia. Two brief examples are sufficient: the Comp Air collection now deposited with the Cornwall County Record Office is largely comprised of the papers of Holman Brothers Ltd. of Cambourne, an influential Cornish exporter of mining machinery and technology to Australia. While in Australia, the considerable collection of the merchants and bankers Antony Gibbs and Sons, held in London's Guildhall, has been complemented by the University of Melbourne Archives' accession of a large collection of the collateral Australian firm of Gibbs Bright, together with the remarkable collection of Bright family papers spanning this Bristol family's mercantile activities since the seventeenth century.

But in general these are superficial qualifications. As a *Guide* to British business records it is of great potential use to Australian researchers. It is in the *Guide's* methodology that more substantial criticism needs to be made. Despite the subject of the *Guide*, one is left with the impression that this is a book written primarily for British historians of imperial economic relations, and only secondarily for historians and archivists in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa. Its structure, based upon British local government areas, is inaccessible to those unfamiliar with the peculiarities of the most recent reorganization of British counties and regions. (It took ten minutes to locate an entry for the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. Ironbridge is listed under Salop; it seems Shropshire no longer exists.) This problem is accentuated by the absence of an index to the archives, libraries and museums included in the *Guide*. Similarly, while the general index is adequate for locating individual collections, too little attention has been paid to cross-referencing in order to establish the interdependency between collections that represent Britain's historic export trades, or with the substantial collections relating to British colonial investment in the *Guide*.

Such faults are compounded, to my mind, by the style of the entries. While each entry describes categories of records and their date range, the

method adopted for compiling and writing entries remains unclear. The degree of editorial control is at times insufficient, with the result that the quality of information and the relevance of entries varies enormously. There are those, such as the entry for the Bradford wool merchant Robert Jowitt and Sons, held at the University of Leeds' Brotherton Library, or for the London-based Phoenix Assurance Company which clearly exceed the general requirements laid down by Jones. Similarly, descriptions of collections held by the Scottish Record Office seek to indicate the research value of the records while also providing abstracts of contents, and in doing so set a standard which few other entries achieve.

On the other hand, there are sufficient indifferent entries to cause one to wonder whether some entries have been submitted simply to enable a particular collection, or repository, to be included in the *Guide*. For example, the inclusion of a lone Western Australian engine driver's certificate of competence (Haynes Collection, Bristol).

There are also a significant number of entries that refer to uncatalogued manuscripts offering the possibility of Australian or Canadian connections. Under such circumstances, surely the procedure for an authoritative guide would be either to seek confirmation or omit speculation.

But once having come to terms with such shortcomings, Jones' *Guide* emerges as an impressive compilation. His insistence upon the importance of technical records, plans and drawings is especially welcome. Jones laments the common division of many British engineering collections — administrative records to an archive or library, while technical papers join machinery in a museum. Too often, Australian museums are not offered even this opportunity, and such records are ignored or destroyed. Jones makes the comment that "a generation of economic historians has now come to maturity better able... to make use of technical records". This is also applicable in Australia. As an example, co-operation between the University of Melbourne Engineering School and Archives Department during the past three years has enabled a History of Technology course to include studies in Australian technology based upon technical drawings and order books held at the Archives, in particular those of Thompsons Byron-Jackson, a Castlemaine engineer and founder established in 1874.

With an expertise in one's particular field of collection and research now an essential pre-requisite for an archivist, Jones' emphasis upon the integration of these complementary functions points to the strength of industrial history as a discipline for both archivists and historians in Britain. It must be hoped that equivalent success will accompany Australian efforts.

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Register of Church Archives. *A select guide to resource material in Australia*, edited by Leo J. Ansell, C.F.C. Church Archivists' Society, Toowoomba, 1982. \$5.00 (plus postage) from Church Archivists' Society, P.O. Box 756, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350.

The Church Archivists' Society is to be congratulated for publishing this *Register*. Remember that the Society was launched less than three years ago and has only about 100 members, and that it is administered by one person — Br. Leo Ansell, Diocesan Archivist at Toowoomba, Queensland. He is a full-time religious archivist and, as his society's editor, compiled the *Register* under review.

Entries were solicited from members through a widely-distributed Information Sheet which the Society's *Newsletter* followed up by regular exhortation to provide the data requested as fully and as quickly as possible. National and state archives and manuscript repositories were also tapped. Despite "limitations in both quantity and quality" the preface states that "the difficulties of collecting data for insertion would not lessen with time, so it was better to publish what had been collected in spite of its shortcomings and inevitable omissions". Aware that "some of the material is uneven and sketchy," nevertheless Br. Ansell hopes that, for a first edition, "there is enough of value in this work to commend it to serious students as well as the ubiquitous family historian". If it raises public awareness of "the wealth of history that reposes in Church Archives throughout Australia," Br. Ansell thinks that its publication is justified.

Many issues are raised by this *Register's* appearance, not the least of which is its name, from which much else follows. The first number of the *Journal of Religious History* made the point that "the region where the history of religion mingles with the history of politics or society or culture [is our] true home-ground". "Church" history was rejected as a name because it was too narrow, and the *Register of Church Archives* is likewise unsatisfactory.

Not all of the archivists who have reported entries to the *Register* are the archivists of a Church, in the sense either of a building or a denomination. Rather they are in the service of sections or agencies of denominations. The imprecision of the term "Church" in the *Register's* title therefore understates its contents and purpose.

This imprecision has other, deeper, implications. A great disparity of titles for the archival bureaux within Australian religious organisations is evident from the *Register's* contents. Some dioceses have a "Cathedral Archives"; others, a "Diocesan Archives". Yet both contain the same sorts of records, viz. administrative, personnel and property records of the diocese, its parishes and institutions within its boundaries, including, of course, records relating to the Cathedral's erection, maintenance, and the uses to which it is put. Thus, the term "Cathedral Archives" appears to

confuse location with provenance, in much the same way as "Church" is used in contradistinction to the actual organisations which are represented in the body of the *Register*, viz. secondary and tertiary educational institutions, religious orders, synods or other constitutional fragments of religious denominations, senior citizens' homes, and the like.

In fact, this *Register* is not even of the archives of such agencies of religion in Australia. It is a register of the repositories which hold such archival materials. Thus, the "Name" of the repository, which appears at the head of each entry, might be "Church Records and Historical Society" when the Uniting Church in Australia, NSW Synod is the creating agency in question. "Fryer Library, University of Queensland" refers to the archives of several regional sections of three Protestant denominations. "Sisters of St Joseph" seems clearer, except that the holdings referred to are not those of the order at large, but of the Branch of the order which worked around Bathurst. Was this Branch's jurisdiction contiguous with the Bathurst Diocese? Is its title, "Congregation", the name of this administrative unit, or is it monastic shorthand for Province or some other term? Is there any, and if so, what, connection between the Sisters in Bathurst and those at Norwood in South Australia? Most entries lack details of the constitutions of the creating agencies and their administrative jurisdictions.

The problem is exacerbated by the two main levels of retrieval of information from the *Register*: geographical arrangement and a "detailed" index. The net result of their choice may be stated this way: if this is to be a denominational or "Church" register, the entries ought to be listed according to the denominations to which they refer, and they should bear the name of the creating organisation, not the repository, of the archives being described, along with sufficient administrative history notes to explain their creator's place within its denomination as a whole. This would serve the archival principle of provenance and the archivists' practice of explaining administrative origin, rather than the mere happenstance of location. At present the entries are arranged alphabetically by territories and states and, within each, by the towns and cities in which each repository is located. These locations do not always reflect the region in or about which the records were created, nor are they necessarily related to the jurisdictional district of the creators. I do not expect the primary point of entry for the Vincentian Fathers in Australia to be "VICTORIA — Malvern", even though this happens to be the postal address for the Australian Province of the Congregation of the Mission, the Vincentians' corporate name. Confusion abounds when an agency's name includes a place-name, but when its archives are located elsewhere, the latter address dictates the placement of the entry in the *Register*. Place-names would be best used as regional distinctions between records of one denomination, or even of one agency within a denomination, and suburbs of cities ought to be listed under their metropolitan area.

A "detailed" index is supposed to provide the cross-referencing key to denominations, agencies, repositories and persons. It does this in only the most uneven way. Catholic entries, for example, are grouped under "Catholic Archdiocese (followed by names of cities which are archbishoprics, except that Adelaide is omitted)", or "Catholic Diocese", and fourteen other entries for proper names or subjects beginning with "Catholic....", including some unhelpful entries beginning "Catholic Church....". More problematically, none of the orders of brothers, nuns or priests, nor the institutions which they conduct, is included under "Catholic". To locate references to these, one consults terms such as "Religious Orders", but not "Orders" alone, and then subheadings for "Brothers", "Sisters" and "Clerical" (for priests). "Brothers" and "Sisters" are used again as main headings, not with a "see also" reference, but with the names of the orders and their page-references repeated. "Clerical" does not reappear, however, nor do "Clergy" or "Priests" appear in its stead. Orders of priests may be located by their proper names and often by their common names, such as "Vincentians" for "Congregation of the Mission". But "Jesuits" is the only entry for the "Society of Jesus" and Benedictines are found only under "Order of St Benedict".

The entries themselves contain some or all of the following items: the name of the repository, its address, contact person's name, hours of opening, access arrangements, charges applicable for actual research or use of facilities, facilities available (e.g. photocopier, cassette recorder, working space), publications by or about the organisation, and comments (occasionally an administrative history note, but usually a reference to related archives and their location or the current state of the archives itself). There is great inconsistency in the reporting. "Access", for example, is occasionally omitted or left blank: was information supplied, but omitted by editor or printer? Conditions of access cover every eventuality: "On request", "Each considered on its merits", "Available to serious students", "The normal restrictions protecting collections of private documents are to be observed". These vagaries all seem to me to beg the question. "Charges" are most often "Nil": is the omission of this heading the same as "Nil"? Similar discrepancies occur under other headings.

The preface warned about these matters and, in fairness, it must be said that enough information has been supplied to help a researcher on his or her way. But an explanation of the varieties of data headings, and what was meant by using them, along with an analysis of the replies and an amplification of abbreviations, would aid interpretation of often idiosyncratic reports. Perhaps, in future, the information sheet which requests reports could provide a limited range of options from which religious archivists could select the one appropriate to their situation. Applied to most of the headings, this would systematise entries and clarify practices, and give the reporters a better sense of what is being asked and what issues they should be considering in their work.

What of the other side of the coin? What did the *Register* omit? I am aware that extensive collections of Anglican, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic regional records are held by the South Australian Archives. The Anglican Diocese of the Murray's collection at the South Australian Archives is reported: why not the others? South Australian Jewish and Baptist congregations have their own archives: perhaps they are not members or did not hear of the *Register* or, being members, failed to report. One sympathises with the energetic compiler. A list of those asked to report, indicating which are members, would have provided a comparative basis for readers to determine the degree to which the *Register* exhausted its subjects. Also, it might hurry dilatory members along for a second edition.

Given the difficulties outlined respecting form and content, there remains the matter of the need for this *Register* at all. No one can dispute that religious bodies hold a wealth of source material for Australian history. The *Register* offers a tremendous stimulus to religious archivists in Australia to get their own houses in archival order, to consider policy questions and, above all, to bring their records under sufficient control to enable them to describe their contents, even if only briefly. Also, an exchange of information on the holdings of religious archives in England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Rome would amplify local holdings to an extraordinary degree. A further edition of this *Register* would be an ideal means to this end. But, for the present edition, the conclusion, regretfully, is that its appearance is as premature as its intellectual arrangement is immature.

Of course, this *Register's* problems are not only internal ones. Australia's information network already has the facility for the kind of select registration of source materials which the Church Archivists' Society has attempted. I refer to the National Library's attempt at national union cataloguing of manuscripts, the *Guide to manuscript collections in Australia*, five entries from volume four of which are extracted in the present *Register*. Volume four was promised two years ago. In September 1981 an Editorial Board was appointed, but it has not been summoned. It may be too late to complain of the cumbersome format and inadequate indexing of the first three volumes, but it is timely to observe that, if the *Guide* was truly the achievement of promises made ever since the early 'sixties, it would represent accurately the holdings of Australian manuscript repositories, and might even have widened its scope to include religious — and sporting, and artistic, and educational — archives as well. The *Guide* suffers from one of the *Register's* problems: participants in the 1961 conference which launched the *Guide*, like some Church archivists, have failed to report many, if any, of their collections. Yet, if the Church archivists can achieve their present offering in three years, what price the National Library's and the information profession's contribution in two decades?

Finally, the Australian Society of Archivists has assumed the duty to watch over amateur archival developments in Australia. In performance of this object, branches have arranged seminars and workshops for non-professional custodians, and Special Interest Groups have been constituted to bring "small" archivists into closer contact with their professional colleagues. The existence, at all, of the Church Archivists' Society points to a failure to accommodate its members' particular needs at an earlier date. Yet to complain only of their use of the term "Archivists", and not to inquire behind their adoption of the adjective "Church", is to fail to identify the level of its perception and practice of basic archival principles. This reviewer recognises the achievement of this *Register's* publication because it was produced by a group of interested amateur archivists to fill a need which the profession did not even identify as a reality until recently. (In that sense, the Church Archivists' Society had beaten the profession at its own game.) But I must criticise faults of form and content which can be rectified by a closer adherence to archival principles.

Its preface foreshadowed a second, expanded edition. Redesigned and rearranged, this already useful and clearly necessary guide to religious source materials will be of even greater benefit to Australia's archivists and historians.

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Queensland State Archives, *Guide to the Records of the Lands Department, 1866-1910, Brisbane, 1981.* Available for \$4 from the Administrative officer, State Library of Queensland, George Street, Brisbane, 4000.

This *Guide*, a soft-bound volume of utilitarian design, provides a comprehensive listing of Lands Department material for the period 1866-1910 held by the Queensland State Archives. The volume is prefaced by a very useful introduction, incorporating a history of lands administration in Queensland prior to the establishment of a separate Lands Department in 1866, a summary of the functions and internal organisation of the Department up till 1910 (the date of the Lands Act which repealed much of the existing lands legislation), and an explanation of its record-keeping systems.

The history of lands administration in Queensland is particularly complex, and so close attention is paid to delineating the various responsibilities of particular agencies in relation to the lands function and

to describing the system of administration in theory and in practice. For example, the Offices of the Surveyor-General and the Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands (whose records were the subject of an earlier *Guide* produced by the Queensland State Archives) both predated the Department proper, although were later reduced in status to sub-departments within the Department.

Internal politicking appears to be behind the state of affairs in the 1860s and early 1870s, as described in the introduction:

The Surveyor-General, although theoretically responsible to the Under Secretary of the Lands Department, in practice tended to act semi-autonomously. This caused some difficulty as the work of the two agencies was closely allied. In 1874, in an effort to rationalise the situation, the Surveyor-General was relieved of all administrative duties except those connected with the survey of land and the custody and maintenance of Survey Office maps. He was made clearly subordinate to the Under Secretary for Lands and the public was informed that all correspondence concerning the issue of deeds, auction sales, and the leasing of pastoral land was to be addressed to the Under Secretary.....

The distinction between the two offices was later blurred by the appointment of the then Under Secretary for Lands, William Tully, as Surveyor-General in 1875. In addition, the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands was abolished at this time.

Of particular assistance to the researcher is the listing of functions administered by the Department, particularly those which were later transferred to other departments. For example, the Mineral Lands Act 1872 became the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Mines in 1886 and the Prickly Pear problem became that of a sub-department of Agriculture (later a department of state) in 1887. The researcher's first step in using government archives is invariably to locate the responsible department and thereby the creator of relevant records.

The final component of the introduction is an explanation of the administrative practices and procedures of the Lands Department, including a run-down on the system of registration of inwards correspondence; for example, what "annual single number" means, and how individual registrations are top-numbered to form a file out of related correspondence. There is also detailed explanation of control records (for example, an indexed register of correspondence) and an example showing the type of entries encountered when following successive top-numbering through a register.

This section also includes definitions of technical jargon used in Lands records, such as the difference between "pastoral leases" and "occupation licences". Such distinctions are important as the records are grouped

within the body of the *Guide* under headings of this type; that is:

- Correspondence Records
- Pastoral Lease Records
- Occupation Licence Records
- Selection Records
- Special Lease Records
- Reserve Records
- Freehold Records
- Financial Records
- Records relating to Prickly Pear
- Records relating to Rabbits and Marsupials
- Miscellaneous Records (including staff and administrative records)

These are not discrete groupings in that one series of records may be listed under both "Correspondence Records" and the subject grouping "Prickly Pear".

Entries within each section include information such as title, date range, location/control number, quantity, and a brief description of contents. Reference is also made to the existence of indexes and lists compiled by Archives staff where control records are not extant or not suited to the researcher's purpose. There are also warnings that particular registers do not contain indexes by the name of the selector.

Many of the Lands registers are indexed or arranged by Land Agents districts. Considering this, more prominence could have been given to the key list of Land Agents districts which is included in the *Guide* as Appendix XXVI. Alternatively, a series of maps showing boundaries of the districts and changes to these could be inserted to assist the researcher. Similarly, the list of Permanent Heads of the Department (Appendix XXIV) is easily lost among the numerous appendices and would perhaps have been better incorporated into the introductory history, considering its brevity.

The bulk of the appendices (I to XXII) are item lists for groups of records described within the body of the text. This was a circumstance I found most confusing, mainly because the item lists are not cross-referenced back to the initial description of the records, although at that initial point one is referred on to the appropriate appendix.

But these are minor quibbles about a *Guide* whose primary recommendation is that it is useful. The compiler, Ms Archer, is to be congratulated for her work and the Queensland State Archives for continuing to produce published *Guides* to their holdings.

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W.J. Hudson & H.J.W. Stokes, eds., *Documents on Australian Foreign Policy 1937-49, Volume V: July 1941 — June 1942*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1982.

The function of this series was well summed up in the Introduction to Volume I eight years ago as to provide as an aid "to professional scholars, students and the general public" a detailed and non-partisan documentation of Australian foreign policy, making available to them "material which would otherwise be accessible only by considerable research in official archives".

Like its predecessors, the present volume fulfils this function admirably. It covers what the Editors justly describe as "the most dramatic and eventful year in the history of Australian foreign policy". It opens with the Menzies Government's demand for the relief of the Ninth Division in Tobruk, encompasses Pearl Harbour and the catastrophic sequence of Japanese victories in South-East Asia and the Pacific, and ends with the battle of Midway.

As Australian defence had been premised on British sea supremacy, the sinking of *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* and the crumbling of British defences in Malaya had a profound impact. At the diplomatic level the more dramatic consequences were the strained relations between the British and the Australian Governments over Curtin's public appeal to the United States "free of any pangs as to our traditional links with the United Kingdom" and over Australia's rejection of Churchill and Roosevelt's plea for the use of the Seventh Division in a last-minute attempt to save Rangoon. These incidents are well known and the merits of the conflicting views have been well presented in public by the protagonists themselves, by both the Australian and the United Kingdom official war historians, and more recently by private scholars such as Christopher Thorn. One may therefore ask whether there is anything more of value that the publication of the original documents can tell us. Thanks to the rigour with which the editors pursued their enquiries the answer is decidedly in the affirmative.

Let us take the Rangoon issue as an example. Even if the editors had been content with the material on which the official war historians had chiefly relied — the Cabinet and Advisory War Council documents supplemented by Defence Department files — this material reveals aspects of the problem which did not interest the war historians but which may interest others. For example, the documents now printed indicate that there is some justification for Page's claim (Doc 378) that Curtin's cable of February 17th (Doc 336) gave him sufficient latitude to subscribe to the Pacific War Council's recommendation to use the Seventh Division. The editors, however, had the perseverance and the professionalism to search much further afield. Of the 35 documents they publish on this issue, eight are from the relevant Defence file, six are from the Department of External Affairs' central records, four are from Bruce's personal papers, two are

from the files of the External Affairs Officer at Australian House, two are from the Evatt Papers at Flinders University, while thirteen of the cables printed were not in any known file but were tracked down only by searching through the stencils of the entire run of each day's outward and inward cables — a series which, providentially, has survived almost intact. Furthermore, the footnotes added to explain allusions in particular documents indicate that the editors made use of four additional sources — the agenda files of the Australian War Cabinet, the Frankfurter papers at the Library of Congress, the Page collection at the Australian War Memorial, and the United Kingdom *Parliamentary Debates*. From this material several new facts emerge. One is that Curtin's Service advisers were not as unanimously opposed to venturing Australian troops at Rangoon as he and Evatt were later to claim. The collective report of the Australian Chiefs of Staff (quoted in Doc 336) indicates that Sturdee's famous memorandum urging that the A.I.F. divisions return direct to Australia did not receive their full support:

They would prefer that all these forces should be concentrated in Australia but are mindful of the fact that the strategic position of Burma may necessitate some reinforcement there until other troops are available from elsewhere.

Another new fact that emerges is that Bruce, although very disappointed by the Australian Government's refusal to make Australian forces available, felt outraged by Churchill's attempts to make them reverse this decision and had been prepared to seek means to secure his dismissal:

I hold no brief for (Churchill) and feel strongly that had he not effected the recent alterations in the structure of the War Cabinet it would have been essential that he should go and that quickly. (Doc 364)

But, as one might expect, it is in the less dramatic issues that the yield of new material is greatest. Take, for example, the sustained efforts by Curtin and Evatt to challenge the fundamental "beat Hitler first" strategy laid down by Churchill and Roosevelt and the Combined Chiefs of Staff at the Arcadia summit meeting — a theme running through the present volume. Such writers as Hasluck and Thorn have mentioned this and how MacArthur attempted (with little success) to utilise it in order to put pressure on Churchill and Roosevelt to upgrade his theatre. The editors have produced excellent examples of this, including Curtin's cable to Churchill of April 28th (Doc 476) and the record of MacArthur's statement at the "Prime Minister's War Conference" on June 1st (Doc 510), both from the Shedden papers.

Considerations of space preclude even a book of this nature from containing all the documents necessary to explain the decisions of foreign policy that appear in it. As it is, the present volume weighs four and a half pounds. Very properly, the editors give first priority to diplomatic correspondence; but since in their search for this they go further afield than

External Affairs files and furthermore, since they accurately identify their sources, they greatly assist the scholar by putting him onto the track of where material relevant to decisions at the non-diplomatic level is to be found. Take for example the decision to make elements of the Sixth Division available to defend Ceylon. In his cable of February 25th (Doc 74) Curtin berates Page for proposing this and states reasons why a refusal may be expected. But in his cable of March 2nd (Doc 385) he accedes to the request. The documents printed do not explain this change of front. But a file cited in one of the editors' footnotes to an earlier cable by Page (War Cabinet Agenda file 106/42) throws some light on it. In the interim the request had been submitted to the Australian Chiefs of Staff and they on February 28th had reported in favour of it. They argued that they could not send the Sixth Division to the point of immediate danger, Darwin, as the port and lines of communication facilities there were inadequate even to maintain the existing garrison. On the other hand the vital Newcastle-Kembla area would not be endangered until the enemy attacked and captured Moresby and New Caledonia.

The above example illustrates how, in addition to serving the general reader, these volumes are invaluable to the serious scholar who wishes to pursue the issues further at the Australian Archives. Also of great assistance to the scholar are the short technical appendices which from time to time appear. Volume I contained one on the internal organisation of the Department of External Affairs. The present volume contains a very useful one on the registration, distribution and subsequent preservation of the various cables series. An appendix might be an appropriate way of dealing with whatever was the local word for "Magic" or "Purple", a subject still subject to security wraps as late as 1978. D.J. Ball has suggested that some Japanese diplomatic ciphers were being read in Australia from as early as 1940. Perhaps the editors could follow this up and tell us in the next volume which (if any) Australian ministers and officials were receiving information of this nature and what use they were able to make of it. Similarly it is to be hoped that, either as part of this series or as an independent monograph, the editors will record and disseminate their unique and hard-won expertise in the form of a "driver's manual" for the records of the Department of External Affairs similar to R.B. Pugh's *Records of the Colonial and Dominions Offices*.

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A Manual of Architectural History Sources: Vol 1 New South Wales and South Australia; Vol 2 Victoria and Western Australia, (ed) David Saunders, University of Adelaide, Department of Architecture Adelaide, 1981 (assisted financially by the 1978-9 National Estate Programme of the Australian Government, Australian Heritage Commission).

The purpose of these two volumes — a third is planned to cover Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory — is to provide a directory to sources for research in architectural history, not only the history of individual buildings but also “themes of architecture”, together with notes of advice on the use and value of some of these sources. The “sources” covered include major libraries and archives, art galleries, government departments, tertiary institutions, learned and local societies and private organisations including firms of builders and architects.

The *Manual* is a successor to a *Manual of Architectural History Research* (published by the Power Institute of Fine Art in 1977) which was “predominantly a New South Wales publication” — “revised, enlarged and rearranged”. The New South Wales section remains dominant and sets the tone for the other state entries.

The most immediately noticeable thing about these volumes is their size — each 200 x 290 x 20mm — difficult to overlook on a library shelf, no bad thing, but not to be carried about for ready reference. The reason for the size is their interior layout. The volumes have been prepared from typed masters with generous spacing and left and right margins averaging 50mm (each) for much of the text. A very tiring format to read with any concentration.

The next most noticeable thing, quite crucial in a directory, and quite unforgivable here, is the absence of either a general table of content or an index. Each section, the general/national introduction (which is printed in both volumes) and those for the states, has at the beginning a very general list of contents indicating the groupings under which the entries and articles are set out. The Victorian section does have an alphabetical list of institutions covered but page references are not included, and the entries are actually set out under type — archives and libraries, Australian government departments, business records etc.

This is a very great pity, for buried in these volumes is a quantity of useful information, some of which would be of considerable assistance to researchers not just interested in architectural history — for example the results of a survey of local government bodies — municipalities and shires — in New South Wales with reference to the survival of their records. (Discussion with text of questionnaire Vol 1 pp 126-135, tabulation of results Vol 1 pp 241-285). Other detailed entries include lists of New South Wales Directories published (Vol 1 pp 186-190); a “comprehensive list” of

works with subject matter of architectural interest in the Art Gallery of New South Wales (Vol 1 pp 211-221); items of Western Australia interest in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, the National Library, Canberra, the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, the Fremantle City Council, the Battye Library, the Western Australian Museum and private collections (Vol 2 pp 365-90); and a similar list of contents for the Art Gallery of South Australia (Vol 1 pp 453-474); a brief guide to government publications (Vol 1 pp 226-232); a note on the Wunderlich papers in the Mitchell Library (Vol 1 pp 172-173); and a list of the photographic collection at Tyrell's Bookshop, Crows Nest, Sydney (Vol 1 pp 162-163).

Each state section contains a list of major and minor theses on relevant subjects held in the libraries, architecture, history and other departments of their tertiary institutions. And much much more. Each state section also sets out, in one place or another, the local difficulties of title searching together with practical advice on how to overcome the problems. The whereabouts of records relating to the built environment in government departments and/or the state archives are set out with varying amounts of administrative history, contact information and guide to the finding aids.

Within the general heading "notes of advice" are included such topics as the use of advertisements and tenders, the uses and shortcomings of directories and almanacs, the need to develop glossaries of building terms, a note on the desirable format for indexes of building magazines and the influence of "pattern books" on domestic architecture. These vary in value. A note on maps of all sorts as source material is also included in this heading, but information about the maps themselves is scattered through a number of entries even within each state section (as with art work and photographs).

Archives in general, and state archives in particular, are duly, if cursorily, noted. There are occasional references to the holdings of the National Library (printed and pictorial material) and entries for the regional offices of Australian Archives. The state based plan of the *Manual* as published does not include discussion of these two major source institutions for themselves — or indeed any of the smaller organisations which have their base in the national capital.

In his introduction, the editor, David Saunders, makes, as a "provocative generalisation", the statement that

archeologists ignore documents and go only to the fabric, that architects forever focus upon the appearance or at best the function of the fabric, that engineers can see only the structure, that archivists take no interest until contemporary records are found, and that other historians look for building history on library shelves.

These volumes contain a great deal of information which would assist

researchers in these different categories to make greater use of the vast resource of material available to them — but the difficulty of finding that which is relevant is almost insurmountable except for those who read quickly and have a good memory.

A number of people have spent a lot of time collecting the material for the entries in these volumes, not to mention money spent in publication. It is a great pity that more forethought, a definite plan and a heavy editorial hand did not produce a much more compact *Manual WITH AN INDEX*. Perhaps Volume 3 could remedy this situation!

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