

News Notes

Edited by Maggie Shapley

Adelaide City Archives

Correspondent: Peter Crush

1986 promises to be the year in which the Adelaide City Archives comes of age. It will occupy newly completed purpose-built accommodation in about March and will have a full basic complement of staff by July.

The eight years since July 1978 when the Corporation first engaged a full-time Archivist have been years of steady development made possible by Council's willingness to vote the seemingly ever increasing resources to the task. That development has also included a Corporation internal library function and a museum function.

The most significant decisions and events which have occurred during that time are:-

- the adoption of policies on the disposal of, and access to, Council records; (Feb. 1979 and June 1979)
- the provision of appropriate staffing to assist the Principal Archivist, namely:-
- Assistant to the Archivist/Archives and Library Officer/Half Time Archives Assistant; (1st July, 1980 1st July, 1981 and 1st July, 1985, respectively, being modifications to a single position.)
- Senior Archivist — Context Unit Services; (27th April, 1981)
- Archivist — Reference Services; (1st January, 1986)
- Half Time Librarian; (1st July, 1985)
- Half Time Cleaner; (2 weeks before new building occupied)
- transfer to Principal Archivist of responsibility for the museum function involving a 1/5 time Graduate Research Assistant; (19th March, 1980)
- development of an Oral History Project involving the employ of an Oral Historian on contract; (23rd May, 1983)

- the development of a system of documentation aimed at obtaining control of records at the item level with a minimum of resources; (progressively since July 1978)
- establishing an intermediate record storage and lending service; (First loan recorded 18th January, 1979)
- providing a limited public user service, (First reference enquiry 20th July, 1978) and
- obtaining purpose-built accommodation for the archival function. (Approved by Council 13th August, 1984)

The most consistently time consuming of these events has been the acquisition of accommodation. After a period of continuous examination of possibilities (concurrent with the modification for use of temporary storage areas to meet intermediate need), Council decided in May 1984 to include accommodation for the City Archives in the Topham Car Park development; then in the design stage. The contract was awarded on 13th August, 1984 and the accommodation should be ready (shelving installed) for occupation during March 1986.

Preparations for moving to the new accommodation and the process of recruiting and training new staff are proceeding.

Archives Office of New South Wales

Correspondent: Amanda Barber

In recent years there has been a steady increase in demand for the reference services offered by the Archives Office. The need for wider availability of archives has been partially met through the *Genealogical Research Kit*, but many individuals and groups have requested more detailed advice on using archives than can be given by staff in a busy search room or in reply to an enquiry. With this in mind, the Archives Office has designed seminar programs to assist family and local historians by providing detailed advice on using State archives for their research. The topic covered can be varied to suit the requirements of individual groups. There are two options available: a full-day seminar held on Saturdays for \$350 seminar fee, plus travelling costs and (if necessary) accommodation costs for two archivists, or a half-day/evening seminar held on Saturdays or weeknights for a \$75 seminar fee per archivist, plus travelling costs and (if necessary) accommodation costs. Should groups wish to travel to Sydney, seminars can be held in the Archives Office Conference Room, and only the seminar fee will be charged.

Work is being finalised on the *Index to assisted Immigrants arriving in Sydney, 1844-59* which will complete the series of indexes published recently; the other two being *Guide 27: Immigration: Index to Assisted*

Immigrants arriving Moreton Bay (Brisbane), 1848-59 (1985) and *Guide 28: Immigration: Index to Assisted Immigrants arriving in Sydney, 1860-79* (1985).

There are a number of noteworthy developments at the State Archives and Government Records Repository at Kingswood. The contract for the new Services Building extension commenced on 14 January 1986. This building will comprise a search room to accommodate fifty people, exhibition area, conference room, storage vaults for non-paper records, and staff areas. The cost of the building is over \$1.5 million, and it is expected to be operational in late 1986. Other developments include the installation of a Burroughs B25 computer system, the commencement of a confidential records shredding service which is being conducted on a commercial basis, and the consideration of plans to store records of local government and hospitals for a fee.

Archives Office of Tasmania

Correspondent: Ian Pearce

A major preoccupation over the past eight months has been the acquisition and development of a new repository for the Archives Office. 'New' is perhaps misleading; the building is in fact a one-time steel store which has now been substantially rebuilt, modified, and air-conditioned to provide records storage, processing areas, and offices. Power-operated mobile shelving has been fitted throughout the building to give approximately 8500 linear metres of shelving. As a substantial parcel of land was acquired with the building there is plenty of scope for expansion, which will become necessary in the fairly near future. The acquisition of the building which is situated at Berriedale about twelve kilometres from the City of Hobart, has necessitated a number of changes in the organisational structure of the Office, as this is the first time that a building has been used which has not been within close walking distance of the headquarters. The move to the new building proved very hectic as delays in the re-development pushed the moving date closer and closer to the expiry date of the lease on our temporary building.

As very little space was available in the past year in our leased building, transfers of records had virtually ceased which gave an ideal opportunity to eliminate the backlog of unprocessed records and to continue the development of control systems. The Archives Office has also recently acquired the government microfilm bureau which is a significant step in the rationalisation of records management services in Tasmania.

Australian Archives

Correspondent: A.L. Pearlman

The Conservation section was represented at seminars on brittle book surveys and disaster preparedness given by Ms Sally Buchanan of Stanford University in August 1985. It also participated in a consultancy arranged by the Advisory Committee for National Collections to prepare a draft Disaster Planning Manual to assist the institutions concerned with their own planning.

Comprehensive guidelines on conservation priorities have been issued, and leaflets on the care of records and disaster preparedness have been distributed to Commonwealth agencies. A report titled *Magnetic media — their physical and chemical structure, deterioration problems and environmental requirements*, which was the result of a detailed study of conservation aspects of this material, will form the basis of consideration of transport and storage requirements.

In the Queensland Regional Office, Brisbane passenger lists 1852-1900 were microfilmed in the 1970s and now the repair and preparation of the 1901-1910 lists has been completed and these will be microfilmed in the near future. The Conservation section in the Australian Capital Territory Regional Office has recently concluded a program of training for all repository staff involved in handling records. A recently-completed audio-visual on the subject of care for records was used for this purpose. A Reprography section in this regional office has now been staffed and is responsible for copying all types of records for reference and preservation purpose. Staff have completed a survey of control records which will be used to program large-scale microfilming projects.

The South Australian Regional Office accessioned a significant quantity of quarantine station records recently. The records were transferred from the Allen Green Gallery quarantine station on Torrens Island and include: Register of graves 1887-1932, Register of admissions and discharges *TSS Boonah* hospital ship (at sea 1918-1919) and Torrens Island Quarantine Station (1919-1922), book butts for Sanitary Station stores issues 1857-1873, and a stocktake register 1884-1885. These records are currently featured in a display in the Reference and Guide room.

The handover of the Stage 2 extension for the Western Australian Regional Office was effected in August 1985. When fully shelved the extension will provide storage space for about six thousand metres of records. Additional compactus shelving of about 8,500 metres is being installed for the Victorian Regional Office, and this will increase the storage capacity at the Dandenong repository to approximately thirty-nine thousand metres.

Australian Joint Copying Project

Correspondent: Mary-Ann Pattison

October 1985 marked the fortieth anniversary of the agreement signed by the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales establishing the Australian Joint Copying Project. The project was developed to make available to researchers in Australia and New Zealand microfilm copies of documents in the United Kingdom relating to this region. Initially the AJCP concentrated on filming official documents at the Public Record Office in London but later extended its filming activities to cover papers in private hands, major libraries, county record offices, and in the possession of business archives, missionary societies, land companies, and professional societies. To date, over eight thousand reels of microfilm have been produced.

The past forty years have seen some considerable achievements by the project. It has listed and filmed Australasian records in the four national libraries of Britain and Ireland and in 34 of the 44 English county record offices. Extensive pre-1900 manuscript collections have been selected for filming at the British Library, one of the largest manuscript repositories in the world; one of the finest collections of personal papers in Britain, the W.E. Gladstone papers, are being filmed; and the collection of scientific records has been filmed at the Royal Society.

A shipment of new AJCP microfilm reels has recently arrived from London. The Public Record Office material filmed includes the papers of Sir Maurice Hankey and Sir Alan Anderson, political correspondents 1906-1913, Master's logs 1795-1832, and Colonial Office correspondence 1943-1951. In the Miscellaneous Series we received microfilm of selected records filmed in the Oxfordshire County Record Office, Kent County Archives, Hampshire Record Office, Bristol Record Office, Westminster Diocesan Archives, National Army Museum, Institute of Physics, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Library, and the Royal Society. Papers of individuals which were also filmed include those of Sir Arthur Gordon, the first Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific; Lord Leverhulme, founder of Lever Brothers who assumed control of Australian soap manufacturers; Benjamin Disraeli; Sir Peter Scratchley, who reported on colonial defences in 1878 and was later appointed first Special Commissioner for British New Guinea; Sir George Bowen, Governor of New Zealand and Victoria; and Lord Florey, winner of the Noble Prize for Medicine in 1945.

Since 1972 the National Library has published a series of eight handbooks as a guide to the vast amount of material already copied under the project. Several of these handbooks have recently been revised and updated, and are available from the Sales and Subscription Section of the National Library of Australia.

Australian National University Archives of Business and Labour

Correspondent: Maureen Purtell

New collections received from organisations recently include deposits from the Federal and Australian Capital Territory offices of the Australian Public Service Association, the Royal Australian Nursing Federation ACT Branch, the Seaman's Union at Port Kembla, the Australian Transport Officers Federation (Airlines Division), the Building Workers Industrial Union of Australia ACT Branch, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Staff Association's Federal, New South Wales and Victorian Branches. The Ergonomics Society of Australia and New Zealand, the NSW Forest Products Association, the Union of Australian Women, the Journalists Club in Sydney, the University Pre-School and Child Care Centre at the Australian National University, and the NSW Bottle Company have also deposited records for the first time. The Confederation of Australian Industry have deposited minutes and files for the period 1908-1983, with most of the files dating from the nineteen sixties and seventies.

From individuals new collections were received from Tom Molomby relating to his work for the ABC Staff Association, and Joe Owens whose papers contain files on the affairs of the Builders' Labourers Federation in New South Wales from about 1963 to 1984. The E.F. Farrell Collection consists of correspondence and newspaper reports relating to Farrell's work as South Australian secretary of *The Movement*, and the Henry F. Penny Collection throws some light on the Henry George League in Australia as Penny was a South Australian President. Dr Don Rawson donated a collection of pamphlets relating to Australian political parties, and Professor Noel Butlin deposited research notes and publications on banking and economics relating to the work of his late brother Sid Butlin.

Substantial continuing deposits came from Colonial Sugar Refineries (CSR) Limited, including detailed Hours of Work and Wages Returns of Australian refineries 1882-1984 and some early and some very recent records of the Australian Estates Company acquired by CSR Limited in the period 1975-1985. The Tooth's collection continued to grow with some excellent hotel and wages records and albums showing the past decorative advertising from 1920 to 1940. The Australian Council of Trade Unions file series was added to and now includes records of the 1970s, and records of the Council of Australian Government Employee Organisations were received which document well the growth period of 1972-1975 of this now defunct organisation. The Manchester Unity collection of Friendly Society records from Victoria now includes records of twenty of the surviving twenty-one districts. The NSW Coal Association, formerly the Colliery Proprietors, deposited minutes for 1889 to 1967 and added to their file series, now up to 1978. Industrial files were received from the Association of Professional Engineers in Melbourne, the Professional Radio and

Electronics Employees Union, and the National Union of Railworkers; the latter were rescued just in time from a soaking received after fire damage.

Arrangements have been made with the National Library of Australia to submit annually names of likely candidates from our record holdings for inclusion in their Oral History program. The first of these interviews, with Doug Carpenter the recently retired Secretary of the Transport Workers Union (ACT Branch), has already been conducted.

The year 1985 proved to have been a very busy one with our second highest tally of readers and probably the busiest ever in the collecting area with approximately 375 shelf metres of records being received. During the year we published the first two issues of our newsletter *ABLative* which appears to have had the desired effect of bringing the archives to the attention of potential users and reversing the mild decline in user exploitation which was noticeable in 1984.

Another milestone was the success of an appeal to major depositors for funds to help equip a conservation workshop get a conservation program underway. The Australian Agricultural Company Limited and CSR Limited each contributed \$10,000 and Humes Limited donated \$5,000 with the possibility of a further sum at a later time. The appeal is continuing and the program will hopefully be operative later in 1986.

Geelong Historical Records Centre

Correspondent: Norman Houghton

The Centre had a very successful year in 1985, handling 4715 personal enquirers and 940 telephone and correspondence requests. These figures represent a 6.5% increase on 1984. The rising popularity of the Centre persuaded contributing municipalities to augment the full-time staffing establishment by the addition of part-time reading room assistants on two afternoons per week, beginning in January. This assistance was timely for, with the release of the Victorian Birth, Marriage and Death indexes in December 1985, attendances suddenly jumped by fifty percent. The Centre's three existing microfiche readers were grossly inadequate for demand, thus entailing a hasty program of acquiring elsewhere and converting film readers to fiche to give an additional four readers within two weeks of the release. Three sets of indexes were purchased to give adequate machine coverage, and a rostered booking system with places secured by a nominal fee has maintained an orderly traffic flow.

Environmental control within the Centre moved into the twentieth century with the commissioning of air-conditioning in December 1985. The system currently covers one third of the premises and it is planned to complete the whole building at a later date. A sum of \$1600 has been received from the Victorian Ministry for the Arts under the Museum

Grants Program towards the purchase of map storage supplies. The centre holds eight thousand maps and plans, nearly all of which are adequately stored, but 250 oversized plans are less than ideally housed.

In December 1985 municipalities in the Geelong region commissioned the archivist to undertake a survey of their records to assist in making decisions on long-term storage strategies for council archives. This marks the first co-ordinated attempt by all councils in the Geelong region to make use of the Centre's professional services.

J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History

Correspondent: Chris Coggin

Not only has the new Alexander Library Building provided the State Archives with welcome space for its records but it has provided other features such as equipment and meeting rooms which facilitate activities barely feasible in the miscellany of annexes that comprised the old premises. One such activity, started in November, is an ongoing program of seminars for government agencies. Known as Client Service Seminars, the program outlines the responsibilities of agencies in terms of the archival legislation, and also the services agencies can expect from the State Archives. Each session lasts a full morning and includes a video on records management and a tour of the Battye Library with special emphasis on the archival repository area. Numbers at each session are limited, but already benefits are discernible in routine State Archives-departmental contact and procedures.

The State Film Archives was heavily involved in the 3rd Australian History and Film Conference held in Perth during the first week of December. Under the title of *The Moving Image*, a booklet was produced for an exhibition mounted on the history of film and television in Western Australia. A series of three public film screenings was offered in the Library theatre on successive Tuesday evenings and a wide range of the archival film holdings were represented.

La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria

Correspondent: Tony Marshall

The Australian Manuscripts and Picture Collections are temporarily housed in the La Trobe Library's exhibition hall and are expected to remain there until at least August, while air-conditioning work is carried out. Much of the material held in these collections is consequently either unavailable or available only with some delay.

Following the conclusion of Victoria's 150th year, the body responsible for co-ordinating the state-wide celebratory activities has deposited in the Library its records which include posters, banners, films, videotapes, audio cassettes, plaques, photographs, press cuttings, books, and pamphlets. Other acquisitions of note include records of bodies including the Council for Christian Education in Schools, the Victorian Amateur Fencing Association, the Children's Welfare Association, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, and the municipal libraries' association Minterlib, and the papers of journalist Freda Irving, Flight-Lieutenant A.J. McEvey, and Ian Fletcher, a farmer who has been active on boards, commissions, and missions concerned with grain and cereal production.

Several exhibitions were shown at the State Library recently including a celebration of the lives and work of Vance and Nettie Palmer, *Don't shoot, darling!* on the theme of popular culture in the 1950's, *The Heidelberg School picnic* comprising original work by Australian cartoonists, and *A public tradition* which was mounted to mark the retirement of Sir John Starke, the President of the Library Council of Victoria. At the opening of this exhibition Sir John was presented with the Library Association of Australia's Redmond Barry Award, the highest award for service to librarianship which the Association can award to a lay person. The Council's new President is Dr Norman Curry, formerly the Director-General of Victoria's Education Department.

Eight Melbourne architectural firms plus the Victorian Public Works Department have, by invitation, entered a competition for the selection of an architect for the new State Library building. The new building is to be shared by the library and the Museum of Victoria. The Library's historic domed reading room is to be linked to the new building by a walkway across Little Lonsdale Street.

The Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Correspondent: Anne Robertson

An interesting recent acquisition was a collection of King Family papers covering the period 1783-1904, and including a series of letters from governor King to his son Phillip Parker King when the latter was very young and at the beginning of his long naval career. The collection contains King's commission to act as governor of New South Wales in case of the death or absence of Governor Hunter, dated 1 May 1798.

The papers of Leon Ashton Punch were another important acquisition. Mr Punch was a member of the New South Wales Parliament from 1959 until his retirement in 1985, and between 1975 and 1985 was the Leader of the National Party in New South Wales. His extensive collection provides a record of the activities and correspondence of a prominent member of Parliament and reflects both local concerns and the issues of the day.

A small but notable collection received was a group of papers of the poet Robert D. Fitzgerald (1921-1978) including a series of letters received from fellow poet Tom Inglis Moore (1901-1978) with manuscripts of some of the latter's poems.

Staff of the Manuscripts Section assisted in the preparation of a small exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of the visit of *HMS Beagle* to Sydney. The display included letters, diaries, Charles Darwin's comments on life in the colony, and sketches and paintings of Conrad Martens.

National Library of Australia

Correspondent : Pam Ray

The most notable achievement of Manuscript Section staff in the past six months has been the completion of work on the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts relating to Australia*. A separate notice in this journal provides details of the number of microfiches, price and ordering procedure. Suffice it to say that publication of Series A to D with one cumulative index was achieved only after many months of effort. Eighteen thousand index entries were checked, and of these six thousand were amended. It is hoped that library and archives staff and researchers will find the new microfiche format more convenient to use than the heavy and unwieldy loose-leaf binders which housed the previous edition, A to C.

The National Library of Australia has become an institutional member of the Commonwealth Archivists Association which was formed in London in late 1984. The objects of the association include promotion of professional archival standards in the Commonwealth, facilitating information sharing among archivists, and emphasising the importance of archives as part of each nation's heritage.

On 12 December 1985 a book launching was held at the Library to mark the publication by the Library of *The Native Tribes of Western Australia*, by Daisy Bates, edited by Isobel White. This book was based on the extensive collection of Daisy Bate's papers held in the Manuscripts Section. The Medieval Manuscripts exhibition is still in place in the Nan Kivell exhibition area, and has attracted a lot of interest.

Several microfilming projects have been undertaken, including papers of Adela Pankhurst Walsh and of Lord and Lady Gowrie. Microfilming was carried out of a further 47 registers of the Church of England diocese of Canberra-Goulburn. This is a continuing project, done in co-operation with the society of Australian Genealogists and the Mitchell Library. Microfilming is undertaken infrequently, because of the time-consuming and labour-intensive nature of the work of checking that a collection is in the immaculate state required before filming can proceed.

Many interesting collections have been newly acquired in the past six months, including those of academics such as Francis Letters, Roger Joyce, and Arundel Del Re. The writers Anne Summers, Lennard Bickel, Betty Roland, and Les Murray deposited papers in the Library. Further diaries of the artist Donald Friend were acquired, and papers were received of the architect W. Race Godfrey, and the cartoonist Stewart Peterson. Other notable acquisitions included a set of diaries of the painter Judy Cassab, the collection of the popular writer Olaf Ruhen, the autobiography of the free-thinker Harry Pearce, and an important collection of papers of the journalist Sir Randal Heymanson (for many years the *Herald and Weekly Times* representative in New York).

Northern Territory Archives Service

Correspondent: Don Brech

The second repository at Winnellie became operational in November 1985, although the initial installation of static shelving and plan cabinets is still to be completed.

Information Leaflet Number 3 titled *Information for Depositors* has been printed and is now available. The leaflet describes aspects of depositing records with the Archives. It is being distributed to individuals and organisations creating or having custody of records relating to the Northern Territory which may be of permanent value. Information Leaflets Numbers 1 and 2, *General Information* and *Information for Researchers*, were issued earlier in 1985. The fourth in the series, *Oral History*, is in preparation.

Public Record Office of South Australia

Correspondent: Robert Thornton

It has been a period during which some fairly dramatic archival developments have taken place here in Adelaide. Five years after it was first officially projected, South Australia now has its very own Public Record Office; from 1 October 1985 the South Australian Archives ceased to exist, having divested itself of the entire collection of private records to the new Mortlock Library of South Australia. In its place a new Public Record Office has been constituted as a separate division of the Department of Local Government. An undertaking has also been made to establish a new joint repository with the Australian Archives in 1986, hopefully with double the present storage space and with a further five year's expansion allowed. A new metropolitan 'shop front' for the establishment has been mooted, though for now the State Library will remain the principal location for the Public Record Office.

These developments have been accompanied by some significant shifts in staffing. The former Principal Archivist, Mr John Love, has transferred to the Lands Department to work on a special historical project, and Mrs V.J. Siebert, a former Guidance Officer with the Education Department, has been appointed Manager of the new Public Record Office. Two new archivists have been recruited to replace staff transferring to the Mortlock, while other expatriate members of staff have also returned to the fold, and five additional staff have been promised. At the same time, a member of the Australian Archives South Australian office has been seconded to put an end to the existing control systems and introduce a new version based on the CRS (Commonwealth Record Series) system to control the disposal of government records. Amidst all this activity the drafting of a new State Archives Act proceeds; the Bill in its final form is likely to be tabled in the autumn session of State Parliament. In the meantime, the Libraries Board will remain statutorily responsible for archival matters.

Queensland State Archives

Correspondent: Paul Wilson

Copies of the *Report of the Committee of Review of the State Library of Queensland* (the Richardson Report) are available from the State Library of Queensland, William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000. The report recommends (inter alia) that State Archives opening hours be extended and that additional staff be provided. The Committee also reported against the separation of the State Archives from the State Library.

The State Archives microfilm program has recommenced, following the appointment of a Microfilm Officer. It is hoped to purchase a new camera in early 1986.

Reserve Bank of Australia Archives

Correspondent: Allan Seymour

Compactus storage in the Bank's archives repository is to be extended by 740 metres. This forty percent increase should provide sufficient storage for approximately the next twenty years. A security vault will also be provided to protect the Bank's more valuable or confidential records. Other changes are to include the addition of 24 hour air-conditioning and halon fire protection.

Professor Boris Schedvin of the Department of Economic History at the University of Melbourne has been commissioned to write a history of central banking in Australia since 1945 to the end of 1985. The purpose is to produce a scholarly and authoritative book of reference which could be regarded as a sequel to L.F. Giblin's *The Growth of a Central Bank — The*

Development of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 1924-45. Professor Schedvin has commenced his initial research and is drawing heavily on the Bank's archival resources.

In response to the Archives Act 1983, the Bank has approached the Director-General of the Australian Archives seeking permission to retain custody of our archives under section 64. The Bank's archives are used extensively both by bank officers and external researchers.