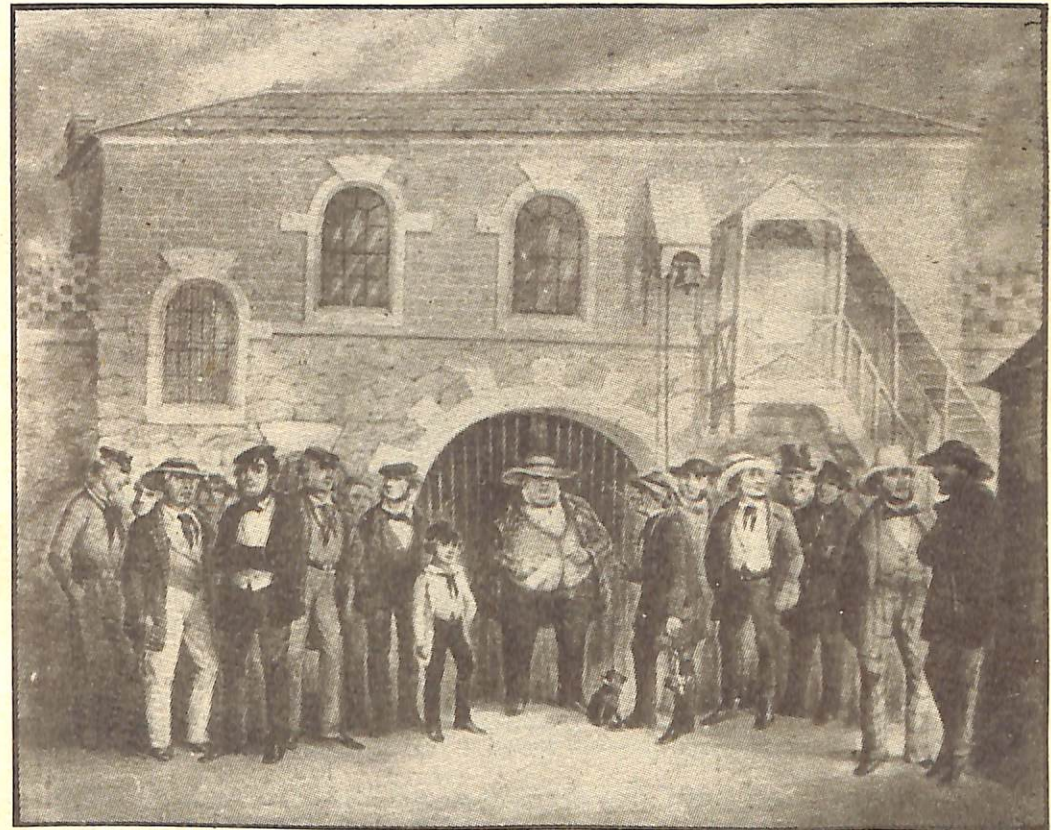




The
Historical Society
of
South Australia
Inc.



Newsletter No. 77 July 1988



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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.

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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover

Inside Adelaide Gaol, 1850. This photograph of H. Glover's painting shows W.B. Ashton, the governor, his son, and members of the gaol staff. Members should take careful note of the arrangements for the Historical Society's special tour of the gaol on Sunday 7 August. Mortlock Library photograph B17790.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 5 August 1988, at 8.00 p.m.

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
(Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue)

Dr Leith McGillivray: 'We have found our Paradise'-
The South-East Squattocracy, 1840 - 1870

On 5 August Dr Leith McGillivray will give an illustrated talk on the pastoralists of the South East from 1840 to 1870. These were the wool barons, who, despite the attempts of governments to settle the land democratically with numerous self-sufficient wheat farmers, had made it quite clear within the first three decades that "Theirs was the frontier: there could be no other."

With the recent popularity of sociological history, the story of land and those who use it has been somewhat neglected. The early and remote South East is a region also not known to many. Leith aims to redeem these factors by speaking about the early pastoralists - their common characteristics, their lifestyles, aspirations, ideals, successes and failures - and how they shaped, and were shaped by, the land which still bears hallmarks of their occupation today. For they set out, as they put it, 'to tame a wilderness.'

Leith McGillivray is the great-granddaughter of a Scottish crofter who took up land in the South East early in the nineteenth century and did well. She is also the daughter of a soldier settler from World War I who took up part of that land in the twentieth century - and, like many others, finally walked off his block. Her doctoral thesis on the history of land settlement in the South East from 1840 to 1940 grew out of her own family's history.

She has been involved in education for much of her working life, in India and Papua-New Guinea as well as in Australia, and is now Education Officer in the Mortlock Library.

-oOo-

Friday, 2 September 1988, at 8.00 p.m.

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre

**Judith Raftery: Betting Shops, Soup Kitchens and Well Kept
Sundays - Churches and Social Issues in South Australia
1919 - 1939**

The Hon. M.J. Young M.P. was to have delivered the September lecture. He has now declared himself unavailable. As a result Judith Raftery's lecture, originally scheduled for October, has been brought forward to September.

For some years now Judith has been carrying out research into the social teaching and action of the eight major Christian denominations in the inter-war years. In particular she has focused on six issues - gambling, Sunday observance, religious instruction in state schools, poverty and unemployment, alcohol, and war and peace. These, she says, were the main issues to arise out of the interaction of the churches with the society of which they were a part.

The alcohol issue was covered in Judith's article in the last issue of the Journal. This talk will see her concentrate on gambling, poverty and unemployment, and Sunday observance.

In a varied career Judith Raftery has taught in secondary schools in inner London and Adelaide, lectured at Western Teachers College, brought up two sons, taught Matriculation History in various TAFE colleges, and battled mosquitoes and cockroaches in a bush school in Papua-New Guinea, not to mention floods, student riots and threatened volcanic eruptions, also in PNG. Worst of all perhaps was the time spent in front of a microfilm reader in the course of research for her recently completed Ph.D. thesis.

-oOo-

*** FUND RAISING TOUR ***

ADELAIDE GAOL: A SPECIAL PREVIEW

Sunday, 7 August 1988, 1.30 p.m.

Adelaide Gaol is one of South Australia's oldest and most significant colonial buildings but one most respectable members of the Historical Society will hardly be familiar with. It housed offenders, as Patricia Sumerling says in the potted history which follows this notice, from early 1841 to 4 February 1988.

Now members of the Historical Society will be able to see this remarkable building for themselves. The Department of Housing and Construction, which cares for the fabric of the

building, plans to open it to the public on Sunday afternoons later in August, and then on a fairly regular basis, but members should note that they are being given a special preview on 7 August.

Simply, Society members will form the first group to tour the gaol since its closure. The tour will be led by Patricia Sumerling but DHC will have its own specialist guides positioned at various points through the complex. Numbers will be restricted to about 100.

When DHC throws the gaol open to the public a charge of \$5 per head will be imposed. Society members will pay the same charge but DHC has agreed that part of it will return to the Historical Society as the Department sees our group as a trial run for the public openings later in the month. Public interest is sure to be enormous.

If you are interested in the tour, please reserve a places or places with Avis Huckel, Secretary of the Historical Society, at 277 2953.

In view of the limited numbers DHC is prepared to take, this tour, unlike other Society tours, is open **only to members and immediate family members who have reserved places with the Secretary**. DHC has asked us to assemble outside the main gaol entrance at 1.30 for a 2 p.m. start.

-oOo-

PUBLIC EXECUTION AT ASHTON'S HOTEL (ADELAIDE GAOL)

This placard of late 1854 was posted around the streets of Adelaide informing residents of the forthcoming execution of Bill Bell. As you read it, what you think first is a theatrical poster is in fact satire at its horrible best. Public executions outside Adelaide Gaol in the early 1850s attracted huge crowds of men, women and children. The execution of Bill Bell attracted over 2000 people. In the 1850s there were many objections to public hangings and it was felt that if they could not be abolished at least women and children should be prevented from witnessing them, but even the Bishop of Adelaide's protests to Judge Cooper made no difference. It was 1858 before public executions (for whites) were abolished.

This placard came into the possession of the Colonial Secretary's Office from where instructions were hastily given to the police to tear down all the offending placards that had been pasted up around the city.

Patricia Sumerling

V.



R.

ENCLOSURE TO
C.G.O. 1864/3660.
FOOTSIZE (Group 3)

INTERESTING SPECTACLE

BEFORE ASHTON'S HOTEL,

UNDER FAVOR OF HIGH AUTHORITY,

WILL BE PERFORMED

On WEDNESDAY, the 27th.

A REAL TRAGEDY.

The chief ACTORS in the Death Scene,

WILL BE:

- J. B. NEWENHAM, Esq. Sheriff.
- PAT EGAN. Present Proprietor of Ashton's Hotel.
- JACK-KETCH. A first-rate Tragedian.
- CONSOLE-THE-SOUL Minister attendant on Jack and his Victim.
- BILL BELL Murderer and intended Suicide.

BELL's Neck having been intended by one Profession, is to be broken by another, in the presence of the Assembled Multitude.

The Public will be graciously admitted to the Scene Gratis: save that it is expected that many will bring Cash, to be taken by those

Who will provide future Exhibitions of

SIMILAR AMUSEMENT.

After the Tragedy will follow the Entertainment of

FORTY THEIVES.

Public Attention is particularly directed to the above Performance, as the Times are so squeamish that morals are regarded even more than pleasure, and there may not be another chance of a Christmas Gathering which will convey to some minds much merriment as the year expires. 4

ARTICLES

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ADELAIDE GAOL

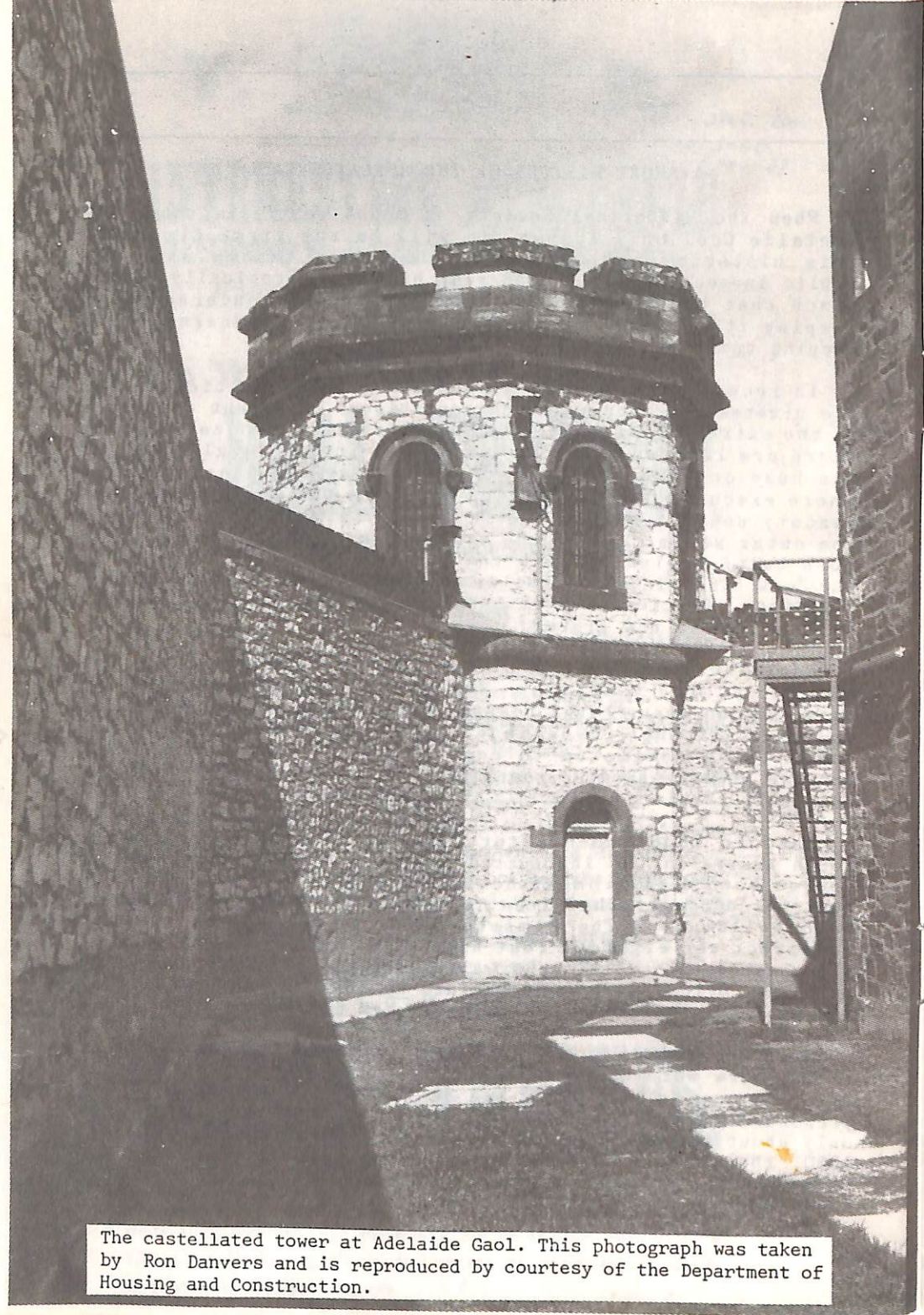
When the Historical Society of South Australia tours the Adelaide Gaol on 7 August, it will be the first time that this historic public building has been thrown open for public inspection in its 148 year history. Ironically, for a place that has for its entire history been concerned with keeping its inmates securely in, it is now concerned with keeping undesirables out.

In recent times the gaol has been rightly criticised for its nineteenth century living conditions. Constant reminders of the extreme penalty of the law which have been carried out there are imposed upon the visitor or inmate by glimpses of the huge octagonal towers, one known as the hanging tower where executions were carried out from the early twentieth century until the last one in 1964. Between the inner and the outer walls most of the executed are buried, with seven more being buried beneath the yard on the southern side of the 'new' 1879 T-shaped building, today still called the new building. The initials of the executed are painted onto the walls close to the graves.

Adelaide Gaol is almost as old as Government House, the oldest public building in South Australia. Their construction contributed towards the bankruptcy of the infant colony. Although Government House cost under \$10,000, the gaol, first estimated to cost around \$17,000 for a half-decagon shape, ended up costing in excess of £30,000 for one, only half completed.

Late in 1838, soon after Governor Gawler's arrival in South Australia, he instructed George Strickland Kingston to design both a government house and a gaol. Limestone from quarries close to the River Torrens embankments was used in both buildings. The limestone for the gaol was used to construct the eighteen feet high outer boundary walls. For all construction within the walls, bricks were made and fired on site. Bricks were made as late as 1847 in the vicinity of the gaol for the second stage completed in 1850.

When the first stage of the gaol was completed in December 1840, there were only two divisions; one for debtors and one for felons. No provision had been made for women and this presented awkward problems for the sheriff of the gaol. With only about three women, at the most at any one time up until 1850, the women were confined to areas between the inner and outer walls during the day with a spare cell that could be found amongst the men's cells for sleeping in at night.



The castellated tower at Adelaide Gaol. This photograph was taken by Ron Danvers and is reproduced by courtesy of the Department of Housing and Construction.

Up until 1879 there were several large additions of new cell blocks within the existing five yards. In 1879 a huge two story 90 cell T-shape building was constructed. From this time onwards few additions and alterations were carried out in the older part of the gaol, except for minimal updating and installation of security systems. The construction of the 1879 block meant that the older part of the gaol within its half-decagon shape remained virtually intact to the present day.

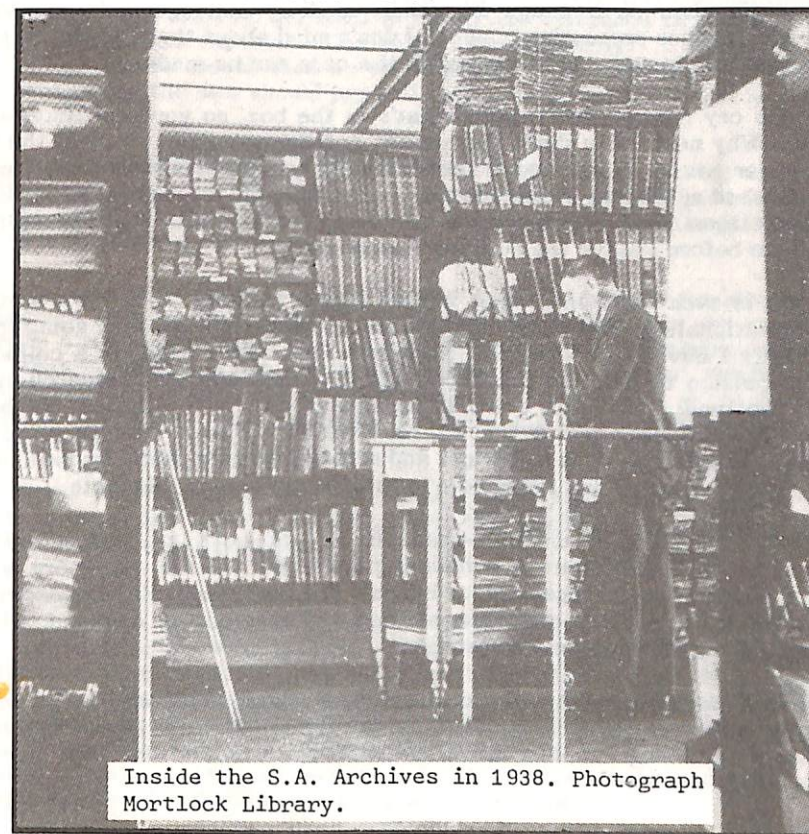
As this building is generally seen from a passing train, the tour in August will give members of the Society a wonderful opportunity of seeing the gaol from the inside when it is opened to the public for the very first time.

Patricia Sumerling

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A HISTORIAN'S VIEWPOINT ON ARCHIVES

[Dr Brian Dickey, Reader in History, Flinders University, has forwarded these thoughts on the relationship between historians and archivists. Ed.]



Inside the S.A. Archives in 1938. Photograph Mortlock Library.

This modest little paper first began life as a talk to a librarianship class. It is offered in the Newsletter in the hope that it might assist discussion about archives matters among historians, and perhaps even among archivists.

First, some simple-minded expectations which the historian user might have of archives. Most importantly, the user wants to know quickly and efficiently what is available in the archives being visited. Time is money, especially time in the archives. This means that finding aids in print are crucially important and far preferable to privileged conversations with 'guardians of the archives'. It also means desk officers should be archivists. I don't expect to meet a clerical officer/typist when I ask where a finding aid is, or when I need to know how to identify the archive of the Art Gallery of South Australia. It is a waste of her time and mine when she has to go off and ask someone else.

Above all, I want to be assured that there is a list of all items in the archive which I can scan. If the archives has an archival collection, the agency should know, and be capable of telling the enquirer that fact. Talk of 'backlog' is irrelevant in this context. Often the detailed descriptions offered are a waste of time anyway, because they are geared to the archivist's need to collect and preserve, not to the historian's for use. At the very least the initial reception statement - 'donation by Mrs Bloggs, 2 boxes', 'child care files from DCW, c.1960-1980, 50 metres', or whatever is enough. Then the archivists in the clearing station can do a *triage* like their medical colleagues, by sorting the material into various processing queues. I don't mind about that. In the meantime I know the stuff is in care, and retrievable if a case can be made.

If the cry is, 'we don't know what's in the box, so you can't have it', my answer is, 'Why not? You don't ever know, and I'm not about to steal the stuff!' If an enquirer has been granted a reader's ticket, a degree of mutual trust has been established sufficient to permit the user to commit the time sniffing through undescribed items. If security is a problem, that's a different matter - of searching me before I leave the building if need be.

What is even more important is that it goes without saying as a matter of simple professionalism that archivists don't lose things, nor are they going to steal items. Theft I haven't experienced first hand, but loss I have, in a collection I have had occasion to help create, encourage donation, and then research in. The item was received: I have an eminent archivist's receipt for the minute book in question. But the item just is not in the series any more. Therefore it is lost. That is not acceptable. It is historical and archival treason, and I invite attention to the treatment handed out to traitors in the time of Queen Elizabeth I.

My vision is of a machine-readable list of holdings that permits the enquirer to be quite confident of exhausting the resources of a repository, and not even have to go to the repository to consult the list. I want to arrive with my request slips filled out, or even forwarded and serviced in advance, with the material collected from the offsite store.

Beyond knowing what is in an archive, I expect archivists to be actively acquiring new archives, both in content and in format. There is an entrepreneurial function here, pressing out into the community in advance of demand. True, this

must be done with grace and flair, and not bluff and bluster as I experienced recently. Organisations not covered by copyright deposit rules - private circulars clearly are not - cannot be *ordered* to deposit their circulars in a public library or archive. But they can tactfully be *invited* on behalf of the future to donate a set or an example.

Nor, of course, can archivists restrict themselves to ink and paper records. They must move creatively with the times into magnetic, digital, laser based technology, watching for shifts in reading devices and programming, as well as copy.

That of course assumes the skilled professionalism which copes with such technological questions. Granite apart (and even Mt Rushmore has its problems), decay is always a problem. I presume archivists are working to the best of their ability and resource to preserve materials they identify, receive and store. I do not presume to tell them their business in such a skilled field.

I would also expect archivists to be constantly improving their shared reporting procedures so that information about who has what is widely and readily available. I take it for granted that the most up to date technology will list and index by title, the collections or archives available. I'd like to be able to access that information about all archives repositories in Australia on my personal computer, or at least in my library in machine-readable form.

The degree to which users can presume access to reproductions is less clear. Preservation is the first priority, access the second, so reproduction is no better than third. Mostly the need is simply for reference or file copies, for example of pictorial material. Can this be done digitally? I believe so. Fine reproduction copies should then be an occasional task. All reproduction is an extra service and the user should pay full costs, though not a fee that is in reality a rent on the item.

Beyond that, I take it for granted that archivists are improving their minds, a duty of self-improvement laid on all professionals. In that process it would surely be prudent to be reading lots of history, since it derives in part from the produce in the care of archivists.

There is, however, a very real problem in what I have so far been arguing. The problem lies in the nature of the historical process. Let me assert that history is a social process, producing a social construction of meaning about the past. That is, history is not 'facts' grubbed out, secure forever, independent of the historian, locked up by the archivist-jailer. History, rather, is the product of the creative mind as the historian turns reality into evidence in the process of creating history.

Given this creative view of history, it is most plainly going to be unpredictable to the outsider. What is the poor archivist to do in the task of serving the needs of the historian?

Here are some suggestions.

Certainly there will be clues. There are fashions in history, habits of established custom and preference among historians that suggest certain sorts of records. For example everyone wants to lay their hands on magistrates' record books, 'bench books' since they are currently fashionable sources - indeed critically valuable sources - for history about the lower orders. Likewise admission registers to institutions such as lunatic asylums, industrial schools, jails are being plundered with great creativity at the moment.

Of course, archivists may not have much room for manoeuvre. The agencies which they service in their records management role - whether by law in a PRO, or by custom, in say the Mortlock Library - will largely determine the deposit. I do not wish to canvass the technical questions of records management or even of destruction schedules here. It is a complex tale, and I recognise that insofar as the archivist has some initiative of advice or execution, there are difficult questions about what to keep and what to destroy. As a historian I want materials capable of being manipulated in varieties of ways. The more routine, probably the less significant. In some cases, statistical versions alone will suffice.

But beyond that, the archivist must be reading the entrails of historical preference. Hence my earlier emphasis on reading historical monographs and journals, for it is a way of keeping up with the users. Archivists should be scanning conference programs, and attending the sessions, talking to historians about record use, listening to them sympathetically and not condescendingly.

Archivists then must be alert, creative citizens, moving to identify new trends in society, its politics and its economy. They are of course conservative by vocation, but imaginative and creative in their perception of possible future questions historians and hence society will put to the past.

Let them then develop a most sophisticated and engaging public relations style to encourage donations of record collections. No bureaucratic, heavy-handed, threats are necessary - as I was startled to experience recently. In that case the request was challenged, and red-faced officials admitted they were bluffing! Such behaviour was inexcusable, unnecessary, and illegal. Alternative styles based on flattery, cooperation and creative recognition of identity are more appropriate, especially I would expect when dealing with ethnic communities.

Speaking from my Adelaide vantage point, I might therefore suggest that archivists able to develop collecting policies for the 1990s would be interested in records of the recent past, in family records, in business records (especially since World War II), and in the widening array of individuals and community groups exercising influence in our increasingly complex society. Who is encouraging the Vietnamese community groups to collect and deposit their records, in whatever language, for example? What of such erstwhile underground groups who have 'come out', such as homosexuals? Obviously tact and sensitivity are called for in approaching such organisations. Specific field officer appointments, with established authorisations to offer conservation, selective copying, and to receive on loan or by gift, are of course the *sine qua non* of such a collecting program.

But in all this, let the archivist not become the historian, as if to decide which history will be written, and what facts will be let out of jail to appear in it. The archivist must not dictate to the historian how the work might be done. Of course this is not to say that archivists can't themselves as a recreation write history. Far from it: there is a distinguished list. But as archivists they must be imaginative, supportive, flexible about possible future alternatives. They must try to cut off as few future options as possible.

Worst of all is the archivist who presumes to tell the historian what the historian needs to know, and thus what he or she does not need to know. Such people develop habits of selective patronage. They become gossips exercising illegitimate power: a plague on them!

Nor need the archivist in the 1990s spend time indexing holdings in detail, as their predecessors mistakenly did. Describe a holding as to its form, scale, pattern and so on. But there is no need for detailed intervention into the contents

of the files and letters. Let the historians spend time doing that according to their special needs. Let the local genealogical society index the names in the registers. Let the archivists get on with that dreaded 'backlog' they all threaten us with.

Simple enquirers may need help to cope with such a lean, terse form of archival support. Here is the place for interpretive pamphlets and guides to types of holdings and certain sorts of historical enterprise, most notably family history. The remarkable guides produced by the PRO in London, or the guides to the holdings of the Archives Office of NSW come to mind. Some of these handbooks could be, and are, written by users not archivists, on contract or in a market-place environment. Let the archivists get on with their busy jobs!

Here then is an invitation to archivists to cooperate with historians to secure the future of our society in an open, flexible, creative way which promotes community development. No records, no history; no history, no self understanding; no self-understanding, chaos. That simple set of assertions is the basis of my appeal to archivists to the joint venture I have been describing. It is high calling.

Brian Dickey

THERE WAS A TAVERN

The coaching days and old-time inns of our pioneering past, whilst presenting a colourful segment of our colonial history were far from being as romantic as one might imagine. Many lively stories have survived the years concerning the inns of some of our country districts, and such a story from the past concerns the old 'Bow and Arrow' Inn at Gilberton, not far from Tarlee.

Many inns were established where the bullockies pitched camp for the night, and as time went by little towns grew up nearby and became stopping places for coaches and other travellers on the overland route. Travel by bullock-wagon was slow (about one mile per hour) and many of the little hamlets which came into being along the ways which they traversed were only 8 or 9 miles apart, the distance travelled in a day. Many an early pub was also used as a place of worship, a meeting place for early Councils or a post office. Some of the old inns and little hamlets still stand along the northern road between the great Burra Burra copper mine and Adelaide, while others are a mere heap of rubble, or have vanished altogether over the years.

(Continued on Page 14)

Adelaida Gaol from the air c. 1985. The Society will tour the gaol, one of the state's finest colonial buildings, on Sunday 7 August. Photograph courtesy DHC.



(From Page 11)

At the time when copper production was at its height (in the early 1840s) the Copper Road was travelled daily by countless drays and teams of oxen and strings of mules, driven by men glad enough to pull up at the rude hostelrys and imbibe huge draughts of beer. Some of these inns were flourishing businesses, taking as much as £100 a week over the counter; a fortune for the times, when a good bullocky with a bit of luck could clear £6 a month.

The little township of Auburn grew from such origins. Police Trooper John Fields was stationed there for a few years, and while there an act of pity on his part led unwittingly to tragedy at the 'Bow and Arrow' where at this time W.J. Forrester was the licensee.

One afternoon the Trooper was called to a disturbance at the hotel at Auburn. He took the offender into custody, and paced him in the police cell, where his prisoner turned and got the policeman's thumb between his teeth. Mrs Field brought a large stone and Field and another prisoner almost broke the fellow's jaw before the thumb was released. To the end of his days Field had a ring-barked thumb to show. Next morning it was an all-too-familiar story. The thumb-biter was very sorry for himself; he pleaded for mercy and asked that he be charged for disturbing the peace only and not for assault as well. Field was a merciful man, and the prisoner eventually got off with a fine. Had Field been a little less kind there might have been a different end to the story.

Three weeks later the former prisoner, Tom O'Donnell, came to the Bow and Arrow Inn. The Kapunda Herald continues the tale -

"A lamentable occurrence happened at Gilberton last evening in which an old and respected colonist lost his life. It appears that Mr Forrester was about closing the doors of his public house at 10 o'clock when a man named Thomas O'Donnell, who had been drinking at the house, resisted but was put out and subsequently broke a pane of glass and abused Mr Forrester, who went out to turn him away and the man, who is a shoemaker by trade, drew his shoemaker's knife and stabbed him in the region of the heart. Mr Forrester went in and lay on the sofa and died in a few minutes. The man was at once secured and brought into Kapunda by the police this morning. An inquest was held in the course of the day. The remains of the deceased whose melancholy death is very much regretted by all who knew him, will be buried at Riverton tomorrow."

O'Donnell stood trial for murder and was sentenced to hang. This was later commuted to life imprisonment.

Some years later a move was made to release O'Donnell, but the dead man's sons let it be known quite clearly, that if he

were released, they would not be responsible for his safety. The warning was taken seriously and O'Donnell spent the next 32 years in gaol, being discharged from Yatala Gaol on 24 May 1898.

Jean Schmaal

SOCIETY NEWS

Report on the May Lecture

Dr Brian Morley lectured on the botanic gardens of Adelaide on Friday 6 May 1988. For the sixty or so members present, his lecture illustrated as it was with many slides, made for a marvellous evening.

In his talk Dr Morley touched briefly upon his Department's recent acquisitions: Wittunga, the garden on Shepherd's Hill Road at Blackwood; Beechwood at Aldgate, a fine example of an English country house garden, with a cast iron conservatory reputedly the oldest in Australia; and the Mount Lofty garden founded by his predecessor, Noel Lothian, after the last war. He made the point that the people of Adelaide are fortunate indeed to have such varied gardens so close to the city.

But for the most part he concentrated on the North Terrace garden, one of Adelaide's jewels. It was, he said, a garden founded by community demand, not by government fiat, and the Friends organisation with its large membership reflects that community support today.

As Dr Morley says, gardens are always in a state of flux: plants grow and die, fashions in gardens change, and financial strictures sometimes limit new initiatives. But the North Terrace garden is probably in a better state now than ever before. In recent years its heritage buildings, monuments and fountains have been restored, the bicentennial conservatory is nearing completion and there is every prospect of the garden stretching to Hackney Road when the bus depot is finally relocated.

Tony Stimson

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Report on the June Fund Raising Tour

Dr Robert Nicol, President of the Society, led an all day tour of Kapunda and district on Sunday 19 June. The weather smiled upon us and made for a splendid day, one estimate

putting the turnout at about 110 members and friends, and the convoy of 38 cars winding its way around the district on roads unexpectedly dusty made an impressive sight. Certainly it bemused the congregation at Bethel, 6 miles out of Kapunda. Some thought it must have been a family reunion!

Kapunda itself is well served by historical guides so Robert's tour focused on the district - the Moravian settlement near Bethel, the mines, and the Catholic reformatory ruins at St John's, also out of town. The tour concluded at about 4.30 p.m.

Tony Stimson

NEWS

AWARD FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE MORTLOCK LIBRARY

Many members will recall Ron Danvers' 1986 lecture on the restoration of historic buildings. In the same year he led members on a fund raising tour around restoration work at the rear of the Museum. Now Danvers Architects and the Department of Housing have won an award for their restoration of the Mortlock Library. The following is reproduced with permission from the Advertiser of 23 April 1988. Ed.

The \$1.4m restoration of the Mortlock Library has earned Adelaide-based Danvers Architects and the SA Department of Housing and Construction a national award.

The library was a category winner in the 1988 Heritage Awards announced last night in Canberra.

The project has previously won a national award for building restoration from the Royal Institute of Architects and several State commendations.

The restoration work, completed in 1986-87, brought the old Jervois wing of the State Library (formerly the SA Institute) to a standard suitable for the storage of important archival documents. Modern facilities such as air-conditioning, fire protection measures and new lighting were installed with minimum damage to the old building, constructed in 1861.

Mr Ron Danvers, the consultant architect for the project which was completed in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Construction, said yesterday the award was important because it meant restoration work in Adelaide was being recognised nationally.

"Secondly, it means the conservation of old buildings is

being seen as just as important as the design and construction of new ones," he said.

Mr Danvers said the Mortlock Library was a complicated job. At the start of the project the rooms were so disfigured by modern colors, alterations and fluorescent lighting strung across the chamber, that the full potential of the space was not evident.

However, restoring the first color scheme was made easier because the building had been redecorated only twice since it was built.

Some careful scraping of walls, the removal of several bookcases, cupboards and various wall fittings had revealed the original colors.

Mr Danvers said SA was doing "quite well" with the restoration of buildings in comparison with European countries and the US.

"We have no need to cringe," he said.

The overall winner in the awards, sponsored by the National Trust and international property consultants Jones Lang Wootton, was the Australian Heritage Commission for the film "The Land of the Lightning Brothers".

The film was a joint project by the commission and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to increase public awareness of the value of Australia's legacy of Aboriginal rock art.

* * * * *

LECTURE BY DR JOHN TREGENZA ON COLONEL LIGHT

Dr John Tregenza will address a meeting of the Friends of the Art Gallery of South Australia on Wednesday 27 July 1988. His lecture topic is New Light on Light.

Dr Tregenza has uncovered new information about Colonel Light and will present his findings with hitherto unseen slides. His talk will centre on these issues:

- Did the founder of Adelaide really die a pauper?
- Did he really live his last months in three small rooms?
- Why did the Art Gallery commission Gustave Barnes to make three paintings of "Thebarton Cottage" in 1916?
- Did Light name the Barossa Valley?

- Where is the real Light Pass?
- What happened to Light's wife Mary and to Mary's daughter Bianca Light?

Historical Society members are welcome and will be admitted for \$2, the same charge levied on members of the Friends. (Say you are a member of the H.S.S.A.) Non-members pay \$4.

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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LECTURE BY MARGARET RAGLESS ON THE HISTORY OF STURT CREEK

Margaret Ragless, a member of the Historical Society, will address a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society SA Branch on Thursday 21 July 1988. Her lecture is entitled Time along the Sturt Creek.

The creek flows from near Mount Lofty to the former swamps of the Patawolonga. Not so long ago it provided water for the market gardens around Marion.

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
Time: 7.30 p.m.

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GUIDESHEET FOR RESEARCHERS IN HISTORY

Susan Marsden, who is a Council member and State Historian, is preparing a guidesheet on "How to do history", for use by individuals and members of historical societies who are keen to research local, family or subject-oriented history but who may have limited experience. The guidesheet will also describe the activities of historical societies throughout South Australia. It will be included as an insert in the next issue of this Newsletter. If you have suggestions for the contents of this guidesheet, please contact Susan at the History Trust of South Australia, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000.

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DIARY OF EVENTS

Susan Marsden, the newly appointed State Historian, keeps a diary of forthcoming events likely to be of interest to Society members. This is the first issue of the Newsletter to run a diary column and we hope it will be a regular feature of subsequent issues.

Tuesday, 19 July, 7.45 p.m. Australasian Maritime Historical Society, Sail Loft, SA Maritime Museum, Lipson Street, Port Adelaide (entrance behind the museum bookshop). Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month.

Wednesday, 20 July, 1-2 p.m. Free films, State Library Lecture Theatre: 'Painting the Town: a film about Yosl Bergner' (art, artists, politics and culture and the rise of Australian modernism in the 1930s and 1940s).

Wednesday, 27 July, 1-2 p.m. Free films at State Library Lecture Theatre: includes 'Museum - a living memory'

Wednesday, 27 July, 7.30 p.m. SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society: 'Records of World War One' by Squadron Leader Newbury, Meeting Room, State Library.

Tuesday, 2 August, 7.30 p.m. Society for the Study of Labour History meeting: Dr Susan Magarey, 'Arbitration Tribunals and Women's Wages' 46 Greenhill Road, Wayville.

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DOCUMENTS

THOUGHTS ON HISTORY IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, 1917

[Averill Holt had been kind enough to forward this extract from Inspector McBride's report on primary schools in 1917. It formed part of the report of the South Australian Minister of Education in that year. Ed.]

McBride here is chiefly concerned with the parlous state of history in primary schools. His concern is not so much with historical truth as the moral lessons history has to offer

children - what he calls its 'utility ... as a branch of public and private instruction.'

History's role was to inspire and uplift mind and soul. One wonders what he would make of Elizabeth Kwan's new social history of South Australia for school children. Ed.]

Speaking generally, I have been gratified with the methods of teaching. Marked improvement has been made in arithmetic, reading, spelling, composition, and in writing. Physical training has been well attended to. The chief weakness has been in the treatment of history. Unfortunately, most of our teachers do not read widely enough to make their lessons interesting and beneficial. They do not recognise that the utility of this subject as a branch of public and private instruction has always been admitted. Cicero calls it "The witness of ages, the torch of truth, the life of memory, the oracle of life, the interpreter of the past," and he does not hesitate to say that "To be ignorant of what has happened before one's birth is nothing less than to remain in a continual state of childhood." It is an immense repository from which may be acquired extensive knowledge, instructive, and useful lessons, and there is not any study (religion excepted) so calculated to improve the faculties of the mind. It conduces wonderfully to the improvement of the heart; everywhere it affords moral examples adapted to the different stations and conditions of social life; everywhere it presents for our imitation models of courage, patriotism, probity, disinterestedness, generous sentiments, and heroic actions. Its pages, indeed, are frequently filled with the narration of various crimes, but these it mentions only to inspire us with horror for them, and to convince every one that unruly passions, besides degrading humanity, generally prove the cause of the subversion of empires, not less than the ruin of private individuals and families. The lessons taught by ancient history should not be ignored. The Romans, by their invincible patience and constancy during 700 years had conquered immense territories, but at the same time all kinds of vices were introduced. Love of country and respect for the laws were gradually superseded by luxury, inordinate desire for pleasurable amusements, avarice, intrigues, and an almost universal corruption. Public employments and dignities, the emoluments of which had increased, were solicited with extraordinary avidity; ambitious candidates sought only to flatter the people; and generals of the same character strained every nerve to gain the troops over to their party, even resorting to extravagant promises and presents in order to attain their object. The political disturbances which for a long time agitated ancient Rome, terminated in the destruction of the Commonwealth. From what I have written it follows that the study of history should be regarded by our teachers as one of their most important duties.

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ONE OF THE USES OF HISTORY

[While browsing in my local library I chanced across John Wells's Gippsland: People, a Place and their Past (Landmark Press, Drouin 1986). His 'author's note' provides one of the best statements of the value of local history that I've read in recent years. Brian Samuels]

When I was a small boy I learned (was subjected to) the collection of platitudes and simplifications that schools taught as 'history'. It was probably inevitable that history was taught that way, given our belief that important things always happened in another place at another time. It was difficult to relate even the Anzac story to the realities of life in a small Gippsland dairying town, let alone the vicissitudes of the lakes-dwellers, the Vikings and Stone-age Man. We did gain a sense of there having been a past from which we came, but it was almost impossible to relate it to the present we were dimly trying to understand.

Fortunately, in those pre-television days, our parents had time to talk to us. We helped with the milking, which is to say that we brought the cows up from the paddocks to the yard, and then into the shed one by one, bailing, leg-roping and then washing udders. I remember the udder-washing fondly, because in winter the only physical warmth to be found in the whole task was in leaning against a steaming cow and plunging hands into the warm washing-water.

While the cows were being milked, we would talk. We learned our 'tables', our spelling, our reading. My father was a storyteller and we listened to the tales of his life, of his parents' lives. We heard about the mountains and valleys, the fishing holes, the swamps and the plains, and the beauty that was all around us if we would only see it. We learned of the people around us and in our past, with their virtues and their faults. We learned that we had a place in a great clan, that we lived in a beautiful land filled with good but imperfect people. We learned who we were, and we learned it in an atmosphere of love and security.

We learned, too, that we all had to work if the farm was to provide for us, that we had to care for, and care about, the land we had and the herd that fed us. We felt, quite consciously, that we were a vital part of the process of earning our family's living.

That was happening all over Gippsland, and one of the happy results is that this province now has a population which is aware of its past, aware of its present and alert to its future. There has been a great movement toward the study of local and regional history, a history which can be related to every one of us and can provide lessons for us all. We have developed a sense of continuity, with the faith and the

hope that brings. Hopefully, we have learned and are still learning from our past. Our own history has become real to us and to our children.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Pat Stretton

The Life and Times of Old Parliament House

56 pages. Published by Old Parliament House, a division of the History Trust of South Australia, 1988. Available for \$4.95 from Old Parliament House and other History Trust museums.

This marvellous little book is a credit to Pat Stretton and the people at Old Parliament House. It is a delight to the eye, illustrated as it is with many black and white and colour illustrations, and a delight to read, which is more than one can say for most official histories. But then this is not just another official history. The jacket says it all: "Irreverent and critical rather than solemn and official, this history aims to entertain." It does just that.

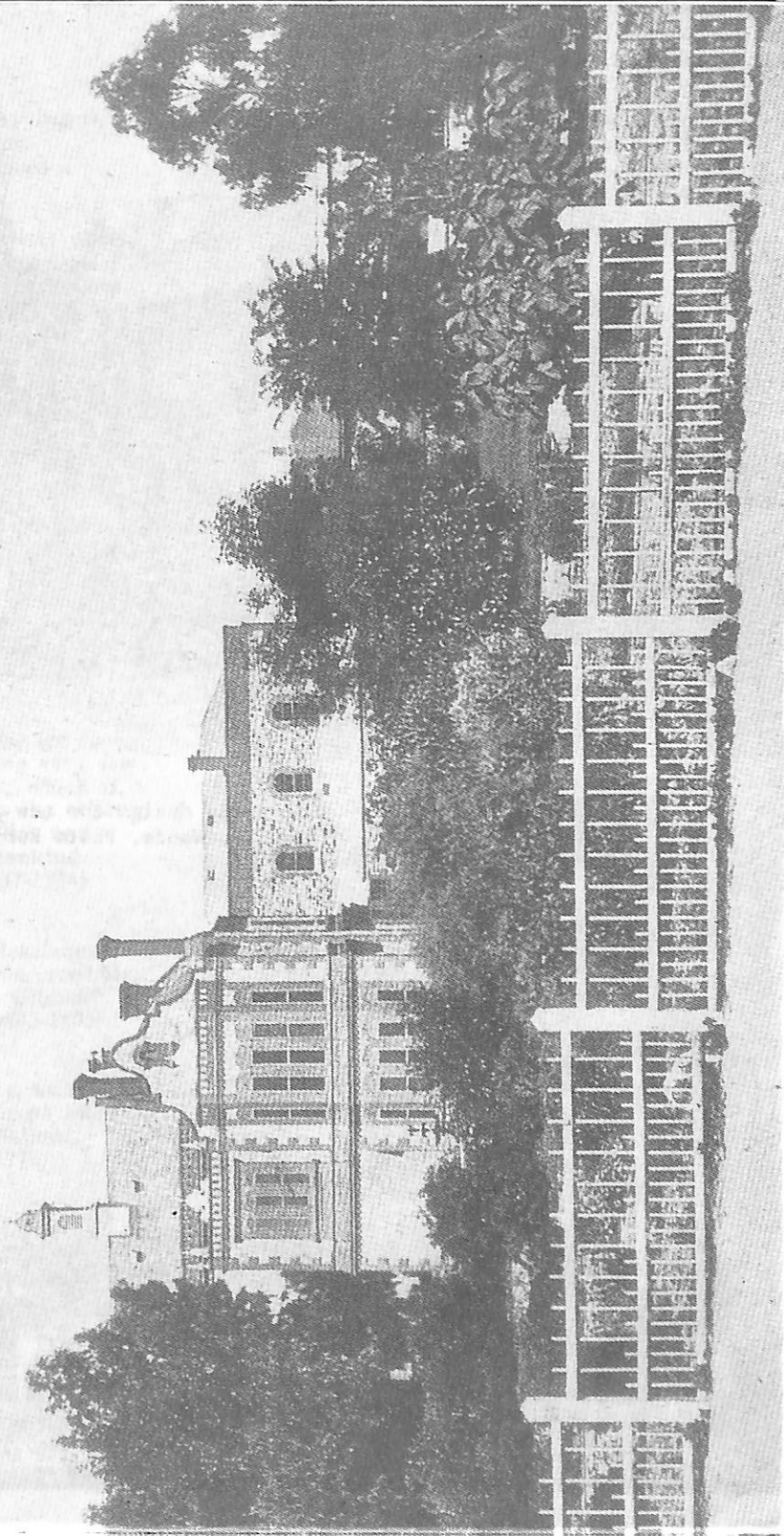
Much of the credit for that must go to Pat Stretton's text. On one level she gives the reader a potted political history of South Australia with the emphasis predictably on battles over constitutional reform. As such it is as clear and succinct a summary as we are likely to find. On another level she guides us through the tortured history of the parliamentary buildings in which those constitutional battles took place. Again, it is difficult to see how she could have told her story better in a volume of this length.

Somehow Old Parliament House has managed to put its history on the market for \$4.95. For anyone interested in South Australian history it represents remarkable value at that price. I do hope it will find its way into city bookshops as well as the bookshops of the Trust's museums.

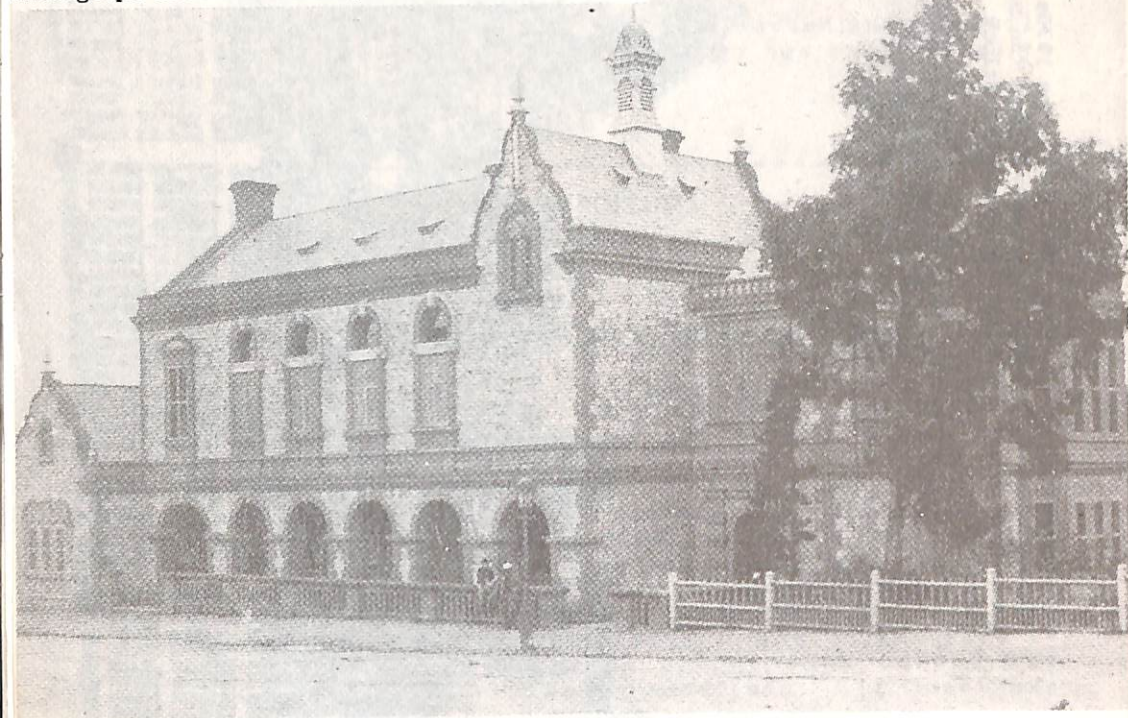
More than that The Life and Times of Old Parliament House could well serve as a model for similar histories of the city's major public buildings and the institutions they house. It is of the right length; more than a flimsy guide but not a ponderous full scale official tome. And it manages to be both informative and entertaining. Is anyone listening at the Adelaide Town Hall? Or Glenside Hospital? Or Royal Adelaide Hospital?

Tony Stimson

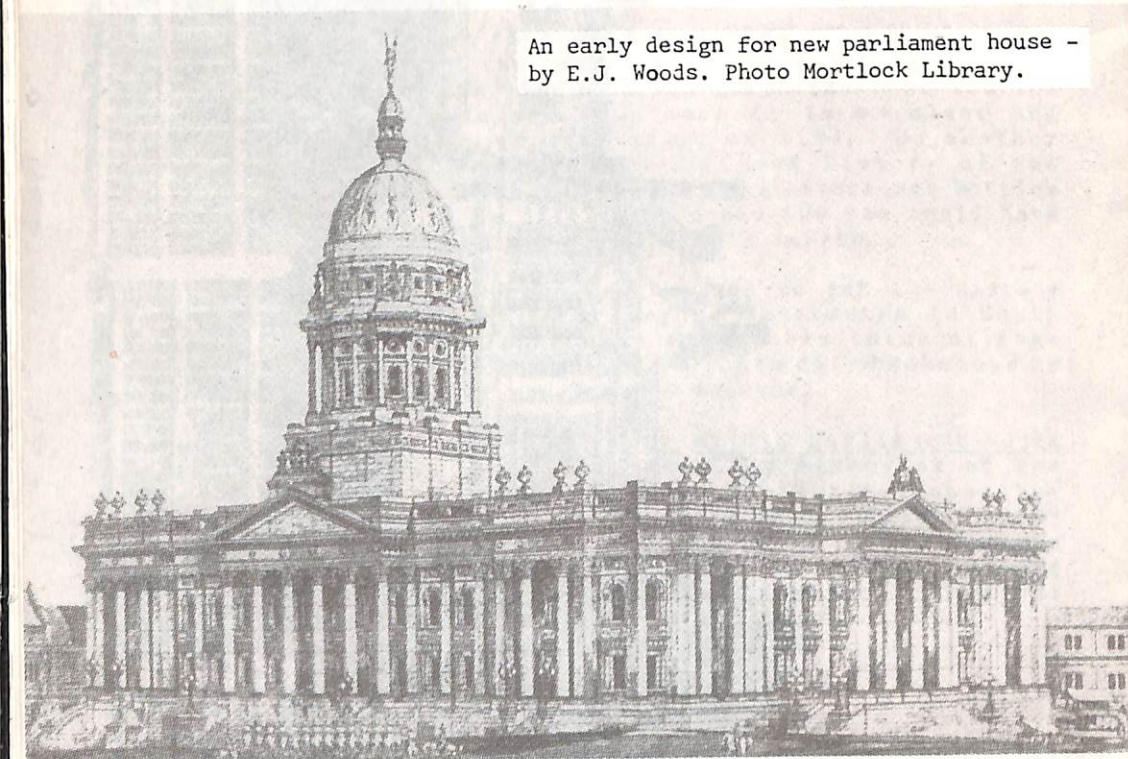
Old Parliament House from the east in the 1870s. The bay windows (centre) were removed when the new parliament house was built. Photograph Mortlock Library.



Old Parliament House after the 1868 alterations.
Photograph Mortlock Library.



An early design for new parliament house -
by E.J. Woods. Photo Mortlock Library.



History is philosophy drawn
from examples.
Dionysius of Halicarnassus
(c.40-8 B.C.).

'Histories make men wise; poets,
witty; the mathematics, subtle;
natural philosophy, deep; moral,
grave; logic and rhetoric,
able to contend.
Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

A good historian is timeless;
although he is a patriot, he will
never flatter his country
in any respect.
François De Fénelon (1651-1715)

Anything but history, for history
must be false. [Remark to his son, who
offered to read to him]
Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745)

His reign is marked by the rare
advantage of furnishing very few
materials for history; which is,
indeed, little more than the register
of the crimes, follies and
misfortunes of mankind.
Edward Gibbon (1737-1794)

Another damned, thick, square
book! Always scribble, scribble,
scribble! Eh! Mr. Gibbon?
Duke of Gloucester (1743-1805)

All our ancient history, as one of
our wits remarked, is no more
than accepted fiction.
Voltaire (1694-1778)

These gentle historians,
on the contrary, dip their
pens in nothing but the
milk of human kindness.
Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

A historian is a
prophet in reverse.
Friedrich Von Schlegel (1772-1829)

What experience and history teach
is this - that people and
governments never have learnt
anything from history, or acted on
principles deduced from it.
Georg Wilhelm Hegel (1770-1831)

No great man lives in vain.
The history of the world is but the
biography of great men.
Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

The history of all hitherto-existing
society is the history
of class struggles.
Karl Marx & Frederick Engels (1848).

History repeats itself.
Nineteenth Century Proverb

Happy is the country which
has no history.
Nineteenth Century Proverb

That great dust-heap
called 'history'.
Augustine Birrell (1850-1933)

History is bunk.
[In the witness-box, when suing the
Chicago Tribune, July, 1919]
Henry Ford (1863-1947)

And even I can remember / A day
when the historians left blanks in
their writings, / I mean for things
they didn't know.
Ezra Pound (1885-1972)

Before you study the history study
the historian. . . . Before you
study the historian, study
his historical and social
environment. The historian, being
an individual, is also a product of
history and of society. . . .
E.H. Carr (b.1892)