

# ARCHIVAL RECORDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

**Denis Strangman**

*With a brief mention of experience elsewhere as the departure point, the past and present arrangements for the records of Australia's federal parliament are outlined. The treatment incorporates a description of the main categories of records created by various parliamentary departments and ends with eight principles the author suggests should cover an archives policy for parliament.*

There is no such thing as an archives in the new Parliament House in Canberra. There are squash courts, a swimming pool, travel agency, meditation room, library and many other facilities, but there is no separate and distinct archives serving the five Departments of the Parliament, either separately or collectively. Nor is it likely that an archives will be established in the foreseeable future. What is the situation elsewhere?

## **New South Wales**

The New South Wales parliamentary archives are 'the only Parliamentary Archives in Australia in existence as a distinct entity'. It was an 'act of God' in the form of a basement flooding that precipitated a minor crisis and led eventually to the creation in December 1980 of the position of Assistant Senior Archivist. This position was originally with the establishment of the Archives Office of New South Wales and the occupant was seconded to Parliament and responsible to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.<sup>1</sup> In September 1991 the Parliamentary Archivist achieved an independent identity with his employer now being the State Parliament. He is jointly responsible to both chambers and both Presiding officers with his office being administered through the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, but with a separate Budget allocation.<sup>2</sup> All unrestricted records over twenty-five years of age are available to be consulted at Parliament House, Sydney, upon application to the Parliamentary Archivist and application to view

restricted Parliamentary Library material may be made to the Parliamentary Librarian.<sup>3</sup>

As far as can be determined no published material about the treatment of the archival records of the Parliaments of the other Australian States and Territories exists, but it would appear that some arrangements do allow for the transfer of earlier materials and some of the more recent routine records to repositories run by State archival authorities.<sup>4</sup>

### Overseas countries

There is some published information about the archival practices of several countries overseas, but the literature is not extensive.<sup>5</sup>

In **Canada** the Federal Archives Division of the National Archives of Canada holds a significant quantity of historical and more recent non-current records of Canada's Parliament, originating with the House of Commons, Senate, Library, and Inter-Parliamentary Union.<sup>6</sup>

**United States of America:** The Centre for Legislative Archives of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) administers nearly 50 000 cubic feet of textual archival records of the United States Congress while other centres and branches in NARA retain non-textual records, including videotape of House proceedings from 1983 and Senate tapes from 1986.<sup>7</sup>

Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven will represent the 500th anniversary of the formation of the archives of the **British Parliament**, and 1996 will represent the 50th anniversary of the founding of the House of Lords Record Office in 1946 which today acts as an archival repository for the non-current records of both chambers.<sup>8</sup> Its three million documents occupy some five and a half miles of steel shelving. Among its diverse holdings are two tombstones and an ornate jarrah casket used to house the 1934 petition from Western Australia seeking to secede from the Federation.<sup>9</sup> The tombstones are unusual but are unlikely to overshadow the set of false teeth (an estray?) belonging to former Australian Prime Minister (1915-1923) W. M. Hughes, which are to be found among his papers in the manuscript collections of the National Library of Australia,<sup>10</sup> or an urn 'reputed to contain' the ashes of former Federal parliamentarian (1925-1928) and convicted murderer Thomas Ley, which is also held by the same institution.<sup>11</sup>

Concerning the preservation of parliamentary archival records, as distinct from artefacts, there appears to be three organisational models in use in the parliaments of the world: (i) a separate archives under the overall umbrella of parliament, (ii) an archival facility under the control of the parliamentary library, and (iii) the placement of parliamentary archival materials in an existing public (government) archives.

## The Australian Parliament

It is difficult to comprehend that in a building with a floor area of some 250 000 square metres that has been occupied for only four years there is insufficient designated space to store the current and archival records of the Australian Parliament but that is the situation. There appear to be two principal reasons for this: (a) In the words of Richard A. Baker, an historian of the American Senate — ‘In the unremitting battle for storage space between people and files, the people always win, the files always lose’;<sup>12</sup> and (b) as suggested to the writer by one parliamentary officer during research for this study — ‘“They” appear to have incorrectly anticipated the advent of the “paperless society” by about twenty years’.<sup>13</sup>

For some years the five Departments of the Australian Parliament have been making use of the facilities of Australian Archives for the storage of non-current records. For example, in February 1990 the Senate transferred to storage at a repository run by Australian Archives the personal files of 261 former Senators, ranging alphabetically from Senator Percy Abbott who retired in 1929, to a former President of the Senate Sir Harold Young who retired in 1983.<sup>14</sup> It should be noted very carefully that these files have *not* been ‘handed over’ to Australian Archives but remain under the control of the Senate. The agency series under which these and other Parliamentary files are held are publicly identified in the RINSE database available to researchers at Australian Archives search rooms but, judging from the results of a random search undertaken by the writer at the Mitchell (ACT) repository, the relevant inventory lists are not located in the search room. Those seeking access are referred to the relevant Parliamentary Department for a letter of authority permitting access.<sup>15</sup>

## Parliamentary records and their legislative coverage

In Australia freedom of information (FOI) legislation and archives legislation at the national level were carefully formulated, drafted and introduced in tandem. When a former Attorney-General (Senator Durack) made the first attempt to introduce legislation in 1978 not only were the FOI and Archives Bills introduced together, they were also part of an even wider package which went under the title of *Access to Official Information* and included reference to policy information papers, policy discussion papers, government information activities, departmental reports, consultative bodies, and even information on how the services provided by counter staff could be improved.<sup>16</sup>

The two Bills were referred for examination by two separate Senate Standing Committees. Clause 18(1)(b) of the 1978 Archives Bill provided for the exclusion of the open access provisions to ‘. . . records in the possession of the Senate, the House of Representatives or a Parliamentary Department . . .’ However, clause 21(1) stated that the

person having the control of the custody of these or certain other records 'may enter into arrangements with the Archives for the Archives to have or retain the custody of those records' and under clause 21(2) those arrangements 'may provide for the extent (if any) to which the Archives or other persons are to have access to those records'.

Following the federal elections held on 18 October 1980 at which the Government was returned, Senator Durack introduced a new Archives Bill on 2 April 1981 in which at clause 21 there was a provision enabling regulations to be made for the parliamentary records. The Bill was not further debated during the life of that Parliament and at the elections on 5 March 1983 there was a change of Government.

On 2 June 1983 the new Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans, delivered a second reading speech on a new Archives Bill that was not all that different from the version introduced by Senator Durack in the previous Parliament. He stated that:

Special arrangements have been made in order that the provisions of the legislation can be applied to records of the Parliament and the courts by means of regulations, in terms consistent with the constitutional relationship between the Executive Government and the Parliament and the courts.<sup>17</sup>

A new feature of the regulation-making provisions (now found in clause 20) was that prior consultation before their making was required between the Minister and the relevant Presiding Officer(s). The debate on the Bill in the House of Representatives was not extensive, perhaps because of the prior debate and attention given to the Bill and its predecessors by the Senate and its committees. The Act was assented to on 3 November 1983 and commenced operation on 6 June 1984.

### **The nature of Parliament's records**

There are several categories into which the records of the Parliament could be allocated. From an *archival* perspective they fall into the three main categories: (a) unique records generated by either chamber and their committees in their legislative, representative, and inquiry functions; for example, Bills or Acts, committee material, Hansard reports, the Votes and Proceedings and Journals; (b) records which have their primary origin in another institution; for example, a departmental report or statutory rules; and (c) administrative records; for example, the personnel files of staff. Parliamentary officers, however, tend to view the records in a different light and have suggested another form of categorisation: (a) the 'records of the two Houses'; for example, the original Votes and tabled papers; (b) committee records; and (c) 'all the rest'; for example, Hansard reporters' notebooks, correspondence files and catering records.<sup>18</sup>

The only person in ninety years who has had virtually unrestricted and officially sanctioned access to the surviving records of all parliamentary departments is the late Gordon Reid, who was a former officer of the House of Representatives, former academic, and former Western Australian State Governor. He was granted informal 'special access' to the generality of parliamentary records and authorised access by resolutions of the two Houses to the records of the Joint Committee of the Parliamentary Library as part of the Parliament's Bicentenary publications project. This privileged access was specifically in connection with his research for the commissioned history of the Australian Parliament.<sup>19</sup> In 1987 he addressed the 6th Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of Archivists in Perth and spoke about his experiences. Reid claimed that there was very little material available for the pre-war period when the Parliament was located in Melbourne and placed the blame with a space-conscious Lieutenant Colonel who was in charge of the transportation arrangements for the 1927 move from Melbourne to Canberra.<sup>20</sup>

Parliamentary Officers believe that Gordon Reid's implied suggestion of the wholesale destruction of Parliament's early administrative records is not completely accurate,<sup>21</sup> although in the course of this study staff of one department in particular made frequent references to the traditional explanation when an unexplained gap is discovered in the pre-1927 records:

They must have been in the crate that was washed/thrown overboard (or the crate that fell off the dray) during the transfer.<sup>22</sup>

As has been noted earlier, detailed information on the parliamentary material held by Australian Archives is not yet available through the public search rooms but after interviews with a number of parliamentary staff who have responsibility for records control, the following picture of the records of the Parliament, including their composition and location, has emerged.

**Department of Parliamentary Reporting Staff (DPRS):** Audio tapes of chamber and committee proceedings are kept only for a short period and re-used, unlike in the United Kingdom where tape recordings of both Houses from April 1978 have been retained.<sup>23</sup> The Department has not retained any of the audio tapes recorded prior to the move to the new building which also marked the commencement of the combined video/audio recording of Parliament (August 1988). It is believed that some earlier historical audio tapes made by the ABC might have been retained by that organisation. Under section 13A of the *Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcast Act* the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings can order the ABC to record and preserve tapes.<sup>24</sup> *Unfortunately, most videotapes for the period August 1988-May 1990, except for those covering some historically significant events such as the Opening of Parliament, have*

*been erased and reused.* In excess of 3000 videotapes for the 1990-1992 period have been retained, the bulk of which are stored externally but not at an Australian Archives repository. Policy on their future retention is currently under discussion with a view to discarding the less important material. Those tapes regarded as having permanent value might eventually find their way to Australian Archives or the National Film and Sound Archive.<sup>25</sup>

The reporters' notebooks, the corrections of the 'pinks' and 'greens' by MPs, and the master or 'flat' (the update of the daily Hansard) are kept for twelve months and then destroyed. DPRS has been assured by Australian Archives that there is no need to retain 'working documents' of this nature. The Department has a long-term aim to eventually transfer the pre-1981 Hansard to the Parliamentary Data Base System (PDBS) so that the record of those proceedings will be accessible on-line. If this actually happens, parliamentary research will be greatly facilitated. In 1991 the new procedure of a 'chamber log' was developed and, among other things, it identifies the name of the Minister at the table and the occupant of the Chair. The retention of this log and its public access might assist future researchers but there is no plan to keep it permanently.<sup>26</sup>

Until recently the DPRS, being a small office, did not have a registry. Some *administrative* material has been transferred to Australian Archives, including records dating from 1928. The whereabouts of material prior to 1928 (that is, around the time of the transfer of Parliament from Melbourne) is unknown.<sup>27</sup>

**Department of the Senate:** The Senate first transferred *administrative* material to Australian Archives in February 1990. Apart from the personal files mentioned earlier it has also transferred other files relating to the arrangements for the Openings of Parliament, Royal Visits and so on. An officer from the Department has participated in a familiarisation course at Australian Archives and some guidance is taken from the advice in the General Disposal Authorities. There is an arrangement with the Senate Resources Centre to first refer to it material of a likely historical value.<sup>28</sup> Despite a comprehensive search in 1974 of the holdings of the Victorian Public Record Office, Victorian State Parliament, the State Library of Victoria and the La Trobe Library, no trace was found of many administrative records for the pre-1927 period.<sup>29</sup>

The transfer of the Senate committee secretariat from the old Hotel Canberra to East Block in approximately 1982 and its later transfer to the new Parliament House in 1988 prompted renewed consideration of Australian Archives as an appropriate storage facility for *committee* material, although there is prior evidence of involvement with Australian Archives in a Senate Committee Manual dated April 1976.<sup>30</sup> The transfer of committee material to Archives is now

undertaken as a matter of course at the completion of an inquiry and includes correspondence, transcripts, minutes, and even mailing lists. It includes 'all the administrative things that are inquiry-specific' and 'Generally, the one-off, hard to get material, e.g. a book from overseas, is included. Also, account is taken of the likelihood of the topic of the inquiry being resurrected in the not too distant future'. In the case of some material the committees in which it was generated failed to identify the status of the material despatched and therefore, subsequent requests for access will involve a re-examination of that material. In camera material (which does not necessarily encompass all material identified as 'confidential') from committees is not sent to Archives but is retained by the Table Office. The volume of material can vary; for example, the 1988-1990 'drugs in sport' inquiry generated twenty-five boxes of material for transfer. Access by the public to recent material is possible, even if it has been held for less than ten years (that is, the period mentioned in a 1980 Senate resolution dealing with the release of committee material). Committee material might be current material one day, archival material the next, and access sought that day or the following. Indeed, the writer has identified an Australian Archives agency number (CA 7366) for the holdings of material from a Senate Committee (on 'Community Standards') which was established as recently as 21 June 1991 and which, at the time of writing, is still pursuing its inquiry. According to one Parliamentary Officer, 'inquiries from researchers are increasing but not at a burdensome rate',<sup>31</sup> although this might change when researchers become aware of the very useful 159-page 'Register of Senate Committee Reports 1970-1990' and its updates.<sup>32</sup>

The Senate Table Office controls three document storage areas in the basement of Parliament House. They contain the original *Tabled Papers*, the Assent Acts, in camera committee evidence, and some duplicate printed materials and bound volumes. As evidence of the growth of material since 1901, the space occupied by the tabled papers for the first eighty years of the Senate is approximately equivalent to the space occupied by the tabled papers for the last decade. There are also some miscellaneous records such as the President's Visitors' Books and various Registers.<sup>33</sup>

**Department of the House of Representatives:** The equivalent descriptive term in the Representatives for the tabled papers of the Senate is *Original Votes*. They are claimed to be a more comprehensive series of records than the Senate *Tabled Papers*. Identification numbers are allocated to each item and comprise the Original Votes for the day or sitting and these are also listed on the pamphlet copy of the Votes and Proceedings filed with the Votes. Although not strictly a 'finding aid' (the Votes and Proceedings are also indexed by subject), this system highlights gaps caused by missing items. A similar system operates for the Senate Tabled Papers but the itemised pamphlet

Senate Journal is not filed with the Papers; it is kept as a *Master Journal* in bound volumes. An interesting addition to the retained House of Representatives documents that are not included with the retained Senate documents are the Deputy Clerk's Minutes, and these may be useful for the reconstruction of events in the Chamber.<sup>34</sup> A comment made by a Parliamentary Officer gave rise to the thought that the *form* of the record might, on occasion, have significance. He recounted the discovery of an historically significant Bill in the parliamentary records for the period of the Chifley Labor Government which, in contrast to the Bills printed by the Government Printer, was still in the original typed form. Did this indicate a degree of urgency about its drafting and presentation?<sup>35</sup>

The *committee* area of the House of Representatives has a *Manual of Committee Administrative Arrangements* which contain advice on the transfer of committee records to Archives. Committee staff include basic material similar to that included by Senate committees and also the rough minute books and a copy of any in camera evidence.<sup>36</sup> House of Representatives staff usually prepare material for transfer to Australian Archives at the completion of a committee reference or, in the case of general non-specific committee material, at the end of a Parliament. The volume of material varies: one committee attracted 3000 submissions during its lifetime. According to one officer, 'there has been a constant stream of people seeking access to non-published committee material', possibly because of the increased link-up with libraries through the National Library listing on ABN of the deposit copy of parliamentary committee material.<sup>37</sup>

The House of Representatives also provides the secretariat for the Joint Committee on ASIO. Section 92G(4) of the ASIO Act requires that Committee return materials with a 'national security classification' to the appropriate Department or agency 'as soon as possible after the members have examined them'. This is the only instance where some of the records of a parliamentary committee which are directly relevant to its inquiry and which might warrant transfer to archives, are deliberately excluded from what is retained. The Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority (NCA) operates in a similarly sensitive environment but it is not subject to the same statutory obligation. However, item (q) of the resolution listing its powers and proceedings obliges the committee to ensure that the NCA's operational methods and results 'be protected from disclosure where that would be against the public interest'.<sup>38</sup> The committee has yet to prepare any records for transfer to archives.<sup>39</sup> The secretariats of other joint committees follow the records practices of the Parliamentary Department responsible for the staffing of the committee.

It is believed that the *administrative* records of the Department have

survived relatively intact since 1901. Most of the administrative documentation for the House of Representatives is still retained in the building but, according to those interviewed and indications contained in the RINSE database, some material has been transferred to Australian Archives. One Parliamentary Officer recalls that some thirty years ago Jim Gibbney from the Commonwealth Archives Office was invited to survey the records of the House and was so impressed with the survival of such an early records system (and the cupboard in which it was housed) that he sought to take the entire system to the Archives Office for permanent display!<sup>40</sup>

**Joint House Department (JHD):** This area of the parliamentary administration has developed its own disposal authority (RDA — Records Disposal Authority — 603) in conjunction with Australian Archives and this was approved by the Presiding Officers in 1989. Records for the period 1901-1984 were boxed and sent to Archives for arrangement, from which some have now been returned for sentencing by JHD. Some material from this period has already been identified as warranting ‘RP status’ that is, to be retained permanently. A multiple numbering system for Joint House files operated until about 1982 and has now been replaced by an annual single number system. Apart from early copies of letterpress letters of intrinsic value, there are some historical items such as the original plans for the gardens for the provisional Parliament House. In 1990 approximately ten metres of files in the 1984 + period were destroyed, using the Archives’ General Disposal Schedules and the Joint House RDA. I am informed that no record of the departmental records destroyed prior to this episode has survived. In 1991 approximately ten metres of files in the 1901-1904 period were under ‘sentencing’ by JHD. These were found to be irrelevant to the Archives’ General Disposal Schedules and were being appraised under the Archives/JHD RDA 603.<sup>41</sup> JHD is concerned about the possibility of eventual public access to some of its records relating to parliamentarians. I believe that a substantial volume of Parliamentary Catering Service (PCS) records is being held in the non-archival external storage by the Department while the implications of the possible application of any regulations promulgated under s. 20 of the Archives Act are determined. Legal advice has been sought from the Attorney-General’s Department on aspects of the Archives Act and its possible application in the JHD context.<sup>42</sup>

**Department of the Parliamentary Library:** The Parliamentary Library has only limited material ‘in storage’ at Australian Archives, including some subject and country files from one of the legislative research groups. However, that is not to say that there is not other material at Australian Archives which rightly should be under the control of the Parliamentary Library operated as the ‘Commonwealth National Library’ exists. Following the division between the two bodies this

material went to the new National Library and might later have found its way to Archives through that route. This is where the language of the Archives Act '... in possession of ...' has some significance. It was under the separation provisions that the copy of *Magna Carta* that now forms an important feature of the public display in the new Parliament House was spirited out of the provisional Parliament House at two o'clock one morning, allegedly on the basis that its transfer required extreme care.

*Administrative* materials are routinely destroyed under the guidance of the Archives General Disposal Authorities. As computer systems have changed old material has tended to be destroyed. Large quantities of records of MPs' borrowing records have been destroyed. For example, if an historian wanted to identify the books borrowed by former Treasurer Sir Arthur Fadden in the period in which it was known that he was drafting the Budget, he would find such records no longer exist. Further, a staff member of the Parliamentary Library pointed out that in relation to *current* borrowing records, the picture would be distorted by the practice of staff borrowing in the name of the MP for whom they work. However, this distortion would be less applicable to the specific inquiries directed by MPs to the Legislative Research Service.

Library management is not making any bid for the establishment of a Parliamentary Archives under its control, one reason being that the dual nature of such a role might change its clients' current perception of the Library as a source of independent information that has an element of immediate and enduring confidentiality about it.<sup>43</sup>

It is relevant to note at this point that the **Parliament House Construction Authority (PHCA)**, which had overall responsibility for the building of the New Parliament House, sent twenty-seven reels of microfilm of the design drawings, perspective sketches, and 250 shelf metres of administrative files and 'a comprehensive photographic record of the project' to Australian Archives. According to its 1989-90 Annual Report, the PHCA 'decided in the public interest to waive the normal thirty-year ban on access to certain project records. These include the design record and the photographic collection. However, consistent with normal practice, there will be restricted access to security, commercial and personnel information'.<sup>44</sup> There are some interesting precedents in this episode. Were they records of the Parliament, records relating to Parliament or records about Parliament not 'in the possession of' a parliamentary department (cf s18 and 20(2) of the Archives Act)?

### Principles of treatment

The provision in the Archives Act for the making of regulations governing the application of the Act to records 'in the possession of' the

parliamentary departments has not yet been implemented. Draft regulations have been formulated; however, at the time of writing nothing has been made public. It is understood that these regulations will enable access by the public to most of the records along the lines of the access provisions for the records of government departments.<sup>45</sup>

Having regard to the legislative history of the Archives Act, the Standing Orders of both Houses, the nature of the records generated by the Parliament, their likely use by researchers and the relationship between the Parliament and the Executive, what are the principles which should influence the development of an appropriate policy for the treatment of the Parliament's archival records? Furthermore, can these principles be developed within the borders of respect for basic archival rules and the advancement of good parliamentary practice? The following tentative formulation of eight principles which encompass the writer's viewpoint might assist further debate:

1. The absolute control of the Parliament's records, particularly in regard to access, can never be surrendered to an agency which is ultimately under the control of the Executive.
2. The legislative coverage of the Parliament's archival material should be formulated in such a way that the vehicle for the enunciation of the *principles* of their custody, control, and access should be open to direct amendment by the Parliament.
3. The opportunity for access by the public to archival material should not be more restrictive than that which applies to public records.
4. Because of the primary evidential nature of many of the Parliament's records specialised disposal schedules should be developed.
5. Due to the accident of history in which some records have been 'frozen in time', particular care should be taken to identify any unique informational and historical values contained in these records before major destruction of records is authorised.
6. Records relating to the parliamentary officers and staff should receive the same treatment in regard to exemption from access as applies to the records of similar officers in the Public Service.
7. Because of the representative nature of parliamentarians and their surrender of a degree of personal privacy in choosing to seek election, they should not seek suppression of material which, while normally impinging on personal privacy, might assist in an evaluation of their role as an elected representative.
8. The primary considerations in determining a suitable location for the storage of the Parliament's archives should be their safe preservation, security and their physical availability for easy access.

## Conclusion

While the overall subject of the Parliament's records is in the melting pot, should not the opportunity be taken to regularise, encourage and coordinate the collection of politicians' personal papers, particularly those of former Prime Ministers, Party leaders, Ministers and significant individuals?<sup>46</sup> Studied together, with the records of the Parliament and the Executive, the historical dimension obtained would be even wider. At the very minimum this points to a geographic concentration of collections in Canberra, although not necessarily in the one institution.

Essential to the proper exploitation of the Parliament's archival records, both for the purpose of auditing the performance of our elected representatives and the writing of Australia's political history, is the ready availability of the printed records of Parliament; that is, the Parliamentary Papers series, the bound volumes of Bills, parliamentary committee reports, and so on. Could this point in the direction of a Parliamentary Information Office in Canberra similar to the one that operates at Westminster?

With the exception of Australia's copy of *Magna Carta* there is precious little parchment among the records of the Australian Parliament. There is no demand for the construction of archival calendars and the Evidence Act has pre-empted demands for transcripts (authenticated copies of formal documents).<sup>47</sup> Despite this lack of antiquity, our records are precious and unique to Australia as a nation. It is hoped that in the lead-up to the centenary of Federation the impetus will be found by the Government and the Parliament to arrive at appropriate answers to the basic questions of storage, disposal, regulation, control and access to parliamentary material.

## END NOTES

**Acknowledgement:** This article evolved from a 14 500 word research study initiated during participation in Dr Peter Biskup's 'Archives and Manuscripts' unit at the University of Canberra in 1991. Copies of the original study are available on application through the Managing Editor. I would like to thank the heads of the parliamentary departments for their cooperation in this research and the parliamentary officers who willingly agreed to be interviewed. Peter Biskup, Michael Piggott, H  l  ne Atrill and an anonymous referee provided useful comment and corrections on various drafts of the article. Comment on an earlier draft was also sought from Australian Archives but the offer was declined on the ground that the regulations dealing with parliamentary records were currently under official discussion. Needless to say, all errors belong to the writer.

1. Andrew Wilson, 'New South Wales Parliamentary Archives', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol 11, no 1, May 1983, pp. 29-37.
2. Personal communication, Robert Lawrie, NSW Parliamentary Archivist, 2 September 1991.
3. See Robert Lawrie, *Guide to the Archives of the New South Wales Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works 1888-1930*, New South Wales Parliamentary Archives, 1987 (Part 7). Robert Lawrie, *Guide to the Archives of the Legislative*

- Assembly of New South Wales*, New South Wales Parliamentary Archives, 1988 (Part 2). Robert Lawrie, *Guide to the Archives of the New South Wales Parliamentary Library*, New South Wales Parliamentary Archives, 1990 (Part 4). Robert Lawrie, *Guide to the Archives of the Legislative Council of New South Wales*, New South Wales Parliamentary Archives, 1991 (Part 3).
4. See, for example, *List of Holdings*, Public Record Office, Melbourne 1984, which includes a series of original papers of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council from 1856 to 1927 (Assembly) and 1972 (Council).
  5. See, for example, Gunnel Bohman, 'The Library of Parliament in Sweden' (in English), *Tidskrift för Dokumentation*, Årg. vol 34, no 4, 1978, pp. 55-58. Bengt Alexanderson, 'The Riksdag Library in new premises' (article not sighted, Library and Information Sciences Abstracts, LISA, only), *Nordisk Tidskrift För Bok Och Biblioteksvaen*, vol 73, no 2, 1986, pp. 45-53. 'The Parliamentary Research Services of the German Bundestag', *International Journal of Law Libraries*, vol 4, no 1, March 1976, pp. 37-59. Gunther Weller, 'The Archive of the West German Federal Parliament' (article not sighted, LISA abstract only), *Der Archivar*, vol 38, no 1, February 1985, pp. 79-88. Eckhardt Franz, 'The German Society of Archivists' (article not sighted, LISA abstract only), *Der Archivar*, vol 37, no 3, July 1984, pp. 455-460. 'Library of Parliament Helsinki: a survey of its history and activities' (article not sighted, LISA abstract only), *Liber News Sheet*, no 12, 1984, pp. 40-43.
  6. Terry Cook and Glenn T. Wright, *Historical Records of the Government of Canada*, Public Archives, Ottawa, Canada, 1981, pp. 15-16. See also Carman V. Carroll, 'Parliamentarians and the Public Archives', *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, vol 7, no 2, Summer 1984, pp. 10-15.
  7. Robert W. Coren et al., *Guide to the Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives*, National Archives and Records Administration, 1989. S. Doc 100-42 (CIS microfiche S920-3). Charles E. Schamel et al., *Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives*, National Archives and Records Administration, January 1989. Document No. 100-245 (CIS microfiche H920-5).
  8. H. S. Cobb, 'The care of parliamentary records at Westminster', *The Parliamentarian*, vol. LXVIII, no 3, July 1986, pp. 104-5.
  9. Maurice Bond, 'Records of Parliament at Westminster', *The Parliamentarian*, vol LIII, no 1, January 1972, pp. 15-16. For further information on the petition see pages 213-215 of an article about the WA secession movement by Christopher W. Beasant, 'Two Nations, Two Destinies: . . .' *Western Australian Law Review*, vol 20, no 2, 1990, pp. 209-310.
  10. *W. M. Hughes Collection*, MS 1538, National Library of Australia. The false teeth are identified as item A40001911 on the back of the Manuscript Accession Sheet but are not listed in the typed Guide. They are to be found, together with an Acoustican hearing aid, in one of the four boxes comprising Series 50.
  11. *Ley Family Papers*, MS 6149, National Library of Australia. 'The collection includes a number of interesting objects, e.g. an urn which is reputed to contain Thomas Ley's ashes . . .' (Scope and content note). The brass urn is identified in Appendix II of the Guide as being in Box 1 of Series 1. There is a brief reference to his career in *Servant of the House*, Frank C. Green, Heinemann, 1969, pp. 63-4.
  12. Richard A. Baker, 'Managing Congressional Papers: A View of the Senate', *The American Archivist*, vol 41, no 3, July 1978, pp. 291-6, at page 293.
  13. Interview with Elton Humphery, Principal Parliamentary Officer (Projects), Table Office, Senate, 22 May 1991. Mr Humphery made this comment when referring to the 'information stock copies' retained in the basement. These include multiple copies of Parliamentary papers, etc.
  14. Interview with Jenny Bodman, Registry Staff, Senate, 23 May 1991.
  15. Inquiry by writer at Australian Archives search room, 17 July 1992.

16. Access to Official Information, Ministerial Statement, Senator Durack, *Senate Hansard*, 9 June 1978, pp. 2689-2693.
17. *Senate Hansard*, 2 June 1983, p. 1184.
18. Joint interview with Ian Cochran, Clerk Assistant (Procedure), House of Representatives, and Elton Humphery, Principal Parliamentary Officer (Projects), Table Office, Senate, 22 May 1991.
19. G. S. Reid and Martyn Forrest, *Australia's Commonwealth Parliament 1901-1988, Ten Perspectives* Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1989.
20. Gordon Reid, 'Opening Address', Pam Mathews, ed, *The National and International Environment*. Proceedings of the 6th Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of Archivists, Perth, 21-25 April 1987. ASA Inc., Perth 1988, pp. 4-8. The director of the transportation arrangements for the move from Melbourne was Lieutenant Colonel Farr. Farr also handled the transfer of the Library to Canberra which is described in Chapters 19 and 20 of *The Commonwealth Parliamentary Library 1901-1927 and the Origins of the National Library of Australia* by Andrew and Margaret Osborn, Department of the Parliamentary Library in association with the National Library of Australia. 1989. There is a biographical note on Farr at page 230.
21. 'All I can say is that during my 35 years service with the Department of the House of Representatives I have never at any stage been conscious of a significant hole in the records of the Department.' Letter dated 11 June 1991 to the author from I. C. Cochran, Clerk Assistant (Procedure), House of Representatives.
22. Interview with Anne Lynch, Deputy Clerk of the Senate, 5 June 1991.
23. Interview with Malcolm McGregor, Assistant Chief Reporter, Senate Branch, Hansard, DPRS, 28 May 1991. For the UK see: H. S. Cobb, ed., *Parliamentary History, Libraries and Records. Essays presented to Maurice Bond*, House of Lords Record Office, London, 1981, p. iv.
24. McGregor interview, op. cit.
25. Information about video tapes obtained during interview with Harold-Jon Hall, Manager, Sound and Vision Office, DPRS, 15 May 1992.
26. Information about reporters' notebooks, PDBS and 'chamber log', obtained during McGregor interview, op. cit.
27. Information from Bob Kemp, Parliamentary Officer, DPRS, 30 May 1991. However, the RINSE database contains an agency series (CA 695) for the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff with a date range from 1 April 1901 which, of course, might include only one item dated 1901 and the remainder post-1927. Interestingly, the Senate did not initiate normal registry practices until 29 July 1991, although it did have a registry for some years prior to that date. See 'Changed Registry Practices', *Information Bulletin*, Department of the Senate, 29 July 1991.
28. Bodman interview, op. cit.
29. Lynch interview, op. cit. However, as noted above for the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff, there is also an Australian Archives agency series (CA 691) for the Department of the State with a date range from 1 January 1901.
30. Page 51, *Committee Manual*, Australian Senate, April 1976.
31. Most of the information about Senate committee practices, including the quoted comments, was obtained during an interview with Peter Keele, Senior Clerk of Committees, Senate, 30 May 1991.
32. *Register of Senate Committee Reports (1970-1990)*, Senate Committee Office, Parliament House, Canberra 1991.
33. Humphery interview, op. cit. and supervised inspection of Senate document storage areas.
34. Most of the information concerning Representatives' practices outlined to this point were obtained during an interview with Peter Mason, Director, Bills and

Papers Office, House of Representatives, 24 May 1991, and supervised inspection of House of Representatives document storage areas.

35. Mentioned by Ian Cochran during Cochran/Humphery interview, *op. cit.* The Bill is the *National Emergency Coal Strike Bill* which was introduced on 29 June 1949. The signed copy presented by the Minister (Dr Evatt) and retained in the Bills Volume of the House of Representatives is in a typed form. (See page 4069 ff. House of Representatives, *Bills Introduced*, Sessions 1946-47-48 and 1948-49, Volume 3). The later official copies contained in the records of the House of Representatives were typeset by the Government Printer.
36. The inclusion of in-camera evidence differs from Senate practice. See para. 119, page 37, *Manual of Committee Administrative Arrangements*, Second edition, 1987, House of Representatives (currently being reviewed); and para 4.13, page 29, *Committee Office Manual*, Australian Senate, May 1990.
37. Most of the information about the Representatives' committee practices was obtained during an interview with Lindy Smith, Acting Assistant Secretary (Committees), House of Representatives, 29 May 1991.
38. *House Hansard*, 9 May 1990, page 159.
39. Information from Andrew Snedden, Secretary of the Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority, 15 May 1992.
40. Mentioned by Ian Cochran during Cochran/Humphery interview, *op. cit.* There do not appear to be any notes about this visit in the likely relevant boxes (4, 5, 16, 30) in the *Gibbney Papers* (MS 3131) held by the National Library of Australia.
41. Most of the information in the section about JHD was obtained from Cheryl Griffiths, Manager Office Services, Joint House Department, 4 June 1991.
42. A request was made to study this advice but permission was not granted.
43. Most of the information about the Parliamentary Library was obtained during an interview with John Brudenall, Deputy Parliamentary Librarian, 4 June 1991.
44. *Annual Report 1989-1990*, Parliament House Construction Authority, page 16.
45. Cochran/Humphery interview, *op. cit.*
46. The Association of Former Members of the Parliament of Australia has suggested to the relevant Minister that the old Parliament House be used as a location for the exhibition of and access to parliamentary and political documents, artefacts, photographs, and memorabilia. In his reply, the Minister for Administrative Services, Senator Bolkus, appeared to steer the Association in the direction of a 'Parliamentary Documentation Centre of the National Library'. See correspondence between the Association and the Minister reproduced in the Association's newsletter *Federal Gallery*, March 1992, no. 9, pp. 20-1. The Australian Parliamentary Library has recently produced a valuable 103-page Guide to the Location of Federal Parliamentarians' Personal Papers and Oral History Interviews: *Parliamentary Voices in History*, compiled by Carmel Frances McInerny, AGPS, Canberra, 1991.
47. Section 7 of the *Evidence Act 1905* comprehensively permits copies of parliamentary records to be admitted as evidence in all courts if they purport to be printed by the Government Printer.