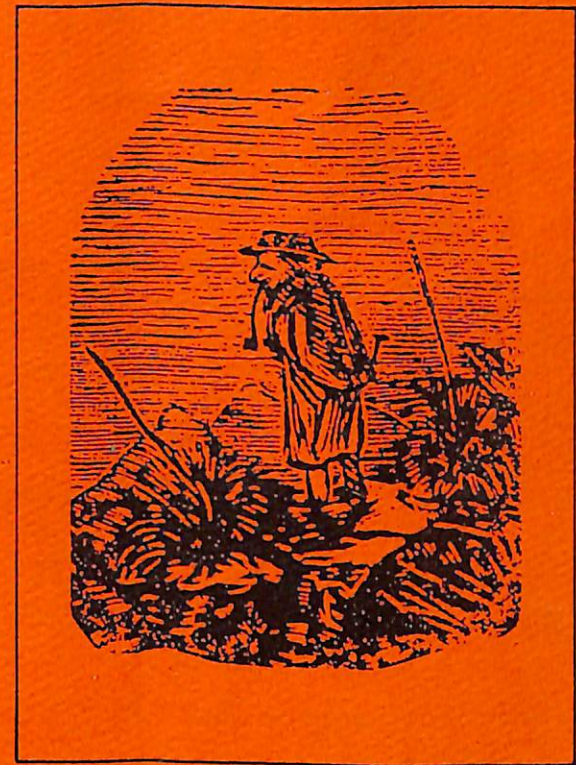




The  
Historical Society  
of  
South Australia  
Inc.



Newsletter No.62 January 1986



Registered by Australia post  
Publication No. SBH 1254.



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000.

## OBJECTS:

- (a) to arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of South Australian and Australian history,
- (b) to promote the collection, preservation and classification of source material of all kinds relating to South Australian and Australian history,
- (c) to publish historical records and articles,
- (d) to promote the interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, readings, discussions and exhibitions,
- (e) to co-operate with similar societies throughout Australia,
- (f) to do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COUNCIL:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| PATRON:               | Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.  |
| PRESIDENT:            | Mr R.J.P. Nicol   |
| VICE-PRESIDENT:       | Dr A.J. Stimson   |
| SECRETARY:            | Miss M. Roberts   |
| TREASURER:            | Mr D.J.H. Manuel  |
| MINUTE SECRETARY:     | Miss T.M. Donnellan   |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: | Mrs E. Ulbrich  |
| JOURNAL EDITOR:       | Dr J.D. Playford  |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR:    | Ms D. Torpy   |
| MEMBERS:              | Mr R.M. Gibbs, A.M.<br>Mr R.H.B. Kearns, M.B.E.<br>Mr B.J. Samuels<br>Ms P. Sumerling |
| WORD PROCESSING:      | Miss V.J. O'Neill   |

\*\*\*\*\*

FOUNDED IN 1974

### *Cover Illustration*

Johannes Menge as he appeared in W.A. Cawthorne's "A Sketch of the life of the late Johann Menge" (Adelaide 1859).

## THE JUBILEE YEAR

Having worked on the programme for 1985, but also having seen the vast array of events planned for South Australia's jubilee, I was tempted to suggest that the Historical Society go into recess for the year, just to allow members a little more time to participate in the celebrations. Of course, we shall do no such thing and, indeed, hope to make our own contribution to the success of the year, continuing the work of the past twelve years in encouraging an interest in the state's history.

As was the case in 1985, the Society will mount a varied programme aimed at providing something of interest for all members. Speakers range from the Premier of the State and one of South Australia's best known Liberal politicians to a cycling enthusiast who has not only examined the history of cycling, but has gathered a fascinating collection of cycling memorabilia, some of which she will share with members. The very successful series of fund-raising tours begun in 1985 will be continued. This year members may, among several tours, take the opportunity of seeing historic gardens, Australia's finest piano collection and one of South Australia's most authentically restored Victorian domestic interiors. As usual, members will also receive their bi-monthly newsletters and annual journal, filled with further material related to our history.

The question of funds and Society publications brings me to the matter of membership fees. In 1985, the Society was faced with a massive increase in printing costs. In fact, it was calculated that the journal cost approximately \$13 a copy to print and post to members. With an annual fee of only \$16 this could clearly not be continued and so, Council has decided to increase the annual membership fee to \$20. This may seem a steep increase, but I am sure members will agree, when they look at the enclosed 1986 programme, that they are still getting very good value for money.

1985 was a very good year for the Historical Society with membership increasing by around 30%. I hope this trend continues and rely on those of you who can, to spread the word and encourage as many friends and relatives as possible to join. The more members the Society has, the more successful its programme and publications will be and the more ambitious it can be for the coming years.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during 1986.

Robert Nicol

President

\* \* \* \* \*

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 21 (8.00 p.m.)

(Please note that this meeting will not be held on the usual day, the first Friday of the month.)

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre, Institute Building  
(Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide)

**Bernard O'Neil: Johannes Menge, 1788 - 1852**  
- Father of South Australian Mineralogy

This is a joint meeting with the Earth Sciences History Group, members of which will introduce the topic and look at Menge's contribution from a scientific point of view, whilst our speaker will spend the bulk of the evening dealing with the historical aspects of this early and very important scientist working in South Australia.

-oOo-

Friday, March 7 (8.00p.m.)

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre

**Brian Samuels: Historic Port Adelaide**

Brian Samuels, a member of the Society's Council, is also the Historian of the Port Adelaide Historical Society and possesses an immense fund of knowledge about this area which was so important to South Australia's early development. His talk will provide an interesting lead-in to our first fund-raising tour for the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

\*\* FUND-RAISING TOURS \*\*

**FIRST TOUR FOR 1986: SUNDAY, MARCH 9 (2.00p.m.)**

#### EXPLORING PORT ADELAIDE

(Assemble at the Police Station, corner of St Vincent Street and Commercial Road, i.e. the Black Diamond Corner)

This will be the first of our tours for the year and will be led by Mr Brian Samuels, who will show us a number of buildings of interest including those in the Historic Precinct. Members and their friends are welcome. (A donation of \$2 per adult to assist the Society's work would be appreciated.)

\* \* \* \* \*

### NOMINATIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S COUNCIL FOR 1986

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 nominee, should be lodged with the Secretary, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000 by Thursday the 13th of March, 1986. The new Council will take office after the Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 4, 1986.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CAN YOU HELP?

The Helping Hand Centre runs a School for Seniors at their Parafield Gardens Centre every Wednesday. Classes cover such topics as Local History, Basic Economics, and the English Language. Participants come from a number of community services.

The centre is looking for volunteers to tutor classes in 1986, especially someone who is willing to conduct classes in Australian History and South Australian History.

If you feel you are able to help, please contact Joan Allington, the Programme Co-ordinator, phone 258 2199.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

It seems that each generation questions the value of the previous generation's achievements and considers what is worthwhile to pass on to the next. Even when a decision is made the next generation can choose to disregard it. Obviously it is not enough to say "this is to go and that is to be kept" without the backing and support of papers and people.

St Mary's Church complex as it presently stands is important to a wide variety of interests in the community.

1. To the congregation it serves in providing and filling the spiritual needs.
2. To the descendants of the people who have been connected to it for 140 years by maintaining an association to a sacred place.
3. To the surrounding commercial community as a visual symbol of stability and peace in a cosmopolitan place.
4. It is often the centrepiece in the teaching of local

history by surrounding schools. Indeed it will be an integral part of Marion High School's wide-ranging Jubilee 150 programme.

St Mary's Church is the second oldest church building (built 1846-7) in S.A. and was the first established in what were then the rural areas. (St Mary's Mag. Oct. 1951) It is the only public building built from Ayliffe's Quarry stone which is still standing. This stone was extremely hard and could not be cut into square blocks, hence the corners of the church were finished with the sandstone blocks from the Mitcham quarries. The quarry belonging to the Ayliffe family has since been filled in. With the cemetery, the Church has high heritage value to the State and especially to the St Marys and Mitcham District Council area.

In 1841 when this church was founded "depression and unemployment faced all classes of colonists. Many without so much as a permanent dwelling place of their own, turned their minds to the erection of a place of worship, when their efforts could have been well occupied with the development and safeguard of their own properties." (St Mary's Mag. Sept 1950) The people involved with this complex for the past 140 years have ranged from across society. Many can be remembered by the inscriptions of the head stones surrounding the Church. A State Premier and his family are buried there along with an engineer and explorer, and the pioneers of many districts which carry their name e.g. - O'Halloran Hill, Trott Park, Daw Park etc. People who simply lived and worked in this district have been associated with the complex, a fact that is increasingly being recognized by their descendants as they rediscover their roots.

Service to the community has made St Mary's Church a focal point in a busy part of commercial South Road. Those of the C of E following have been part of a regular congregation to use the building several times during the week as well as on Sundays. Until recent years with the introduction of civil celebrants it has been readily used for the three major events in many people's lives: baptisms, marriages and burials.

Although not actively involved with the day to day expenditure of the church, the very existence of something that appears to be solid and from another time gives those who pass it each day another dimension to their lives. Lunch time walks are sometimes spent gazing over the picket fence to read the inscriptions on the tombstones. The influence and value of heritage on people's lives is difficult to measure, but it is certainly important in developing an appreciation of another generation's existence and assessing our own direction.

The land belonging to St Mary's Church was donated by J.W. Daw only a couple of years after his arrival in S.A. In

recent years it has exceeded its immediate use allowing some of it to be under long term lease to several commercial businesses. A schoolhouse/hall was built on the site of the original wattle and daub church and remained in use as a school until the end of World War I. The Great War left the community fragmented and needing the opportunity for a new lifestyle. Land all over the Adelaide Plains was being subdivided as housing estates and the St Marys district was no exception.

Mr W.H. Watson was responsible for the subdivision around St Marys, moving to live in the district during 1924. Until the end of the decade his series of companies were responsible for the subdivisions of St Marys Park, South Road Estate and South Road Park. Changing land use, bad state of repair and the approaching Depression led to a vestry meeting held in the old hall in 1927 to decide on the demolition of old school/hall the next year. Another generation later, it was said of this decision "although sold during bad financial years, the fact that a building of such historical significance to the district should have been disposed of for the nominal sum of £15 will always remain a matter of much regret." (St Mary's Mag. April 1951) The sale of this block lapsed until 1948 when "major restoration of the church became apparent" (St Mary's Mag. Aug 1950), however it was not until 1950 that Lot 64 of Section 41 was sold to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and another decade was to pass before anything was built there.

By the 1950s a second wave of post-war development was in progress around St Marys. In spite of the newness of everything an "appeal to members of the congregation and friends of St Marys to assist in the most necessary work by contributing to the 'St Marys Church Restoration Fund'. We are in the centre of a rapidly growing Housing Area, and we are the inheritors of a beautiful old Church. We must not fail in our duty to make our inheritance secure, so that generations to come may worship God within the walls of St Marys strengthened and restored in beauty as befits a House of God." (St Mary's Mag. Jan 1953)

During the subsequent months work was carried out on the walls and foundations, poor mortar and rubble from around the solid quartzite stones was removed and repairs were made to the floor and roof. (St Mary's Mag. Jan 1953) However during the second half of the year two fires damaged the vestry and roof area of the church and on the 1st March the following year an earthquake reopened many of the old cracks recently repaired. The cemetery was now only open to existing leaseholders and there were plans to erect a new rectory. The old rectory was disposed of without ceremony about 10 years ago.

The fabric of the building, as with any, is in need of continued maintenance. Until an effective drainage system is

implemented, creeping dampness will continue to be a problem in the walls. Until the heritage value is publicised and recognized by the Church, the financial burden will continue to fall on a few. Both of these points can be overcome by encouraging the whole community to support and care for the St Mary's complex, as is being done at Brougham Place Church, North Adelaide.

I hope this background will encourage a positive decision to be made for the retention of the whole historic complex to continue to serve the community usefully.

M.E. Ragless  
July 1985

\* \* \* \* \*

Members should direct any enquiries re the

**ST MARYS RESTORATION LOAN FUND**

terms and application forms to the

Administrators  
St Marys Church  
1167 South Road  
ST MARYS SA 5042

\* \* \* \* \*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FAMILY HISTORY AWARD**

This Award shall be an annual award made by The South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc., to the person or persons producing in the opinion of the Society, the best family history published in that calendar year by a South Australian or of a substantially South Australian family. Where the history is by other than a resident of South Australia, a South Australian family shall be taken to mean a family of three or more generations, resident in the State.

The Award will be governed by the following terms and conditions:-

1. The Award will be determined by a Selection Committee appointed each year by the Council of the Society.
2. No member of any Selection Committee will be a member of the family of any authors or their agents.
3. The Selection Committee will give fair consideration to all entries each year, irrespective of the production method used.

4. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be final, subject only to the endorsement by the Council of the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc. before public announcement of the award each year.
5. All works submitted must be in recognized book form, (duplicated, multilith, offset, type set) and have been a multiple copies (50 or more) edition.
6. Entries for the Award must have been published in the calendar year in question or be completely new editions. Publication date will normally be the imprint or public release date.
7. Authors or their agents may submit more than one entry each year provided the entries are of different works. An agent is a person having (written) permission to enter the book on the author's behalf. The award will be the author's.
8. All books must be submitted to the Society by the date publicly stated each year, and the authors or their agents shall be responsible for the delivery to the Selection Committee.
9. All books submitted for the Award remain the property of the Society and will be housed in the Society's Library after the final judging. When placed in the Library, each book will have placed in the front of it a label detailing that it was submitted and accepted for the Award.
10. Authors must allow the Society to publicise their entries by title and permit comments on the book/books entered for the Award to be made where the Award may be receiving public notice or acknowledgement.
11. Eligibility for entry of publications will be either:
  - a. author(s) is a resident of South Australia, or
  - b. family is or was substantially resident in South Australia, i.e. three or more generations have been resident in the State.Where there is doubt regarding an entrant's eligibility, the Selection Committee's decision shall be final.

Enquiries and Entries

Applications in writing and entries should be sent to the "South Australian Family History Award", c/- South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc., P.O. Box 13, Marden, South Australia 5070 prior to the 31st January.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JUBILEE 150: CELEBRATE AND EDUCATE

This article is based on a keynote address given at the Children's Literature Summer School, January 1985, by Elizabeth Ho, Executive Officer of the J150 Education Executive Committee. It is an abridged version of an article which appeared in Pivot vol 12/2 (1985), and is reproduced with permission.

-oOo-

Quite recently I was standing outside our family seaside cottage at Robe - a building dating back to 1847 - when two women came across the lawn towards me. In halting English (they were German tourists) they asked if I would tell them something about it. I was delighted to oblige. I prattled on for some minutes, showed them the interior, the garden well, talked to them about some of the most interesting Robe buildings and showed them where to find them on the local brochure. Just as they were about to depart, one sister looked at me inquiringly and said "How much interest please?" Momentarily confused, I suddenly understood that they expected me to charge a fee. Having explained that it was not necessary, they both shook my hand vigorously, produced a camera, and recorded my family and me for their album back in Germany. No doubt the experience will be remembered as an aberration in a world where the past has become highly saleable.

In this year before Jubilee 150, there is evidence galore that we are in the midst of a glorious historical revolution - at least that is how it feels for those of us who have for some years been interested in promoting South Australia's past.

There are no shortage of reasons for this burgeoning sense of history. They include:

- Conservation campaigns: Critical events like the historic rescue of the ANZ Bank Building and its conservation challenge to the prevailing notion of progress.
- Centenaries: The growing number of centenaries - schools, towns, family reunions, societies, buildings - which tend to stimulate the layperson's interest in the past.
- Local interest: The establishment of local and regional historical societies, National Trust branches, museums and local history library collections.
- Scholarship: Theses, books and films on South Australian topics have increased significantly over the past decade, and the work of such bodies as the Historical Society of S.A., the Genealogical Society of S.A., and the Oral History Association of S.A. is encouraging private research.

- Tourism: The tourist dollar is helping to promote historical awareness and is making basic historical information far more accessible to the public. Tourism is also stimulating a sense of regional difference which in turn engenders pride in distinctive historical features and experiences, and a concern for preservation.
- Government action: The number of initiatives taken by government over the past decade has been impressive. Heritage legislation now protects everything from Aboriginal sacred sites to European style gardens. The recommendations of the 1981 Edwards Report on "Museum Policy and Development in S.A." have among other things led to the creation of the History Trust of South Australia. Its stated purpose is to foster an informed public awareness of South Australia's rich and distinctive history and to ensure the preservation of significant items associated with that history. It has responsibility for a number of museums, including the development of the North Terrace Social History Museums cultural precinct. It also formulates museum policy for South Australia, advises on all historical matters, and encourages the preservation of historical objects. There has also been the notable government decision to support the Mortlock Library of South Australia. This will bring together all S.A. information sources in the State Library, with the exception of government records, to form a coherent and accessible state collection.

Attendant upon this revolution is a veritable hive of workers - historians, archivists, designers, curators, administrators, architects, librarians, anthropologists, tourist officers, and so on. Dr. Peter Cahalan, Director of the History Trust of S.A., calls it "the history industry" and although impossible to quantify in exact terms, it is indisputably a phenomenon of our times.

Enter Jubilee 150 - riding on the crest of the heritage wave, and "C'mon Aussie C'mon" nationalism, but coincidental with a period of economic caution, this giant birthday party's organization has occasionally bent at the knees under the strain of good ideas submitted in their thousands by history-minded folk.

The muscle of that historical fervour has, in my opinion, pushed Jubilee 150 into a rather different shape than some people may have envisaged it, or even see it today. From a media perspective, Jubilee 150 is the birthday party to end all birthday parties, complete with piping shrike badges, catchy jingles, acrylic fur Jubilee wombats, American-style baseball hats, and T-shirts. A million bumper stickers proclaim "South Australia - 150 in 1986". The media message is well and truly underway; the message is characteristically simplistic: "Celebrate", and its period of duration clearly

defined. The world ends in December, 1986.

As someone who has been a member of the J150 History and Conservation Committee, and the co-ordinator of the J150 education programme since 1981, I must confess to having a rather different perspective. From a financial viewpoint alone, Jubilee 150 has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in projects likely to exert a lasting cultural influence on the life of our state. Many have limited media appeal compared with the grand ceremonies, the glittering galas, the sports tournaments and that media jewel, the Grand Prix. Collectively, however, they invite South Australians to know - not just about the weary but determined band who struggled ashore at Holdfast Bay in 1836, but also about the Aboriginal experience, before and after invasion, about the lifestyles and contributions of wave on wave of immigrants, about our economic and political development, physical environment, our institutions and our cultural diversity. Jubilee 150 then is rather less a birthday party than a coming of age - a time for the getting of wisdom in South Australia.

#### JUBILEE 150 EDUCATION PROGRAMME

In November 1980, Kym Bonython, Chairman of the Jubilee 150 Board, invited Director-General of Education, John Steinle, to chair the Jubilee 150 Education Executive Committee. This committee was to represent all areas of education and to advise and recommend education projects to the Board. The Committee would also have responsibility for the State Bicentennial education programme in 1988.

Since its inception, the committee has concentrated its efforts and funds into major statewide projects likely to attract wide student participation. Known as the major programme, it is strongly supported by the S.A. Education Department, TAFE, and other education agencies.

The major programme offers students three opportunities:

- To demonstrate their talents to their community and to visitors to our state.
- To gain a deeper understanding of their state's history and heritage.
- To develop a greater sense of identity as South Australians.

This brief selection of major projects indicates how those opportunities are being offered.

#### Heritage Now! School Grants Programme

Supported by Special Jubilee 150 Board grants, over 140 schools across the state will research aspects of local heritage over 1985, and present the outcomes to their

community in 1986. Projects cover restoration, crafts, oral and written histories, Aboriginal heritage, dance/drama, re-enactment and local environmental studies.

#### Youth Music Festival

A major music festival involving students of all ages in a comprehensive programme of jazz, folk, classical and ethnic music. A highlight will be performances by expatriate South Australian musicians and choral and musical groups of international standing. The festival will feature major performances in the metropolitan area, in addition to master classes, composition and conducting seminars and country tours and local events.

#### Jubilee Youth Trek

Thousands of South Australian school children will participate in an educational trek along various sections of the Heysen Trail.

#### Folk Education Project

This project will focus on aspects of Anglo-Celtic, ethnic and Aboriginal culture. A project officer will co-ordinate folk workshops in educational institutions during 1985-6, and organize student folk performances for Jubilee 150 festivals and events.

#### Youthscape

During 1986 students will be involved in a wide range of art activities, through exhibitions, performances, youth media programmes and a major culmination event in November, 1986.

#### Women at Work

There will be a major exhibition and publication exploring both the historical and contemporary scene of women's work and technical training. Supported by TAFE and the Jubilee 150 Board, the exhibition will coincide with the 1986 launching of the new TAFE College in Adelaide's Light Square. It will also visit country areas.

In addition to the major programme, there are a variety of self funded, privately sponsored or part funded projects, mounted by individuals, schools, and other educational institutions, and ranging from sports championships to school reunions. We are hoping that a significant number of schools which were unable to obtain funding through the Heritage Now! scheme will go ahead with their nominated projects.

In addition to actual projects, the Jubilee 150 education programme is generating an impressive array of educational resources relating to South Australia. The most significant is a text for the eleven to fifteen age group going under the current working title of "The Social History of South Australia." This project grew out of a shared concern among history teachers about the lack of a suitable book on the history of ordinary people in South Australia.

The responsibility for this project belongs to a small representative panel, which is pulling together the work of a number of volunteer writers into a coherent, consistent text. The approach adopted in the book will enable students to understand more clearly the historical process. There is an emphasis on primary evidence. This is juxtaposed carefully with interpretation, so that students can identify very clearly the difference between the two.

The Social History is one of a number of special publications to be released over 1985-86. One book is already available - "Come Into the Past: Classroom Activities for Jubilee 150", copies of which can be purchased through the Information Office of the Education Department of South Australia.

Some of our key projects will also involve the production of resources. The Heritage Now! scheme is a case in point and I am very excited about the possibilities for increasing the number of written and visual resources relating to local heritage through this scheme.

I would like to make two points about Heritage Now!:

Firstly, schools have been invited to decide what deserves to be called "heritage" in their local area, working from the perspective of "things we ought to keep". While most have followed a predictable pattern of concentrating on their local history, some will examine the physical environment, and a few will consider the present - for example, Woodside Primary School's "Learning in Woodside in the mid-eighties".

Secondly, if the Heritage Now! Scheme is to achieve our long term aim of increasing knowledge and awareness of South Australia's history and heritage, then preservation is essential. In the conditions of the grant, we have placed considerable emphasis on the need to preserve the products of projects, be they written, visual or oral, by depositing copies with the Mortlock Library and local libraries, and registering tapes with the Oral History Association.

At this stage our programme and Jubilee 150 in general, is up and running well. Education Department support has been generous, and personnel have been appointed to ensure that Jubilee 150 is woven into the fabric of schools and not made simply as a limited print edition for 1986. We are confident that our programme offers a process as well as a procession - not of tractor-driven caricatures of past days - but a series of learning events and the creation of an environment which will have an influence well beyond 1986.

Finally, if we need any slogans to give some idea of the retrospective and prospective balance of the education programme, what about "The Past is Present" or "You are

History" or "J150 Looks Ahead"?

As the Premier of South Australia has said, "If our history has been short on insurrection, riot, gold rushes and bushranging, it has shown great maturity in the development of our key institutions. I think it will prove instructive for us in the run-up to our Jubilee celebrations, to look back at this historical heritage to see if we can rekindle the progressive spirit of those early days. In that way we can employ the past to invigorate the future."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LIBRARIES BOARD OF S.A. - ANNUAL REPORT 1983-84

The following edited extracts from the recently released report outline some of the developments of most interest to members. Copies of the full report are available gratis from the State Library's South Australiana Bookshop.

-oOo-

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COLLECTION

The South Australian Collection has achieved a great deal during the year, particularly in relation to the establishment of the Mortlock Library. Additional staff have been employed with Job Creation funds allowing additional projects to be undertaken against a background of a continuing increase in service demands.

Five hundred and fifty-five boxes of donations were sorted, checked, listed and added to the Collection or discarded. Some 3 300 folders of ephemeral leaflets, brochures and pamphlets were sorted, labelled and organised for adding to the Collection's South Australian ephemera. Transfer of copies of South Australian books and pamphlets from the Reference Library was completed to create a small reference collection for use by library users on open-access in the Collection's Reading Room. ...

Use of the Collection has continued to increase dramatically. Inquiries have increased by fifty-seven per cent over the previous year while the number of items consulted by users has more than doubled. While the number of researchers pursuing sesquicentenary related projects continues to show a steady increase, the largest increase is in the number of popular requests received from family history and genealogical researchers. Increase in the use of the Collection and microfilm readers created difficulties in providing adequate reading spaces for users. Purchase of three additional microfilm readers during the year helped alleviate the difficulty and the reading room has been re-organised to provide a separate restricted reading area for researchers. ...

The program for microfilming of South Australian newspapers has continued on schedule. Four hundred and sixty-one microfilm positives were added to the S.A. Collection's holdings during the year, with 479 microfilms supplied to sponsoring clients. Significant titles completed during the year included the Chronicle, the Peterborough Times, and the Southern Argus. Filming of our unique collection of German language newspapers was also completed. Increasing requests are being received for purchase of our own microfilms and for contract microfilming of materials for outside bodies.

#### ARCHIVES

During the year under review the most notable feature was continuing, and at times dramatic, increase in demand for archival services of all kinds - reference/research, copying, genealogical enquiries, retrieval of public records, assistance with the development of records management programs, requests for transfers to be made.

These demands had to be handled without any increase in permanent staffing. However, by the end of the period it was clear that the rate of increase both in numbers of readers and in numbers of issues of records will become unmanageable without additional staff resources in the near future. Service demands were such that routine processing tasks often took lower priority, contributing to our already substantial processing backlog. ...

Public accommodation has been increasingly crowded as the number of visits grew throughout the year. This situation is unlikely to be relieved until the transfer of the genealogical service and private records to the Mortlock Library in 1985; however, staff have attempted within the space limits to improve traffic flow and keep congestion to a minimum. Storage accommodation became a critical problem during the year, with North Terrace and off-site repositories 100 per cent full to the limit of available shelving. Plans for the new repository at Netley were completed, and the building is expected to be occupied by late 1984. However, the space vacated by the Government Printer is considerably less than anticipated, and hence Netley will not provide a solution to accommodation needs, particularly as the Archives now has to relinquish the major part of its North Terrace storage to relieve acute space problems for the rest of the State Library.

During the year a Joint Federal/State Working Party on Public Records Management was established, with membership from Australian Archives, South Australian Archives, the South Australian Public Service Board and the Data Processing Board. The Working Party (chaired by the Director of Local Government) and its sub-groups met several times, and in June

presented its first report to State and Federal Ministers and to State Cabinet. This report concentrated on proposed solutions to medium- and long-term accommodation needs for both agencies. Subsequent reports will address the functions, structure, staffing and budget of the Public Records Office.

In February 1984, Val Siebert was appointed Acting Manager of the Branch, with the responsibility for both day-to-day management and the implementation of the developmental tasks above.

The quantity of public records transferred was 952 metres compared with a record 2,268 metres in 1982-83. Transfers were restricted to this figure because of lack of storage accommodation. Two hundred and sixty-two accessions of private records were processed. ...

Several members of the public have generously devoted their time to making more detailed finding aids to potentially valuable sources. Mr W.H. Callaghan and Mr A.D. Lockyer have made itemised lists of railway photographs in the Kingsborough papers (PRG 327). Mrs L. Page has made a consolidated index to railways personnel records (GRG 42/131). Miss L.R. Burdett has indexed the correspondence of the Advocate General, 1840-56 (GRG 1/1). Miss E. Ahrens has compiled an index to South Australiana, 1962-83.

Increasing awareness of heritage issues, family and local history, Sesquicentenary and Bicentennial planning are all having an impact on Archives activity, especially in relation to traditional archival functions. Similarly the developments in administrative law, concepts of freedom of information and privacy, and pressures on government accommodation, combine to focus attention on the pressing need for a Public Records organisation capable of handling control, access, disposal and storage of public records on a vastly increased scale from that presently applying.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **HISTORY OF UNLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

Society member Craig Campbell would like to advise other members of his recent publication, State High School: Unley 1910 - 1985.

-oOo-

Like Adelaide, Norwood, Lefevre and Hindmarsh High Schools, it began just before World War I. The book shows how the events were not unrelated. In many parts of the British Empire there was concern that Imperial Germany and the U.S.A. were advancing more quickly in terms of industry and technology. Improved secondary schooling was seen as

part of the process of correcting this problem.

State High School documents the changing roles and influences of examinations, I.Q. testing and the competitive curriculum, as well as policies on sex segregation and student discipline. The influence of great events such as the Depression are traced. Analysis of enrolment figures show conclusively for example that when the Butler LCL Government introduced fees for high schools, parents took their girls away from school, making greater sacrifices to keep the boys on.

The book is not all social and educational analysis however. Many of the stories associated with the work of its well known teachers, Jim Giles (of Latin fame), Ben Gates, Hilda Hill, Rex Ingamells, Ted Smith, Bet Tomlinson, May Mills and others are recorded.

The book is some 320 pages long, with 50 photographs and available only in paperback. It is professionally designed and produced. To order a copy, send \$14.95 (+ \$2 postage) to Unley High School, Kitchener Street, Netherby 5062. (Make cheques payable to "State High School".)

Craig Campbell

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ST. JOHN AMBULANCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The St. John Council for South Australia has published the history of St. John Ambulance in South Australia. This history "South Australians and St. John Ambulance 1885-1985", has been written for the Council by Dr. Ian Howie-Willis, a Canberra-based professional historian specialising in institutional histories.

The book analyses the growth of the St. John organisation in South Australia from a small charity in the colonial era to its present position as a major public sector utility responsible for the State's ambulance service.

The book will have a wide general appeal for South Australians interested in their State's history as well as for readers of medical history.

Available from: St. John Headquarters  
P.R. Department 274 0442  
216 Greenhill Road  
Eastwood 5063

Price: \$20.00 plus \$4 postage if necessary

\* \* \* \* \*