

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FOUNDED 1974

P.O. Box 203, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

OCTOBER, 1975

NEXT MEETING (This will be the last meeting for the year.)

Date: Friday, November 7th, 1975.

Time: 8.00 p.m.

Place: State Library Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, North Tce., Adelaide.

Subject: "South Australian Journalism in the mid-19th century"

Speaker: Mr. Deane Manuel, Murray Park College of Advanced Education.

This was a colourful period in South Australia's history, and Mr. Manuel's researches have indicated the liveliness of its journalism. This promises to be a highly interesting evening.

## PROCEEDINGS OF SEMINAR ON "RESCUING HISTORY"

These are at present being published by the Department of Adult Education, University of Adelaide. When printed, they will be available for purchase from that Department (situated just off the main driveway of the University, and marked by a sign).

## ORAL HISTORY

Members may be interested to know that the proceedings of the First Oral History Conference, held at La Trobe University in March 1974, have been published. They have been edited by Joan Campbell. The current situation in Australia, overseas projects, the problems associated with the techniques of interviewing, and the value of oral history, are just some of the interesting topics covered in these papers.

## NEWSLETTER NEWS

The Editor is grateful for the helpful suggestions put forward by Miss Thelma Elliot and Miss G. Caragher in relation to cutting Newsletter costs. The best solution would seem to be distribution of the Newsletter at monthly meetings. Those unable to attend would, of course, receive their copies by mail. This will be the last Newsletter for 1975.

## FOLLOWING UP CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the June conference, the Council has been following up recommendations made at the workshop sessions. In particular, the Secretary has written to the State Librarian about the facilities for researches in the Newspaper Reading Room and the Archives.

In his reply, the State Librarian pointed out the financial, staffing and

architectural problems involved in increasing hours of opening, and accommodation for researchers. The Council will consider this matter further.

FINANCING THE JOURNAL

It is most pleasing to report that the State Government has been sympathetic to further representations from the Council of the Society, and has decided to make a grant of \$500 to the Society. The amount will be reviewed annually. The Council is very grateful for this support.

An approach to the Federal Government for a grant, as received by other Historical Societies, is under way. This should make publication of the Historical Society's Journal a little easier.

EXTRACTS FROM SOME 19TH CENTURY CORRESPONDENCE (supplied by the State Archivist,  
Mr. John Love.)

Members who attended our Seminar, "Rescuing History", will recall the interest and concern expressed about the preservation of local documents. These interesting extracts reveal just how much insight belonged to Mr. H. Jenkinson, who, just thirty years after the establishment of a South Australian settlement, pointed out the value of preserving our records for posterity. (Ed.)

Adelaide,  
Sunday Jan'y 23rd. 1870.

Dearest Eliza,

It was with much pleasure that I received your letter and learnt that you are well and enjoying living in London. We are all well, except that Mama finds the summer heat very exhausting ...

Yesterday Papa brought a Visitor to dinner, a charming young gentleman who kept us entertained with his elegant conversation. Mr. Jenkinson - for that is his name - has been studying at Oxford and is travelling in the Colonies to broaden his knowledge. He says that in one or two thousand years schollars will want to know how we lived, and will read documents that are being written now, just as schollars of today study parchments from Ancient Egypt, even your own letter may be treasured in some great Library. Mama says it is only foolish talks as we already know how we live, but he is a very charming gentleman ...

I must close as it is growing dark and the musqiottos are very troublesome at this hour, with love to Uncle & Aunt & Emma & Bertie & Bertha & accept much love from your affectionate cousin.

Millicent Browne

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The Editor,

Sir,

Words do not express the dismay - nay outrage - with which I read your account of last night's meeting of the Philosophical Society. Do you not recall, Sir, that, in the infancy of the Society, some fifteen years since, much profitless time, and many empty words, were expended, or rather wasted, on such novelties as decimal and duodecimal currency, and weights, and measures, and the like? Was not this sufficient folly, but what they must,

now, pay heed to such a lecture as of yesternight? By all means, let us have an University, and let it train our sons in those principles of Religion, and Education, and the Useful Arts, as will conduce to the prosperity, and moral rectitude of the Colony, but parchments from Egypt - Heaven forbid! Why, the man will, before you know it, be saying that the Books of Account, of the mercantile houses, of this very City, will be laid bare to the scrutiny of some millennial archeologist. Who, pray, is this Mr. Jenkinson? Is he to be numbered among those, who swell the ranks of Academia, only to expend the family fortune in travel? Make them work, I say. Let them stand on the shop floor, and earn an honest pound.

I am, Sir, etc.

Pro Bono Publico

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The Editor,

Sir,

The response, as shown in your columns, to my recent lecture to the Adelaide Philosophical Society has been most gratifying. I welcome alike those who support my thesis and those who oppose it. The free interplay of active minds is essential to the propagation of knowledge, and long may it continue. What then of the active minds of the past? Do they not live in their writings? Are these unworthy of our attention? The study of ancient Egypt will enrich our knowledge, and so will the study of South Australia. But why wait for archeologists? Not in the Millennium, but in half a century, there will be in this City a repository where the archives of the Government will be stored and used, and into it also will be gathered records given by business houses, societies, families and individual citizens. Pro Bono Publico is right. The books of account will be treasured, and so will letters, diaries, maps, photographs and many others. His prediction will be fulfilled beyond his wildest nightmares, and his grandchildren will be proud to know that the records of his business and his family have been deemed worthy of preservation.

I am, Sir, etc.

H. Jenkinson

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Government House,  
7 March 1870

The Honble.  
The Chief Secretary,

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency to inform you that His Excellency has predicted that in the year 1925 the Legislature of this Colony will pass an Act to Regulate the Disposal of Public Documents. The provisions of this Act will apply to all kinds of records whatsoever of any office of Her Majesty's Civil Service in this Colony, and of any municipal corporation or district council. His Excellency desires you to bring this to the notice of your colleagues in the House, so that the matter will not appear to be rushed through with unseemly haste.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your obt. svt.

(Signature illegible)

Private Secy.

THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES AND PRECINCTS REGIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION, whose broad aim is the conservation and preservation of the hills area, will be holding a Seminar, in conjunction with The Department of Adult Education, to discuss various aspects of hills conservation. The Seminar will take place on the following dates: October 17th, October 19th, October 24th, November 13th, November 16th, November 20th. Papers, films, discussion and field trips are planned for the programme, as well as addresses from M.P.'s and Councillors.

Items which will be of special interest to S.A. Historical Society members will be:

Thursday, 13th November: (Flentje Theatre, University of Adelaide)

7.45 p.m. Film: "Making of an English Landscape". (54 mins., narrated by Dr. W.G. Hoskins, Reader in Economic History, University of Oxford.)

9.45 p.m. Paper: "Preservation of Landscape and Traditions in Italy", Dr. G.S. Laurence.

10.15 p.m. Paper: "Historical Heritages to Preserve in the Mt. Lofty Ranges and Precincts", Ian Harmstorf.

The programme is wide in coverage, and appears to be an extremely valuable and stimulating one. Members should contact the undermentioned for full details of the Seminar.

Mt. Lofty Ranges and Precincts Regional Park Association,  
Box 66, P.O., McLaren Vale 5171. (Telephone 3838784)

or

Department of Adult Education,  
University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000. (Telephone 2234333,  
extension 2238)

#### HANG ON TO HISTORY

In the centenary year of the Education Department, it is appropriate to look back at some of the beginnings of education in this State and, before it is too late to take action, consider ways in which we might preserve some of the buildings that were the genesis of the system of education we have today.

The present Adelaide Girls High School is a prime historic site in this context. There have been some internal and some external changes to these buildings, but substantially they are the buildings which housed some astonishing innovations in the period 1860-1910.

The present Western Building was the first Model School to be erected in this State. It had two main purposes, one being to give an economic and practical model that could be used for the construction of other schools, the second being to provide accommodation for, and draw attention to, the need for an Infant School separate from the other departments of the school.

The site was acquired by the Education Board in 1860. The one acre block cost £267.12.6. The infant school constructed there measured 40 feet x 20 feet and was 25 feet high at the centre of the ceiling. It contained a gallery capable of seating 100 children. Each room was provided with a hat and cloak room and a large lavatory, says the Report of the Board of Education in 1873.

The Central Building is the site of the first Teachers Training School which opened without ceremony on 1st June 1876. The Education Board had obtained permission from Parliament to erect this school alongside the model schools.

This school was intended to remedy "the wretched state of things which at present exist, for teaching is the last refuge for those who have failed in all other callings instead of being the aim of those whose nature and training adapted them for it."

This is the way that the members for Burra saw it when speaking at the first session of the Eighth Parliament in 1875.

The ten rooms and Lecture Hall cost £3,450. £100 was provided for books. Mr. L.G. Madley was the first principal and Mr. H.A. Curtis was his assistant. Four professors from the University conducted lectures there. Mr. W.G. Torr was head of the practising school which contained 100 children assembled in the fashions of a model country school.

So developed one of the first fruits of the labours of the indefatigable Hartley.

The Eastern Building was the permanent home for the Advanced School for Girls. This building was erected in 1891, an "admirable building, built and equipped at a cost of £2,683 to offer accommodation for 200 pupils."

The first general secondary school, Adelaide High School, in 1908, incorporated a number of students from the Girls School and the pupil-teachers school and was the first general provision made for free secondary education.

This school was opened by the Hon. T. Price, the Premier of South Australia at a ceremony in Victoria Hall, 24th September, 1908. The Centre Building contains the memorial to Price and the Hall that bears his name is in the upper floor. So here, too, is a piece of history remembering the man who laid the political foundations for public secondary education in this State.

There are some interesting features in these activities that can bear underlining. Firstly, the emphasis on infant education as a separate and necessary foundation for future education. Secondly, the early provision made to enable girls to matriculate for the newly opened University and take advantage of the opportunity to graduate at that institution which, in itself, was an unusual and unique opportunity. Thirdly, the involvement of the University in the training of teachers for the primary schools.

While we take these as self-evident today, they were activities that did not have wide currency in many parts of the world at that time and may well be quite particular to this State.

The present building must be retained. There is nowhere else in Australia where there is such an existing record of the beginning of education, happily in such a compact and accessible situation. Plans of most of the original buildings are still available. Perhaps a continuing programme of restoration could be instituted.

The buildings should act as an educational archives, and an antiquarian museum of the bric-a-brac of educational technology over the years.

It is trendy to think of such a restored building as being a tourist attraction - which it undoubtedly would be. But it should be principally thought of as a re-creation of the past and a store house of significant beginnings into which children of the present and future could dip.

I could imagine a day spent in such an atmosphere, (dress up if you like), using the curriculum and methods of an earlier day would be a suitable, practical, refreshing and stimulating exercise for social studies groups in primary schools.

But it is not necessary to think of such a prime site being a location for these kinds of activities alone.

Judicious planning could find room for one or more of a number of activities that would concern teachers, teaching or the department. Why not a Teachers' Centre? I think that my staff would be happy to work there - after all, a swimming pool would be a rather unusual adjunct to an office.

Perhaps people interested in history might like to include these buildings in their tours of historic places. Perhaps they do already. They might even care to produce short accounts that could be distributed in leaflet form to a number of places - the schools, the Tourist Bureau (as helps in the city walk tours), or they might look to more serious studies. There is a treasure trove here waiting to be re-discovered.

If they are interested, they might start from the same position as I did in writing this note - the collection of seminar papers produced at Western Teachers College in 1968 and published under the (misleading) title of "Developments in Education in South Australia". Here is a brief record of "first things" in education in this State. There are copies in libraries and at Torrens College of Advanced Education.

D. Anders,  
Director of S.A. Council for  
Educational Planning and Research.

#### RENOVATIONS OF OLD HOUSES AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Additions to old buildings which are not in keeping with the period or material of the original, and the all too frequent procedure of repairing old houses by cement rendering over the original stonework, are unfortunate practices which our Society, along with other interested bodies, deplors. It has been pointed out that many people are unsure of how to approach the problem of restoration. The undermentioned are people able to give advice on restoring old homes and buildings in keeping with their original character.

Mr. Stuart Game - Telephone 79 5797 (home)  
87 5712 (work)

Chairman of the Early Buildings Committee of the National Trust.

Mr. Geoff Oliver

Senior Geologist, S.A. Dept. of Mines, Telephone 223 0461.  
Mr. Oliver can provide advice on where to obtain original stone for restoration purposes.

WOMEN IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Members may be interested to hear about a project, financed by the International Women's Year Committee; the aim of this project is to begin the documentation, collection and assessment of research material and resources relevant to the study of women in Australian society, past and present.

The project organizers will welcome any information that could be of use, e.g. information about collections of records, family papers, or diaries. Women in some country areas have formed groups to talk about their experiences during the war years or during the depression and to "tape" these discussions. The organizers would like very much to hear from such groups. Please contact Kay Daniels or Diana Ward, P.O. Box 1812, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601

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An interesting new book is B. Kingston: My Wife, My Daughter and Poor Mary Ann (Nelson). The author writes:

"My main concern was to investigate the mass of women, the women who did not succeed in entering the history books, the women who played no part in shaping political institutions, whose only contribution to the economy was as consumers, who thought no great thoughts, etc."

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The State Library is not being backward in this area. They have just published Catherine Helen Spence's Autobiography in their facsimile programme. This is available at the Sales Office.

A bibliography Australian Women 1952 - March 1975 is available, free of charge, from the reference desk.

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NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. J. Littler  
Mrs. C.A. Cook  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Williams  
Mr. A.R. Phillips  
Mr. A. Mortimer  
Miss V.J. O'Neill  
Mrs. S. Blanchard

"Ettrick", Box 67, Woodside 5244  
"Bexley", P.O. Box 29, Keith 5267  
16 Sandery Avenue, Seacombe Gardens 5047  
Cudlee Creek 5232  
409 Military Road, Largs Bay 5016  
51 Nelson Street, South Plympton 5038  
26 Park Avenue, Rosslyn Park 5072

LIST OF BRANCHES AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL TRUST AS AT 1/8/1975*(continued from last Newsletter)*

<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
<u>TATIARA</u>	Mr. J.C. Guy, McLeod St., BORDERTOWN Phone 087 521717	Mrs. J. Steer, Box 146, BORDERTOWN 5268 Phone 087 585036	Mr. A.B. Hinge, Box 282, BORDERTOWN 5268
<u>WALLAROO</u>	Mr. Colin Boase, 33 Owen Tce., WALLAROO 5556 Phone 088 232366	Mrs. R.A. Goodier, 2 Sholl St., WALLAROO 5556 Phone 088 232480	Mrs. M. Appleton, 6 Santo Tce., WALLAROO 5556
<u>WHYALLA</u>	Mr. D.A. Nicholson, Box 330, P.O., WHYALLA 5600 Phone Wizzo 1	Mrs. A.E. Reid, Box 474, P.O., WHYALLA PLAYFORD 5600	
<u>WILLUNGA</u>	Mr. W.J. Harvey, Main Road, WILLUNGA 5172 Phone 085 562121	Mrs. C.L. Price, St. James St., WILLUNGA 5172 Phone 085 562081	Mrs. R. Goldfinch, St. Peter's Tce., WILLUNGA 5172 Phone 085 562241