

## The Mortlock Library

by David Latta

South Australian historical material will be brought together for the first time with the creation of the Mortlock Library of South Australia. Set to open later this year, it will be housed in the elegant, century-old Jervis Wing of the State Library of South Australia on Adelaide's North Terrace.

The Mortlock Library will combine the non-government records of the State Archives, the South Australian Collection, South Australian newspapers dating back to the founding of the free press in the colony, and special collections currently held in the State's Reference Library. The latter includes such treasures as the Gouger Collection, what remains of the first private library to come to South Australia in 1836, and the Queen Adelaide collection — books donated to the library by the Queen after whom the city was named.

Publicity generated by the creation of the Mortlock Library has also brought to light a large amount of previously unknown historical material. These include illuminated addresses, nineteenth century trade catalogues, company records, diaries, paintings and photographs. The more valuable recent acquisitions include an original oil portrait of Captain Hahn, who brought many of the earliest German immigrants to the colony (the town of Hahndorf was named in his honour) and the reminiscences of a governess of the Gilbert family, founders of the Pewsey Vale vineyards.

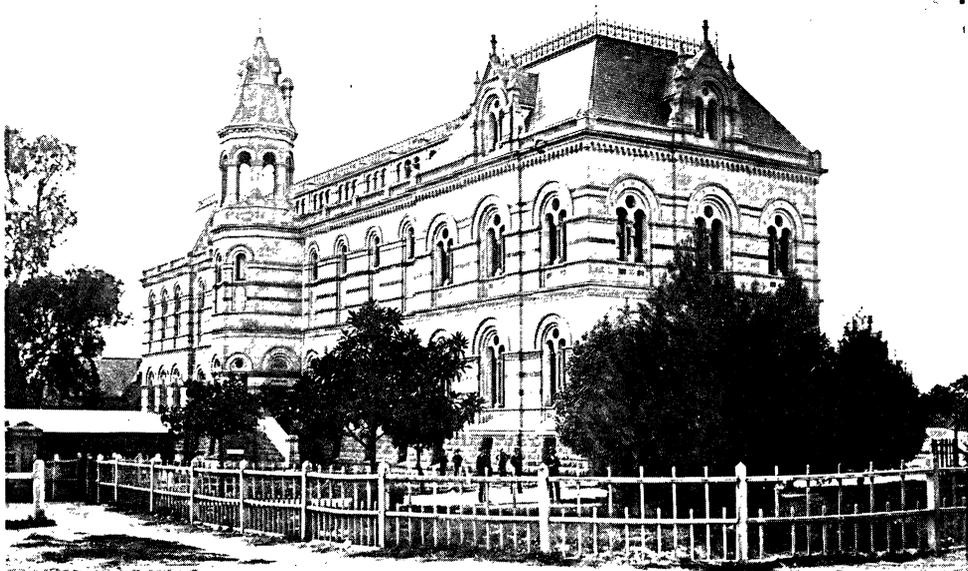
The long overdue move to establish a central repository for state historical material, modelled on such examples as Sydney's Mitchell Library, will be invaluable to researchers and may well prompt revisions in many areas of South Australian history.

### A giant mural . . . of one dollar coins

The wide publicity given to the project has resulted in many South Australians rallying to provide financial assistance. Philip Pike, Publicity and Promotions Officer for the State Library of South Australia, described the response as 'most encouraging and enthusiastic'. By January 1985, over \$300,000 had been raised, well on the way to the \$500,000 target. The project is also funded by donations, each of \$500,000, from the State Government of Premier John Bannon and from the Libraries Board of South Australia.

Schools have strongly supported the fund drive. At Linden Park Primary School a giant mural of the Jervis Wing was filled in with one dollar coins provided by the pupils. Similarly imaginative activities have been conducted throughout the state.

Major individual donations will achieve special recognition. For sums above \$1000, donors will receive leather-bound, limited edition, facsimiles of William Light's *Brief*



The Jervis Wing of the State Library of South Australia, which will house the Mortlock Library.

*Journal and Australian Diaries*. There are sixteen plaques for the balcony peninsular shelving, each to be inscribed with the names of donors of between \$5000 and \$10,000. A special reading room will be named in honour of the individual who provides a contribution in excess of \$25,000.

The campaign to increase the library's holdings has also succeeded in capturing the public's imagination. It was first necessary, however, to convince South Australians that important historical material may well lie unrecognised in many homes. As Philip Pike explained:

The public often considered that historical material consisted only of explorer's journal and suchlike and did not respond readily to appeals for material. Thus, a programme of media utilisation — press, radio and television — was initiated to get the message across that even the most seemingly innocent material can be rich in social, if not mainstream, history.

The Jervis Wing was opened in December 1884 as the South Australian Library. Built at a cost of £37,000, it was named in honour of the Governor of South Australia, Sir William Jervis, who had laid the foundation stone at a civic ceremony in November 1879.

### Library an important step in enlightenment

The importance of the South Australian Library was not wasted on the newspapers of the period. The *South Australian Register* noted:

With those who have acquired the knack of looking for information in a Library it is almost an axiom that there is scarcely any piece of useful information within the range of religion, history, politics, science, art, or technology that may not be acquired by a diligent search through the shelves of a good Public Library.

The *South Australian Advertiser* saw the

library as an important step in the enlightenment of the colony's population:

. . . while the leading object in the regulation of a public library should be to put people in sympathy with private thought, the subordinate consideration of studying the comfort or inclination of readers whose tastes are of a lower level cannot be disregarded, for a habit of reading thus acquired may lead those who have adopted it to persevere till they reach the exalted heights in which a scheme of popular education reaps the full fruition of its purposes and capacities.

The South Australian Library opened at noon on 18 December 1884. The official ceremony was conducted in the presence of the Governor and a party which included Sir Henry Ayers, Sir John Forrest, Surveyor General of Western Australia, and architect Rowland Rees.

The holdings of the original South Australian Library contained over 13,000 volumes transferred from the South Australian Institute, 7600 volumes purchased in London and 367 donations. In the first year of operation, a further 411 books were purchased.

The books were arranged by category on the three levels of the library. A skylight provided illumination during the day. At night the library was lit by gas. At the time of opening, the heating system had not been installed and the library closed briefly in May 1885 for this to be done.

### Shortage of space . . . from the beginning

A shortage of space was experienced from the beginning and the categories were continually reorganised to accommodate new acquisitions. Another problem was the care of the library's volumes. In April 1885 a person was caught mutilating the London Post Office *Directory* and Burke's *Landed Gentry*. Con-

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## NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### CE — 1986 PRIORITIES

Members of the LAA are asked to assist their local divisions in identifying areas of Continuing Education priority for 1986.

At its August meeting the LAA General Council decided to change the way in which Association funds are deployed at national level for continuing education activities.

General Council decided not to reappoint a Continuing Education Officer after the resignation of the Association's CE Officer in July 1984. Instead, it was decided to set aside funds for a national CE program based on identification of priority areas by branches and a call for tenders.

The concept of continuing education as a *service* to members was endorsed. The LAA is keen to involve as many members as possible in continuing education activities. The 1985 CE program is well underway and full advertisements for courses will appear as they are being held. The planned 1985 programs and their location appeared in *InCite* v6 no 4, 22 March 1985.

The LAA is now asking divisions to identify their priority areas for 1986 and a memo to that effect (including supporting documentation) has been circulated. Sectional and regional groups of the LAA have been asked to co-ordinate their priorities through their Branch CE officers and it is hoped that a much wider range of programs will be on offer in 1986. Priority CE areas requiring support from national funds will need to be received by the CE Committee by 15 June, 1985.

As well as CE courses there may be some areas, such as VIATEL, A/V and software copyright, and satellites, which can be addressed by short technical briefings. These may form part of a normal Branch program, however, it may be that appropriate experts are not available locally. There may be some funds for speakers or for the development of video programs for members residing in areas where this is the case and an indication of interest in funds for this purpose is also being asked for.

If you have areas of CE priority why not pass these on to your Branch CE officer, your division secretary or the LAA office. After all the LAA CE program is being run for YOU.

### Corporate Plan and Review

Several members and divisions of the LAA have expressed surprise that the Corporate Plan and Review Committee has not issued discussion papers on various aspects of the Association on which comment can be made.

The Committee deliberately decided not to issue discussion papers in order not to prejudice peoples' thinking and to solicit comment as wide-ranging as possible. Had papers been issued the Committee felt that there could have been a tendency to criticise the content of those papers rather than to input new thought to the review.

In its own deliberations the Committee has taken a 'greenfields' approach to the Association ie, it has totally ignored the existing Association and has drawn up some model associations which may suit the future information profession. The Committee hopes that by not issuing discussion papers those providing input to the review will also be able to provide comment on the existing Association and on a 'greenfield' association.

Naturally there is a considerable amount of information about the Association available in annual reports, General Council papers and the like and relevant information can be made available to those requiring it.

The CPR Committee is confident that the comment provided at the hearings will be innovative and broad-ranging and that it will form the basis of a plan for the Association's future.

### IFLA 1985

Brochures for the 1985 IFLA Conference in Chicago have been received by the LAA and are obtainable by contacting Jenny Angus at LAA House. Numbers are limited so please remember this when ordering. *Jenny Adams*  
Executive Director

### REMINDER

Time is getting short for submitting résumés of papers for the Third International Conference on Geoscience Information, to be held from 1-6 June 1986.

1 May 1985 is the deadline for résumés — contact the Secretary, Organising Committee ZICGI, Australian Mineral Foundation, PB97, Glenside, SA 5065.

## Stressed? Don't ask a librarian!

Which jobs offer the greatest degree of stress? Not that of the high powered executive usually portrayed as a potential heart attack victim, according to a survey recently published in the British *Sunday Times*.

According to Cary Cooper (whose mother surely must have been a film fan who didn't want to be too obvious), Professor of Organisational Psychology at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, miners top the stress rating. Because of the rather unsympathetic reaction of British employers, many of whom apparently tell their stress-ridden staff to solve their problems by taking deep breaths while walking round the block, Professor Cooper asked six researchers to assess the stress ratings of various jobs on a scale of 1 to 10. The miners have a stress rating of 8.3, closely followed by police, construction workers, journalists, pilots, advertising personnel and dentists.

In the middle range come accountants, hairdressers, estate agents, chiropractors, and right at the bottom, suffering even less stress than astronomers and museum workers, come — LIBRARIANS!

While normal work pressure is healthy and stimulating, Professor Cooper points out that a number of factors can turn the same pressure into stress — which is dangerous. The autocratic style of some senior managers can create severe stress for other employees, as can poor relationships with superiors, and Cooper also nominates the dual career family as a significant stress factor.

But these considerations aside, gentle reader, you can be well pleased at your place in the ratings game. Give careful thought to any change — according to the survey, statisticians and postmen suffer twice as much stress as librarians!

*Brenda Pittard*

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victed, he was sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment. The Library Committee commented hopefully that 'his sentence will deter others from doing so'. The optimism was not to last. The following year it was found that several other books had met a similar fate and three — Stelle's *The American Watchmaker*, Glasgow's *Watch and Clockmaker* and Newton's *Fables* — had disappeared entirely.

The Jervois Wing remained the State Library until the 1950s when modern additions took place. The Jervois was largely overlooked in its later years, becoming the holding area for the library's periodical collection. Its stolidly Victorian character faded into the background. It was set to become 'just another old building on North Terrace'.

With the establishment of the Mortlock project it was natural that the Jervois should serve as the home for the first central collection of South Australian history. The Jervois was restored to its former glory, returning to its nineteenth century beginnings with the aid of twentieth century technology.

The Mortlock Library will give the citizens of South Australia a tangible link with their heritage. It will be operating in time for the 150th anniversary of the founding of South Australia in 1986, just two years before Australia's bicentenary.

The stage is set for one of the most exciting events of the coming year.

David Latta is a Sydney writer at present working on a book about some of Australia's lost architectural splendour, to be published later this year by Angus and Robertson.

## RETROSPECTIVE SHELF LIST CONVERSION

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