

Editorial

This issue is mainly a tribute to Phyllis Mander-Jones, whose death was noted in our May 1984 *Archives and Manuscripts*. As I read these contributions, I was prompted to ask 'Whatever happened to scholarship in archives?' It is certainly no longer a primary concern of the Australian Society of Archivists if it ever was. Should it be? Is our concern with convincing government and other money holders of our competence in managing records and archives back-firing, if we lose our image as scholars? Is good scholarship and good administration necessarily exclusive? Gerald Fischer, a past president of ASA and certainly its most scholarly one, takes up the importance of scholarship to archives in his introduction to the memoirs.

As a young student at the Public Library of New South Wales Library School, I was awed by Phyllis Mander-Jones and by the handout on her subject *Lecture Notes on Historical Bibliography*, containing 142 pages of close typescript. It was necessary to study it to pass examinations, and we did wonder whether it was relevant. Looking back now, I believe it was. The volume was certainly valued and is still retained in my personal library.

Many thanks are due to Gerald Fischer for undertaking the task of compiling these memories on Phyllis Mander-Jones. It has involved him in much correspondence, editing and checking of facts, indeed, I have had little to do except make encouraging noises, and for this I am very grateful. Let us hope that these memoirs will remind us that a scholarly approach to the management of archives is just as relevant today as it was in the time of Phyllis Mander-Jones.