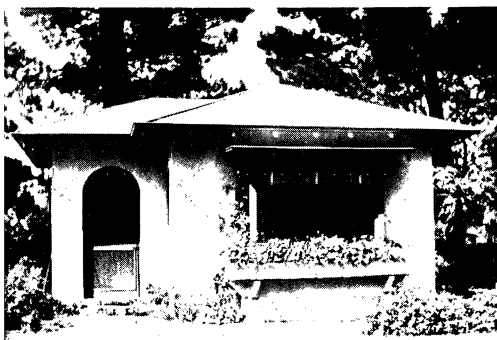# A Writer's Life

fascinating collection which includes drawings, photographs, diaries, school reports and letters dating from 1915, has been donated to the State Library of NSW. These are the papers of novelist Eleanor Dark who died last year.

There are fifteen boxes in the collection which traces Eleanor Dark's life and development as a writer.

Eleanor Dark led a quietly radical family life as the daughter of Labor politician and writer, Dowell O'Reilly, who introduced the first bill for women's suffrage in the NSW Legislative Assembly, and later the wife of socialist Dr Eric Dark, driven from Katoomba, NSW, as a communist sympathiser during World War II.

Eleanor Dark is probably best known for her trilogy *The Timeless Land* (1941) which told the story of white settlement in Australia. It was made into a successful television series for the ABC a few years ago.

After their marriage in 1922 Eleanor and Eric Dark moved to Katoomba, where she began her first novel *Slow Dawning*, published in London in 1932.

Apart from some time living in Queensland in the 1950s, Katoomba remained Eleanor Dark's home thoughout her life. Her study 'Varuna' is shown in the photograph.

She wrote ten novels in all, a number of short stories and poems, which she wrote under the pseudonym of Patricia O'Rane.

Eleanor Dark was a very private person, and this collection provides for the first time a glimpse into the life of this accomplished writer.

Conferences Coming Up

A programme of lectures and seminars for professionally qualified librarians with an interest in information technology and its applications will be held at the Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield (with the last few days held in London) during 8-25 September 1986.

'Information Technology in Libraries' is a residential course which aims to provide librarians and information workers with a sound knowledge of present and future applications of technology in the provision of library and information services.

Applicants are advised to apply before 25 May 1986. Fee £1020. For more information contact: The British Council, PO Box 88 Edgecliff NSW 2027.

Help wanted

Brian Howes, of rare books fame, is trying to obtain copyright permission, as detailed below:

a. William A McGrath, author of *New Guineana, or books of New Guinea 1942–1964,* published in Port Moresby in 1965.

b. Owners of the copyright of Harry Chaplin's several bibliographies on the Lindsays in recent years.

If you can help contact Brian at PO Box 82, South Wagga Wagga NSW 2650.