

Editorial

This is the first issue of *Archives and Manuscripts* as a fully refereed journal, following the appointment of an Editorial Board to oversee the refereeing of articles submitted. The membership of the Board and an outline of the process are included in the endpages of this issue. For the Editor it means a welcome resource of nine experienced and knowledgeable archivists to provide advice and suggest articles, authors and referees. For the Society, it allows recognition of *Archives and Manuscripts* on the Register of Refereed Journals maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training and for contributors, acknowledgement of their work for higher education research funding.

In this issue, Chris Hurley tackles the question 'What should the recordkeeper do?' in the light of three recent cases of document destruction (Heiner, Enron and McCabe). Stephen Mutch shares his personal experience as an advocate for the retention of the census, and Alan Ventress reflects on his work on the New South Wales Centenary of Federation Committee to assess the impact of the celebrations on archives in Australia.

There are four case studies: on the implementation of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) by Diana Dack, Carmel McInerny and Toby Burrows of the National Library, Australian War Memorial and the Guide to Australian Literary Manuscripts respectively, and the fourth by Catherine Nicholls and Jon-Paul Williams relating to the appraisal of websites.

In his review article on José Saramago's *All the Names*, Brien Brothman challenges our disposal practices, including the 'self-selected' retention applied in the case of the 2001 census:

How do we deal with large numbers of files, that is, of people, of individuals? In the age of systems, functional analysis, macro appraisal, and sampling methodologies what has happened to the individual human being in our calculations on behalf of the state? ... What ethics, what religious beliefs, cultural assumptions, and reasons of state underlie our handling of the government's files on the living and the dead?

Ewan Maidment has gathered an impressive selection of International Notes for this issue: apart from the news that the Western Pacific Archive has finally been relocated in the Pacific to the University of Auckland, there is a fascinating account by Maria Esther Martinez about setting up the East Timor National Archives, while Australian Cheryl Stanborough provides a personal account of the start of her two-year appointment at the Yap State Archives.

Maggie Shapley