

# Australian Joint Copying Project

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*Extracts from the annual report for the year 1 July 1984 — 30 June 1985.*

It is almost forty years since the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales made the agreement that established the Australian Joint Copying Project. It is therefore perhaps not surprising that I am repeatedly asked if the end of the Project is in sight. Yet it is inconceivable that there would ever be a time when every one of the hundreds of British repositories had been 'covered', once and for all, by the Project. This predicament, for the partners in the A.J.C.P. if not for historians, is illustrated by the case of the Bedfordshire Record Office, which I visited in February 1985. My predecessors had listed and microfilmed material at Bedford in 1964 and again in 1971, yet I found that in the intervening years several large collections of Australian papers had been acquired, which were unknown and inaccessible to most Australian researchers.

Nevertheless, while the A.J.C.P. struggles to make headway through an infinity of historical records, it is possible to stand back and point to some long-term achievements. For instance, after five years, the task of searching the pre-1900 records at the British Library, one of the largest manuscript repositories in the world, is nearing an end. It will soon be possible to turn to one of the other great London collections, such as the National Maritime Museum or the British Museum (Natural History). During 1984/85, papers were listed at five county record offices which had not been previously visited. Of the 44 county record offices in England, 34 have now been surveyed by the A.J.C.P. As another indication of progress, 26 of the 30 collections of papers of Secretaries of State for the Colonies, an important source for political historians, have now been listed.

There were also definite achievements in 1984-85, even if they were less spectacular than in the two preceding years. It is pleasing that, after long delays, it was at last possible to film the papers of Sir Arthur Gordon, the correspondence of Lord Leverhulme, and the Colonial Office records relating to the Western Pacific High Commission. On the searching side, a start was finally made in listing the records of the Hydrographic Department, the papers of scientists at the Royal Institution, and the

extensive holdings of the Greater London Record Office. As in the preceding year, several interesting collections were discovered in private possession and were filmed on the A.J.C.P. camera.

The most disappointing feature of the year was the relatively low output of film. Statistics of reels produced are often misleading, but the following table does show the fluctuations in output in the last four years:

	<b>P.R.O. Series</b>	<b>M Series</b>	<b>Total</b>
1981/82	10	56	66
1982/83	199	166	365
1983/84	30	193	223
1984/85	46	65	111

The M Series figure of 65 reels is quite respectable. Apart from the completion of the Royal Society filming, no organisational or business archives were copied. Instead we found ourselves dealing with a large number of small collections, none of which resulted in more than ten reels. As has been mentioned before, there is no correlation between the amount of work undertaken and the amount of film eventually produced. Some relatively small collections, such as the papers of Sir Peter Scratchley or Lord Leverhulme, required weeks of sorting and listing before filming could proceed.

**Filming and Searching at the Public Record Office**

The Assistant AJCP Officer and I both spent a good deal of time throughout the year at the Public Record Office. Although the reading room is becoming steadily more crowded, there are seldom the delays in delivery of documents that were experienced in earlier years. A total of 17 classes were searched, the same number as in 1983/84, with an emphasis on the records of the three service departments (Admiralty, Air Ministry, War Office). I am now enmeshed in F.O. 371, one of the largest classes in the P.R.O. The volumes covering 1906-18 have so far been searched.

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In July 1984 I made a formal complaint to the P.R.O. about the meagre amount of film produced in the previous year. This led to discussions with the senior staff of the Photographic Department and assurances were given that it could handle orders for up to 200 reels in a year. These discussions did not result in an immediate improvement, but towards the end of the year large-scale filming was eventually resumed. CO. 225 is the largest class to be filmed by the Project for some time and it should prove valuable to Pacific historians working on the period 1900-50. There has been a slight increase in filming prices, but it should not affect our filming program. The slowness of the P.R.O., exacerbated by its new accounting procedures, is frustrating, but, on the other hand, the quality of its film is superior to that

of most other repositories.

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The Public Archives of Canada supplied 156 reels of selected pieces of C.O. 323/482-942. Colonial Office. General. Original correspondence, 1903-26, which it had acquired from the P.R.O. many years ago. The reels have been numbered P.R.O. 6148-6303.

**Material Searched and Filmed for the Miscellaneous Series**

Throughout the year priority was given to the manuscript collection of the British Library, in an effort to complete the searching of the pre-1885 papers. The collection is so immense and subject indexes are so inadequate that the work could continue almost indefinitely. Nevertheless, the great majority of collections of likely relevance have now been examined. Other London institutions requiring lengthy searches were the Greater London Record Office, the Royal Institution and Unilever Archives. Outside London the most substantial collection examined was held in the Hydrographic Department at Taunton. Other visits were made to Aylesbury, Chichester, Northampton, Bedford, Liverpool, Gloucester, Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth.

*Bedfordshire Record Office.* At the suggestion of the Record Office, I visited Bedford and examined several collections which had not been filmed by the A.J.C.P. in 1964 or 1971. They mainly comprised letters of emigrants, including members of the Field and Kennedy families.

*Bodleian Library* (Oxford University). The Library filmed the selections from its pre-1885 collections, including the papers of Benjamin Disraeli, the British Prime Minister. The papers of Lord Clarendon have yet to be copied.

*Sir George Bowen* (Mr Peter Newman, Okehampton, Devon). Mr Newton lent for copying a large cutting book kept by Sir George Bowen in 1868-78, when he was successively Governor of New Zealand and Victoria.

*Bristol Record Office.* I visited Bristol and listed several small collections of nineteenth century papers. They were subsequently filmed by the Record Office.

*British Library.* Miss Webster made a detailed search of the papers of Lord Hardwicke and I examined many other collections of pre-1885 papers. The great majority of collections of likely relevance acquired by the Library up to 1955 have now been searched and listed. During the year the British Library supplied films of selections from the records of the South Sea Company, the papers of Sir Arthur Gordon, the first Governor of Fiji, and the correspondence between the journalists Lord Northcliffe and Keith Murdoch.

*British Library of Political and Economic Science* (London School of

Economics). An order was placed for film of various political, economic, trade union and academic papers, but as yet there has been no response.

*Lord Derby* (Liverpool City Record Office). Edward Stanley, 15th Earl of Derby, was Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1858 and 1882-85. He was also Foreign Secretary in three Ministries. I searched his extensive correspondence and found a good deal on Anglo-Australian relations, French and German activities in the Pacific, and the British annexation of south-eastern New Guinea in 1884. Lord Derby has given permission for the papers to be filmed.

*Devon Record Office*. I spent several days at both the Exeter and the Plymouth branches of the Record Office. A large amount of relevant material was identified, including papers of the Acland and Troyte families, political papers of Lord Sidmouth and the Duke of Somerset, and diaries and letters of the Fortescue Family. Lists will be sent to the partners in the near future.

*Foreign and Commonwealth Office Library*. A search of the catalogue of the Library revealed that it held manuscript journals and reports of some notable Australian explorers: Gregory Blaxland, John Oxley, George Evans, Allan Cunningham and Peter Egerton Warburton. The Library kindly lent the manuscripts and they were filmed on the A.J.C.P. camera.

*Gloucestershire Record Office*. I made two visits to Gloucester and listed a large number of relevant collections, including a journal of George Stranger in South Australia in 1836-38, letters of the Hale Family, and papers of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1878-80. A film has been ordered of our selections.

*Greater London Record Office*. I spent several weeks searching the holdings of the Record Office, which was formed in 1965 by the amalgamation of the London and Middlesex County Record Offices. The largest category of interest are the records of convicts tried at the Old Bailey and imprisoned at Newgate Gaol. Other papers include records of St Thomas' Hospital and the Central Unemployed Body for London and several small legal and personal collections. We are awaiting permission to copy our selections.

*Thomas Hodgkin* (University of Newcastle upon Tyne Library). The Library supplied a microfilm of the journals of Thomas Hodgkin kept on a visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1909. Hodgkin, a Newcastle banker and historian, met the principal Quaker communities and his descriptions and impressions should be a useful source for historians of the Society of Friends in the two countries.

*Lord Holford* (Liverpool University Archives). The architect Sir William Holford, Baron Holford, was closely involved in the planning and development of Canberra from 1957 to 1970. He was also consulted by planners in other Australian cities. His voluminous papers, kept in

meticulous order, include diaries, correspondence, notes of conversations, official papers, reports, cuttings and photographs. Arrangements were made for them to be filmed by the Merseyside firm Cull Reprographics.

*Hydrographic Department* (Ministry of Defence, Taunton). I spent a week at Taunton and examined and listed the original documents, miscellaneous papers, and the letters of early naval surveyors, including P.P. King, F. Blackwood, J.L. Stokes, O. Stanley, and H.M. Denham. I also had talks concerning the original surveys, view folios and data books. The amount of relevant material already identified is daunting and filming will pose enormous problems. A second visit is planned in September, when I shall concentrate on the early correspondence and the remark books.

*India Office Library*. The Library completed the filming of the logs of East India Company ships which visited Australia and the Pacific in the period 1790-1829.

*Institute of Commonwealth Studies*. The papers of Richard Jebb, the writer and authority on Imperial relations, have been listed. The Institute holds two other collections containing Australian papers and they will be inspected in the near future.

*Institute of Physics*. The Australian references in the minute books and correspondence of the Institute, covering the period 1923-63, were filmed on the A.J.C.P. camera.

*Lord Leverhulme* (Unilever Ltd., London). Sir William Lever, 1st Viscount Leverhulme, was the founder and dominant figure of Lever Brothers. His correspondence, dating from 1895 to 1925, contains many references to the takeover of Australian soap manufacturers, the affairs of the Australian branch of the Company, and the acquisition and management of copra plantations in the Solomon Islands. I spent some time at the Unilever Archives listing the papers and Miss Webster produced eight reels of film. An Australian and New Zealand sales ledger of Lever Brothers, 1925-37, was also copied.

*Archdeacon F.A. Marriott* (Mr R.A. Marriott, Cotesbach, Leics.). Mr Marriott lent for copying some family letters and other papers including letters of Bishop F.R. Nixon, of F.A. Marriott, Archdeacon at Van Diemen's Land, 1843-53.

*L.J. Maxse* (West Sussex Record Office). L.J. Maxse was owner and editor of the influential monthly journal *National Review* from 1893 until 1932. His extensive correspondence contains letters from notable Australians such as Alfred Deakin, B.R. Wise, A.W. Jose and W.M. Hughes, referring to a wide range of political subjects. A film has been ordered of our selections.

*Merseyside County Archives*. The various collections located and listed

in 1982 were filmed on the A.J.C.P. camera, with four reels being produced. Unfortunately, the copies of one group of letters proved to be unsatisfactory and they will have to be refilmed.

*National Army Museum.* The Museum supplied two reels of film of selections from its manuscript collection, mainly concerning units and soldiers serving in Australia and New Zealand in the nineteenth century.

*National Library of Scotland.* A film was ordered of the papers that I had listed in 1981 and which are described in Catalogues 7-10. They include papers of the Earls of Minto, General Sir Charles Pasley, and Rear-Admiral R.K. Dickson. Six reels of film have so far been received.

*National Library of Wales.* The Library filmed our selections from its manuscript collection with unusual promptness, six reels being produced. Some twentieth century collections could not be filmed for copyright reasons. The film should be a fine source on Welsh emigration and the Welsh communities in Australia and New Zealand.

*Northamptonshire Record Office.* I visited Northampton and discovered several relevant collections, including papers of the Elwes Family, papers of Reverend Abner Brown relating to pauper emigration, and letters of the Holthouse Family. A film has been ordered.

*Northumberland Record Office.* After a long delay, the Record Office supplied a film of the papers that I had listed in 1982. They include papers of the Ridley Family and records of the mining engineers William Armstrong and Sons.

*Oxfordshire County Record Office.* The Bodleian Library filmed two reels of our selections, the main group being the Oxford convict calendars.

*Roscoe Family* (Buckinghamshire Record Office). Theodora Roscoe served on the teaching staff of the Harefield Park Australian Military Hospital in 1917-18. In 1934 she visited Australia with her husband Captain E.C. Roscoe, who led a Transport Unit expedition to Alice Springs. The papers, which consist of correspondence, essays, photographs, cuttings and publications, are being filmed by the Bodleian Library.

*Royal Institution of Great Britain.* I spent some time at the Royal Institution, which was founded in 1799 to promote both research and lectures on scientific subjects. The two principal collections are the papers of the physicists Sir William Bragg, who held a chair at Adelaide University from 1885 to 1908, and his son Sir Lawrence Bragg. A list will be sent to the partners in the near future.

*Royal Society.* World Microfilms completed the filming of the selections from the archives and personal collections of the Royal Society, including the papers of Sir Henry Dale and Lord Florey. The records filmed extend over two centuries and will be one of the major sources for historians of

science.

*Sir Peter Scratchley* (Mrs M.L. Scratchely, Edenbridge, Kent). Sir Peter Scratchley served with the Royal Engineers in Victoria in 1860-63 and returned to Australia in 1878 to report on colonial defences. In 1884 he was appointed the first Special Commissioner for British New Guinea. Mrs Scratchley lent for copying a collection of papers covering hisentire life, comprising journals, correspondence, reports, notebooks, drawings and photographs.

*Somerset Record Office*. During my stay in Taunton I visited the Record Office and listed a number of collections, including the Pacific journals of Captain M. Medlycott and papers of the Sandford Family. Arrangements were made for them to be filmed on the A.J.C.P. camera.

*Edmund Webber* (William Cookworthy Museum, Kingsbridge, Devon). Edmund Webber, a midshipman in the Royal Navy, emigrated to Australia in 1840 and lived in New Zealand in 1841-43. The Museum lent for copying his memoirs and a journal kept in 1841-42, both written in a very racy style. The journal gives a colourful impression of the embryonic British settlement in New Zealand.

*Westminster Diocesan Archives*. The principal holdings of the Archives are the papers of the Vicars-Apostolic of the London District and, after 1850, the Archbishops of Westminster. I searched the collections and found some interesting letters on the establishment of the Roman Catholic Mission in Australia in 1817-26 and miscellaneous papers extending up to 1930. The papers were filmed on the A.J.C.P. camera.

### **Reference Queries, Research Use and Publicity**

There has continued to be a trickle of Australian researchers, predominantly academic historians, visiting the A.J.C.P. Office. They have made good use of the lists and publications, sometimes claiming that they are not sufficiently accessible in Australian libraries. The article in the June 1984 issue of the Australian Historical Association Bulletin seems to have made some historians aware of the A.J.C.P. for the first time.

The A.J.C.P. Officer is necessarily remote from most users of the microfilm and is unaware of trends in the usage (or non-usage) of the records that have been copied. It is, however, satisfying to find in London bookshops a growing number of publications based largely or heavily on A.J.C.P. microfilm, and giving due acknowledgement to the Project.

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### **Other Activities**

The small group of London-based archival surveyors and copyers has continued to meet fairly regularly. Since Dr B. Wilson returned to Canada

in July 1984 I have been chairman of the group. It has compiled a listing of P.R.O. classes of Commonwealth interest already on microfilm and has been considering the possibility of co-operative filming of records of general Commonwealth or regional interest.

In September 1984 the Commonwealth Archivists Association was formed at a meeting at Bonn. Following a recommendation of the meeting, our group met the Secretary of the Association and discussed the idea that the group be converted into a standing committee of the Association. I wrote to Dr G.H. Martin, the Chairman of the Association, suggesting that a surveying and copying committee be established. The proposal is unlikely to be opposed, but we are still awaiting a formal reply.

There is a strong interest in archival copying projects in several Commonwealth countries. This has been reflected in the meetings of the copying group, talks with visiting archivists, and a growing correspondence with archivists in such diverse countries as Bermuda, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and Malaysia. The A.J.C.P. differs from the other projects in the regional, rather than national, scope of its activities. It is seen as a possible model for countries unable to establish their own national projects.

**Editor's Note:** Enquiries concerning the availability of microfilms or the Australian Joint Copying Project *Handbook*, should be directed to the National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.