

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FOUNDED 1974

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

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NEWSLETTER No. 12

JANUARY, 1977.

NEXT MEETINGS

FEBRUARY

Date: Friday, February 4th
Place: N.B. Rare Book Room, State Library of South Aust.
(Enter the Library by its main entrance off North Terrace, and proceed towards the Reference section).
Time: 8 p.m.
Speaker: Miss V. Hankel
Subject: The rare books of the library.

Miss Hankel is the State Reference Librarian; the talk she has arranged and the exhibits are sure to be of great interest to Society members.

As the first meeting of 1977, we hope that this gathering will be a rather informal one, with plenty of opportunity for members to meet one another. Cheese and sherry will be served during the evening.

Make sure you come to the meeting and give the Society a good start for the coming year.

MARCH

Date: Friday, March 4th
Place: State Library Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, North Terrace.
Time: 8 p.m.
Speaker: Ms. Margaret Allen
Subject: The old and new in Salisbury in World War II.

Ms. Allen is in the History Department at Salisbury C.A.E. She has completed post graduate work on the Salisbury area. Her talk should be relevant to anyone who is interested in the very significant fact in South Australian history, of the expansion of Adelaide and the absorption of its surrounding country towns into suburbs.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1977

Nominations are called for the following positions for the 1977/78 term of office:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,
and 8 Committee members.

Nominations should be sent by 19th February 1977, to the Secretary, Historical Society of South Australia, Box 203 P.O., North Adelaide, S.A. 5006.

The election results should be known by April. Please treat this matter as urgent, and requiring your attention.

Nominations should be signed by both the proposer and the nominee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. will be on April 1st this year at the fourth regular meeting for the year.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

At its October meeting the Council agreed to a proposal that the Newsletter could profitably contain a "Letters to the Editor" section. From the next Newsletter, as Editor, I would like to institute this. The section could contain a lively exchange of views between members about the activities of the Society, comments on the Journal and Newsletter, as well as comment on any of the meetings and excursions the Society holds. Therefore, if there is something you would like to contribute, write to the Newsletter Editor, S.A. Historical Society, 15a Gray Street, Norwood, S.A. 5067.

OTHER NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

A number of members have responded to the appeal for short-medium articles for the Newsletter. Thank you very much. If they are not published immediately, it will be for reasons of space not being immediately available in the current Newsletter (N.B. S.E.P. and N.R.). Unfortunately, not many members have responded to the appeal for help in preparing the Newsletter for postage. If you can help one evening every couple of months, please ring 42 5870 and let me know. Many thanks to those members who helped in 1976. (Craig Campbell, ed.)

AUSTRALIAN PICTURE SURVEY

The Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne, has begun work for the Australian Heritage Commission on a survey of Australian paintings, prints and photographs that depict aspects of Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The Australian Picture Survey was launched at the Library Association of Australia's new headquarters in Sydney on September 26. Since that date the illustrated questionnaire brochure has been mailed to several thousand organisations throughout Australia who are believed to have collections of paintings, prints and photographs. Organisations which have been canvassed for information for the Australian Picture Survey range from government departments, private firms, industry, libraries, museums, archives, societies and conservation groups, as well as the private individual as collector.

Pictorial materials are valuable tools of research. The old saying 'one picture is worth a thousand words' is particularly apt when one is seeking information on how a building or streetscape looked fifty or a hundred years ago, or in estimating the change to a landscape over time or in the future. Details that cannot be described easily in words are clearly recorded in photographs, paintings or prints. Both contemporary artistic and photographic work and early historical works are being surveyed. A subject listing of the pictorial material will be developed from the survey questionnaire responses. The subject listing will assist the work of the Australian Heritage Commission and all Federal and State Government Departments and agencies especially in the fields of planning and conservation.

In addition, these pictorial records of Australia's national heritage will be made known to all interested persons through the publication of the Survey in a 'Directory of Australian Pictorial Material'. The Directory is expected to be published early in 1977, although it is hoped the Survey will be completed by late in 1976.

The Centre for Environmental Studies welcomes enquiries about the Australian Picture Survey and is extremely anxious to be alerted to organisations or individuals with picture collections. Copies of the brochure questionnaire are available from the Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic. 3052.

(The Centre has written to our Society asking if we would notify our "affiliated groups and members of the Australian Picture Survey." They look forward to receiving names and addresses of potential contributors.)

HISTORIC ADELAIDE AND SUBURBAN CHURCHES

Dr. Arnold Hunt led this, the last of the Society's field trips for 1976 last November. Those members who were unable to attend may be interested in these notes on just one of the churches visited. The church in question is Kent Town Methodist. The notes were prepared by Dr. Hunt.

1. The church (apart from the transepts) was opened on August 6, 1865. The transepts were added 3 years later and the Hall on the northern side was built in 1875.
2. The architect was Edmund Wright.
3. Kent Town in the 1860's and later contained the residences of a number of well-to-do businessmen. Some of the names associated with the establishment of the church, which still survive in the business world, are F.H. Faulding, G.P. Harris (of Harris Scarfe), Sir John Colton, William Rhodes and T.G. Waterhouse.

4. Kent Town was a Wesleyan Methodist Church and reflects the prosperity of this branch of Methodism. Other examples of ex-Wesleyan churches are at Payneham Road, Marden, Woodville Road, Woodville and Young Street, Parkside. The other Methodist groups (Bible Christian and Primitive Methodists) were generally poorer and built smaller churches. Methodist Union came in 1900.
5. The church seats 1,500. It had its largest congregations (with chairs in the aisles) from about 1890 to the 1920's. Its decline as a central church was, interestingly, hastened by the fact that two of its wealthy members built Methodist churches only a mile or so further out from the city - Spicer Memorial (Sir Edward Spicer) in Fourth Avenue, St. Peters; and Gartrell Memorial (James Gartrell of G. Woodson & Co.) in Alexandra Avenue, Rose Park.
6. Architecturally; the steep-pitched roof reflects English Gothic influence, as do most of the windows. (Note the Gothic window on the east wall and the doorways.) The original slate roof survived till 1965 when it was replaced by tiles. The seats and much of the other furniture are of cedar, imported from England. The organ was originally a gift from Mr. G.P. Harris. It is now valued at \$60,000.
7. Some of the tablets and windows are:-
 - (1) South Wall
James and Sarah Gartrell

Mary Knight ("first Australian lady graduate in medicine of the University of London"). Died 1891.

Thomas Rhodes and Thomas Waterhouse

Mercy Jeffries (mother of Sir Shirley Jeffries)
 - (2) North Wall
Nicholas Trudgen, businessman. Mayor of St. Peters. Memorial Fountain outside St. Peters Town Hall.

George P. Harris

There are also tablets in memory of Headmasters of Prince Alfred College - F. Chapple, W.R. Bayly, J.F. Ward. The College (founded as a Wesleyan school in 1867) has always been associated with the church.
8. The design of the church illustrates the primacy of the pulpit (and so of preaching) in 19th Century Wesleyanism. Some of the preachers in the church's heyday were Dr. Henry Burgess, Joseph Berry, William Jeffries, Brian Wibberley and Frank Lade.

There is a set of photographs of ministers in the south-western vestry; also some pictures of familiar scenes in the life of John Wesley.
9. The church from 1967 has established the Kent Town Methodist Homes for the Aged (Inc.) in streets west of the church.
10. Methodists in South Australia regard Kent Town (recently named "Wesley Church" because of impending union with Presbyterians and Congregationalists) as one of their finest historic legacies. What its future is in an area becoming increasingly commercial and industrial is hard to say.

It is classified B ("Preservation strongly recommended") by the National Trust.

CHARLES CAMERON KINGSTON (1850-1908), Part II (by Craig Campbell).
(Part I appeared in Newsletter No. 11, September 1976, pp.3 & 4)

Kingston was over six feet tall and powerfully built. Alfred Deakin describes him in his Federal Story. "A man of great physical size and strength, of fine features and large head with rather small eyes and compressed lips. His hesitating pauses in speech came between bursts of rapid dogmatic and pugnacious utterance. Strong passions had crippled his self-development and political career, but his great ability, indomitable will and fearless courage steadily surmounted all these barriers."

Another Prime Minister of Australia, George Reid, who respected Kingston greatly, made the very true comment that South Australia was too small a stage for a man such as Kingston. He wrote that Kingston "... could hold his own in any intellectual or political struggle. In a larger sphere than the South Australian he would have been a much greater man. As communities diminish in size, personal antagonisms seem to increase in violence."

Kingston had other disadvantages - his wife was a recluse: she could not share his public life - and was, it seems, unable to share much of his private life. She bore him no children and he sought sexual alternatives to her. Tragedy stalked his broader family life - his brother Pat committed suicide and a sister died of cancer during his Premiership, while his adopted son Kevin, also died in 1902. These events made him throw his energy all the more into politics.

The movement towards the federation of the Australian colonies secured Kingston's important place in our history. He drafted one of the earliest constitutions from which the final Act emerged. He was a strong federalist in the complete sense from the beginning. He believed in both the unity of the colonies, and that the states should remain strong.

At the constitutional conventions he played important roles. He was on the drafting committee headed by Sir Samuel Griffith of Queensland at the 1891 Convention - and was President of 1897-8 Convention - the one which produced the final draft. As President he was capable - he could have been of better service than he was, however. A cabal inspired by Baker, his old enemy, prevented his election (with Isaac Isaacs - the first Australian-born Governor General) to the drafting committee. The loss was considerable since both men had keen minds for the work - Kingston was generally acknowledged the best parliamentary draftsman of the day in Australia.

When the convention closed, Kingston's speech set the tone for the campaign to make Australia one nation:

"I can but speak for myself alone; but in regard to this Constitution, I say unhesitatingly that I accept it gladly. More, I welcome it as the most magnificent Constitution into which the chosen representatives of a free and enlightened people, have ever breathed the life of popular sentiment and national hope. Mine will be no Laodicean advocacy; but with such ability as I may possess, and with the fullest enthusiasm and warmth of which my nature may be capable - with my whole heart and strength - I pledge myself to recommend the adoption of this Constitution, daring any danger and delighting in any sacrifice which may be necessitated by unswerving devotion to the interests of the Commonwealth of Australia."

With Edmund Barton and Alfred Deakin, Kingston went to London to watch the bill through Westminster. They successfully fought changes that the Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, wished to make, despite lack of support for their position in Australia. When their victory became known, Deakin tells us that the three of them joined hands and danced round the table.

Barton became the first Prime Minister in 1901, Deakin his Attorney-General, Kingston, the Minister for Trade and Customs - and Sir John Forrest - Premier of Western Australia since responsible government - Minister for Defence. The government was made up of powerful men - Kingston could not expect to have his own way in Cabinet as he had done in South Australia.

Kingston entered parliament at the head of the poll for South Australia - much was expected of him. According to the Sydney Bulletin he should have been the first Prime Minister - he was the leading democrat the country had to offer.

As Minister of Trade and Customs, it was Kingston's job to guide the first tariff through parliament. At a time when the major political issue in Australia was the respective merits of free trade or protection, the task was not easy. It took a whole year of untiring devotion for parliament to pass it - and at the end, his health was in a state of decline.

The administration of his department was also demanding - he endured the wrath of the Chambers of Commerce throughout Australia by his meticulous checking of duties liable on imports - sending many "reputable" businessmen to court, to be prosecuted for false declarations. In a private letter to Deakin, Barton wrote that he feared for Kingston's mental balance, but some improvement was noted later.

The last issue that Kingston threw himself into was the first Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Bill. Pioneer of such measures in Australia, it was he who drafted the new legislation - but disagreement broke out in Cabinet over the question - should it apply to seamen or not? Forrest was intransigent in his opposition, Barton sided with him, and Kingston resigned from the government. Rumours persisted that he might form a government by coalescing the radical liberals in the House with the Labor party, but Kingston's health broke down completely. He was re-elected unopposed to parliament in 1906 - his electors knowing he was unable to attend his duties properly. He died in 1908. By public subscription a statue was raised in Victoria Square - facing West Adelaide, the district he had represented throughout his parliamentary life.

His death was reported in the newspapers - the obituary of the Worker (Brisbane), a leftish trade union paper, paid the tribute he would have wanted.

"Labor people, perhaps more keenly than any other section of the community, will feel the sadness of his death. He was one of the first public men on the continent to identify himself with Labor questions, and he did it in a thoroughly whole-hearted manner that won him the admiration and confidence of the Labor parties in every State. There was nothing of the opportunist about Charles Cameron Kingston. He acted always from profound conviction."

Kingston was one of those men who were very successful in the context of late nineteenth century factional, and colonial politics. He died young, but it is difficult to see him cutting quite the same figure in the twentieth century, as party rigidification continued. Kingston had something of the 'heroic romantic' about him; such personalities became less relevant in the age of mass war and mass culture. However, for South Australia, at the time and in memory he was an exciting figure who not only reinforced the distinctive atmosphere of this state; but also made a considerable nation-building contribution to emerging Australia as a whole.

NEWSPAPER HUNTING (by Mary Broughton)

As hunters of history some of our society have probably hounded Len Marquis of the Newspaper Reading Room in the North Terrace Institute, where he guards the rag bag of our past. Rag bag indeed, for up to the mid-1860s our newspapers were literally local rags. When rags became scarce, straw was added; then came wood pulp to keep up with the demand of the newly-fledged readers who flooded the market-place after the New Education Act of the 1870s.

There seems to have been no dearth of reading matter from the very first word printed by our first newspaper, The South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register, later The Register (now incorporated with The Advertiser). The set of these publications was made almost complete when, in 1898, John Howard Angas donated to the Library the first 10 years of The Register and also of The South Australian.

Our first afternoon paper, The Telegraph, began operations in 1862 when the telegraph between Adelaide and Melbourne was opened up. Then in the following year, The Adelaide Advertiser, not to be outdone, started The Express and eventually bought The Telegraph. As The Express and Telegraph, it survived until July 23, 1923, when The Advertiser relinquished its publishing rights of the week-day issue to The News, and continued only as The Saturday Express. Likewise, The Register's afternoon paper was bought by The News, though The Register still published its weekly Saturday Journal.

Among other early newspapers, a bi-lingual newspaper was set up in Adelaide by Carl Kornhardt, who in December 1847, brought out from Hamburg a press with German and English type. Within three weeks of his arrival he had produced the first issue (January 4, 1848), the editor being Johann Menge, the "father" of South Australian geology.

It was the first foreign language newspaper in Australia - Die Deutsche Post für die Australischen Colonien, or The German-Australian Post. Of this no copies are known to survive here, but the State Library has obtained a photographic copy of the only known copy (late March 1848) housed in the British Museum.

The German-Australian Post lasted three months in Adelaide; then in June 1848 it was transferred to Tanunda where, as Die Deutsche Post, it was printed only in German and ran as a village newspaper for four years. In 1850 the second German newspaper, Südaustralische Zeitung, was produced by Muecke, Schomburgk and Droege, but this faded out during the gold rush, only to be followed in 1851 by another paper. From then on the story of German newspapers is fraught with complexities which we must leave Len Marquis to unravel.

In 1851 The Adelaide Morning Chronicle came out with great gusto, printed daily by a Mr. McDougall on the site where Myer's now stands. In this case the gold rush seems to have been no bar to publication, as the June issues of 1852, at the height of the rush, are well on file, except for the first six months.

Of country newspapers, The Kapunda Herald is complete except for one copy, December 8, 1864. Our first country daily afternoon paper, The Kapunda Evening News, which began in June 1873, was edited by politician, Ebenezer Ward, and listed, among other items, stock prices and markets in Adelaide. It lasted only a few months and no copies have survived anywhere to tell a more complete tale.

However, from the files of The Border Watch printery, Mount Gambier, the Newspaper Reading Room has obtained microfilm copies of the complete issue of the first two and a half years, from 1861 to 1863. Not so with The Blyth Agriculturist, of which the first three years (1908-1910 inclusive) are missing, most likely because the Library Board of Governors did not insist strongly enough on copies being sent to the library in accordance with the first copyright act of 1878.

As for the Owen Post (1907-1908), this does not even rate a mention in the Owen-Hamley Bridge centenary records. Two other short-lived papers were The Irish Harp, a layman's paper, March, 1869, and The Burra Literary Star, 1889.

Among church papers were The Church Chronicle, The Church Intelligencer, The Protestant Advocate, The Northern Church Gazetteer, The S.A. Reformer (edited by a woman) and the S.A. Pilot or Australian Pilot, published by the Catholic church in mid-1880. The Methodists, methodical as they are, have contributed "a fair bit of stuff".

Strange though it may seem, files of sporting papers of the 1890s are few and far between. Once the race was lost or won, the papers, it seems, were thrown to the winds in joy or despair.

Up to the 1850s there was no official body to gather together various publications, let alone those scattered to the four winds. But now that we are alive to the necessity of preserving early newsprint, maybe some of us can come up with something new that's old, for instance, the first issue of The Sydney Herald (now The Sydney Morning Herald) found in a cardboard box in a garage. If so, then Len Marquis would like us to drop it into his rag bag.

PRESERVING HISTORY IN THE CITY OF ADELAIDE

The following policies have been officially adopted by the Adelaide City Council and are extracted from "The City of Adelaide Plan", adopted by Council in 1975 and amended in March 1976.

Policy 80

The Council shall prepare and maintain a Register of places of environmental, historic, architectural, scenic or scientific significance or interest.

Policy 81

In determining which places should be included within the Register of Places, the Council should be satisfied that a definite affirmative answer could be given to at least one of the following questions:-

- (a) Does the place have strong historic associations with great people or significant events in the City's growth?
- (b) Is the place held in high public esteem and sentiment?
- (c) Does the place display craftsmanship and technology of intrinsic interest and quality?
- (d) Do groups of buildings, spaces, and areas have such a particular relationship with each other that they form a fine example of townscape?
- (e) Is the place an outstanding example of a particular style or period and important for education, architectural or archaeological reasons?

To obtain the information the Council should seek the advice of the National Trust and other interested bodies and should consult with the owner. Should the owner be dissatisfied with the decision to include or not to include the place upon the Register he shall have a right of appeal.

Policy 82

Civic pride and visitor interest in the City should be promoted by the affixing of sensitively designed and mounted plaques identifying registered places

NORTH EAST AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW

There may be members of the Society interested in the State Government's plans for the North East area of Adelaide. This recent announcement sums up some of the progress to date.

"After some months of work and community discussion the NEAPTR study team has produced a number of working papers relating to its initial findings. To date, no firm plans have been developed.

We are setting up "Community Files" in Libraries; Council Offices; Community Centres and Government Offices so that you can review the work completed. The working papers discuss such topics as population; employment; landscape; noise; urban services as well as many others which have a direct or indirect bearing on public transport.

Copies of these working papers can also be purchased at the NEAPTR office for a nominal charge. If you need further information please ring the "Mr. Todd" information service on 227 4274.

"Mr. Todd"
For the NEAPTR team"

FRIENDS OF THE ART GALLERY

This group exists to fill three main needs:

Firstly they aim at fostering greater interest in the exhibitions and goings on of the gallery generally; at making the gallery a living place.

Secondly they seek to provide a wide range of activities for people wishing to further their interest in the Arts in a more relaxed way than is possible at classes or institutions.

Thirdly they make substantial contributions to the Gallery's purchase fund for acquisition of works of art.

By being a Friend you can support your gallery directly and indirectly, as well as adding to your knowledge in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The Friends have a pamphlet explaining benefits and costs which they will happily forward to you. Pick one up either from the Gallery or write to "The Friends of the Art Gallery, Art Gallery of S.A., North Terrace, Adelaide, 5000.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

These are the fees for membership in case you know of any prospective members. Membership automatically includes subscription to the Journal and Newsletter.

Ordinary member	\$6
Life member	\$100
Family membership	\$10
Country member (50 km from G.P.O.)	\$5
Junior member (under 18)	\$3
Pensioner	\$3

Payment, with name and address, should be sent to:

The Treasurer,
Historical Society of S.A.,
Box 203, P.O.,
NORTH ADELAIDE. S.A. 5006.