

News Notes

Edited by Maggie Shapley

Archives Branch, State Library of South Australia

Correspondent: Mark Brogan

On 14 December 1983, Cabinet approved for forwarding to the Public Works Committee, a submission from the Department of Local Government concerning establishment of a South Australiana Library in the Jervois Wing of the existing State Library, North Terrace. The new library is to be formed by an amalgamation of the existing South Australian Collection (containing South Australian books, periodicals, pamphlets and newspapers) with the private collections of the present Archives Branch. Private records of the Archives Branch comprise private archives, manuscripts, a pictorial collection of some 50,000 pictures and photographs, business archives and the archives of various societies.

Development of the new library will require major renovation of the Jervois wing which is an aesthetically pleasing building constructed in the 1880's. Completion date for the project has been tentatively scheduled for mid-1985, one year prior to the State's sesquicentenary in 1986. The project is to be funded by the Libraries Board, the South Australian Government and by a public appeal scheduled to be launched later this year.

There have been three recent additions to the Archives staff made possible by the Federal Government's Job Creation Scheme. Angela Gackle is processing previously unprocessed donations. Jennifer Bates is indexing letters received by the Colonial Secretary up to the establishment of responsible government in October 1856. Eugenia Perez is listing the architectural plans of Longman and James, Engineers, and storing them in protective folders.

In December 1981, an internal working party was established to investigate the possibility of converting Archives finding aids and accessioning procedures for government records to the Commonwealth Record Series method. Membership of the working party comprised B S Baldwin, M P Brogan and S Woodburn. In November 1982 it was formally decided to proceed with introduction of a system based on that currently in use in the Public Record Office of Victoria. Accessioning of records using the new system commenced in mid-1983. No retrospective conversions of

records accessioned under the old record group system are being undertaken, the policy being to accession only transfers of previously untransferred series according to the record series method. Considerable progress has been made in this area by Robert Thornton who joined the Archives on a temporary basis in April 1982.

Since February 1982, Leith MacGillivray, appointed Education Officer on a half-time basis by the Education Department, has been offering an education service to teachers and schools. In December the Archives took part in the North Terrace "Cultural Crawl" and in January Leith will be giving a workshop on "Archives and Education" at the School Libraries Summer School Conference.

Archives of Business and Labour, Australian National University

Correspondent: Maureen Purtell

Recent developments are that the University has provided some funds for equipping the Archives conservation workshop, Michael Saclier attended the ICCM Conference in Brisbane in September last year, Tim Godfrey has almost finished a project to provide better storage and documentation for the photograph collection, the final stage being to have smaller reference copies made of outsize items, and Ewan Maidment has completed a listing of the J. Normington Rawling papers, a collection held by the University Library.

New deposits include large collections from the Australian Journalists Association and the NSW Branch of the Australian Timber Workers Union. Smaller deposits have been received from C H Fitzgibbon, former Secretary of the Waterside Workers Federation, the Australian Historical Association, and the Association of Draughting, Supervisory, and Technical Employees (ACT Division). Additions have also been made to the collections of the South Australian Timber Workers, Professional Musicians, Printers, Australian Railways, and Insurance Employees Unions.

Archives Office of New South Wales

Correspondent: Michael Allen

On 1 February 1984 microfilm copies of the Registers of Baptisms, Burials and Marriages, 1787-1856, which are held in the Archives Office of New South Wales were released by the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages for use by the public. These records were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah in co-operation with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the Archives Authority of New South Wales. To aid the researcher, an information leaflet (No 35) has been

produced which explains the arrangement of the registers and contains summary and detailed lists providing particulars of the contents of each of the forty-eight reels of microfilm. The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages has also authorised the Archives Authority to sell sets of the microfilms for public use in libraries or societies.

The current exhibition, 'The Saga of Tobegully — from Bennelong's hut to the Sydney Opera House, 1791-1973', was mounted in October 1983 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Opera House. It features Arthur Phillips's 1792 map of Sydney, early photographs of Fort Macquarie, photographs and plans of the tram shed, and various records relating to the construction and opening of the Sydney Opera House, including Utzon's competition drawings and photographs by Max Dupain.

Since July 1983, two persons have been employed under the Wage Pause Program to assist in the sorting and preparation of maps and plans for processing. As a result some progress has been made towards clearing the backlog which has existed for many years.

The Stage II Phase 2 extension to the State Archives and Government Records Repository at Kingswood was completed in August 1983. The repository now has a capacity of over 120 kilometres of shelving. The expansion of the Kingswood Repository has facilitated the closure of the Shea's Creek Repository, the unsuitability of which has been documented over many years. The Shea's Creek Repository, which opened in 1955, held an estimated 200,000 boxes and volumes. Much of this material was not listed and was stored on the floor. The Shea's Creek Repository was closed in December 1983 when the remaining 10,000 linear metres of records were transferred to Kingswood. The Government Records Repository is now centralised, being based only at Kingswood, whereas ten years ago it operated from four different locations.

Archives Office of Tasmania

Correspondent: Ian Pearce

1983 has been a rather eventful year for the Archives. Early in the year Mary McRae retired as Principal Archivist after ten years in the position, and Ian Pearce has been acting in this position since then.

In December 1983, new Tasmanian Archives legislation passed through Parliament and came into force in January 1984. This Act, among other things, strengthens the powers of the re-named State Archivist and the Archives Office, particularly in the records management area, and provides, unless exemptions are granted, for the compulsory transfer to Archives of all government records over 25 years old which have not been scheduled for destruction. As previously, all agencies are prohibited from

destroying records without Archives' authorisation but penalties are now included for unauthorised destruction. A major change from the 1965 Act is the reduction of the closed access period from 50 to 25 years, although it is still possible for records to be closed for up to 75 years in special circumstances.

The plans for our long awaited repository are currently being considered by the Parliamentary Public Works Committee. Although there has been some controversy over the siting of this building we are optimistic that it will be approved and that construction will commence shortly. In the interim the compulsory transfer provisions of the new Act will have to remain partly in abeyance as we have very little storage space available.

We are now offering for sale microfilm copies of all Tasmanian registrations of pre-1900 births, deaths, and marriages, including relevant pre-civil registration (pre-1838) church records. The indexes and registers are available as a set only of ninety-two reels of 35mm film. The set is priced at \$2,000 and is available from the Archives Office of Tasmania, 91 Murray Street, Hobart, 7000.

Australian Archives

Correspondent: A L Pearlman

On 2 June 1983, the Archives Bill 1983 was introduced by the Attorney-General in the Senate. The Bill was passed with amendments to clauses 6, 36, 43 and 44 on 7 October and assented to on 3 November 1983. It is expected that the Act will be proclaimed in March 1984. Copies of the Archives Act 1983 are available from the Australian Government Publishing Service.

Professor R G Neale, Director-General of the Australian Archives, retired from the Australian Public Service on 6 March 1984. Professor Neale had been the Director-General since September 1975. Mr Brian Cox, OBE, MVO, former First Assistant Secretary with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, has been appointed as the new Director-General of Australian Archives. Mr Cox, aged 50, has had a distinguished career in the Australian Public Service. He was the Secretary to the Royal Commission into Australian Security and Intelligence Agencies. In 1980-81 he headed the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Task Force.

During October 1983, Ms G Finlay, acting Assistant Director-General, Development and Information, visited a number of OECD institutions to hold discussions for two important reasons. The first was the implementation of the Archives legislation, particularly in relation to disposal and access matters. The second was to assist Australian Archives in directing an international project, sponsored through UNESCO, to

examine the effects on records and service-wide arrangements for the management of Freedom of Information legislation and data protection/privacy issues. Cities visited included London, Luxembourg, Paris and Brussels.

Prior to his retirement, Professor Neale visited Cebu City, the Philippines, in February 1984 to attend a seminar on the development of archives in Southeast Asia.

RECORDS

Federal Cabinet records for 1953 were made available for public research at the ACT Regional Office on 3 January 1984. A number of journalists spent the day reading the records, and articles based on this research subsequently appeared in several newspapers. The survey of 1958-1975 Cabinet records has now been completed, resulting in the identification and description of sixty-three record series.

Work on the ACT Regional Office holdings of the personal archives of former Prime Minister Mr Malcolm Fraser has now been completed. Over 100 metres of records have been arranged and described. They document Mr Fraser's career as a Member of Parliament since 1955, as a Minister of State 1966-1972, as Leader of the Opposition in 1975 and as Prime Minister 1975-1983.

Recent transfers include the records of the Committee of Inquiry into Commonwealth Laboratories. Arrangement and description of the records of CA554, Crown Solicitor's Office, 1903-1950, is nearing completion. An inventory of items has been prepared for the Prime Minister's Department main correspondence file series for 1934-1950 (CRS A461). ACT Regional Office is preparing to microfilm the heavily used series of Defence Committee Minutes (CRS A2031). It is hoped that filming of the open-period portion will be completed by June 1984.

Recent accessions by the NSW Regional Office include: personal archives of Mr A McKenzie, Mr W C Wentworth, Mr G Warwick-Smith, Mr P M Ruddock, Mr J Howard, and Senator P Baume; records of the RAAF Australian Joint Welfare Establishment, the Customs Office in Parramatta, the International Cultural Corporation of Australia, and the Inquiry into Cable and Subscription Television Services and Related Matters; a significant transfer of student production films from the Film and Television School; film project files from the Creative Development Branch of Australian Film Commission; and the first transfer of archival footage from the ABC's newly established Television Archives.

The NSW Office has completed a survey of the records of the North Head Quarantine Station, and transfer of the Station's records from 1881-1962 is being arranged. Surveys of the Department of Trade, the Film and Television School, the Egg Board, and the RAN Film Library were also

conducted. Work on the draft disposal schedule for Customs records continued. Work on the revision of the schedule for ABC programme material continued, and the preparation of a similar schedule for the Special Broadcasting Service was commenced. Conservation work continued on the 19th century Newcastle crew lists and the World War II aliens exhibits.

The Australian Wool Corporation has transferred into the custody of the Victorian Regional Office promotional records, including display material and booklets, and policy files of predecessor agencies dating from the 1940s. The Victorian Office has also received World War II prisoner-of-war and internee records including: correspondence files of the 2nd Echelon, Army Headquarters; photographs, nominal rolls, registers of next of kin and burial details of prisoners-of-war; record book of escapes; records of Italian prisoner-of-war trials; and records of Japanese war crimes trials. The Australian National Line (Australian Shipping Commission), Head Office, has withdrawn most of its temporary value records from the Victorian Regional Office as a result of Australian Archives charging policy for business undertakings. The Victorian conservation team is currently involved in the cleaning and repairing of Housing and Construction and RAAF plans.

Recent noteworthy accessions by the Western Australian Regional Office include the personal archives of Mr I Viner, Mr J Hyde, Mr R Bungey, Mr J Martyr, and Senator P Durack. Members of the Western Australian Genealogical Society are still involved in the daunting task of indexing passenger lists concentrating on the earliest recording periods. Both the Western Australian and the Queensland Regional Offices have commenced conversion to the CRS system. Conversion date for the Western Australian Office is early 1984 and for the Brisbane Office April 1984, from which time all accessions will be processed under the series system.

FACILITIES

The NSW City Office was relocated in the first week of February from 44 Market Street to 24 Market Street, Sydney. The postal address (PO Box C328, Clarence Street, Sydney, 2000) and telephone number (02 29 6352) remain unchanged. Shelving capacity in the NSW Office, both standard and computer racking, has been extended by 5887 shelf metres and 2457 shelf metres respectively, and a two inch video tape recorder has been acquired for the Newton Hobbs studio.

Funds have been allocated for the construction of Stage 2 of the Western Australian repository located at East Victoria Park. Facilities will include increased permanent records capacity, including special facilities for non-standard size records and storage and treatment areas for new records formats, eg microfilm, microfiche and magnetic tape. Tenders were called

for in February 1984, and works are expected to be completed in late 1984. The estimated cost of the extension is \$810,000.

Australian Joint Copying Project

Correspondent: Mary-Ann Pattison

Another large consignment of recent AJCP filming arrived in Australia from London late last year. Amongst the reels received were film of several Dominions Office classes, the William Pitt and Lord John Russell papers in the Public Record Office relating to Australia and New Zealand, and 59 reels of CO616 Colonial Office, Dominions, War of 1914-18: Original Correspondence, 1914-19.

Miscellaneous series records featured selections from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (political collections such as the papers of Lord Castlereagh, Lord Dufferin and Lord Craigavon together with letters and diaries of nineteenth century Irish emigrants), Buckinghamshire Record Office (selected papers of the Fremantle Family, Lord Hobart, Lord Rosebery), Edinburgh University Library (journals of the naval surgeon James Mitchell and the papers of the authority on constitutional law, A Berriedale Keith), British Library (papers of Jeremy Bentham, Sir Roderick Murchison, Lord Pelham and the journals of James Cook and David Samwell), Newcastle-Upon-Tyne University Library (papers of Sir Walter Trevelyan and the politicians Sir Charles Trevelyan and Lord Runciman), Nottinghamshire Record Office (letters of emigrants and an index of transported convicts), Liverpool University Library (papers of the ship owner John S Swire and the geographer Percy M Roxby) and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Records of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council filmed by the AJCP relate to appeal cases from Australian and New Zealand courts, 1814-1972. In addition, the papers for two Special Reference cases originating in Australia were also copied.

Since April 1983 the price of AJCP microfilm has been \$27.00 for 35mm silver halide reels, \$17.00 for 35mm diazo reels, \$21.00 for 16mm silver halide reels and \$14.00 for 16mm diazo reels. The majority of the AJCP microfilm is on 35mm reels with only a few groups of records on the 16mm microfilm. All of the above prices include a \$10.00 per reel surcharge introduced in November 1981 to spread the filming costs more evenly amongst participating libraries.

A significant milestone in the history of the Project is the recent publication of a small illustrated booklet describing the background, rationale and present status quo of the AJCP. Compiled principally for the AJCP officer in London to introduce the Project to owners of potential AJCP records, the booklet will also be distributed in Australia for

publicity purposes. Unfortunately the high production costs will limit the gratis local distribution of the booklet to potential purchasers and reel users.

Orders for reels and requests for further information on any of the above-mentioned collections copied by the AJCP should be addressed to:

Principal Librarian
 Australian Reference
 National Library of Australia
 Canberra ACT 2600

Australian War Memorial

Correspondent: R Gilchrist

The recent holiday season has seen the usual high number of researchers using the recently completed Written Records area. Pressure on staff time was maintained by a further influx of users during the 4th Annual Military History Conference in early February.

Michael Piggott, Curator of Written Records, has recently returned from a six week investigative trip to the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, visiting numerous archival institutions and defence related departments. The main aim of the trip was to review the production of finding aids, including computer based programmes.

Staff at the Mitchell Annex have been involved in the transfer of approximately 7000 items covering the confidential career records of Australian Regular Army officers from the office of the Military Secretary — Army.

Recent acquisitions of note include the diary and photograph album of Lancelot Giles, Student Interpreter at the British Legation during the Boxer Uprising; the diaries and work books of photographer, Sgt Frank Latimer 3 Sq AFC; letters and reports of Major-General G Beresford during the civil disturbances of Gandhi in India during the late 1920's; and the letters and diaries of Pte T Hadden 13th AGH; maintained while a POW in Changi.

CSIRO Archives

Correspondent: Colin Smith

Pursuant to our Review Committee report, the Archives is to get the equivalent of two extra staff immediately, bringing the complement to two full-time and two part-time staff. However, accommodation of the Archives remains a problem.

Another major change is that the Archives has been taken out of the library and external information area and put into the Headquarters Finance and Administration Branch. This will hopefully give it better access to resources, which in turn will permit an attempt to establish systematic records management and disposal procedures, at least at HQ.

At the same time, the development of a high quality research service must continue. The rate of enquiries is now running at two hundred per annum: low by the standards of most of my colleagues, but ten times the rate in 1979 and four times the rate in 1982.

Council of the City of Sydney Archives

Correspondent: Tim Robinson

Change seems to be the watchword for the Council's Archives at present. The end of 1983 saw the prospect of a new Archives and Records Repository come closer to reality with the drafting of preliminary plans. One of the pressures for a new building is the commencement of the restoration of the Queen Victoria Building which had, amongst other things, been the home for 1.25 million building plans held by the Council. Finding suitable temporary accommodation for these records and arranging their transfer occupied much of the City Archivist's time. Supervised jointly with the Plans Custodian, the mammoth task was efficiently performed by contract removalists.

Staff changes, or rather additions, have also been a feature of recent months. Two labourers were employed from July to December to assist with fumigation of some records exhibiting signs of mould. The labourers also performed many time-consuming tasks such as writing and affixing labels and listing some large series. In early October, Brendan O'Keefe joined the professional staff as a temporary Archives Officer. Brendan leaves us soon to take up an appointment with the official history of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. At the beginning of January two temporary professional Cadets, Virginia Bowen and Marie Alcorn, began work. Both completed the Diploma of Information Management (Archives Administration) course last year and are assisting with arrangement and description work.

There is now a total professional staff of five archivists employed by the City Council. Needless to say quite a dent is being made in the backlog of work waiting to be done. Although three positions are only temporary, the good news is that the City Council has approved the creation of a third permanent Archivist position, which has already been advertised.

At present all looks very promising for the future of the Council's Archives. Some researchers may not agree as it has been decided to close

the Archives to public researchers for the duration of 1984. The main reason for this is the planning and construction of the new repository. Hopefully we will be able to more than make up for this in our new search rooms next year.

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

Correspondent: Jack Honniball

For their fifth and final meeting of 1983, the Friends of the Battye Library partook of a tour-and-browse through the reading rooms, the staff areas and the core stack of the Library, so having a final look at the quarters built in Edwardian times which Battye has occupied for the past twenty-seven years in increasingly cramped and makeshift conditions. After the tour a Christmas party was held outside on the verandah and lawn. As a fund-raising project lately brought to fruition, the Friends are offering for sale little packs of notelet paper which incorporate ten reproductions of wildflowers painted by a local artist, Carlotta Prinsep, in the 1890's. It is hoped they will hold appeal as greeting cards, modest presents, and items of Westraliana in years to come!

1984 certainly promises to be a rather difficult and very busy year throughout. For many months the staff have been much involved in careful planning for the layout and equipment of the Alexander Library Building which is nearing completion next door. Detailed preparations have been made for the actual moving of the stock. In Battye's several brimful annexes, six library aides are already engaged, thanks to wage pause funds, in preparing stack materials for transfer. For some time now a brake has been applied to the normal influx of acquisitions, especially in respect of new deposits of government archives. By means of a circular distributed to academic and other institutions, early warning has been given that the move is expected to cause significant disruption to normal services in the second half of the year. Prospective visitors from outside the state, especially those who wish to work on primary source materials, are advised to announce their intention well in advance and to seek information about details of the timetable for the moving operation.

A variety of staff movements is the order of the day at present, with a number of staff taking long-service leave and maternity leave this year, but fortunately it has been possible to maintain the full staffing level through temporary replacements even in these troubled financial times. The library has also benefited considerably in recent months by the contributions of groups of library studies students, various young people acquiring work experience, and a number of volunteers who have been mainly involved in the fields of photographs and films.

The keepers of the state's historical collection occasionally claim a special collecting interest in remote territorial jurisdictions; not surprisingly, the latest such realm is the subject of yachting off Newport in Rhode Island Sound. The major acquisition so far is a handsome folio pictorial publication, which has just come out in limited edition, and the next one is expected to be the film 'Aussie Assault'.

La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria

Correspondent: Tony Marshall

On 15 September 1983, the Chairman of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Mr Ray Marginson, opened an exhibition entitled "Picturesque Victoria through the eyes of William Tibbits". The La Trobe Library's own collection of Tibbits' architectural and landscape works was supplemented by works on loan from private and institutional collections. The exhibition, in a modified form, has since gone on display at Elizabeth Bay House in Sydney. By the time these notes appear in print, an exhibition of trade union material drawn from the resources of both the La Trobe Library and the University of Melbourne Archives will have opened in the Library's Benson Hall.

The Friends of the La Trobe Library have had an active year in 1983, culminating with a preview of the Tibbits exhibition, a one-day seminar based on the exhibition, and a lecture on the great nineteenth century exhibitions by Professor Graeme Davison. Over 200 people attended the last of these events. The 1984 annual meeting is to hear from Mr Peter Love of his research into the life of the politician Frank Anstey.

The most important recent acquisition of manuscripts has been the correspondence and other papers of John and Sunday Reed, whose house "Heide" was an intellectual as well as physical home for many contemporary artists. As well as correspondence with many artists and writers such as Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker, Max Harris, John Perceval, Neil Douglas, Barrett Reid, Judith Wright, Peter Cowan, Joy Hester and Charles Blackman, the papers include records of the publishers Reed and Harris, the Contemporary Art Society of Australia and the Museum of Modern Art and Design of Australia. Although access to the papers is restricted, interested researchers may apply to the Library for permission to use them.

Other recent acquisitions of note have included the very extensive records from the 1850s to the 1950s of Henry Hurrey, a solicitor from Kyneton, in Victoria; letters and diaries written by Captain (later Sir) John Harris, who served as a doctor with the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War: records of the Victorian Medical Women's Society:

papers relating to German internees at Tatura in Victoria during the Second World War; and records of St Jude's Anglican Church in Carlton. The long-running transfer on loan of the records of the Royal Society of Victoria is now complete.

The Harold Paynting collection of 8 x 10 negatives was acquired in October 1983. The basis of the collection is a commercial photographic archive of 14,500 negatives of buildings, streets, houses offices, shops and construction sites in and around Melbourne from 1933 to 1972. The Picture Collection's holdings of twentieth century material has been greatly increased by this purchase. However, because of the size of the collection, organisation will proceed in stages and requests for material may taken some time to process.

Miss Margery Ramsay, a senior member of the State Library's staff since 1969, retired in September 1983. Her retirement is to be devoted in part to the preparation of a history of the State Library. Charles Fahey's period as Living Biography Project Officer has come to an end, although the project itself will, it is hoped, continue.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Correspondent: Anne Robertson

An important collection of the papers of Sir Russell Drysdale, covering the period 1937-1981, has been presented to the Mitchell Library. The bulk of the collection is made up of letters received, 1944-1981, including letters from Donald Friend, Sidney Nolan, Lloyd Rees, Hammond Innes and Sir Zelman Cowen. The collection is partly restricted. The Library has also received a large collection of letters of Sir Alexander MacCormick covering the years 1913-1941. Sir Alexander was a leading surgeon in Sydney during the late 19th and early 20th century until his retirement in 1926.

Another recent donation was the Ashton Family papers (1891-1979) particularly the papers of Adrian Ashton, a prominent architect and son of the artist Sir William Ashton. The collection includes letters, articles, specifications, architectural plans and biographical material about Sir William Ashton. A further collection of the records of South Head Press, which publishes *Poetry Australia* among other publications, was received. This included material for the period 1975 to 1983, and boxes of papers of Dr Grace Perry, mainly drafts of her poetry, to add to the substantial collection of her material already held by the Library.

A small collection of Reibey Family papers, including a rare letter of Mary Reibey (1777-1855), has been presented to the Library. The correspondence includes letters written by Mary's sons James Haydock

Reibey and Thomas Reibey, both merchants and traders, and concerns family and business matters in New South Wales and Tasmania.

In the past months, members of the Manuscripts staff have assisted with major exhibitions in the Library's Galleries, in particular "All in a day's work — workers in Australia, 1788-1939". This exhibition traced the history of working in Australia, from the forced labour of the convicts to the rise of Socialism, and included a striking portrait of Caroline Chisholm by Angelo Collen Hayter, 1852, recently purchased in Dublin, trade union banners of the early 1900's and a unique collection of trade union badges.

A recent development which should assist with purchases for the collection in future is the establishment of The Library Society, with the aim of encouraging the friends, donors and users of the State Library of New South Wales to give financial support to the institution. The Society plans to offer 'friends' special previews of major exhibitions, lectures on specific topics such as highlights of the Mitchell and Dixson collections, and generally to provide a channel for corporate and private assistance and for the encouragement of bequests. Application forms to join the Society may be obtained from:

The Executive Director,
The Library Society,
State Library of New South Wales,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, 2000

Mitchell Library — Australian Joint Copying Project

Correspondent: Martin Beckett

A survey of *Australian Joint Copying Project* film usage, has been recently undertaken in the Mitchell Library. The purpose of the survey was to determine which Public Record Office classes on microfilm received heaviest or least use and to gauge the particular interests of AJCP users. The survey was conducted over three months: March-May 1983. During this time (65 days were actually surveyed), a total of 550 AJCP microfilm reels were issued to readers in the Mitchell Library Reading Room. This figure included an estimate of 130 reels to account for AJCP reels on open access, available to readers without a stack request slip. These are almost exclusively Home Office HO10 musters, and are much in demand.

The issue statistics were analysed by PRO Record Group. The records of the Home Office (152 reels), War Office (95 reels) and Colonial Office (94 reels) made up 81% of the stack request slips surveyed, while requests for Admiralty Office records (42 reels), Miscellaneous M Series microfilms (21 reels) and Treasury records (10 reels), comprised 17% of the total. Within

these record groups, the classes most heavily in demand were Home Office 10 (Criminal. Convicts, NSW and Tas), War Office 12 (Returns. Muster Books and Pay Lists), Colonial Office 201 (NSW Original Correspondence) and Admiralty 101 (Registers. Medical Journals).

The general results of the survey confirm those of a similar random study conducted by the National Library over four months between August 1981 and December 1982. AJCP microfilm usage has similar trends in both institutions in that there is a very heavy and growing use of AJCP reels by genealogists (approximately 45% of AJCP users in the Mitchell Library survey were genealogists). The under-utilisation of the resources of the project by researchers and historians is indicated, and it is hoped that increased publicity for the project, particularly as the Bicentenary approaches, might assist in overcoming this situation.

The rather limited use made of Miscellaneous M Series reels (material filmed in Great Britain, outside the Public Record Office, London) apparent in the survey was disappointing in view of the large quantity of M Series film (and an accompanying *Handbook*) produced in recent years. In addition to the general reluctance to use microfilm, there seems little doubt that many historians and researchers are ignorant of exactly what is held on AJCP microfilm in Australia, and are not even always familiar with the AJCP itself. The survey has provided food for thought for the AJCP partners. Further details of the survey, a relatively informal one, are available from Martin Beckett, Microfilms Librarian in the Mitchell Library.

National Archives and Public Records Service of Papua New Guinea

Correspondent: Judith S Hornabrook

Progress with training sessions and the patrol report project continues slowly but steadily. The object of the latter project is to check and list all holdings of reports from patrol officers throughout the country which date from the early years of the administration. It is hoped we will be able to circulate copies of the listing when it is completed.

Significant accessions have included the archives of the recently defunct Office of Information and records from the Supreme Court. Appraisals of records of several other offices have been or are about to be undertaken but space is sadly limited. Efforts are being made to obtain extra accommodation. The approval of a special project for the establishment of a small conservation unit with a staff of one in 1984 is a most welcome development.

The preparation of an exhibition in conjunction with the celebration of the fifth birthday of the National Library was a useful prelude to the 1984 International Archives Week effort.

National Library of Australia

Correspondent: Pam Ray

Several important and unusual collections have reached the Library recently. Perhaps the most unusual of these was the entire collection of entries submitted to the Sydney Morning Herald in its 'Oz Shrink Lit' competition during 1981 and 1982. Only a small selection of these entries was printed in Michele Field's *Oz Shrink Lit* published by Penguin Books last year. On a more serious note, a small but significant collection of architectural plans, drawings and correspondence of the architect H D Thompson was donated to the Library. Thompson designed houses and public buildings in Albury, Corowa, Sydney and elsewhere.

A four-page letter of substantial Australian interest written by the celebrated English novelist Charles Dickens was purchased recently by the National Library. Written in July 1840, the letter was address to Lord Normanby to whom Dickens offered his services in writing "quite disinterestedly and gratuitously" a pamphlet which would draw attention to "the terrors of transportation and confinement". Dickens argued that "a strong and vivid description of the terrors of Norfolk Island and such-like places, told in a homely narrative with a fresh appearance of truth and reality and circulated in some cheap and easy form would have a very powerful impression on the minds of the badly-disposed" and would therefore serve as a deterrent to crime. There is no indication that the British Government ever availed itself of Dickens' offer. At the time of its purchase by the National Library, the letter had not been published in the definitive Pilgrim Edition of the letters of Charles Dickens. Permission has since been given however to the Pilgrim editors and the letter will shortly be published in its entirety in an addenda volume.

Another major acquisition by the Library, presented under the terms of the Taxation Incentives Scheme by Mr T G O'Neill of Melbourne, is a collection of the personal papers of Martin Boyd who is best remembered for his Langton Family novels which explore the lives of the generation of which he was a member, caught between two cultures, the European and the Australian. The collection is unusual in that it was painstakingly assembled by Mr O'Neill over several years and represents an accumulation of correspondence, photographs, original drawings and association copies of many of Boyd's books. The material presented by Mr O'Neill has been augmented by an important gift of Martin Boyd's personal diaries made by Boyd's nephew and literary executor, the sculptor Guy Boyd of Melbourne.

Substantial additions were received to the collections of Julius Stone, Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales, the writer Henry Handel Richardson, the National Country Party, the writer Hugh Anderson, and the composer Larry Sitsky who is a member of the teaching

staff of the Canberra School of Music. The Library also received the papers of Robert Whan, Member for Eden-Monaro 1972-1975, the agricultural economist Jack Kelly, the writer Ian Mudie, artist Sir William Dargie, the broadcaster Wilfrid Thomas, journalist and novelist Craig McGregor, and clergyman and anthropologist Lorimer Fyson. Several narratives were acquired documenting immigrant voyages and experiences in the colonies, including one relating to the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s and one to the Queensland sugar plantations in the 1890s.

A group of ten students from the Canberra College of Advanced Education carried out a programme of practical work in the Manuscript Section during the first semester (1983) as part of course work in the "Resources for research" unit offered as part of the Diploma of Librarianship.

On 20 September an exhibition on the life of Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash was opened in the Library by the Hon Gordon Scholes, Minister for Defence. The exhibition is based on the massive records which Monash meticulously kept all his life, including diaries, letters, reports, photographs and memorabilia, much of it held in the National Library's manuscript collection. Other material has been lent by his descendants and the Australian War Memorial. Research for the exhibition was carried out by Mrs Valerie Helson, Senior Librarian in the Manuscript Section.

New Guinea Collection: Library, University of Papua New Guinea

Correspondent: Andrew Griffin

In September 1983, the archives and manuscript collection was removed to a separate repository attached to the main New Guinea Collection in the University Library. Environmental conditions in the new repository are very near ideal. During 1984, the collection will be reboxed in archival standard boxes.

A list of Methodist Overseas Mission, New Guinea District, archives is now available. Work continues on a guide to the archives of the Anglican Church in PNG and on the preparation of accessions sheets for all collections.

In October 1983, the archivist presented a paper to the History Department, UPNG, about the nature and use of archives.

The archivist visited Mendi, Southern Highlands Province, in January 1984 to arrange for the return to the New Guinea Collection of Mendi Provincial High School archives and further archives of the Methodist Overseas Mission, Southern Highlands. Other archives-producing bodies were contacted.

New Zealand National Archives

Correspondent: Mark Stevens

The Official Information Act 1982 came into force on 1 July 1983. The Act does not refer to archives as such, and has had no noticeable effect so far on the pattern of research at National Archives. A new Public Records and Archives Bill, which has been two years in the drafting, was ready for introduction to Parliament towards the end of 1983, but was not introduced. It will replace our present legislation, the Archives Act 1957.

The Archives and Records Association (ARANZ) held a week-long training course in November for archivists and others from government, industry, and the community who have found themselves in charge of archival material. ARANZ has also continued to be involved during 1983 in the debate over the microfilming and destruction of parts of the national newspaper collection by the National Library. The Library has carried out a survey of pre-1940 newspapers, which will be the basis of a revised filming programme. Unfortunately the National Librarian, Mr Peter Scott, has indicated that during the survey and policy review filming and guillotining of newspaper volumes continued.

National Archives staff have now been enrolled in the Diploma in Archives Administration course at the University of New South Wales for three years in succession. Bruce Symondson took the diploma in 1982, Mark Stevens in 1983, and this year's student is Wayne Nelson. Training horizons in New Zealand were extended by the enrolment of two manuscript librarians in the librarianship diploma course at Wellington in 1983. Mr David Retter, First Assistant in the Turnbull Library Manuscripts Section, and Ms Kay Sanderson, newly appointed to the section, and formerly at National Archives, offered archives-related special papers as part of their course work.

The New Zealand Film Archive continued to work on the discovery and preservation of New Zealand films during 1983. Among the most important were 'Broken Barrier' (the only NZ fiction feature film made between 1940 and 1964), 'Pelorus Jack' (1920), and the recently donated Manley Collection of more than 50,000 feet of NZ film from the 1920s and 1930s. The Australian National Film Archive has assisted with the return of several important early NZ films to this country. It also made available a print of the 1925 Australian-New Zealand comedy romance 'The Adventures of Algy' for screening at the Christchurch Film Festival. A Friends of the Film Archive has been established, to support and promote the work of the NZ Film Archive.

The Director of the National Archives, Mr R F Grover, was a guest of the Association of Canadian Archivists at Vancouver in June for their conference on Archives and the Law. He presented a paper on 'National Archives and its Historical Context'. Mr Stuart Strachan, a senior

archivist at the National Archives, presented a paper at the Society of American Archivists Annual Conference in Minneapolis, and spent several weeks in Washington at the National Archives and Records Service, the New York State Archives at Albany, the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa, the Ontario Provincial and the Toronto City Archives.

The Northern Archives and Records Trust has been formed to promote, encourage, and co-ordinate archives work in the Auckland region. It is made up of representatives from the National Archives, ARANZ, regional archives and manuscript repositories, local government, and professional and business representatives. The Trust proposes to pay particular attention to local government records and to work closely with the National Archives in this and other areas.

In December, the Minister of Internal Affairs (responsible for National Archives) launched National Archives' new exhibition, 'The Government as Architect and Builder in the Nineteenth Century'. The displays of architectural drawings and related documentation are supplemented by a catalogue and have attracted considerable public interest.

At National Archives, Ms Ellen Ellis and Ms Rachel Lilburn were appointed during 1983 as archivists to fill vacancies created by special leave and secondment. Three new positions were advertised in December: Deputy Director, Regional Archivist, Auckland and Archivist-in-Charge, Christchurch. News from other institutions includes: the Union Steam Ship Company, one of New Zealand's oldest and largest in the field, retrenched its archivist (Tim Lovell-Smith) in June, and the archives have been partly dispersed to the Wellington Harbour Board's Maritime Museum and the Hocken Library, Dunedin. At the Canterbury Museum the new archivist, Ms Caroline Etherington, has been appointed on a part-time basis only. The Govett Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth has contracted with Ms Judith Hoffberg, an American archivist, to catalogue the papers of Len Lye. Lye was a New Zealander who lived in the USA for many years and was pre-eminent in the fields of kinetic sculpture and experimental films. He bequeathed his manuscripts to the gallery, and they have awaited cataloguing for some time.

Northern Territory Archives Service

Correspondent: Don Brech

Completion of the interim archives repository has been delayed. It is now anticipated that the NT Archives Service will move into its own accommodation in May or June 1984.

At the time of writing (January), recruitment of five additional staff, including two archivists, is underway.

Note: The permanent building is to be built at Palmerston, 15kms *south* of Darwin, not *north*, as reported in the November 1983 issue.

Queensland State Archives

Correspondent: P D Wilson

Discussions are proceeding on the very earliest stages of provisional planning for an additional building for the Queensland State Archives. The proposed building would occupy presently unused space behind the existing building, on its eastern side. Planning will have to encompass standard shelving accommodation for paper records, plus special condition storage for films and computer output media and additional micrographic product storage.

Whilst not popular with researchers, especially family historians, the current restrictions on reference and research services to Queensland, interstate and overseas enquirers will continue. Only by enforcing a reduction of staff effort in this area can the current demands in other equally important (more important in respect of arrangement and description) areas be met with current staff resources. Usage of the public research room at Dutton Park continues at a high level.

Riverina College of Advanced Education Archives

Correspondent: Alan Ives

The new College Archivist, Alan Ives, toured overseas in September-November 1983, and attended the Society of American Archivists Conference in Minneapolis and the Canadian Pacific Railway Centenary Conference in Calgary, Canada. He also visited archival institutions in Washington, the Texan State Archives in Austin, and the Hawaiian State Archives and the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. Papers were presented to the Austin Group of the Genealogical Society of Texas and the Graduate Library and Information Science students at the University of Texas in Austin.

New acquisitions resulting from several collecting trips in the second half of 1983 include patient records from Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and Albury Hospital, old editions of county and parish maps from the Wagga Wagga Lands Office, registers from the Hay Lands Office, and records from the Culcairn Shire Council and the NSW Valuer-General's Department, Wagga Wagga. Records were also collected from Court Houses in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Narrandera, and Leeton. The Assistant Archivist, John Winterbottom, has been involved in processing these acquisitions and in indexing photographs from the *Daily Advertiser*.

University of Sydney Archives

Correspondent: Kenneth E Smith

1983 proved to a phenomenal year at the University of Sydney, both in terms of usage and material transferred. So much so that we are, yet again, almost full. Our resources, both human and storage, were somewhat strained during the year.

During 1983 the Archives received 110.48 shelf metres of records, nearly four times that received in 1982. The transfers comprised eighty-six separate deposits; the largest single transfer being the papers of the late Prof A P Elkin, formerly Professor of Anthropology at the University. This is an extremely valuable deposit of some forty shelf metres, and has been arranged and listed in the Department of Anthropology over the past three years.

Usage also continued at a high rate. During 1983, 141 different users signed the annual access form, and 57 administrative staff also used the Archives in their own research. In all, 849 persons used the Archives; this being an attendance of 3.42 persons per working day. These figures are also up on those of 1982.

An exhibition of science records held in the Archives was staged in the University Staff Club during the year, and a joint exhibition with Museum Studies students was staged in the Macleay Museum.

University of Western Australia Archives

Correspondent: Christine Shervington

The computerisation of the current central records system has finally been completed. The new system comprises a computerised KWOC index, computerised tracking system, and 'bring forward' request system, and has the facility to send lists of overdue files to users. A *Classification Manual for General Files* was compiled, to be used in conjunction with a *Thesaurus of General Administrative and Functional Keywords and Descriptors*, to classify the files. A new colour-coded meaningful number classification system was introduced simultaneously to facilitate the indexing of the files and to restrict misfiling. The software package used is Datatrieve on a Vax II computer. The Western Australian Regional Computing Centre was contracted to do the programming.

A freelance oral historian, Mrs Anne Reid, will undertake a backlog of oral history interviews for the Archives during 1984.