

# Editorial

As the Bicentennial year winds down we begin to be conscious of the extent to which our attention has been directed not only backwards—this was the last two hundred—but forward—this is the foundation for the next two hundred years. The Historic Records Search and many other projects funded by Bicentennial grants have sought not only to redress past neglect but to lay the foundation for future development.

All the contributions to this issue deal with change of some sort. Now we are not sufficiently victims of the Whig view of history to believe that change necessarily means progress but in the case of the Sydney City Council plans project and the relocation of the John Oxley Library change clearly means improvement over the previous situation. Whether the implementation of automated control systems in the Australian Archives is a change for the better time alone will tell, but certainly this would seem to be almost inexorably the path we all must tread as the next two hundred years adds not only to the bulk but immeasurably to the complexity of the records in our custody and to the physical problems of storage and conservation.

Another change for the better was that for this issue we did not have to commission items for “. . . in the Agora”. Two pieces came unsolicited—both addressed to current issues. We hope this bodes well for the future because change is in the air. Not only the Bicentenary but the Biennium is coming to an end: who will guide the Society through the next two years? The Corporate plan now under development seeks to provide continuity through change—we urge all members to give it close and urgent attention.