

# BOOK REVIEWS

Leo J. Ansell, C.F.C., *The Small Archive's Companion*. Toowoomba. Church Archivist's Society, 1987. 263 pp. ISBN 0 949122 04 1. \$17.25.

Brother Ansell is very concerned that the reader is left with no doubt as to whom the *The Small Archive's Companion* was written. On the title page appears the inscription *for Church Archivists, Historical and Genealogical Societies and Schools*. In his preface Ansell again stresses that he intends to cover, "all aspects of the work of a Church archivist and those in charge of historical society records". To make sure that his message is entirely clear Ansell writes, "This book is written solely for the Church, school or society archivist and these are my only concern".

If it is true that Ansell was anticipating criticism of his work and in an attempt to head it off, delineated his audience to defuse any attacks from other archivists, it is an unfortunate state of affairs for archives in Australia. The professional archival community in Australia has for many years attempted to assist those engaged in amateur (in the best sense of the word) archival pursuits. There is no doubt that some of the advice has been gratuitous and irrelevant to the needs of those not working in government or large organisations. This situation is being addressed in a far more positive way with the publication of *Keeping Archives* and in NSW at least with the Bicentennial workshops held throughout the state. (With both of these I have had some connection.)

There can be no argument that the archivist of a school, church, historical or genealogical society has particular concerns, responsibilities and duties. It is also true that these may differ from the concerns, responsibilities and duties of other archivists. So it would be unfair and unjustifiable to criticise *The Small Archive's Companion* on the grounds that it does not explain to the reader how Australian Archives operates. Much of the book will be of great assistance to precisely those people Ansell targeted as his audience. Indeed, certain sections of it may be read with benefit by any archivist. Ansell writes with a common sense pragmatism that is often difficult to argue with.

*The Small Archive's Companion* is divided into five sections, each further divided into chapters. The sections are: *Planning and Practice*, *Archival Housekeeping*, *The Wider World*, *The Fruits of Research* and *Part F* consisting of *Appendices*, *Glossary*, *Bibliography* and *Index*.

The sections dealing with *The Wider World* and *The Fruits of Research* indicate that this work is more than a manual of archival practice. *The Wider World* has chapters on public relations, users of archives (emphasising genealogists and family historians), oral history and kindred repositories (both temporal and spiritual).

*The Fruits of Research* deals with writing a history, publishing and marketing your work, collecting material and mounting displays. In the field of self publishing and research Ansell speaks with the voice of experience, having written and published a number of works himself. (*The Small Archive's Companion* itself is both written and published by Ansell).

There are many pitfalls and ironies in publishing a book yourself. None are better demonstrated than the paragraph on page 140 dealing with proof reading. Ansell states "In a couple of hundred pages of proof, I rarely find as many as five mistakes". In the next sentence is the only typographical error this reviewer found in the book.

*The Small Archive's Companion* goes beyond the traditional area of archival responsibilities. This accurately reflects the diverse nature of the duties of archivists working in just the types of institutions and organisations that Ansell is addressing. I have no difficulties with his treatment of these topics. However, the fact remains that the book is directed at those working in archives and deals with archival matters. The readers often will not have any formal archival training and therefore rely on what publications are available to them. Naturally a book written by one of their number will be given great weight by those without the experience or knowledge to analyse its contents.

It cannot be argued that because of the specialised nature of the work of the church and other archivists for whom the *The Small Archive's Companion* was written that they are in some way exempt from the normal rules governing the administration of archives. If being different was a criteria for ignoring original order, all the archives in Australia would be arranged by subject. The reality is that all archives are different by their very nature. The most disturbing aspect of this publication is that the chapters dealing with traditional archives work seem to demonstrate a lack of understanding of the role, functions and theoretical basis of archives work.

Terminology is always a problem amongst archivists and must be daunting to those new to the field. Ansell unfortunately compounds this situation by using "archives" to refer to repositories and "records" for the holdings. He then goes on to quote Schellenberg's definition of archives, calling it his, Schellenberg's, definition of records.

In fact Schellenberg has a separate definition of records which differentiates between records and archives on grounds that archives are

records selected for permanent preservation. (T.R. Schellenberg, *Modern Archives Principals and Techniques*. Chicago, 1956, page 16, University of Chicago Press). Apart from being confusing, this seems to indicate a misunderstanding of the 'life-cycle' of records and the importance of the evidential nature of archives. The importance of the evidential aspect is emphasised in Schellenberg's definition of records. Ansell does not show that he appreciates this importance, or that it is an essential feature of archives.

The fact that archives are the unselfconscious product of work or life activities is absent in Ansell further discussions of the work of an archives. In the Supplement to Chapter One, a *Model Statement of Policy and Procedures* the archivist becomes an active creator of records. The *Policy and Procedures* are based on a document used by a female religious order. It includes the stipulation that each house should keep Annals, to record important and significant events and other matters related to the operation of the house. The Archivist of the order is also required by the *Policy* to keep "Drop Files" on each member of the order.

Unfortunately this self-conscious "bits and pieces" approach to archives is continued to some extent in Chapter 6 *Acquisitions—How to Collect*. Although Ansell states that it is desirable to have an acquisitions programme and rightly emphasises that the archivist should be seen to be active, the chapter is something of a disappointment. It would have been the ideal place to cover matters associated with the production of disposition schedules and the relationship with those responsible for the creation of the records. Instead the chapter deals mostly with publications of various kinds. There is mention made in *The Small Archive's Companion* of disposal policy but it is very brief and comes at the end of the chapter which deals with conservation and security as well.

Given that the preceding chapters' emphasis on single items or small groups of unrelated material, there is little surprise in finding that the chapters on accessioning and finding aids make little importance of original order or series. Provenance is given some attention, but no useful definition is provided.

Indeed, the discussion of provenance leads to the statement that "provided a record is kept of what has been done, the records can be sorted into any convenient order and the actual 'archival' order can be preserved in the central list" (pp. 59–60). Such a practices may be adopted by large archives for efficient storage, but I feel that it is misleading to suggest that this is acceptable for small quantities of material in a small archives.

Most of the chapter on accessioning is based on the assumption that there will be no original order in the records acquired by the archives. It is not until about half-way through the chapter is it stated that records

may in "rare" cases, be found in *series*. At this point the concept of series has not been discussed and it is not subsequently explained in the text. The glossary includes an inadequate definition of record series which ignores the function for which records were created as a factor in identifying series.

It is not an understatement to say that the chapter on accessioning, complemented by Appendix 2 on *Classification Schemes for archives*, bares little relationship to archival theory. Further, I fear anyone using such guidance as is offered by these sections of *The Small Archive's Companion* would be doing a grave disservice to the records in their care.

There are a number of other difficulties I have with *The Small Archive's Companion*, such as the chapter on Finding Aids which advocates calendaring but does not mention series descriptions, the *Copyright* chapter which does not cover the law in regard to copyright in photographs and the poor *Glossary*.

I hope it is clear that my criticisms of the book are based on archival considerations only. The ultimate responsibility of all archivists is to the proper preservation of the records entrusted to our care. This involves not only the physical preservation of the material itself but also the documentation of provenance and the preservation of original order.

The test of the value of a book is whether you would recommend anyone else to read it. Despite its many useful sections if I were asked by an intending church or school archivist whether he/she should read *The Small Archive's Companion*, my answer, with great reluctance, would have to be no.

Tim Robinson  
College Archivist  
Sydney College of Advanced Education

**Carl Bridge, *A Trunk Full of Books: History of the State Library of South Australia and its Forerunners*. State Library of South Australia. Wakefield Press, 1986. 266pp. \$29.95.**

Although there is a similarity in library development in all the Australian States each one also has its own special story as dictated by the circumstances of settlement, the calibre and attitudes of its inhabitants and the economic successes and down turns throughout the years. *A Trunk Full of Books* commences with a quote from Douglas Pike's *Paradise of Dissent* which sets the scene of difference. This states "other parts of Australia may muddle through in the best British tradition: South Australians attach themselves to some conscious theoretical purpose. Goals

vary, individuals falter, details go awry, but South Australia sticks persistently to its current plan”.

From the very beginning, even before the settlers departed from England, the South Australian Literary Association was formed in 1834. The model settlement was to have a circulating library to help educate the colonists for self-government. Ten men founded the Association along the lines of an exclusive gentlemen's club. A high admission fee of ten shillings and sixpence and two guineas a year subscription was charged in advance. Conversaciones, exhibitions, addresses, etc., were held and a collection of books accumulated. The fact that these had to be rescued from the bottom of the Port River in December 1836 on arrival in the Colony was unfortunate but the institute movement had been born.

Through ups and downs the movement gained in strength. One of the more spectacular downs was in 1843 when the books had to be lodged with a moneylender to cover a debt of twenty pounds. Conflicts arose between the philosophy of the gentlemen's subscription library and the humbler mechanics' needs, to be the source of antagonism well into the next century. Some words of advice on how to choose a librarian are worth considering.

“It will be an error to choose . . . any gentleman, only because he is a gentlemanly nice fellow, and a well read man. An acquaintance with the journal and the ledger, will be a better qualification than the learning of Oxford—habits of punctuality prudence and dispatch, than the polish of a Court. Let the Librarian in particular be well-acquainted with the outsides of the books, let him see that they are regularly returned, kept cleanly and in order, and it will matter little . . . what he knows of the inside. A plain plodding man of regular and business-like habits will make the best librarian.”

The 1900 Library Association of Australasia Conference held in Adelaide was a cause for great excitement. There were 29 delegates attending: 15 were local, 11 from Victoria and one each from NSW, Western Australia and New Zealand. Of interest was the title of one of the papers “What local literature should be preserved in a public library?” W.H. Ifould the South Australian Librarian, prepared an exhibition of rare books and manuscripts which kept him awake all night on three occasions.

In 1884 the first *Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery Bill* was passed by the Legislative Council. The new Public Library moved further away from the subscription library to a State financed reference library but the institutes still continued. A good coverage is given by the author on the tussle which occurred over many years between the free library movement and the institutes. A new Bill was passed in 1939 but this allowed for a parallel system of both types of libraries. *The Libraries (Subsidies) Act* of 1955 provided for subsidies to be paid to a local authority

towards the running costs of a library and the first free local lending library opened in Elizabeth in 1957. However the institutes continued to be propped up and it was not until 1978 that the Dunstan Government set about abolishing and absorbing the institutes. Public Library development, if belated, followed thick and fast.

What is probably of more interest to the readers of this journal is Chapter 8 which tells the story of the *South Australian Archives* but unfortunately not in great detail. The collection of material began with the arrival of the box of books which was recovered from the river in 1836 when the vouchers relating to the books accompanied them. In a rather haphazard and desultory manner the library accumulated South Australian historical documents throughout the century, actively aided by some Board members in the 1890s.

An interesting activity in 1900 was an early attempt at oral history when W. Sowden, a Board member, had the idea of using the newly invented phonograph to record the voices of leading public figures. The author tells us that "Lord Tennyson, the Governor-General, recorded a crackly three-minute message on a wax cylinder, but unfortunately the experiment was abandoned".

In 1903 Professor George Henderson became a member of the Board. He held the Chair of History at the University and it was he who was responsible for the formation of an archives. In 1907 he was successful in a suggestion that a bequest to the University of £1,000 by Sir George Murray be used for a post graduate scholarship for history students to carry out research. Named in honour of George Tinline, for the first five years the research was required to be in South Australian history. In 1906 Henderson began a project to have duplicate copies of pre-1856 Governors' despatches transferred to the Library, achieved in 1912. In the following year while on study leave in Europe he investigated archives there and recommended a course of action to the South Australian Government. Oddly enough the Belgian Archives provided Henderson with his ideal and Antwerp became the model for Adelaide. His eleven page report would be interesting reading. His plan was approved by Cabinet in 1916.

George Pitt, one of Henderson's history students and a member of the staff of the Library, was appointed Archivist in 1919, to spend half his time in the Archives. Miss Mable Hardy, another of Henderson's students was appointed Assistant Archivist. *The Archives Act* was passed in 1925. The author gives information about some of the early collections, methods of processing and the general library oriented philosophy. Henderson is commended for his achievement in virtually single handedly establishing "Australia's first State Archives a generation before the other States".

This is all of particular significance to me as the Western Australian Archives was modelled on the South Australian institution and I can recognise the mirror image.

Apart from this chapter of eight pages there are a few more references to archives throughout the book, but not many. There is a reference to problems during the Depression years with staff shortages and to Pitt near to collapse through overwork during the State's Centenary Year in 1936. The story is brought up to date of publication foreshadowing the creation of a Public Record Office.

The book is an excellent production with good paper and clean type face. It is well illustrated, easy to handle and read. The subject has been thoroughly researched and the author writes in a confident, pleasant style. It is clearly referenced with notes and an index. The chapters are not too long and the convention of a paragraph or two of summing up at the end of each one is a boon to the reference librarian as well as a help to the casual reader. Biographical summaries about people introduced into the narrative bring it alive and add to the reference value. I enjoyed reading this book and commend it as an excellent and useful production.

Margaret Medcalf  
State Archivist  
Library Board of Western Australia

**Baiba Berzins, *The Coming of the Strangers: Life in Australia 1788–1822*. Sydney. Collins Australia—State Library of New South Wales. 144pp. \$19.95.**

*The Coming of the Strangers* is designed in part to provide background to the exhibition arranged by the State Library of New South Wales in commemoration of two hundred years of white settlement in Australia. The book, like the exhibition, focuses around a number of carefully chosen themes and is based on documents and illustrations that form part of the Mitchell and Dixson collections. Baiba Berzins has researched comprehensively and travelled widely in the process of preparing this work. She has assembled a fascinating array of material that throws valuable light on numerous facets of the early history of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

It was once customary to view this period from the standpoint of the governors and the wealthy migrants like the Macarthurs, who were seen as dominating affairs. Such figures are incorporated in Baiba Berzin's chapters but she rightly recognises that they do not make up the whole of the picture and that there are other features of life deserving of attention. Her book opens with the original inhabitants—the Aboriginal people—whose customs, patterns of life and relationships with the land are fully portrayed. She deals with the impact of the white settlers on the Aboriginals and shows how each reacted to the other. She then moves on to explore the character of the natural environment and reveals how this too was

affected by a white society which brought a technology and system of land usage not previously seen on the Australian continent.

All this reflects an approach that is in keeping with the most recent developments in Australian historical writing. Race relations and environmental issues are themes that currently arouse much interest and generate considerable emotion. Baiba Berzins handles both in a calm but, at the same time, sensitive, perceptive manner. She presents a balanced view which is free from special pleading. Much the same is true of a later chapter which again explores an issue of present-day interest, namely the position of women in the early colony. Here, as elsewhere, she is more concerned with uncovering the reality than with fuelling later debates. She avoids stereotypes and brings out the range of women's experiences, highlighting the achievers as well as the oppressed, the convict as well as the free.

The emphasis on variety is characteristic of the whole book which succeeds in covering a great deal of ground in a lively and informative way. There is material on governors and officials, on the development of trade, on the emergence of farming and grazing, on living conditions and leisure activities, on exploration and the spread of settlement, on art and literature. Quotations, some quite lengthy, are used effectively to back up the argument and enhance the narrative. All are well chosen, sometimes from little-known sources and blend well into the text. Equally impressive is the immense array of illustrations most of which are in colour. Beautifully reproduced and extremely well arranged they add important dimensions to the book and are well worth studying in themselves.

The strength of this book lies in its vivid depiction of people and social life in eastern Australia. It is a little less secure when dealing with some of the other features of development before 1822. The chapter on the governors and their circle is illuminating in its treatment of particular individuals, but the problems confronting these men and the issues underlying the conflict with the New South Wales Corps are handled somewhat cursorily. The farming activities of ex-convicts and indeed the contribution of emancipists as a group to economic development might have received more systematic attention. The debate over the reasons for the settlement of New South Wales is outlined but not discussed in any depth. There are also occasional assertions that deserved closer consideration. The statement on page 78 about the convicts ("... some adapted to life in the new country, others returned home; for still others, the only escape was through alcohol or madness.") does not really do justice to the way in which these people seem to have made a home for themselves in the colony. One wonders too about the suitability of the misleadingly general term "European" to describe a society that was essentially British.



No one in the space of just over 130 pages however, could hope to produce a treatment that wholly satisfied every reader. Baiba Berzins' book, like the exhibition it is designed to illuminate, stands out as a major achievement. It presents a lively, colourful, comprehensive account of the beginnings of white settlement in Australia and as such makes a valuable contribution to the bicentennial year. One hopes that it will continue to be read long after the commemorative events of 1988 are over for it should long remain a valuable introduction to early colonial history.

Brian H. Fletcher  
Bicentennial Professor of Australian History  
Sydney University

**Ross Patrick, *A History of Health and Medicine in Queensland 1824-1960*. St. Lucia. University of Queensland Press, 1987. 561pp. ISBN 0 7022 2078 7. \$60.00.**

*Health and Medicine in Queensland* is an administrative history written by a medical administrator. At a time when few public utilities and government agencies were interested in recording their history the Queensland Health Department made a wise investment when they decided in 1978 to invite their recently retired Director-General, Dr Ross Patrick, to research and write the history of medical and health services in Queensland. That the task was done so professionally is a tribute to the author who devoted his full energies to what was a new genre to him—historical research.

This book fully documents the history from the convict period to 1960; covering the establishment of medical services through the work of general practitioners, health legislation, the administrative history of the state Health Department, education of the medical and allied professions, and then a scientific/historic overview of medical research and achievements in a century of public health services. Dr Patrick's explanations of the roles of doctors and health service personnel are manifold.

There are two outstanding strengths of the book—the meticulous detail and control of his subject which Dr Patrick demonstrates throughout the text, and the extent and thoroughness of the archival research and citation. Both of these are directly attributable to Dr Patrick's personal commitment to the success of the project. The fruits of Dr Patrick's research in the University of Queensland Archives and the Queensland State Archives are obvious. The result is an excellent reference book for medical historians and public administrators.

The Queensland Health Department can be justifiably proud in the fine publication of *A History of Health and Medicine in Queensland 1824-1960*. The layout, illustrations and presentation of the book are to be envied.

Whilst this publication memorializes the growth of health services in Queensland and their administrative functions, its success is as a description of them. Its failures are the uncritical and non-analytical approaches to the whole subject of medical and health services in Queensland. The book conforms to the infectious diseases model in the history of public health services controlled by a state government in a tropical environment. Dr Patrick has largely ignored the roles of regional hospitals such as Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Townsville and the dedication and personal achievements of their specialist physicians and registrars. By his approach of describing, all-be-it briefly, the professional achievements of specialist doctors in Queensland, as he has done so well in the cases of Paddy Meehan, John Bostock, Bruce Barrack and Joan Dunn, Dr Patrick has largely ignored mental health, and care for the physically and mentally disabled and elderly infirm in institutions such as Eventide and Mossman Hall, Wolston Park, Baillie Henderson and the Challinor Centre.

Dr Patrick is writing at his best in Appendix E, *Queensland's Free Hospital Scheme*. It is a pity that this topic was not incorporated into a whole chapter on the political and social implications, especially for women, of the progressive introduction of the free hospital system in Queensland through the *Hospital Acts* of 1923, 1936 and 1944.

The level of analysis in this book is indicated typically through the example of Weil's disease (leptospirosis) in canecutters and its eradication. Dr Patrick credits Sir Raphael Cilento with the establishment of the Weil's disease eradication campaign in North Queensland (page 111), relying on the *Annual Report* of the Director of Health and Medical Services in 1934 (PP 1935, 1, 735) and C.G. Morrissey's report on its occurrence in the *Medical Journal of Australia* (2, 1934, 597). Whilst the Queensland government compelled local authorities (against their wish) in sugar cane areas to cut and burn luxuriant vegetation along creeks to eradicate the rats carrying the leptospirosis, the Councils' own baiting campaigns were more successful and cheaper. It seems clear that Cilento was killing two birds with the one stone—the clearing campaign was dramatic and obvious, so the government could be seen as clearly “doing something”, and it provided employment during the depression. Furthermore Cilento was most unsympathetic towards canecutters suffering the disease. He appeared for the Queensland government in Workers' Compensation cases in 1938 involving Northern canecutters, arguing that they were not suffering the “true” type of Weil's disease which he had identified. In fact there were many different varieties of leptospirosis. The cutters lost their compensation cases. The results of research on these Workers Compensation cases was

published in 1987 and is widely available in the bicentennial publication, *Australia 1938* edited by W. Gammage and P. Spearritt, page 277, (relying on the *North Queensland Register* 5 March 1938, page 97 col. 5.)

Dr Patrick has made excellent use of the University of Queensland Archives records on the establishment of the Medical School and the education of the allied medical professions, as well as the special batches of the Colonial Secretary, Home Secretary and the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the records of the Moreton Bay and Brisbane Hospitals at Queensland State Archives. Otherwise Dr Patrick relies predominantly on published government sources such as Annual Reports, Royal Commissions and Select Committees of Inquiry, published journal articles and newspapers. The resource which has not been pursued methodically is the general correspondence of the Home Secretary's Office, Health and Home Affairs Department and the Health Department to 1960 held by the Queensland State Archives. Admittedly these involve hundreds of metres of records. However this administrative history is the poorer for this lack of detail over an expansive Queensland canvas.

As an administrative history *Health and Medicine in Queensland* is a success; a definitive history of health services it is not. What this history lacks is the human element, surprising for a committed medical man but perhaps not for a medical administrator. That human analysis should revolve around powerful characters such as Chuter, Cilento, Cumpston, Elkington and their influence and contributions as a manifestation of their private philosophies, particularly the Fascist prescription for a masterful elite to organize society, so prevalent in the 1920s and 1930s.

The author has been done a disservice by the absence of a bibliography although reference to it appears in the Cataloguing-in-Publication data. However the archival citations are explicitly and very well set out.

As a good general survey of the history of health services in Queensland this book may be measured as a success for Dr Patrick and the Queensland Health Department.

Ruth S. Kerr  
Assistant State Archivist  
Queensland State Archives.

**Christine Shervington** *University Voices: Traces from the Past* The University of Western Australia, 1987. 112 pp. ISBN 0 86422 059 6. \$9.50 (from University Bookshop)

A 75th Anniversary commemorative publication for the University of Western Australia, *University Voices: Traces from the Past* should appeal

to alumni, present and past staff and others with close association with that University. It is light if not somewhat meandering in style, easy to read, contains a variety of appropriate illustrations and is in the "coffee table" genre of publications.

The cover is simple but elegant; a background colour of ochre, particularly evocative of the University's stone buildings and of Western Australia in general, with a cameo photograph of the opening of the Hackett Memorial Buildings in 1932, the University's first permanent buildings at Cawley (Nedlands). The title is succinct and indicative of the nature of a book based on oral history with "traces" appropriate for an account which but touches on a range of events from the history of the University chosen more because of the oral record of their happenings than for their importance in the institution's development.

The methodology the author has used is to link a variety of sources of the oral history type with an historic narrative. These sources are transcripts of oral history interviews particularly with early staff and students of the University, speeches, newspaper reports of events or articles from University connected people, published autobiographies, individual reminiscences and sundry related publications. A few university archival sources are included, for example Senate minutes and internal reports.

The aim and purpose of the book is enunciated in the *Introduction* which begins with a quotation from Fred Alexander's *Campus at Crawley*, a history of the University. "A university is essentially organic in character, the achievements of one generation of its members are linked inseparably with the work of those who preceded and with those who succeeded it. "The author stresses the importance of "oral sources" in "forging this link" and comments that the volume "is not intended as a comprehensive history, rather as an evocation of the spirit of times past." To counter conventional critical perceptions of the reliability and validity of oral history, the author who is the University Archivist, espouses the notion of "oral archivist", a combination of terms that would make the purist shudder. Yet there appears to have been some effort to validate "the facts" in the oral sources and to supplement these as appropriate in the connecting narrative.

While the book is divided into four main chapters on a period basis, as is to be expected in a volume such as this, the major emphasis, and indeed the more interesting material, is in the early period of the University. There are some delightful period anecdotes of the sort *every* university of the era must have, a stirring tribute to the University's major benefactor and first Chancellor Sir Winthrop Hackett (but strangely no photograph of him) and some interesting detail on the conduct of the early University. There were *eight* foundation professors (an amazingly high number from the perspective of the University of Queensland which opened for lectures some two years earlier than the University of Western Australia) although

again no photograph of these learned gentlemen, and the decision to have a Chair in Geology rather than classics must surely have been remarkable in this pre-Dawkins era.

In contrast I had some disappointment with the blandness of the 1958–1975 period, a period of intense activity in Australian Universities both in building and course development as well as in student areas. Perhaps Campus Planning, Landscaping, Green Reserves and building construction don't lend themselves as easily to oral history although the living legend of Munns the head gardener is strongly featured. A few site photographs may have helped, but the hoped for one of Munns was not apparent. While the period of student unrest is covered, it seemed to lack the colour one remembers as a student of the time or perhaps it is really as Geraldine Doogue indicated "Perth was a very conservative place", (unlike Queensland at the time!) Yet apparently there was "the whole paraphernalia of the moratorium movement", but not one photograph to evoke this spirit.

The work concludes on a personal note, appropriate for an author whose profession no doubt enhances her feelings towards a University which is both her *alma mater* and her work place, a notion with which I have a strong empathy. This is followed by a Vice-Chancellorial Epilogue which serves the place of a Corporate Statement and Forecast, a sort of *state of the union* account with an evocation to those who support the concept and ideals of University life and the University of Western Australia.

Overall I feel that greater use could have been made of photographs but perhaps there were cost factors here. Apart from specific omissions mentioned earlier, the decrease in number in the latter part of the book is surprising. The early photographs of temporary buildings, classrooms, early students, and student activities such as field trips are of the ilk of any university archives photographic collection and appropriate for their chapters. A surprise is found on pp16–17 with a double page devoted entirely to the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone for the Natural Sciences Building in 1923, a wonderful living photograph expertly executed as a "bleed off the page". There is a list of illustrations at the back of the book which gives a description to the photograph, date, source and control number (presumable University Archives unless otherwise indicated) and donor acknowledgement where appropriate. A more colloquial caption appears with each photograph in situ.

Similarly the source of each passage quoted is listed in the *References* at the end of the book. As a minor quibble I found it a trifle irritating while reading the text to have to constantly leaf to the back for the name of the *voice*. While the *voice* is sometimes clearly identified in the text, there are a couple of passages where pieces of several reminiscences have been used together and the succession of first person accounts left me a little confused.

*Voices* has been written with a definite market in view and I have no doubt from my experiences with university commemorations that it has greatly appealed to this market. In terms of the stated aims of the book and the perceived aims of a publication of this type, the book is a success. In my experience it is the sort of book that people like to read about their *alma mater*. It is an example of the versatility and indeed diversity of our profession that we can be author or editor one month, records manager the next, as well as oral historian, historical researcher, and the range of other roles into which an institutional archivist is cast.

Glenda I. Acland  
University Archivist  
University of Queensland.

**Helen Gregory, *Vivant Professores: Distinguished members of the University of Queensland, 1910–1940*. St. Lucia. University of Queensland Library, 1987. 164pp. ISBN 0 908471 09 2. \$12.50.**

Universities tend to be rather preoccupied with personalities. And perhaps, considering the nature of these institutions, this is not too surprising. Traditionally, universities are places where strong-minded, often brilliant, individuals, exercise a good deal of influence. Inevitably, there is conflict. It is, of course, an oft-repeated truism that where there are two or more people gathered together, there exists a political situation. Never more so, I would suggest, than at universities.

This slim volume is a series of “snapshots” of people. It is, as the author states, a collection of “biographical vignettes”. She also notes that some future work might result in a comparative biographical work. Such a work would be read with interest, for too often official university publications relating to the personalities of an institution are simply too bland to be of much real use. Rather like obituaries, they may, if they are accurate, be useful for reference points. But they rarely give the rounded, full picture. No person, no matter how balanced and reasonable, can achieve prominence at a university without attracting some controversy.

Having made a plea for realism in publications of universities, let me say that this is an interesting and useful book. As far as the University of Sydney is concerned, I have discovered that twelve of the thirty-seven persons were graduates of Sydney, and that seven were ex-staff. I am quite sure that other universities will also find information about their graduates or ex-staff.

The author has read quite widely to obtain the evidence she needed, and in particular I was impressed with the use of staff files held in the University Archives. Thirty-two of the thirty-seven biographical entries had staff files quoted, and several had Queensland State Archives files quoted. This shows an excellent and full use of true primary sources.

Another aspect that I would commend is that of not restricting the entries to those of academic staff only, in spite of the title. Of the thirty-seven people included, nine are not of professional rank, and five are of general staff. This approach is to be applauded. All too often there is a regrettable tendency to ignore the non-academic, or general staff. Of these thirty-seven, all but five had a staff file held in the University Archives, and the institution is to be congratulated on that also. Yet upon what criteria was selection for inclusion based? We do not know. It may be that these were the only staff up to 1940, although I very much doubt it, but we are not told.

It is important, I believe, to clearly state the intent of such a publication. If it is to be selective, then the selection criteria should be set out. By doing so the parameters are set, and the author's "brief" is clear.

The same could be said of indexing. Given the biographical nature of the work, it is, of course, self-indexing, in terms of the subjects themselves. It should be possible, however, to create a modest index containing, for example, the names of institutions. I would have liked to be able to locate any subject that had had connections with the University of Sydney without having to read each entry first. One other useful addition would have been a traditional bibliography.

The book makes extensive use of photographs, with every biographical account having some illustration. However, as with the book itself some form of indexing for the illustrations included would have been helpful. This volume contains a number of illustrations that appear to be incidental to the text and it was somewhat irritating not to be able to discover what they were, their relevance or their source.

None of this, however, detracts from the essential usefulness of the work. Both the author and the University of Queensland Archivist are to be heartily congratulated on a well-researched set of "mini biographies".

Kenneth E. Smith  
University Archivist  
University of Sydney.