

Citation for Distinguished Achievement Award

At the Society's Annual General Meeting held in Hobart on 2 September 2001 Graeme Powell was recognised as a Distinguished Achiever of the Society.

The Australian Society of Archivists recognises as Distinguished Achievers individual members of the Society who:

- have achieved distinction within the Society and the profession;
- were responsible for a development or achievement in at least one of the following fields – on behalf of the Society, in research, writing or teaching or service to archival development; and
- have appropriate education or training in fields of the Society's interest.

The Council of the Society invites this Annual General Meeting to acclaim Graeme Powell as a Distinguished Achiever of the Society on the following grounds.

Graeme is recognised at Branch and Council level for his achievements as a result of his long involvement with the Society. A member of the Society since 1979, he has participated in the Society at a number of levels, including as Convenor of the ACT Branch in 1991–92. Graeme has also been a member of a range of committees, either within the ASA or the profession, including:

- the Editorial Board of *Archives and Manuscripts*
- the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Archives
- the editorial committee for the ASA ACT Branch publication, *Debates and Discourses*.

In the area of research and writing Graeme has influenced the debate in the area of Australian private recordkeeping, especially in the collecting, preservation, use and interpretation of this vitally important component of our archival heritage and documentary research infrastructure. These writings have made an enormous contribution to our improved awareness of these archival sources and our understanding of the issues and strategies associated with their management and use. Graeme is one of Australia's leading and most experienced and knowledgeable practitioners in the private records field and has been a tireless advocate of the cause of private records.

Graeme's contribution to archival theory commenced with the paper he wrote for *Archives and Manuscripts* in 1976, 'Archival principles and the treatment of personal papers'. This article provoked an illuminating and instructive debate within the profession – a decade-long debate that contributed much to our professional understanding of the issues associated with the nature of personal records and their archival management.

Graeme's contributions to the archival discourse, however, are not limited to this debate. He has written extensively on private recordkeeping matters since then and has been a regular contributor of book reviews to *Archives and Manuscripts*. His writing is characterised by his attention to detail, graciousness of prose and his ability to conduct assiduous research and to report those research findings in a clear, stimulating and compelling manner.

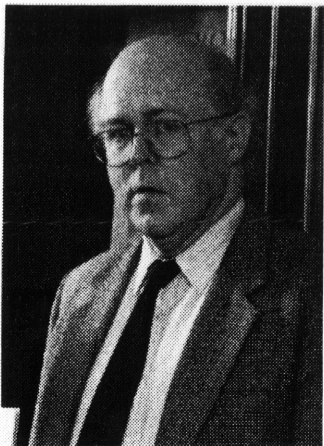
Over the course of his career as a private records archivist Graeme has made an outstanding contribution to the first three objects of the ASA:

- (i) to promote by all available means the preservation and care of archives;
- (ii) to establish and maintain communication and co-operation amongst archivists, the institutions in which they work and the users of archives; and
- (iii) to establish and maintain standards of archival practice and administration and of professional conduct amongst archivists.

His collection building efforts and associated accessibility initiatives pursued in his capacity as Manuscript Librarian at the National Library of Australia

are of immense importance. His efforts have helped build a varied, extensive and internationally renowned collection of significant private records at the National Library. His leadership in this area has also elevated the National Library's handling and intellectual control of these holdings to new levels of professionalism and excellence.

His nine years as Australian Joint Copying Project Officer in London were responsible for the identification, description and microfilming of an enormous body of archival sources from a large number of repositories relating to Australian history and Australia's changing relationship with



Courtesy of the National Library of Australia

the United Kingdom. The availability of this extensive run of microfilm to scholars all over Australia is a great boon to researchers who otherwise would have to travel to Britain to view the records in question or, more likely, would have been completely unaware of the very existence of those records.

Graeme has always been a most supportive and encouraging mentor of new archivists entering the private records field. He has an admirable ability to encourage new professionals to strive for high levels of professionalism in their daily work and to gain an appreciation of the history and traditions of our endeavour. The private records field of endeavour in this country would be inestimably worse off without the dedication and service of Graeme Powell.

Colleagues, I invite you to join the Council of the Society in recognising and congratulating Graeme Powell as a Distinguished Achiever of the Australian Society of Archivists.

Gavan McCarthy