

# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

Founded 1974

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000

President: Mr. R. H. B. Kearns. M.B.E.      Editor: Ms. Annelly Aeuckens

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### THANKYOU ANNELLY

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With this issue, Annelly Aeuckens is laying aside her editorial pen. For four years Annelly has worked unstintingly to bring members topical news and much more besides. Annelly has seen her challenge to be that of producing an interesting, non-repetitive publication. To this end, she has gone beyond immediate Society sources to cover a wide range of events and happenings in South Australian history. Luckily for the Society, Annelly has had her fingers on the pulse of the historical scene and has endeavoured to involve her many contacts in contributing articles and material to the Newsletter.

Recently, Annelly has introduced the concept of a thematic photo-liftout section in the Newsletter and has expressed hopes that this initiative will continue in the future with members sending in old photos for reproduction. One regret that Annelly has is that more

material for the Newsletter did not come from Society members, who have a wealth of diverse research interests and activities.

I have enjoyed working with Annelly immensely over the years. Her unflinching support for the Newsletter and persistence in chasing material are the hallmarks of a fine Editor.

#### New Editor Required

If you have always had a yen to try your hand at editing, perhaps this is the chance you've always been waiting for. We need a member to step into Annelly's shoes. Although the next issue, January 1984, will be edited by one of our Council members, Rob Nicol, we will be needing an Editor for the following issues, starting with the March issue. If you would like to put in for the position, please contact me on 268 5486.

Stephanie Moss

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS - INCLUDING NEXT MEETINGS

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##### MONDAY, JANUARY 30 - AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY

Family lunch at Marble Hill, the ruins of the former Governors' summer residence. Open from 12 noon. Bring a picnic lunch. Devonshire Tea available at tea-rooms. Admission \$1.00 adults, \$0.20 children (National Trust members free, on production of membership card).

Note: In exceptionally hot weather, Marble Hill could be declared a Bushfire Danger area, and not open to the public. Check for media announcement.

##### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3: LECTURE - MR. GRAEME PRETTY, "AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AT ROONKA"

In 1960 a farmer ploughing a sand dune on the banks of the River Murray, near Blanchetown, South Australia, noticed that his plough had uncovered a number of human bones. He immediately notified the authorities - and thus was responsible for the discovery of one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world, spanning a period of at least 18,000 years.

Mr. Graeme Pretty, who has been Senior Curator of Anthropology and Archaeology at the South Australian Museum since 1975, headed a team who carried out excavations at the site (known as Roonka by the Aborigines in the area) for a number of years.

Mr. Pretty's illustrated address should be of interest not only to Society members, but also of great importance to students of history, anthropology and archaeology.

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#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFFAIRS (Including Reports of Recent Events)

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##### REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MEETING - THE HISTORY OF THE PHONOGRAPH

At the monthly meeting held on 2 September Dr. Garry Scroop provided

an evening of nostalgia for the senior group in the audience, and a fascinating glimpse into the past for younger members. Dr. Scroop had taken to the meeting a superb array of early phonographs (all in working order) and a unique collection of records, which he played at various stages during his address.

He traced the development of recording machines from the 1880s, beginning with the first 'talking doll', then moving into office dictation and, finally into the entertainment field. He demonstrated cylindrical and one-sided discs (some of the latter beginning on the inside, and finishing on the outer rim of the record) and mentioned that, in the early stages of development, each disc was recorded separately until mass production began in 1901-02.

A rare Melba/Caruso duet, Harry Lauder songs (including 'Stop Your Tickling Jock') and Peter Dawson's parodies - sung under the name of Hector Grant at a time when Dawson was endeavouring to break into the musical world in London - all added to the education and enjoyment of the evening.

At the conclusion of the meeting, appreciation for his entertaining and informative address was expressed to Garry Scroop - who incidentally, is a keen collector of old cameras, and conducts a Magic Lantern show, to the vocal accompaniment of the 'Limelighters'. Adelaide is very fortunate that Dr. Garry Scroop is prepared to share his talents and interests with various community organisations in our city.

Richard Kearns

#### REPORT OF OCTOBER SEMINAR AT FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

On 15 October a successful Seminar was held at Flinders University, jointly sponsored by the Flinders University History Discipline, and The Historical Society of South Australia. The title of the Seminar was The Visual and Lively Arts in South Australia, and addresses (followed by questions and discussions) were given by five speakers on a variety of subjects.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Dr. John Tregenza, Professor Eric Richards acted as Chairman for the early part of the Seminar; Dr. Howell and Richard Kearns filled the breach for the remainder of the proceedings.

The opening speaker Mr. Deane Manuel, provided an entertaining and informative address on Adelaide's literati at the Mid-Nineteenth Century - spiced with some of the lively journalistic descriptions of the day, in which libel, scurrilous attack and lurid prose knew no bounds. During the 1840s and 1850s Colonial verse was unexceptional and imprecise, of a non-Australian character, often meaningless, but occasionally laced with irrelevant doggerel. It was an interesting formative period in local literature and, although much would have been unacceptable by today's standards, provided a foundation for literary expression in the new Colony of South Australia.

Ms. Chris Finimore took as her subject The South Australian Society of Arts 1856-1866. One of the principal aims of the Society was to 'foster and encourage an improvement in public artistic taste' and, generally, to promote 'civilizing influences' from 'material

concerns to a higher state of goodness and learning'. In implementing these lofty ideals, the Society offered support for local artists by conducting art exhibitions, public lectures, and establishing an art collection. As with many organisations of this nature there were rumblings of discontent, one accusation being that the Society concentrated more on the importation of British and European works of art, than on the encouragement of local artists. However, it seems that competent South Australian artists were but a small minority, and that high quality local oils and water colours did not emerge until late in the nineteenth century. The South Australian Society of Arts has been in existence for 127 years and, although some of its moralistic objects have been superseded by more practical aims, it continues to promote and foster the development of local art in various forms.

Mr. Peter Donovan, under the auspices of the Australian Heritage Commission, in 1982 undertook an inventory of Stained Glass Windows in South Australia. His researches took him to churches, colleges, public buildings and private homes in Adelaide, and in country areas. For many years all stained glass was imported from England and the Continent but, by the 1890s, there were several craftsmen fashioning coloured glass, stained glass and leadlight windows in South Australia - commencing with Edward Brooks in 1856, and including E. F. Troy who operated from 1895 until his death in 1910. The firm of Thompson & Harvey (founded in 1898) subsequently purchased Troy's equipment and designs. Clarkson Limited emerged in 1915, and both firms dominated stained glass manufacture for many years. The demand for stained glass declined immediately after World War II, but there has been a revival of interest in this art form in recent years. Mr. Donovan illustrated his address with slides of windows of coloured glass, stained glass and painted glass installed in ecclesiastical, educational and other public buildings, and some of the older private homes. Various features of the work in South Australia, inter-state and overseas were pointed out by the speaker.

Dr. Donald Leslie Johnson's subject was The Australian Bungalow Illustrated. Dr. Johnson has an impressive record of architectural experience, and the publication of books and articles in London, U.S.A. and Australia. The Australian bungalow originated in Bengal as from around 1849, then spread to England about ten years later in a pre-fabricated form. By the end of the 19th century the bungalow was well established in Australia. Dr. Johnson illustrated his address with slides depicting the style created by Green Bros. of Ohio, the Southern Californian style of 1906, and the Australian 'enclosed' bungalow (i.e. verandah). The bungalow featured the development of many different ideas and, by 1945 was the most popular style of dwelling in Australia.

The final subject of the Seminar, Collecting and Preserving Film in South Australia, was presented by Mr. Philip W. Pike, who is the Publicity and Promotions Officer for the State Library of S. A. The speaker outlined the goal of Federal and State archival authorities to locate, acquire and preserve early Australian footage. While some early film has deteriorated beyond repair, the recent public campaign

resulted in the acquisition of a considerable amount of early film in reasonable condition. However, the speaker pointed out that it will be necessary for State and Federal Archives to co-ordinate their activities and establish an inter-library archival film system. The Jubilee 150 Board recently set up a sub-committee to investigate the introduction of a system of collection, repair, copying and exchange of archival film in South Australia. A number of short documentary films featuring industry at work in South Australia in the 1920s and 1930s were screened (by courtesy of Mr. Vic Reeves).

At the conclusion of the Seminar appreciation was expressed to the various speakers, to those who attended and participated in the sessions, and to Flinders University for providing the meeting rooms and equipment to enable the Seminar to take place. Richard Kearns

#### REPORT OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Professor David Saunders, Chairman of the Department of Architecture at the University of Adelaide, spoke on the very topical issue 'Heritage: The Historian. The Architect and Others'. Only that week the issue of the Aurora Hotel had been featured in the press.

Professor Saunders explained how in the last three decades the heritage area had become professionalized. Where once only architects were thought to really belong on the Victorian National Trust's Survey and Identification Committee, gradually historians and archaeologists were also accepted. This same cross section of professions has also become common in other institutions: the Australian Heritage Commission and the State Heritage Committees. This mingling of professions has the advantage of providing complete dossiers on heritage items of significance. However, he warned that there is a risk of heritage lists becoming too long as more and more professionals have their say. Professor Saunders emphasized the importance in this situation of guidelines established in the Burra Charter by Australia (ICOMOS).

As a former president of that body, a member of several heritage committees and adviser to the Australian Heritage Commission, Professor Saunders drew on a breadth of experience in presenting this historical perspective on the involvement of professionals in the area of heritage.

Dr. Norman Ethington from the History Department, University of Adelaide, in thanking the speaker, suggested that the professionals who were well established as heritage consultants must find ways of including the public in their discussions. Elizabeth Kwan

#### THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

##### Aims

1. To collect, preserve and display items of Australian football heritage.
2. To encourage clubs to value their past and ensure storage of historical materials.

3. To encourage the appointment of historians among all league clubs and gain acceptance for the importance of their work.
4. To encourage members of the public to assist the Society to collect, preserve and display items of Australian Football heritage.
5. To establish and maintain a museum at Football Park and assist with other historical displays.
6. To improve and develop systems of recording Australian Football history.
7. To foster, encourage and assist in the writing of historical studies of any football club in South Australia and other literature relating to football generally.
8. To establish and maintain a library of football literature at Football Park.
9. To liaise with club Past Players Associations.
10. To form associations with other historical societies.
11. To encourage the formation of football historical societies in other states.

For further details, contact Secretary, Mr. Bernard Whimpress, P.O. Box 1, West Lakes, S.A. 5021 - Telephone (08) 368 2088.

#### THE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS

"The Society of Australian Genealogists was formed in Sydney in 1932. Its growth throughout the 1970's has been remarkable and, by 1982, membership passed 7,000. It is the largest non-governmental genealogical reference library in Australia and has many unique items in its collections.

The Society is administered by a Council of fourteen from whom its office bearers are drawn. The day to day running of the Society is under the control of a Director, assisted by a small salaried staff. The Society also employs a full-time archivist.

The principal objectives of the Society, those of adding to the Society's collections and providing research facilities for family historians, are carried out by an increasing number of members who give their time and expertise in a voluntary capacity, both in field and working groups, or as library and research assistants in attendance during library hours. All members are encouraged to help the Society in this way.

#### Research Enquires

The Society's guide booklet Compiling Your Family History, price \$3.50, including postage within Australia, sets out advice on how to begin your research, how to obtain certificates of birth, marriage and death, and the types of records that are available to assist you in the search for forbears and details of their arrival in Australia. It also gives many valuable suggestions on drawing up pedigrees, methods of keeping family records and, eventually, writing the history. Two loose-leaf printed pedigree sheets, designed to record your personal ancestry, are included. Roots and Branches - Ancestry for Australians by E. J. Lea-Scarlett, price \$5 plus \$1 postage, is also recommended.

Non-members may use the Library upon payment of a casual search fee of \$6 per day, or part thereof. Limited advice on research procedure is available to enquirers who visit the Library in person but it is not possible to give research advice by telephone or correspondence.

Members acting as voluntary Library Assistants are on duty to show new members the location of material and to give limited advice on research procedures. Problems may be discussed with the Honorary Research Secretary on Tuesdays. Heraldry enquiries may be referred to the Honorary Overseas Librarian on Wednesdays.

#### Library

The Society has over 7,000 volumes in its Australian and Overseas collections, including many bound sets of journals and periodicals. There are many fine reference books relating to Britain and Ireland and some reference volumes relating to the United States and various European countries.

The Society endeavours to acquire all Australian family histories. Local histories and genealogical reference books in print. Out-of-print items are also purchased.

The Society appreciates donations to the Library Fund, which are tax deductible, and is also grateful for gifts of books for the collections.

#### Indexes

The Society has over 600,000 cards in its General Index collection. Cards are continuously added by members and contain reference material relating mainly to people who have resided in Australia and, in particular, in New South Wales.

#### Microform Collection

There is an extensive collection of microfiche and microfilm copies of Australian and overseas records, which provide data on millions of names. For a number of years, the Society has been microfilming original Church Registers, many of which have never been copied before. This project is aided by a grant from the New South Wales Government.

#### Manuscripts

The manuscript collection contains many genealogies compiled by members, research notes, diaries, business records, family papers, newspaper clippings and similar documents. There are more than 20,000 files, together with many thousands of photographs and a number of original portrait paintings and maps.

The manuscripts are stored in the fire-proof store which is fitted with air filters and de-humidifying equipment to ensure the records are kept under the best possible conditions. Manuscripts in need of repair are restored by the Conservation Group under the direction of the Honorary Conservator.

The Society welcomes donations of documents, either original or photocopies, for its Primary Records collection. Any sensitive material may be placed with the Society on a restricted access basis.

#### Research Guide

A Guide to the Collections of the Society was published during 1982 and is an invaluable aid for family historians, biographers and local historians. New members should study this booklet before embarking on their research at Richmond Villa. It is available for \$4.50 post free.

#### Diploma of Family History Studies (Dip.F.H.S.)

The Society instituted a Diploma course in 1974 to accredit genealogists.

Candidacy for the examination is not restricted to members of the Society. Further particulars are available on application.

Names of persons who have attained the Diploma, and who are willing

to do research on a professional basis, are available from the Society. However the Society in no way recommends or guarantees their work.

#### Publications

Members receive four issues of the Society's journal Descent each year. The journal features articles on aspects of genealogical research and useful source records and on particular families submitted by members. Various newly-compiled listings of names, together with book notes and reviews are published as is information on forthcoming genealogical events in Australia and overseas. changes of address of repositories, increased fees and new societies. A members' research enquiry section is also available gratis to members."

#### Membership

Single Subscription per Calendar Year	\$18.00
Combined Subscription for Married Couples*	\$25.00
Affiliation Subscription for Companies, Institutions, Societies and Associations	\$18.00

\* Separate application forms to be completed by each person.

#### Address

All communications to be addressed to the Director, Society of Australian Genealogists, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney. N.S.W. 2000.

#### Opening Hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
On the following days Richmond Villa is open for public inspection:  
Australia Day Monday. Heritage Week Sunday (April), last Sunday in July. 8 Hour Day (first Monday in October).  
Richmond Villa is closed on public holidays and on Easter Saturday. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

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#### NEW BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

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Ben Hall: Bushranger

by

D. J. Shiel

(hardback \$14.95)

"When the police shot Ben Hall dead in May 1865, he was twenty-eight years old, married, and the father of a young son. A former stockman, he had grown up in the Lachlan region and in 1861 had secured a small holding in the Weddin-Wheogo area, midway between Forbes and Young - or Lambing Flat, as it was then called. His wife was one of the daughters of the original settler in the Wheogo area.

It was an unlikely background for the colony's most wanted criminal. But in the early 1860s personal and social problems combined to push Ben Hall into a life of crime that lasted just two of his twenty-eight years. Those criminal years have been used by historians and balladists to portray him as a wild colonial boy, a knight of the road, and a romantic daredevil. The image, however, is false for it was John Gilbert, not Ben Hall, who was the leader of

the group that became known as the Hall gang. Ben Hall, in fact, seems to have been swept up and carried along by the events of a turbulent and exciting time.

No single occurrence can be said to have pushed Hall into bushranging. The desertion of his wife was not as important as the social factors that bore upon the once-isolated Weddin-Wheogo society. With the rush for gold at Forbes and Lambing Flat, land suddenly became a valuable commodity in an area once scorned by men of capital. The explosion of population meant that law had to be enforced, whereas for twenty years the society had been almost self-regulating, with its own peculiar attitudes to such misdemeanors as cattle duffing and trespassing. Within four years of the Lambing Flat rush, most of the pioneer residents of the Weddin-Wheogo area had gone from their land, and the bushranging outbreak had ended. It was to flare again fifteen years later in Victoria, when similar circumstances produced the Kelly gang.

This fascinating reconstruction of the career of Ben Hall locates the bushranger within the context of a fringe civilization of rural poor - mainly Catholic, uneducated, predominantly male, ticket-of-leave men or children of convicts - being dispossessed by more substantial squatters as prosperity moved westward. Ben Hall is seen as a victim of circumstances: one of the have-nots in an Australian frontier society desperately attempting to control his own life - and destined to lose against institutionalized authority. D. J. Shiel is a Melbourne schoolteacher. He was born in 1936 and is married with five children. From the experience of many camping tours throughout Australia, he has developed a keen interest in the Australian bush and its history. This book developed from a camping trip to the Weddin Mountains."

Available from: Sales Division, University of Queensland Press, P.O. Box 42, St. Lucia, Q. 4067.

\* \* \* \*

Pertaringa: Glimpses of Hills' History  
(\$3.50)

"Pertaringa: Glimpses of Hills' History is a collection of articles produced jointly by the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society and the Coventry Memorial Library as a contribution to the Second Stirling Festival.

Pertaringa - an Aboriginal word meaning 'belonging to the hills' contains information gleaned from the Historical Society's Research Collection. A brief history - in a segmented format - of each of the settlements in the area, some of the early occupations and industries and a selection of insights into various aspects of community life are included. A list of place names, a map, and a reference list completes the collection."

Available from: The Coventry Memorial Library, Mount Barker Road.

Stirling. 5152.

N.B. For 10 or more copies, the collection can be purchased for \$3.00 each. Orders can be either collected from the library during normal opening hours or sent (packaging and postage extra). Cheques should be made payable to The Coventry Memorial Library.

\* \* \* \*

Gracious Homes of Colonial Adelaide

by

Eric Gunton

(hardback \$18.00)

"For seven years from 1947, the proprietors of the magazine 'South Australian Homes and Gardens' commissioned me to research and write monthly articles on some of the historic Adelaide homes.

Over thirty years later, as many of these homes have been demolished or their original use transformed, I have updated these stories in the hope that by publishing them in book form, I may be able to preserve another facet of Adelaide's early history.

The stories of the happenings in these homes - the failures and successes - the droughts - floods - the poor years and the boom years - kindle the interest and show the initiative developed by the State's newcomers.

William Hall of 'Glenara' was a partner of John Dunn who built the famous Bridgewater Mill, which during its life-time was driven by water, steam, suction gas and electricity - unprecedented in our industrial history. (They had never heard of uranium!)

John Chambers of 'Carclew' was the first man to drive a bullock team from Adelaide to Port Misery (Port Adelaide). He also helped finance John McDouall Stuart's crossing of the continent.

Justice Gwynne of 'Glynde House' Payneham, rode daily to the city Law Courts on horse-back!

John Howard Clark, Editor of the Register, relaxed with his new hobby of photography in 'Hazelwood Cottage'.

Another writer was Simpson Newland, the first South Australian author to achieve world recognition for his novel 'Paving the Way', written in his beautiful 'Undelcarra'.

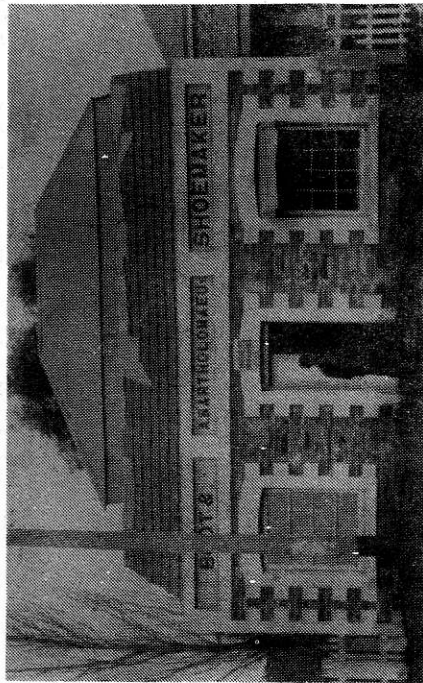
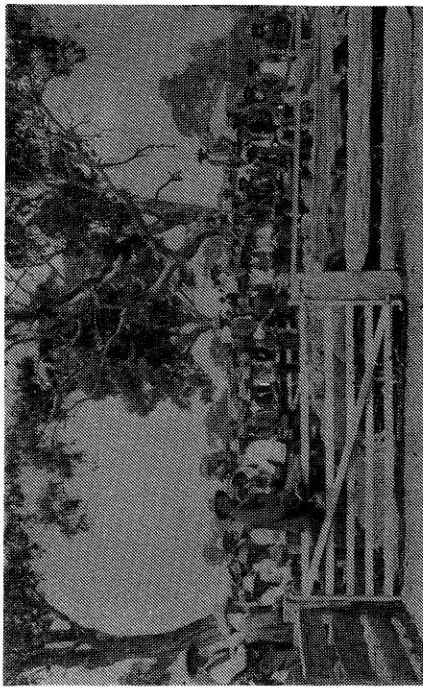
Every one of these seventy odd old homes has a story. It concerns a hotch potch of occupations - orchardists, lawyers, builders, farmers, copper miners, brewers, vignerons, printers, knights, judges - and even a few 'butchers, bakers and candle stick-makers'. And they all played a most important part in making our State great!"

Available from: Gillingham Printers, 106 Currie Street, Adelaide, 5000.

## INDUSTRIES OF OLD BLUMBERG (BIRDWOOD)

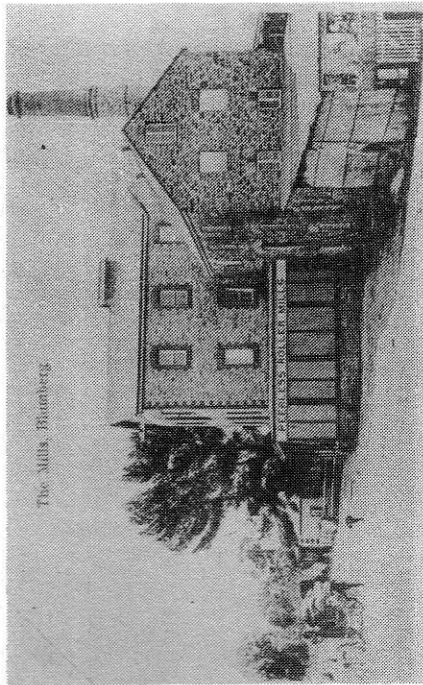
SALEYARDS, SHANNON STREET, BIRDWOOD (PRE-1918)

Saleyards for the auctioning of stock were in use in Birdwood until 1939.



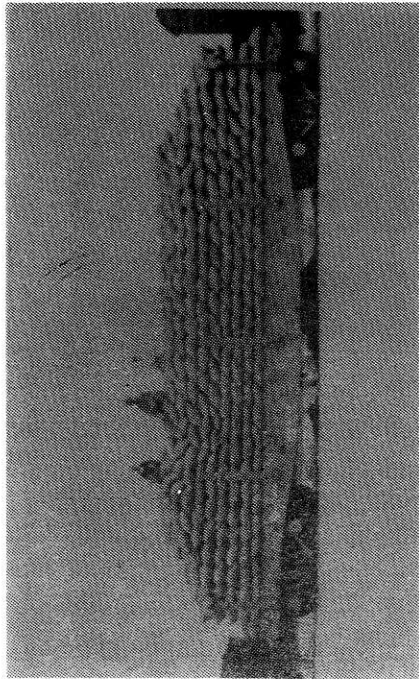
AN EARLY BOOTMAKER'S SHOP, SHANNON STREET,  
BIRDWOOD

Birdwood, like most other Hills towns, had a number of local trades and businesses.



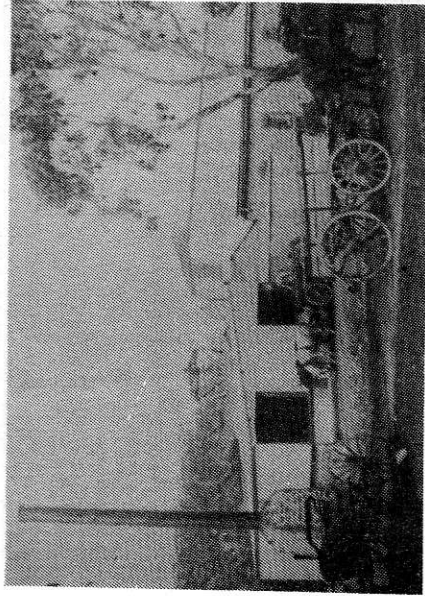
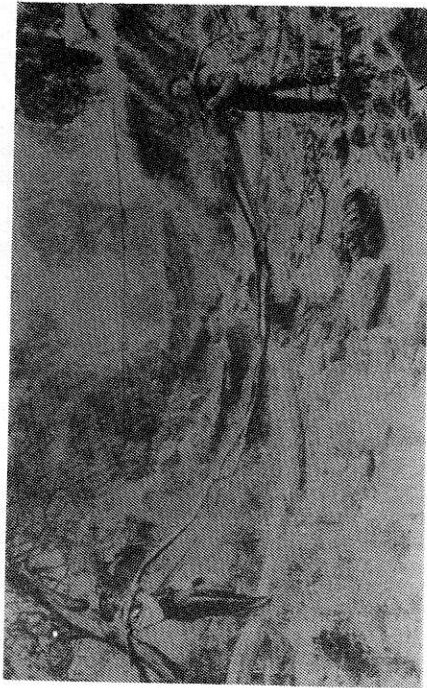
VIEW OF PEERLESS ROLLER MILL, BIRDWOOD (C.1920)  
Now the Birdwood Mill Museum.

TRUCK LOAD OF WHEAT AT THE BIRDWOOD RAILWAY  
STATION FOR F. PELLAUM AND COMPANY'S (1929)  
PEERLESS ROLLER MILL



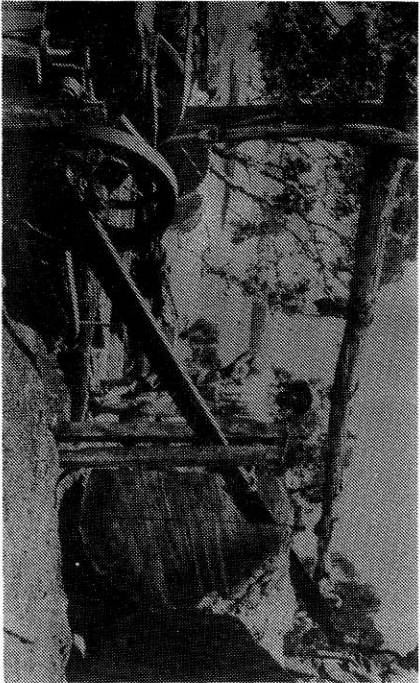
WATTLEBARK STRIPPED BY MR. A. THIELE ON HIS FARM  
NEAR BIRDWOOD (C.1920)

Wattlebark was taken to F. Pflaum and Company's Mill  
Complex (consisting of the Peerless Roller (Flour) Mill,  
a wattlebark mill, chaff mill, and store) for grinding.  
The end product was used in the tanning of leather.



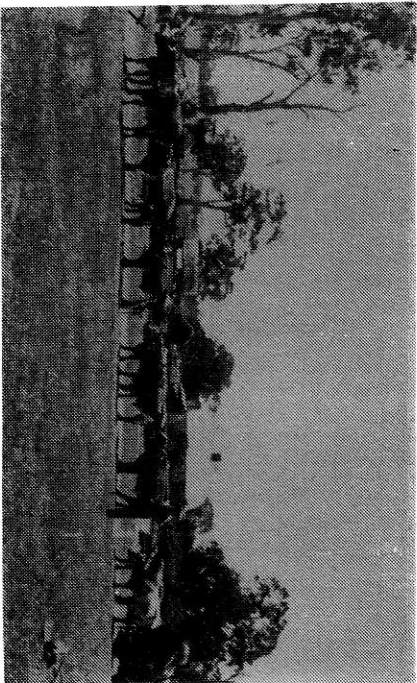
EARLY VIEW OF THE MOUNT TORRENS GOLD BATTERY OR  
CYANIDE WORKS

Opened in 1894 for the processing of gold, the cyanide  
works remained in operation until the mid-1950s.



BULLOCK TEAM CARTING TIMBER IN FRONT OF THE  
RATHJEN HOUSE, NEAR BIRDWOOD (C. 1910)  
Shepherdson's Sawmill operated on the Rathjen property  
until at least the 1920s.

"LONG TOM" IN SHEPHERDSON'S SAWMILL, 1912-1916  
The cutting of local red gum timber was an important  
local industry that lasted into the 20th Century.



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## ARTICLES

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### ORAL HISTORY AND ORAL TRADITION

Following Margaret Mudge's paper on the 'Childhood Then and Now' Project in the last Newsletter, we were pleased to present two more contributions from the Association's Third National Conference which was held in Adelaide in May 1983.

Bill Edwards and Mona Tur were two of the three contributors to the Oral History and Oral Tradition segment of the Conference which concerned Aboriginal oral history. The third speaker was Bob Mealing who is employed by the Community College at Point Pearce and is assisting the Aboriginal people of the area to research and write their history.

Unfortunately I was unable to contact Bob in time to gain his permission for his paper to be reprinted in the Historical Society Newsletter. However, his paper and the two reprinted here, as well as excerpts from the story 'The Seeing of a Motor Car' by Mutuka Nyakuntja (Jacky Tjupuru), referred to in Bill Edwards' paper, can be found in Word of Mouth No.2, the recently established newsletter of the O.H.A.A. (S.A. Branch).

Word of Mouth is a quarterly publication (March, June, September, December) containing information about Branch activities, contributions from members, book reviews and articles.

Beth M. Robertson  
President of the Oral History Association of Australia (S.A. Branch)

### ABORIGINAL ORAL HISTORY

I speak at this Conference of the Oral History Association of Australia with some trepidation as I have had no experience in the academic pursuit of this field of enquiry. I am ignorant of the esoteric jargon of the discipline and of the models and debates associated with this area of research. All I can offer is a report on some of my experiences of collecting reminiscences of some of the Pitjantjatjara people who live in the Far North-West of South Australia during my 25 years of contact with them. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share these experiences with you as I have come to realize the importance of this history as a part of the total history of our nation. In retrospect I regret that I did not give more time to this pursuit as materials which could have been collected during these years have now been lost with the passing of many of the Pitjantjatjara people who were of the generation which had the initial intensive contact with white intrusion into their territory.

In referring to Aboriginal Oral History we must recognize that as a consequence of different experiences during this period of contact history, different Aboriginal groups will have differing conceptions of the past and will present different types of histories. The people whose stories I refer to today still retain many aspects of their traditional life and the memory of the traditional mythology as well as their recollections of contact history. While I can present only the recollections of others as they have related them to me and I have recorded them, Mona Tur will present vivid firsthand recollections of childhood experiences. Bob Mealing will present the stories of a people who as a result of the contact history have lost the knowledge of traditional life and mythology and who now conceive of their history as commencing with the establishment of the Mission in their area.

Recently I have been involved in interpreting for Pitjantjatjara people whose claim to title\* over land in the Maralinga area has been recognized by the Government of South Australia with the tabling of the Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Bill in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th May, 1983. Previously I had interpreted for the Pitjantjatjara people living in the North-West of the State during their negotiations with the Government for title to land in that region, a claim acknowledged with the passing of the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Bill in 1981. Experience in these protracted negotiations highlighted differences in Aboriginal and European attitudes to history. White negotiators came to the meeting with their written records of history, titles to lands and Government legislation. The Aboriginal people were dependent on an oral tradition. Although they reiterated that this tradition or Law originated from the land when the land was formed as it is now, is unchanging, is present in their heads, is ancient and is superior to the recent laws recorded on paper by people who did not originate from the land, they were placed at a disadvantage when confronted with the written laws and records which were viewed as substantiating rights. The Pitjantjatjara people had to employ white lawyers, anthropologists and interpreters to record some of the oral tradition in written form to justify their claim to title to the land.

The Pitjantjatjara oral tradition was concerned with what we would term myth rather than history which places events within a linear time framework. The Pitjantjatjara people would not make the same distinction between myth and history. The two blend into one continuum. They trace their origins and the explanation of all present existence to the Tjukurpa or The Dreaming, defined by Professor Stanner as "a sacred, heroic time long long ago when man and nature came to be as they are". Stanner warned that "the sense of history is alien here", in that The Dreaming is still part of the present. As many things in one it is "a kind of narrative of things that once happened; a kind of charter of things that still happen; and a kind of logos or principle of order transcending everything significant for aboriginal man". <1>

This emphasis on The Dreaming has placed the Aboriginal people at a disadvantage in the recording of the history of Australia since the coming of the Europeans. The lack of records of their own history in Australia such as were provided in some other countries through genealogical records preserved orally, or of legends which incorporated historical details, provided earlier Australian historians with justification to commence records of the history of Australia with the discoveries of Dampier, Captain Cook and others. Until recently these works depended largely on the written records left by white settlers. These gave distorted reports of the way of life of the Aboriginal people and of the history of contact between whites and blacks in Australia. Historical details embarrassing to the dominant whites were swept under the carpet or explained in terms of primitive savagery and ingratitude. Social Darwinism provided justification for the attitudes and events. The Aboriginal records and interpretations of the events remained hidden and ignored by the historians.

However the Aboriginal recollections of these events were passed down around the campfires. In traditional Aboriginal society it is unlikely that details of historical events survived more than three or four generations. The trauma occasioned by white intrusion into the country has ensured that such recollections have been deeply inscribed on the Aboriginal mind. One of the urgent tasks related to Australian Oral History is that of recording these recollections so that they may be preserved and provide the resources for historians to write more complete and balanced accounts of Australian history. The recently published book by Professor Henry Reynolds, The Other Side of The Frontier, is an example of the use of such materials.

The recording of such materials and their utilisation by historians will help redress the past imbalance in the writing of Australian history. It will ensure that later generations of

Aboriginal people will have access to the history of their forbears. It will fill out our knowledge of the history in areas about which there are limited resources and many of these based on official records such as Police and other Government department reports which present their own bias. The availability of these recollections should help also other Australians to understand the present feelings and aspirations of Aboriginal people. For example, if one is aware that an Aboriginal person with whom one is interacting knows that his uncle was shot by a white person, there will be the understanding of the fear, suspicion or antipathy displayed by that person in the presence of whites.

Problems will be encountered in this field of research. Incidents such as the one referred to above will lead to suspicion about the motives of whites. What use is being made of the materials? In the past written records appear to have given whites power over blacks. Will the recording and writing down of their stories increase the power of whites and weaken themselves? Amongst some Aboriginal groups there are feelings of shame or fear about this period of history during which traditional authorities have lost respect and face and they may be reluctant to share their stories. One of the problems in the area in which I have worked is that most of the materials are in the Pitjantjatjara language. Thus if they are to be made available to a wider audience they must be transcribed and translated. The limitations imposed by time and facilities has meant that much of the materials I have collected is still untranslated. Obviously some of the problems I have outlined will be overcome as Aboriginal people themselves are provided with the training, facilities and opportunities to record their own stories.

In closing I will refer to some of the stories I have collected on tape to give an idea of the type of materials available. Despite the fears and suspicions I have referred to above I have found the Pitjantjatjara people willing to have their stories recorded. Although some of the stories offered may appear to be of little value they usually provide insights into aspects of Pitjantjatjara culture or contact history. Open ears picking up a chance remark have provided access to stories of great interest. A number of stories have been given by people now in their 50s who recall childhood in traditional settings. Their stories of hunting, early contacts with whites, first sightings of camels or aeroplanes, and of floods and famines, provide interesting details of the period. I was impressed by one old man's description of his first encounter with a motor vehicle, and I later recorded this story on tape. It gives insights into contacts with whites in the 1920s and 1930s and helped me to understand something of the fundamental nature of the trauma caused to Aboriginal people through such experiences. Other men gave reports of their experiences on sheep and cattle stations and of their interaction with station owners, Police officers and other whites. Some years ago the son of Harold Lasseter visited Ernabella when following the tracks of his father. I picked up the chance remark of an old man who was working with me at the time and for the first time became aware that this man, as a boy, was with a group of Aboriginal people who carried flour and other foods hundreds of kilometres in an attempt to save Lasseter's life. Later on I recorded his recollections of this journey. To my knowledge this information had not been available to others who have written about Lasseter.

I have found that the people do not speak openly about killings of their own people by whites but once hints of these stories are discovered they have been willing to give their accounts of such events. Thus a couple of years ago I recorded on tape a story related by a middle-aged man in the presence of his aged father who has since died. The old man claimed to be the only survivor of a massacre of several Aboriginal men near the present site of Areyonga community in the Northern Territory. According to him the killings were in retaliation for the killing of a milking cow at a station. Late in 1971 I was able to record recollections of an old man who had left his traditional home at Ayers Rock many years ago as a result of police action against his family. The recording of this story and a subsequent visit to Ayers Rock opened up the way for him to spend his last years at the site of his own

Dreaming place and for the people who had a traditional claim on Ayers Rock to assert that claim and be given some recognition. Until he shared the story he had felt powerless and afraid because of what had taken place.

The recording of Aboriginal Oral History has an important role in the present struggle to assert Aboriginal identity and rights and in providing future Aboriginal people records of their history and all Australians with a more balanced presentation of the history of our nation.

Bill Edwards

#### Reference

I. W. H. Stanner (1970), "The Dreaming". in T. G. Harding & B. J. Wallace (eds.), Cultures of the Pacific (The Free Press), pp.304-5.

[Bill Edwards invited Mona Tur, of the Antagarina people, to recount an example of her memories of childhood.]

#### A VERY EXCITING OR FRIGHTENING STORY

"I have a tribal name, it is called **Ngitji Ngitji**.... I come from a place called Hamilton Bore, 50 kilometres north of Oodnadatta, and 55 south of the Northern Territory border, and I spent my childhood there with my people. Not having books (like you know you've got papers there), learning by that method, this is oral history, so I was taught orally about every aspect of my life, and repetition is one of the things that I was used to. Things were told to us over and over again so that we could remember, and I have a very exiting or frightening - story. I suppose, as far as I'm concerned, about the police.

Now, I never ever feel very comfortable when there's a policeman around, because in the 1930s, I think that most Aboriginal children had to be taken away - yes, part-Aboriginal children had to be taken away and put in a home. But my mother, and my grandfather and grandmother hid me all the time. My father, he was a ganger on the railways, and my uncle, he was a blacktracker with the police, so we knew exactly when the police were coming, so...I would go out in the bush, maybe for two or three weeks with my mother. My mother was a very wonderful woman, and she would take me out there. When it was time for us to come back, somebody would come and tell us, 'Well, the police have gone', and Dad, he would leave (my Dad was European, Irish) and he used to leave food along the railway line, and my mother knew exactly where to go for the food while we were in the bush. So I was very lucky.

But one day, I don't know, the communications must have got crossed, because we were living in our camp, in our **Ngura** or **Wiltja** (humpy); everyone was sitting down because it was very, very hot that day. Up in the north, it gets around about 100 in the shade, you know, you can't even walk on the ground because you're frightened your feet are going to burn. So you sit in your **Ngura**. And as we were sitting in our **Ngura** (I couldn't speak any English of course) I could hear all this commotion going on. 'Policeman, policeman, policeman'. So mother and I were sitting in this **Ngura**, and Mum said, 'Now the policeman has come and I have to dig a hole inside this **Ngura** so the policeman won't take you away, and when I dig this hole, I'm going to put you inside and just cover it up so your head will be showing, but you must not sneeze, cough, cry or anything because you'll be taken away and we will never ever see you again'.

And so, she did this to me. Then our people like a lot of dogs, you know, they usually have a lot of dogs around the place, but I think on that particular day they must have shooed about 20 dogs into this Ngura, or Wiltja, so the dogs would be lying around where I was and mother would put a blanket round me as well. I was just striving away there for breath, you know, it was so hot I thought I was going to die.

And then I could hear the policeman walking around and the people talking. 'You got 'em any half caste kids anywhere?' - this was the policeman saying and my uncle, he'd interpret - he jolly well knew that there was a half caste kid somewhere around the place! And anyway, he came near to mother's Ngura, and he said, 'You got 'em half caste kid?'. Uncle interpreted, and Mum said, 'No, me got no half caste kid', and here's this poor half caste kid almost dying! But I wasn't allowed to make any noise.

It left me with a very suspicious feeling about policemen - and Walkatjara; in the olden days they used to have a stripe down [the side of their trousers]. So whenever I saw a man with a Walkatjara, I always felt this sort of withdrawal from the policemen."

Mona Tur

### THE CITY OF ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

[Transcribed from an 1894 entry in the diary of Mr. George Kill, Breakfast Creek, Cox's River. Burragarang Valley, N.S.W. by the Honorary Research Officer for The Oaks Historical Society, June, 1983]

The capital of South Australia is beautifully situated midway between the Mount Lofty range and the sea, on a fruitful and pleasant plain. The site of the City was fixed by Colonel William Light, the first Surveyor-General, in 1836, and his choice, although much disputed at the time has been justified by experience. "The memory of Colonel Light" is a toast which is every year honoured in silence at the mayoral banquet, and a statue of the founder of the City is about to be erected in Light Square. One of the boasts of Adelaide is her Botanic Gardens which are beautifully laid out at the north-eastern end of the City. They cover 46 acres, and contain lakes, plantations, roseries, arbors, conservatories, palmhouse, fountains and aeries arranged with admirable taste and judgment. The garden was planned by Mr. G. W. Francis in 1855 but the work of development is chiefly to be credited to an energetic German scientist - Dr. Schomburgk - who acted as curator for over 20 years. The present director is Mr. Holtze, who on the death of Dr. Schomburgk was moved down from the Palmerstone Botanic Gardens to the much pleasanter establishment in Adelaide.

On summer days there are few pleasanter things than to sit in the shade of some great tree near one of the prettiest of the Lakelets, its surface alive with many colored water fowl, and in the midst of which is Diana's Island, where masses of floral bloom come down about to the waters edge, with a background of tall bamboos and other tropical plants waving their leaves languidly in the breeze. The Palmhouse is a fine structure, costing over £400. North of the gardens lies a Botanic Park a veritable Bois de Boulogne, with its magnificent trees and fine carriage drives. Close to the river Torrens is the Zoo, one of the most beautiful and complete establishments of its sort south of the line. The Flamingo Pond is a sight which once seen is not soon forgotten. The late Mr. Minchin was an indefatigable director and made two journeys to the far east for the purchase of strange beasts, birds and reptiles. Adelaide is 5 miles from the sea as the crow flies, and unfortunately Port Adelaide is only approachable by a long and winding creek which, in spite of constant dredging, does not admit vessels of such deep draught as the ocean liners. There has arisen the cry for an "outer harbour". but so far English Capitalists, and still worse Australian Capitalists - do not see their way clear to getting a return of the £3,000,000 or so which it would cost. There

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are many of them each with its corresponding seaport; The Government and the shipping companies have therefore had to choose from the various jetties along the coast. From north to south they number six little places of shipment, Largs Bay, Semaphore, The Grange, Henley Beach, Glenelg and Brighton. For many years Glenelg was the spot where mails and passengers from Europe were landed, but of late Largs Bay has been adopted, partly because somewhat calmer water is to be found there in rough weather, but chiefly because it is connected with Adelaide by a State railway; that to Glenelg being a private concern in fact the only private railway in South Australia. There are one or two handsome seaside residences at Largs Bay, and a fine three storey hotel close to the shore at the end of the Pier. It is much patronised by Adelaideans who in summer want a whiff of sea air without going far from town, and at all times of the year it has temporary customers, who have come to welcome friends on the "boat" for the mail steamers arrive at the most erratic hours often about 4 or 5 in the morning. The mail train goes to the sea end of the jetty, and the launches bring passengers and piles of mailbags directed to all the Australian Capitals.

### NOTES ON THE INSTITUTE BUILDING, NORTH TERRACE

During the question time of Chris Finimore's paper on the South Australian Society of Arts at our October seminar I mentioned the heritage significance of the Institute Building and made a plea for any information or photographs relating to the interior usage of the building. The following fairly bald notes are a slightly amended version of information I prepared for the History Trust's first Martindale Seminar in March 1981. I hope one year/decade to expand on them to produce a modest booklet on what is the oldest cultural building on North Terrace.

#### The Original Building

The southern half of the building was completed in 1860 and officially opened in 1861 to house the library, museum, offices and classes of the South Australian Institute (founded 1856) and its affiliated societies the Adelaide Philosophical Society (founded 1853) and the South Australian Society of Arts (founded 1856). It soon became overcrowded in all departments, but no relief was provided until the present Jervois Wing of the State Library was occupied by the Museum in 1882. When the Jervois Wing was completed in 1884 the S.A.I. Library was split up and the Adelaide Circulating Library formed from the books not transferred to the new Public Library. Meanwhile the National Gallery of S.A. collection, formed in 1881 following a parliamentary vote of funds in 1880, had also moved to the Jervois Wing in 1882. The S.A. Institute ceased to exist on 1 July, 1884, and was replaced by the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, a combined institution governed by a single board, which lasted until 1940.

#### The 1907 Additions

The need for increased accommodation for the Circulating Library and the affiliated societies and the need for a home for the Royal Geographical Society's (founded 1885) magnificent York Gate Library purchased in 1905 led to the northern half of the present building being officially opened 12 June, 1907. It provided a lecture room and Society of Arts rooms upstairs and rooms for the Geographical Society and Royal Society (formerly the Adelaide Philosophical Society) downstairs.

#### Alterations

Many minor alterations to the building have been made but the only major ones would appear to be the addition of a mezzanine floor off the library (1890s?), removal of the staircase in

the main entrance hall (1919/20) and the creation of a modern lecture theatre in the former Royal Geographical Society Rooms (1960s).

#### Miscellaneous Notes Illustrating Further North Terrace Interconnections

1. The S.A. Institute Board held its first four meetings in the Legislative Council Building Library during 1856.
2. The S.A. Society of Arts held its first exhibition in 1857 in the Legislative Council Chamber.
3. The University Association and its successor the University Council both arranged classes in the Institute Building in the 1870s before the University had its own buildings.
4. The S.A. School of Art grew out of the School of Design run first by the S.A. Society of Arts and later by the S.A. Institute, P.L.M. and A.G. and Education Department.
5. The sites of the Festival Centre and Parliament House were considered for the 1860 Institute Building.

#### The Building's Heritage Significance

The cultural significance of the building is truly remarkable, not only in terms of the number of important bodies that have at some time used its rooms but in terms of the continuity of usage by many of them, viz.

Newspaper Reading Room - A public reading room since 1860  
Library - 1860-1975  
Royal S.A. Society of Arts - Present rooms since built (1907)  
- In occupation since c. 1860  
Royal Society - c. 1860-1967  
Institutes Association - By 1913-1980  
Royal Geographical Society - By 1907-1967

#### References

A very wide range of published and unpublished material was used in compiling the original notes from which the above information derives. Perhaps the most interesting sources are the annual reports of the Institute and its successor. Anyone with a particular interest in the building and the associations which used it is welcome to consult my research file, which is held in the History Trust offices.

Brian Samuels

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

##### I. General Description

The South Australian Archives, currently operating as a branch of the State Library of South Australia, is the official repository for records of the state government and of semi-government and municipal authorities. In addition, the records of many of the state's most distinguished individuals and prominent families, business houses, societies, religious and political institutions are deposited in the Archives. There is also an extensive pictorial

collection consisting of photographs, prints and original drawings, together with a map collection, and a small reference collection of South Australian printed material.

Although the Archives is the recognised centre for research on all aspects of South Australian history it performs a wider function by participating in the management and storage of government records. The records management role of the State Archives is being developed in response to demands imposed by the increasing volume of public records being generated by government and local government agencies. As such, the Archives combines the character of a manuscript repository responsible for the collection and organisation of material for its historical content, and a public records office, providing facilities for the storage and control of government and local government records for the benefit initially of the creating agency, and ultimately to ensure the preservation of such material for future use, in other words the Archives performs the dual functions of serving an administrative need of government and of providing an information and research service to the public.

## II. History

The Archives was established in 1920 as a department under the control of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery Board with the avowed purpose of collecting and preserving a variety of material of general historical interest. In 1939 it became part of the Public Library of South Australia, now the State Library of South Australia.

## III. Administration

The Archives is divided into two administrative sections:

- a) the **Acquisitions and Processing Section**, responsible for the selection and deposit of public and private records, ensuring the orderly disposal, transfer and storage of records, arranging, describing and interpreting records, and preparing finding aids to records.
- b) the **Reference Services Section**, responsible for conservation, research enquiries from the public either by post or in person in the public search room. The Section also provides a systematic retrieval service for government departments whose non-current or semi-current records have been transferred to archival custody.

The material held by the Archives currently comprises five principal categories of records, these being:

1. Government Record Groups (GRG)
2. Private Record Groups (PRG)
3. Business Record Groups (BRG)
4. Society Record Groups (SRG)
5. Municipal Record Groups (MRG)

There are also items which are not placed in these groups and are designated by accession numbers only. Of these, all record groups with the exception of some government records are held at the Archives North Terrace repository. Some series of government records are stored at auxiliary repositories located in the basement of the Public Service Association building in Gilbert Street, Adelaide, and at Wilton Avenue, Somerton Park.

## IV. Finding Aids

There is no comprehensive catalogue or index covering all of the material in the Archives, or the specific subject content of this material. Currently there are four main types of finding aids:

1. Subject card catalogue arranged on dictionary principles. This catalogue has entries for much of

- the early accessioned material held in the Archives, including maps and photographs.
2. Specialized indexes and preliminary inventories.
  3. Record group system comprising lists of record series, supported by special lists, for all types of record groups, official and private.
  4. Government record series registration system which relates to the most recent transfers of official records to the Archives and which provides a comprehensive extensively documented guide to record series created by government agencies. This system is being introduced progressively from mid 1983 as part of a rationalisation of intellectual control of Archival holdings.

#### V. Genealogy Workroom

The workroom contains sources relevant to family history research and is open during normal Archives hours. The room is a self-service unit and sources are on open access. Detailed assistance in the use of the workroom is available during the following hours only:

Wednesday and Friday:	9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Thursday:	1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

#### VI. Access

Research use of most State Government records less than 30 years old is restricted, and certain restrictions may apply to some records over 30 years old. Special access conditions may also apply to some private records. Researchers wishing to consult restricted material are required to obtain writing permission from either the government concerned or the donor.

#### VII. Hours of Opening

Monday:	9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Tuesday:	" "
Wednesday:	" "
Thursday:	1.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
Friday:	9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Closed on public holidays and weekends.

It is recommended that Historians and other researchers about to embark on major research projects make an appointment with a member of the Archives staff in order to discuss the range of source material and types of finding aids available in the Archives.

Robert Thornton, South Australian Archives

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#### NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

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Since September, 1983, the following Newsletters and Journals have been received:

- a) Ancestor. Quarterly Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Vol.14, No.8,

September, 1983.

- b) Australia Day Update, Newsletter of the National Australia Day Committee, October, 1983.
- c) Canberra and District Historical Society Newsletter, Nos.247, 248 and 249, September, October and November, 1983.
- d) Canberra Historical Journal, New Series No.12, September, 1983.
- e) Descent, The Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Vol.13, September, 1983.
- f) Early Days, Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, Vol.8, Part 6, 1982.
- g) Journal, of The Royal Australian Historical Society, Vol.69, Pt.2, September, 1983 June, 1983.
- h) Portonian, Vol.11, No. 3, September, 1983.
- i) Royal Geographical Society of Australasia S.A. Branch (Inc.) Newsletter, Vol.19, Nos.9 & 10, October and November, 1983..
- j) Royal Western Australian Historical Society's Newsletter, Vol.22, Nos.8, 9 & 10, September, October and November, 1983.
- k) The South Australian Genealogist, Vol.10, No.4. October, 1983.
- l) South-East Family History Group Newsletter, Vol.3, No.4, September, 1983.
- m) Stockman's Hall of Fame, Vol.8, September, 1983.
- n) The Uniting Church in South Australia, Historical Society Newsletter, No.20, November, 1983.

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#### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

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- d) "Walter Burley Griffin's Other Towns" by Greg Murphy. 9 pg. article.
- "The Australian War Memorial Competition: 'a gross injustice'" by D. I. McDonald. 8 pgs.
- f) "The Golden Age of Cinema in Perth" by J. H. M. Hanniball. 15 pgs.
- h) "A Semaphore Chronology" by Brian Samuels. 2 pgs.
- m) "The Cemeteries of Mount Gambier" by Migon E. Ide. 3 pgs.

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#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

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Constitution of The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Incorporated).

English Parish Register Transcripts, A List of All Known Transcripts of English Parish Registers Held in Australian and New Zealand Libraries, Edited by N. J. Vine Hall, Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney, 1983.

(Copies at \$7.00 each, including postage, are available from the Director, Society of Australian Genealogists, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia. 2000.)

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#### NOMINATIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S COUNCIL FOR 1984

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Nominations are hereby called for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and eight other positions on the Council. Nominations signed by both the proposer and the nominee should be lodged with the Secretary, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000 by the 16th of February, 1984. The new Council will take office after the Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 6, 1984.