

Little library stirs national response

Helen Dunford, Robert Sticht Memorial Library

Along with the mineral Stichtite, the Robert Sticht Memorial Library at Queenstown in Western Tasmania is named as a memorial to one of the world's most eminent metallurgists — Robert Carl Sticht.

Proud of the heritage of excellence established by Sticht as general manager of the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, the library staff of the Robert Sticht Memorial Library maintain a permanent display of Sticht memorabilia and celebrate the anniversary of his birth in October each year.

Seeking additional artefacts and display material, the librarian contacted the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Heritage Committee. As a result of this contact, the committee was prompted to take action on a project that had been languishing in the planning stages for some time. The *Biography of Robert Sticht*, together with reproductions of his

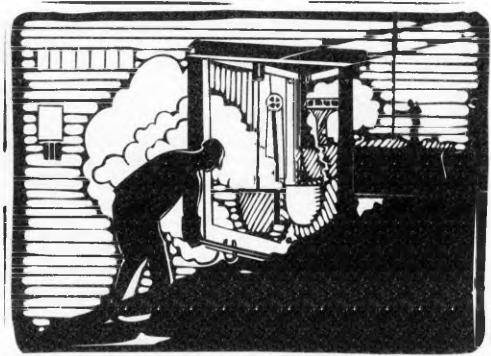
presidential addresses, is soon to be published by the Committee.

When complete, this project will be an invaluable aid to historical research on the development of mining and metallurgy in Australia. In addition, it will be a feature of the Australian Mining Hall of Fame, currently being planned to celebrate the achievements of those Australians associated with the mining industry. This proposal is focused on Queenstown because the town has the longest tradition of continuous mining, and has been associated with the greatest cluster of advances in technology in the history of Tasmanian mining.

The publishing of the Sticht biography demonstrates the value

of co-operation between community organisations and the Institute.

It also affirms the significance that the community now places on the history and heritage of Australian Mining in the development of the nation. ■



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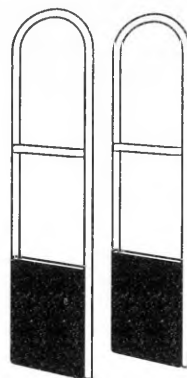
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