



The University of Sydney

# RECORD

The University Archives 2006







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2006

# record

**The University Archives  
Archives and Records Management Services**

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**ARMS**  
Archives and Records  
Management Services

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# General Information

Established in 1954, the Archives is a part of Archives and Records Management Services, reporting to the Director, Corporate Services within the Registrar's Division. The Archives retains the records of the Senate, the Academic Board and those of the many administrative offices which control the functions of the University of Sydney. It also holds the archival records of institutions which have amalgamated with the University, such as Sydney CAE (and some of its predecessors including the Sydney Teachers College), Sydney College of the Arts and the Conservatorium of Music. The Archives also houses a collection of photographs of University interest, and University publications of all kinds. In addition, the Archives holds significant collections of the archives of persons and bodies closely associated with the University.

The reading room and repository are on the 9th floor of the Fisher Library, and the records are available by appointment for research use by all members of the University and by the general public. It is important to note that while housed within the Fisher Library, the Archives is not a part of the University Library and have different hours and conditions of use. Access to records is permitted only under the direct control and supervision of the Manager, Archives and Records Management Services, or staff of the Archives. Access to administrative records is governed by the NSW State Records Act 1998, the NSW Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 and Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and/or the NSW Freedom of Information Act 1989. Restricted access conditions may apply to some records and photocopying of original records is not possible.

## Contact details

It is necessary to make an appointment to use the University Archives. The Archives is available for use by appointment from 9-1 and 2-5 Monday to Thursday.

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## Archives Staff

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# Archivist's Notes

## Tim Robinson

Paradoxically for a journal produced by an archives, libraries and librarians seem to feature in this issue: two contributions are concerned with the University Library and one concerns the relationship between archives and libraries in the development of NSW archives legislation.

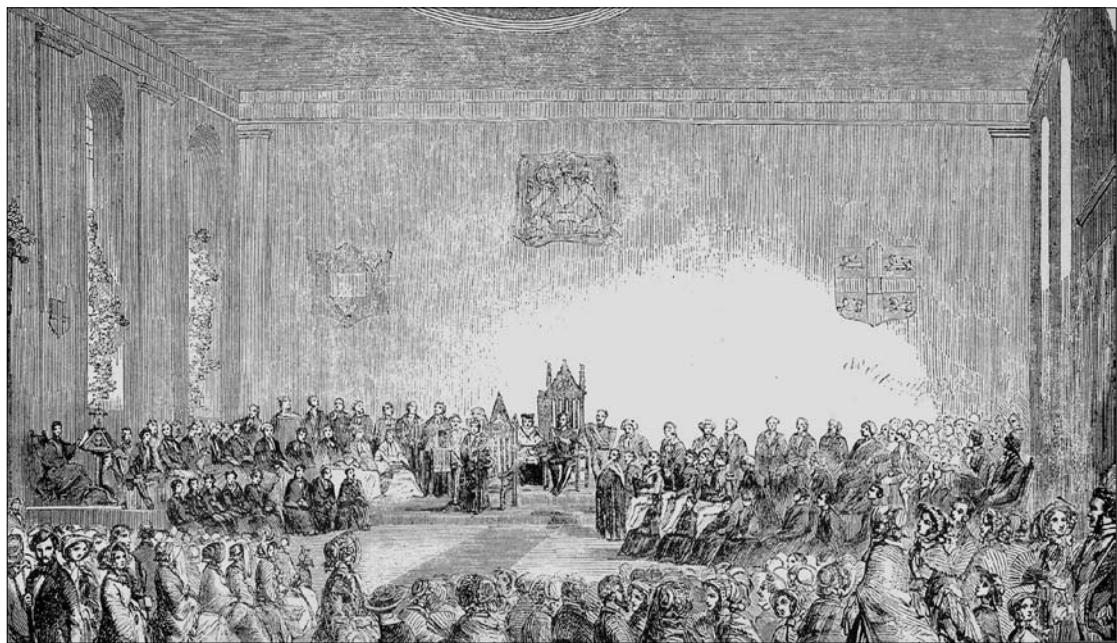
The first article however, commemorates the 150th anniversary of the granting of the University's Arms by the College of Heralds in London. Written by Mr Stephen Szabo, the Honorary Secretary of Heraldry Australia Inc. to coincide with exhibitions to mark the sesquicentenary, the article explains the basis of heraldry. Mr Szabo also discusses the origins and meaning of the University's arms. The exhibition, which will be both real and 'virtual' will be opened by the Vice-Chancellor in May. The University has been fortunate to have the expertise of Heraldry Australia, especially Stephen, and the financial support of the University Chancellor's Committee for the project.

Emeritus Professor Marjorie Jacobs AO FRAHS, Professor of History from 1969 to 1980, has written a fascinating article on the origins of the New South Wales *Archives Act* of 1960. The importance of the role of the University, in particular then Acting Professor Jacobs and the first University Archivist David Macmillan, in the shaping of the legislation is one that is not generally recognised. Professor Jacobs modestly says of her article: "It is deliberately autobiographical and will serve its purpose if it sheds light on neglected or overlooked aspects of the story."

In the 1950s when the NSW government was facing the problem of managing its records the University had to face the problem of accommodating its ever increasing library collection. Dr Neil A Radford AM, University Librarian 1980 to 1996, sets out the history of the University's response to the growth of its library collection. "Accommodating the University Library," begins with the Library in the Main Building (what is now the Senate Room) and discusses the purpose built Fisher Library of 1909 (now Maclaurin Hall), before considering the development of the "new" Fisher of the 1960s. Dr Radford finishes by speculating on the future of libraries, which is analogous with the issues facing archives in the world of electronic recordkeeping.

In 'The Vicissitudes of Forshall – an archival tale', Roderic Campbell, Research Officer in the University Historian's Office, subjects one of the foundation documents of the University – the first Matriculation Register – to scrutiny and finds some mistakes which lead him to unravel the life story of the first University Librarian – Frederick Hale Forshall. It is also an object lesson in archival research and not taking anything at face value.

The University Archives holds a significant number of papers of Australian philosophers. Nyree Morrison, one of the Reference Archivists, has written of two groups that are now available for research use. William Charles Henry Eddy is perhaps best known for his defence of Sydney Sparkes Orr, but his papers reveal his wider career and interests. One of his connections was with Thomas Arthur Rose, whose papers are also now ready for use. Rose and Eddy were in the Workers Educational Association and the University's Department of Tutorial Classes. Rose was responsible for the introduction of mathematical logic in the Philosophy Department in 1951.



*The Inauguration of the University of Sydney, 11th October 1852.*

*Picture from the Illustrated London News, 29 January 1853.*

*The blank University of Sydney crest is on the left wall.*



*Detail of University Arms from the  
1857 Grant of Arms.*

# 'I Will Achieve': The Sesquicentenary of the University of Sydney's Coat of Arms

Stephen Szabo

*The University of Sydney Arms was granted on the 14 May 1857. To commemorate the 150th anniversary, the Archives is holding an exhibition in the Rare Books corridor display on Level 2, Fisher Library in May 2007. The exhibition will be also online.*

## Arms and the University of Sydney

The University of Sydney was inaugurated on 11 October 1852 in premises formerly belonging to Sydney College, now Sydney Grammar School. The ceremony was reported in detail in the *Illustrated London News* on 29 January 1853. A sketch illustrating the article showed that heraldry featured significantly (see illustration p. 6).

The Governor of New South Wales' chair had a shield bearing the Royal Arms above it, with the arms of Oxford University to the right and those of Cambridge University to the left. Above the chair of Dr Woolley, Principal of the new university, were the arms of his old college, University College, Oxford. The new university was represented by a blank white shield, bearing the motto 'I will achieve'. This, in the best traditions of heraldry, plays upon the notion of an achievement of arms as well as the idea of attaining a goal. The hope and expectation of achievement is enhanced by the white shield, as if it were a blank canvas ready to be filled.

The heraldry seen at the Inauguration and the carving of arms on the rising university buildings must have impressed the University Senate, although more pressing matters held their attention in the

early 1850s. A common seal, pictorial in nature, had been adopted in 1851, and served as a symbolic representation of the institution for the time being.

On 3 December 1855 John Woolley and Stuart Donaldson were appointed to seek a coat of arms. The acting Provost, Francis L S Merewether, consulted with these two gentlemen and submitted a design that included 'the stars of the Southern Cross, with quarterings selected from the Coats of the British Universities, giving them all a fair representation', as he recalled some four decades later. As well as Oxford and Cambridge, Edinburgh University was probably represented and one of the Irish universities, although no sketch of this design apparently survives. The Senate endorsed the design, suggesting further that an alternative was to have 'emblems representing the several portions of the United Kingdom' or a combination of national and academic symbols. Charles Nicholson was charged with the task of negotiating with the Kings of Arms in London to obtain a formal grant of arms.

The Kings of Arms found the design too complicated and, possibly showing an English bias, only used symbols that alluded to Oxford and Cambridge in the arms that were granted by Letters Patent on 14 May 1857. The lion in the top third of the shield ('the chief' in heraldic terms) symbolised England and Cambridge simultaneously. The open book in the centre of the cross was said to be taken from the arms of Oxford, although it is used extensively in academic arms. The blue cross with stars had

### What Is Heraldry?

*Symbols have been used to identify family, tribe, and nation for thousands of years. Heraldry appears to have begun in Europe in the twelfth century, although no-one has satisfactorily identified exactly where or why it began. It spread rapidly, first among the major and minor nobility, and later among the clergy, merchants and tradesmen.*

*The chief purpose of heraldry is identification, and so it was used on shields and banners and to mark fixed and portable property. It was also used on seals, the means by which documents were authenticated. Such authentication in the matter of transfer of property and other legal dealings was essential, and the armorial seal provided this. The colour of heraldry made it essential for social display and pageantry, and explains in part why it is still popular today.*

*Initially there was no control over the use of arms. Nobles or gentlemen decided that they liked a particular design and began using it. Eventually, in England and in Scotland, the most senior heralds, known as Kings of Arms, and who were responsible for compiling rolls of arms, and arranging tournaments and the attendant pageantry, were delegated Royal authority to be the sole legitimate sources of arms. The powers of the Kings of Arms were often ignored, and people and corporate bodies continued to adopt arms or usurp the arms of others, but there was and still is considerable prestige for an individual or institution to have arms granted.*

been used for some time as an unofficial symbol for New South Wales, although there were usually five stars, one in the centre and one on each arm, and these stars were either five- or six-pointed. The arrangement of eight-pointed stars may have been meant to recall the arms granted to the Church of England Diocese of Australia two decades before. This consisted of a blue field on which four gold stars of eight points were arranged in a cross formation. In blazon, the technical language used by heralds, the arms of the University of Sydney are described as 'Argent on a Cross Azure an open book proper, clasps, Gold, between four Stars of eight points Or, on a chief Gules a Lion passant guardant also Or'. The motto, *Sidere Mens Eadem Mutato* as devised by Merewether was left unchanged.

the style of shield and the depiction of the charges can vary, as long as the blazon, or formula, is adhered to.

Some universities, having acquired grants of arms, come to discard them as being 'too old-fashioned' and then, at great expense, have logos devised which often become dated. The ability to adapt the arms while still maintaining their heraldic integrity has been one of the strengths of the University of Sydney's maintenance of visual identity. The exhibition to be held in 2007 will celebrate the history of the University of Sydney's arms and explore the use made of these and other corporate arms within the university

#### Elements of an Achievement of Arms

**Shield** *This is the basis of all coats of arms. At their simplest, arms consist of a shield only, with a plain field on which appears a geometrical shape or an object of some sort. The items appearing on the shield are known as charges.*

**Crest** *The crest was a later development in heraldry, arising from the love of pageantry. Initially the crest consisted of charges painted onto a ridge on top of the helmet. Later crests were three-dimensional objects, made from wickerwork, boiled leather, and other materials. It was rare for universities to have arms which included a crest, although it has become more common in recent times.*

**Motto** *The motto was originally a war cry, but later mottoes often expressed some worthy sentiment. In the English heraldic system mottoes could be changed at will, although in the case of corporate bodies it is understandable that stability in such matters is encouraged.*

**Supporters** *These are human or animal figures that stand on either side of the shield and support it, hence the name. They possibly originated as 'filler' work on the part of seal engravers, but are now generally restricted in grants to the most senior grades of orders of chivalry, the peerage, and to corporate bodies.*

The combination of some or all of these elements makes up what is known as an achievement of arms.

Suggestions over the next several years to seek the addition of a Crown to the coat of arms, initially rejected and then endorsed by the Senate, were never followed through. While the acquisition of the grant of arms was, in itself, a significant boost to the university's prestige, the inclusion of a Royal Crown, requiring permission directly from the Sovereign herself, would have been a great mark of favour.

In the century and a half since their granting, the arms have been used extensively by the University. They appear on every testamur granted by the university, carved in stone on many of the university buildings, in stained glass windows both on and off campus, on university signage, and on the flag that flies proudly above the Main Quadrangle. The arms also feature prominently on University publications of all kinds. In accordance with heraldic convention

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# Lobbyists for the Archives<sup>1</sup>: Some Reminiscences

Professor Marjorie Jacobs, AO

In its first report, covering the period 30 June 1961 to 31 December 1961, the Archives Authority of New South Wales acknowledged the great contribution made by the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales 'who, for so many years took an active interest in the preservation of State archives' and to the Archives Department set up in the Public Library in 1953. Reference to the fact that the Archives Act of 1960 superseded a bill approved by Cabinet in 1957 is avoided. By the terms of that bill, which was based on their submissions, the Trustees of the Public Library were to be the archival authority of New South Wales and the Principal Librarian the Chief Archivist.<sup>2</sup> In other words, had the advice of the Trustees been accepted, there would not have been the independent State Archival Authority as we have known it since 1960.

For almost half a century since 1960 there has been a traditional account of the establishment of the State Archives in New South Wales. Briefly, it runs that the Mitchell Library, for many years the unofficial archival authority in New South Wales, was replaced in 1953 by an Archives Department directly under the Public Librarian and that from this point there was a smooth and planned transition to the legislation of 1960. Such is the impression created by State Records New South Wales (SRNSW)<sup>3</sup> in recent reports. Russell Doust<sup>4</sup>, writing in 1969, recognised that the Act of 1960 differed from the proposed legislation submitted by the Trustees to the Minister for Education to whom they were responsible. With inadequate material despite his access to records of the Education Department and the Public Service Board<sup>5</sup> (both now missing), he speculated freely and overlooked the role of the Director General of Education, Dr (later Sir) Harold Wyndham who met a deputation of historians and took their advice into account.

In the early 1950s, despite the influx of migrants since 1945, Sydney had a population barely exceeding 1.5 million. Bureaucracy had not yet erected its barriers between the residents and levels at which decisions were made in the public service. It is unlikely that today a deputation consisting of a senior lecturer in History (then Acting Professor), the University Archivist and the President of the Royal Australian Historical Society would be able at short notice to spend at least half an hour with the

Director General of Education in New South Wales. It was possible in 1957.

This article is based on the recollections of one member of that deputation. It is not intended to be a definitive analysis of the events leading up to the establishment of the State Archives Authority. It is deliberately autobiographical and will serve its purpose if it sheds light on neglected or overlooked aspects of the story. Wherever possible I have supported my recollections by evidence from surviving documents. The loss of the relevant Education Department files has made it impossible for me to find official confirmation of my story at all points. In any case, even when the records are available, I have found that the lobbyist sometimes creeps in inadvertently but is very seldom acknowledged in official records.

My interest in archival principles and practices was based on my experience during the Second World War and from 1946 to 1948 at the Public Record Office in London. As an historian in the United Army Services of Supply in the South West Pacific, the area of General Macarthur's command, I had to understand the management of current records in the departments in which I worked<sup>6</sup> and the highly developed system by which they were available for current administration and eventual preservation in the appropriate archival institution in the United States. In London the Public Record Office was then in Chancery Lane. The number of readers was very small. My recollection is that there were seldom more than half a dozen in the Reading Room. One could freely discuss the nature and location of records with archivists in the Reading Room, whose preliminary training was usually in history. In a small seminar conducted at the Institute of Historical Research, Professor Vincent Harlow shared with his postgraduate students his own wartime familiarity with the volume of twentieth century records and passed on to postgraduate students his experience as a scholar reading in the Public Record Office. There were lectures, too, at the Institute of Historical Research, in which staff from the Public Record Office often participated. It was there, I believe, that I heard Hilary Jenkinson speak on the training of archivists — or did I attend the Inaugural Lecture for a new Course in Archive Administration at University College which he delivered in October

1947 and subsequently published as 'The English Archivist: a New Profession'?<sup>7</sup>

When I returned to the History Department of the University of Sydney in 1948 I had some familiarity with Australian History through my own research on immigration and an Honours seminar in Australian History, which I introduced in 1942. I had supervised a growing number of students writing theses in Australian history following the introduction in 1938 of the four-year course for an Honours degree. Both London and post-war Sydney led me back to the Mitchell Library with which I was already familiar as a reader through my research on German colonies in the Pacific. At the time I was particularly concerned that, despite the richness of the Mitchell's collections relating to the first half century of the colony of New South Wales, they were not matched by public and private materials for later years. After discussion with the Mitchell Library's remarkable librarian, Phyllis Mander-Jones, I applied for a research grant from the University, which in 1952 provided the salary of a research assistant. My intention was to begin a survey of less accessible materials, both inside and outside the Mitchell Library, including public records and private papers. The University generously renewed the grant in 1953 and 1954. I appointed Frances Lawes in 1952 and Hazel King in the following two years.

The initial task was to extend my knowledge of materials already deposited in the Library, which in addition to its other functions had served as the repository for the State's archives from the time of its opening. I received invaluable and generous help from Phyllis Mander-Jones who granted me access to the shelves of the Library where I could wander at will and explore. My initial impression was that contrary to my expectations there was much work still to be done on the public records of the first half century. Apart from Gordon Richardson's MA thesis in History on the Colonial Secretary's In-letters<sup>8</sup>, there were no guides to series such as immigration, police, customs, and the Minutes of the Executive Council. Consequently they were seldom, if ever, used in historical research.

This had happened despite the achievements of successive Mitchell Librarians in ensuring that records of the early years of the colony were not destroyed. Nor was it due to indifference to wider issues on the part of Phyllis Mander-Jones. With typical enthusiasm and range of scholarship she had visited London, Washington and Paris to explore modern archival institutions. The range

of her interest in archives, in which she included public and private records, is evident in her letter to Michael Standish at that time the Officer in Charge (later Archivist) of the Dominion Archives in New Zealand: 'As the Mitchell Library has as yet no statutory authority you will realise that I think the present position should be altered ...' Later in the same letter, having set out the advantages of combining archives and library, she added, 'The great difficulty is the provision of sufficient staff. Governments are apt to think that librarians can carry out all their other duties as well as archival work.'<sup>9</sup>

Respect for work already achieved and then in progress should not obscure the other side of the story. It was evident in 1952 that existing arrangements fell far short of the most basic practices adopted overseas, especially having regard to the growing volume of government records. No member of staff in the Public Library or Mitchell had been assigned especially to state archives. Consequently there was an absence of staff experienced in administrative history and archival procedures. No funds had been allocated specifically for work on the archives. Dependence on the occasional circular from the Public Service Board or Premier directing departments to consult the Public Librarian before destroying records left much to chance. In a paper which I gave at a meeting of the Historians' Seminar<sup>10</sup> in 1954, I commented:

While one or two departments, such as Lands, preserved their records in excellent order, others have been very lax, and there is clear evidence that the various minutes directing transfer have in the past been unknown to responsible officers or the clerks who are often deputed to look after the records, or have been disregarded by them.

One discovery made in late in 1952 had immediate consequences and confirmed my early impressions. Working through the Treasury papers deposited in the Mitchell Library I found that they were incomplete. Some letter-books were missing as well as records relating to the collection of quit-rent, which was a Treasury responsibility. I located the officer who currently dealt with such matters in the Treasury<sup>11</sup> only to find there that the duplicates of the quit-rent receipts, dating back to 1831, had been sent to be pulped three years before. There was uncertainty about the fate of the letter-books and I was invited to accompany the Treasury officer to the Goldsbrough Mort building<sup>12</sup>, which he told me was used as the main place for transferring records no longer in current use or unwanted in departments. I

quote from the description I gave in my 1954 paper:

It was an amazing place when I last saw it about a year ago. On entering, one was confronted was a littered pile of papers and letter-books on the floor and then, in semi-darkness, row upon row of shelves reaching to the ceiling stacked untidily with massive account books and land records from the Treasury. Dust and the all too pressing evidence of rats and spiders added to the impression of neglect. Beyond this section there were areas marked off by wire netting for other departments. Perhaps the most interesting feature was the pile of papers collected near a goods lift towards the back awaiting removal to the paper mills, for it was the practice as space was needed for incoming records, to clear shelves by the simple expedient of sending older accumulations to be pulped. As most of the records in this place were from the period after 1856, I am not in a position to assess the amount of destruction which occurred as papers travelled through the Goldsbrough Mort transit camp to the mills.

I reported my discovery to Phyllis Mander-Jones, who despite her great interest in the State archives and improvements in the machinery for transfer, had not been told of the facilities provided by the Public Service Board at the Goldsbrough Mort building. I took her the next day to inspect my discovery and we were there again late in January with representatives of the Lands Department. Horrified, particularly by the fire risk in the building, Phyllis Mander-Jones informed the Principal Librarian of conditions in the building.<sup>13</sup> Representations to the Public Service Board followed<sup>14</sup> and an Archives Department was set up in November 1953 directly responsible to the Principal Librarian. A young librarian Allan Horton was designated Archivist and arrangements began for the transfer of the contents from the Goldsbrough Mort building to new storage space at Sheas Creek. The Mitchell Librarian's responsibilities thenceforth were restricted to the maintenance of the older records already in the Library.

I am aware that my account differs from that given by Doust, which is based almost entirely on an undated report from John Metcalfe to the Trustees.<sup>15</sup> In it the Trustees were told that following a personal inquiry the Principal Librarian was told by the Chairman of the Public Service Board *early in 1951*<sup>16</sup> that records were stored in the Goldsbrough Mort building and that the Board had subsequently set up a committee to look into the question of liaison with departments and work out methods for the ultimate disposal of records. This committee, Metcalfe stated, included himself and the Mitchell Librarian and later Mr Richardson. It set up procedures for liaison with

the departments and the disposal of records. Citing this report, Doust assumes that the Committee submitted its recommendations in 1952 and that the establishment of the Archives Department of the Library in November 1953 was 'a fairly direct consequence'.<sup>17</sup>

If one accepts this version of events, awkward questions follow. Why had Metcalfe, knowing of the Goldsbrough Mort building for at least two years, done nothing to see that records deposited there were well maintained? Why had he left the Mitchell Librarian ignorant of the building, despite her responsibilities for liaison with the departments? If the Committee made its recommendations in 1952, how could the Mitchell Librarian, one of its members, have been unaware of the existence and condition of the Goldsbrough Mort building before we inspected it together in January 1953?

Closer to the truth is the account John Metcalfe gave in May 1954 in a Minute for the information of the Minister for Education.<sup>18</sup> There he commented, 'It became a case of right hand and left hand getting completely out of touch, and a common store for surplus but still sometimes used records, that is by the creating departments, *was set up without the knowledge of the Principal Librarian, J W Metcalfe*'.<sup>19</sup> It was after its discovery that Metcalfe complained to the Public Service Board. The Joint Committee was then set up and the Board authorised the appointment of three additional staff in the Public Library to begin work on the records at the Goldsbrough Mort building. In November 1953 the Archives Department of the Public Library was set up.

Finally, lest any doubts remain, let me quote Allan Horton, the first Archivist of the Public Library:

Goldsborough House was unsupervised, uncontrolled and apart from its central location, altogether unsatisfactory. The unofficial archives office, the Mitchell, knew nothing of it. ...it was Miss Jacobs, who discovered the store and the Mitchell learnt of it when she deposited with them a number of books from it given to her by a departmental officer.<sup>20</sup>

My next venture into lobbying was in a different milieu. In the early 1950s, the University of Sydney was the principal institution for conferring degrees.<sup>21</sup> Of the 20,000 or so graduates in 1950 only a small percentage were women. They had links with one another through the Sydney University Women Graduates' Association. Within the University the number of women on the permanent staff above secretarial level — academic, library and

administration — was small enough for news to circulate freely and it was no doubt in this way that I heard first that the University was considering the appointment of an archivist and that a librarian was likely to be appointed.

Fresh from my experience with Goldsbrough House and the Public Librarian's decision to create an Archives Department by changing the title of a young librarian to that of Archivist and assigning him full-time to the work of that department,<sup>22</sup> I raised the matter informally with the Assistant Registrar, Margaret Telfer. With typical quick perception and no doubt wondering how the University could cope with its mounting volume of recent records, she was immediately interested as I spoke about the archivist's role in the preservation of records for scholarly purposes and in the management of current records. She asked me to speak to the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dale Trendall. Perhaps as a Trustee of the Public Library, as has been suggested, he knew of the flurry of activity that followed the discovery of the Goldsbrough House records and of the Archives Department of the Public Library. Neither he nor other Trustees could have learnt from John Metcalfe that the archivist's training and role differed so far from those of the librarian that separation from the library was desirable.

I recall stressing to Dale Trendall the advantages that would accrue to the University if it separated its Archives Department from the Library and the contribution an archivist might make to the management of current records. I probably left with him my copy of Jenkinson and whatever I had been reading at the time on records management. I had some further discussion with Margaret Telfer and shortly afterwards Professor Trendall convinced a committee of the Senate that the archivist to be appointed should be 'attached to the Administration and be responsible to the Registrar'.<sup>23</sup> In due course David Macmillan was appointed and arrived in Sydney late in 1954. Not only had the University provided a lead in separating archives and library but it had created the first University Archives in Australia. And I had gained an ally in the years leading up to the Act of 1960.

Shortly after Macmillan's arrival I was involved in what was to me a surprising exchange with the Principal Librarian. It arose out of an article I wrote in the Australian journal *Public Administration*. The editor had invited me to write an article on the so-called Grigg Report<sup>24</sup>, the report of a committee

set up in Great Britain 'to review the arrangements for the preservation of the records of Government Departments ... in the light of the rate at which they are accumulating'. My article was published in June 1955. In it I attempted to outline the committee's proposals for an overhaul of the English system, which included the system for selecting records for permanent preservation in the Public Record Office and the handling of records within departments. At the end of the article I pointed to the relevance of some of the recommendations to Australian conditions and to the unprecedented problems of modern records. In my final paragraph I quite tentatively suggested that there might be advantages in assigning responsibility for records management and archives administration to a separate authority responsible to the Prime Minister or the Premiers.<sup>25</sup>

I was quite unprepared for the furore that followed as my article was read in the Public Library. My suggestion had not been intended as an attack on the Public Librarian but as a step in an ongoing discussion of the ways in which better procedures might be established in the state. John Metcalfe saw it differently and, committed to proposals that the Trustees should become the Archival Authority, thus combining library and archives under the Principal Librarian, replied in a letter published in the journal in December 1955.<sup>26</sup> Reading that letter today it is evident that he had no interest at all in the Grigg Report and its recommendations. Failing to read my article in conjunction with the Report, he misrepresented some of my remarks. His concern, understandably, was to defend the libraries of Australia as custodians of the archives and the archivist as a professional librarian by training. Under Australian conditions, he argued, 'there may not be sufficient prospects of a career for desirable people in archives administration divorced from both the care of other historical manuscripts and from what is usually understood by librarianship'. Resorting to sarcasm rather than reasoned argument in language unlikely to impress his superiors when they examined his letter in the decisive period ahead, he concluded with advice to historians to support the work of librarians and 'let them finish their sweeping of the temple, before the coming of the high priests, and, who knows, even of the gods themselves.'

This letter must have strengthened my growing conviction that separation of library and archives was desirable. There is evidence of this in my reply to the Metcalfe letter, which I quote at some length:

My intention in raising the question of libraries and archives is not to dwell upon aspects of archives

work that affect the use of the records in research ... The major point is the extent to which the libraries are the appropriate agencies for administering archives and records in the modern state, with the enormous increase in the volume of departmental records ... . This is not a matter only of preserving records for use by scholars; it affects also the efficient operation of the departments ... . Within the next few years decisions will be made which will influence the development of archives and records work for a long time.<sup>27</sup>

At the time my article appeared I was not aware that John Metcalfe had already advised the Trustees to reopen discussion of archival legislation. It had come up intermittently in the past without serious deliberation. This time the case was put strongly by the Principal Librarian in a Minute dated 2 August 1955, which a deputation from the Trustees took to the Minister for Education a few days later. They proposed to the Minister that 'an archival authority be set up which might be themselves as a separate body or their principal officer'.<sup>28</sup> Their reception was encouraging, the Minister stating that he would be glad to have an Archives Act and asking the Principal Librarian to let him have proposals for a Cabinet Minute and Draft Bill.

Two months later the Principal Librarian forwarded his proposal. His draft Minute recommended that the appropriate archival authority would be the Trustees of the Public Library. The Minister agreed and in a Minute prepared for Cabinet recommended that 'the control of the State archives be with the Library'.

Had the matter been treated as in any way urgent, it is likely that legislation along those lines would have been enacted, for it was only in later months that the arguments in favour of separation really developed. As it was, neither the Library nor the Department of Education pursued the matter and a year passed before the Minister for Education signed the Cabinet Minute as the preliminary to seeking Cabinet approval. After further delay, the item appeared on the Cabinet agenda on 23 July 1957, when approval was given for the preparation of legislation to create an archival authority as proposed by the Principal Librarian. Two years had elapsed between the Minister's acceptance of his proposals and this decision.

On 24 July 1957 the *Daily Telegraph*, apparently following its usual practice of noting parliamentary business, reported that the Government was to form an Archives Department at the Public Library 'which would preserve historical public documents'.<sup>29</sup>

By July 1957, when the matter of archives legislation finally arose, I had a broader understanding of the issues. Late in 1955 on sabbatical leave I had spent a month at the National Archives in Wellington, where I was pursuing my research on German colonies in the Pacific. I had many discussions with the Chief Archivist Michael Standish on the advantages of a separate institution. I had heard TR Schellenberg lecture in Sydney and had been influenced by his book *Modern Archives. Principles and Techniques* (1956). I had written an enthusiastic review in the *Australian Quarterly* (September 1956), where I stressed his writing on records management and the development in the United States of machinery for controlling records from the time they were created, a system with which I already had some familiarity from my wartime work.

Ian Maclean as Chief Archivist of the Commonwealth National Library had made a notable contribution to records management in Australia and, at least unofficially, had become a strong advocate of separation. The National Library Inquiry Committee of the Commonwealth Government, meeting under the chairmanship of Professor Paton had just issued its report and had recommended the establishment of an archival institution separate from the Commonwealth National Library.<sup>30</sup>

Above all, I had in David Macmillan an energetic and well informed co-worker. At first David's major interest, apart from his work in setting up the University Archives, was in establishing the Business Archives Council, which he co-founded with Alan Birch of the Department of Economic History. He also had contacts with the History Department. Early in 1956 he served on a subcommittee of the Archives Section of the Australian Libraries Association, with Ian Maclean and Allan Horton, which produced a report on the training of archivists.<sup>31</sup> Frustrated by the absence of any action in response to this report, he wrote in an article in the *American Archivist* in January 1957, 'the outlook for the state records is not promising'. A few months later he had been forced to the conclusion that I had already reached in writing for *Public Administration*. In a paper given at the Summer School in Archives held at the University of Sydney in March 1957 he expressed the view that, 'There has too often been in the past a feeling that the whole field of archives organisation and of records management can be left indefinitely to take care of itself. Well-intentioned hopes that everything will be all right in the end have too often been a substitute for action'.<sup>32</sup>

Perhaps neither of us gave sufficient credit to what had been achieved since the Goldsbrough House 'discovery' as it was frequently alluded to in the Library. At the same Summer School Allan Horton spoke of the move to Shea's Creek, where a new Repository controlled by the Archives Department had been set up, and of the steps taken towards 'the establishment of a sound records management programme'.<sup>33</sup> The Public Service Board had undertaken a review of records storage and disposal practices. We saw only the other side. Even in 1959 there were only three Archives Officers and two Records Attendants whose duties included both the massive task of controlling the mounting accumulations of paper at Shea's Creek, and the older records already in the Mitchell. There were grounds for concern about how much of this could go beyond the stage of planning without a significant injection of funds, better controls in the departments and proper accommodation.

When the report of Cabinet's decision appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* I made immediate inquiries at the Library<sup>34</sup> and spoke to the Chief of Staff of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, K Commins, who had retained strong links with the University and the Women Graduates Association. The result was the second leader in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 2 August 1957. Whether this was based on a letter written by David Macmillan to the Director General of Education on the previous day, as Doust claims, is not clear as this letter is no longer available. My recollection is that the leader was based on material that we both gave to the writer. In tone it is very different from the formal letter which David and I wrote to the Director General a few days later, in which we drew attention to the Grigg Report and the Paton Report and urged reconsideration before the bill was enacted.<sup>35</sup> It was the prelude to a deputation of three which I organised. Dr CH Currey agreed to lead the deputation. Well known as an historian and formerly in charge of history at the Sydney Teachers College, he was at that time President of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

At the meeting, which took place at the Education Department early in the week following our letter, Dr Wyndham listened attentively as I spoke of the Grigg Report, the Paton Report, archival institutions overseas, and the interest of historians in the preservation of records. David followed with arguments for separation from the library and the distinctive features of the archivist's profession. After a few comments and questions Dr Wyndham asked two members of his staff to join us and on the spot

instructed them to start work on the drafting of a new bill. He asked me to leave with him the reports, articles and supporting documents I had taken to the meeting and David to be available for consultation with his staff if required.

It is not possible now to support my account of the deputation by reference to Education Department files, for the relevant files cannot now be located. My only documentary evidence comes from Russell Doust's thesis; there he quoted a letter to the Chairman of the Public Service Board of February 1958 in which the Director General of Education pointed out that 'the Principal Librarian has not referred in his submission to the Grigg Report, the South African Archives Act 1953, the New Zealand Archives Act of 1957, TR Schellenberg's *Modern Archives* or the Paton Report'.<sup>36</sup> These were in fact the materials which I had taken with me for our interview and had left behind at Dr Wyndham's request. They are now in my papers.

Confident that our deputation had succeeded and that Dr Wyndham intended to have a bill prepared for a separate archival authority, I dropped out of the discussion at this point. The History Department was making heavy demands on my time. The absence through illness of two senior members from what was already a skeleton staff left no time for such diversions as the archives authority in New South Wales. For a few months David carried on the public debate in a brief exchange of letters with John Metcalfe in the *Sydney Morning Herald* relating to the training of archivists. Three more years were to pass before the State *Archives Act* was approved by Parliament.

In presenting a Draft Archives Bill to Cabinet on 16 September 1960<sup>37</sup> the Minister for Education attributed the delay to 'a controversy between archivists, historians and librarians which persisted for some months through the columns of the metropolitan newspapers'. As a result of this and representations to the Minister,<sup>38</sup> 'thought was given to recent and current trends for the management of archives in the British Commonwealth, Europe and the United States of America'. The outcome was the decision to set up an Archives Authority of New South Wales separate from the Library.

However, this decision had been reached in the Department of Education in 1957. Contributing to the delay was perhaps the fact the Director General let archives legislation remain in abeyance in 1957

when his Report on education in the schools (the Wyndham Report) and the Murray Report on universities of the same year made heavy demands on his Department.

Moreover, Dr Wyndham's decision appears to have met some opposition in the Public Service Board and other departments concerned about the legal aspects. And, most important, they encountered stiff opposition from the Principal Librarian and the Trustees, who were consistently guided by his advice. In the absence of the relevant files one can only conclude that John Metcalfe saw separation as the rejection of the Archives Department he had established under his control, and as failure to give credit to the achievement of the past in saving early records. His interests and very considerable achievements in librarianship did not encompass archives. Despite his vigorous attempts to demolish criticism, he does not appear to have appreciated contemporary developments in archives and records management. He had, for example, written to Harold White, the National Librarian, prior to Schellenberg's visit that he supposed the visitor's lectures would be 'useful' although 'no more' than a pep talk by an overseas authority.<sup>39</sup>

Whatever the reason, archives legislation remained in abeyance until 1959 when Gordon Richardson succeeded John Metcalfe as Principal Librarian. By that time the accumulation of records at Sheas Creek had become alarming. With a much deeper understanding of archives and records management than his predecessor he took the initiative in advising the Trustees to reopen discussion with the Minister for Education and in a letter dated 4 September 1959 they urged that the Government 'implement the specific proposals that they had already made for appropriate legislation'.<sup>40</sup> A return to the bill of 1957 was rejected in the Department of Education. In the following months, discussion with the Public Service Board, the Principal Librarian and the Trustees must have led to the withdrawal of opposition and eased the way for the invaluable assistance the Trustees and the Principal Librarian were to give in the transitional period that followed the enactment of legislation. By February 1960 a draft bill had been prepared 'in much the terms as finally passed'. It was considered by Cabinet on 16 September, where the Minister for Education, E Wetherell suggested reasons for the delay since the Draft Bill was before Cabinet in 1957. After reference to trends overseas and the Paton Report in Canberra, the Minister declared 'it would be a regrettable error to vest in one part-time body, such as the Trustees of the Public

Library, the added responsibility for a function which warrants the single purposeful thought of a separate part-time body'.<sup>41</sup> The Act was passed a fortnight later.

The Mitchell Library, the Archives Department of the Public Library and the Trustees laid sound foundations. By 1960, however, the concept of combined library and archives was outmoded. Dr Wyndham recognised this and the creation of the State Archival Authority was his achievement.

My reward for lobbying for the archives came many years later when I was invited by a mutual friend to accompany him to visit the now Sir Harold Wyndham at Roseville. In the course of conversation I asked Sir Harold whether he remembered the deputation. He replied that he remembered it well. He had welcomed our deputation and our representations. He had known that the course proposed by the Principal Librarian was not right but he had been obliged to accept it in the absence of other advice.

## Notes

1. This expression was used by Dr TR Schellenberg in a lecture at the Public Library, Sydney in 1954. See my paper 'Some Problems of the New South Wales Archives' (see footnote 10 below).
2. State Records NSW; Department of Education; CGS 3879, Semi-official correspondence of Dr HS Wyndham, Director General of Education; 8/2268, Heads of a Bill for an Archives Act in Minister for Education, RJ Heffron, Minute for Cabinet 12 November 1956.
3. I am grateful to Alan Ventress, Associate Director, SRNSW for the material he provided.
4. RF Doust, The administration of official archives in New South Wales, 1870-1960, Master of Librarianship thesis, UNSW, 1969.
5. Most of the files which Doust used could not be located at SRNSW. I have used extracts quoted in his thesis but have been unable to use those records to confirm events of which I have personal recollections. My own papers provide some documentation. Of particular importance among the missing files are Department of Education Files, 55/6221/62471, 57/623/65089 and 59/622/60748.
6. These were the Medical Department, Quartermaster, and G2 (Intelligence). Copies of some of my work in Quartermaster and G2 are in my papers.
7. A copy is in my papers relating to archives.
8. At that time his thesis was available only to members of staff in the Mitchell Library. It was not then obligatory for a copy of a post-graduate thesis to be deposited in the University Library.
9. SRNSW; Archives Office; Correspondence Files to 1965; Box 2, P Mander-Jones to M Standish, 17 November 1950.
10. This was an informal group meeting monthly at the Law School. It brought together historians of the two universities in

Sydney, librarians with interests in history, research students and other historians. M Ellis and CH Currey attended regularly and HV Evatt occasionally.

11. Located in the building now absorbed into the Intercontinental Hotel
12. This was the name given to the building by those who took me there. Its correct title, later used by the Public Service Board in correspondence, was Goldsborough House. It had been rented by the Public Service Board in 1947 to house records stored in several sites around Sydney as the demand for space grew after WWII.
13. Archives Office, Correspondence Files to 1965; Box 2, P Mander Jones 'January 29.1953. Visit to Goldsborough Mort Building', 2 February 1953.
14. SRNSW; 14/6710, Public Service Board; File No 52/14770, W Wurth to JW Metcalfe, 18 June 1953.
15. Archives Office, Correspondence Files to 1965; Box 2, Letter to Trustees, signed John Metcalfe, undated.
16. my italics
17. Doust *op. cit.* p. 136.
18. Archives Office, Correspondence Files to 1965; Box 2, John Metcalfe 'Archives in New South Wales', 30 May 1954.
19. my italics
20. A Horton, 'Archives in New South Wales' in *Proceedings of the Summer School in Archives held at The University of Sydney*, March 1957.
21. The NSW University of Technology (later University of New South Wales) was founded in 1949.
22. This is not intended to reflect in any way on Allan Horton, who rapidly acquired knowledge of contemporary archival methodology and applied it with success at Sheas Creek.
23. quoted in TJ Robinson 'Origins of the University of Sydney Archives', *Record*, no. 1, March 1992, p 5.
24. *Report of the Committee on Departmental Records* (Grigg Committee), Cmd. 9163 HMSO, July 1954.
25. M Jacobs, 'A New Approach to Departmental Records', *Public Administration* vol. XIV No. 2 (New Series) June 1955.
26. John Metcalfe to the Editor, 'Correspondence: Miss Jacobs and Archives' *Public Administration*, vol. XIV, No. 4 (New Series), December 1955.
27. M Jacobs to the editor, *Public Administration*, Vol. XV, No. 1 (New Series), March 1956.
28. I have followed the account given in Doust, *op. cit.* pp.158–9. The Department of Education File 67/08362, on which Doust's account is based, is missing
29. *Daily Telegraph*, 24 July 1957
30. Australia. National Library Inquiry Committee, *Report of the National Library Inquiry Committee 1956–57*. Parliamentary Paper No 30 (Group I 1957), Chairman, Professor George Paton
31. DS Macmillan's letter to me, dated February 1956, in my papers.
32. DS Macmillan, 'A Programme for Australian Archivists', *Proceedings at the Summer School in Archives held at the University of Sydney*, March 1957.
33. A Horton, 'Archives in New South Wales', *ibid.*
34. SRNSW; Archives Office; Legislation; Notes written by Allan Horton 24 July 1957. I am grateful to Alan Ventress for drawing my attention to this file.
35. Unsigned copy of letter to Dr HS Wyndham in my papers relating to archives.
36. quoted in Doust *op. cit.* pp.179–180. The Department of Education File 57/623/65089 from which he quotes is not available.
37. SRNSW; AK323, Premier's Department Records; Minute for Cabinet 16 September 1960, 'Draft Archives Bill'.
38. Doust quotes a 'comment made by the Minister for Education' in 1957 referring to 'casual conversation' he had had separately with the Principal Librarian, the Sydney University Archivist and the Acting Professor of History. At no point in 1957 or subsequently did I discuss archives with the Minister for Education.
39. Metcalfe to White 27 August 1953, Quoted in M Piggott, Visit of Dr TR Schellenberg to Australia 1954, Master of Archives Administration thesis, University of NSW, 1989.
40. SRNSW; Archives Office; Correspondence Files - Legislation; Box 6, G.D Richardson to the Minister for Education 4 September 1959.
41. SRNSW; AK323, Premier's Department Records; Minute for Cabinet 16 September 1960 'Draft Archives Bill'.

# Accommodating the University Library

Dr Neil A Radford

## The Main Building

The University of Sydney Library was initially housed in what is now the Senate Room, above the Ante-room to the Great Hall. Growth was slow, but as early as 1858 the Library Committee had to recommend to the Senate 'that further bookshelves be provided in the Library for the books for which at present there was no room'.<sup>1</sup> Twenty years later the collection was suddenly increased by about 50% when Sydney businessman Thomas Walker purchased the library of the late Nicol Stenhouse, a solicitor and literary patron, and presented it to the University. Stenhouse's 4000 volumes precipitated a crisis, and suitable accommodation for the Library became probably the University's most pressing need. Walker's gift was announced at the Commemoration ceremony in 1879, causing the Chancellor, Sir William Manning, to remark on 'the deficiency and ... the practical inconvenience of our library accommodation.' Sir William hoped 'that the day will come when one of our men of great wealth and equal public spirit will ... earn the gratitude of their country by erecting for the University a library worthy of comparison with like edifices at Home'.<sup>2</sup>

It is probable that in Manning's audience was Thomas Fisher, who resided near the University and frequently enjoyed its grounds and public ceremonies. Fisher was a retired boot and shoe maker, with significant property investments in Sydney. He was unmarried and seems to have been largely estranged from his family.<sup>3</sup> The following year he made his Will,

leaving the bulk of his estate to the University 'to be applied and expended by the Senate ... in establishing and maintaining a Library ... for which purpose

they may erect a building and may purchase books and do anything which may be thought desirable for effectuating the objects aforesaid'.<sup>4</sup> Fisher died in 1884 and the University received approximately £32,000. There were arguments about the best way of applying this bequest, but eventually it was decided to set aside £20,000 for a library building, with the colonial government to be asked to provide matching funds, and the remainder invested as a perpetual bookfund.<sup>5</sup>

## The Original Fisher Library

It did not prove easy to persuade the government to contribute a matching sum for a building and negotiations dragged on for more than a decade. In 1900, however, it was finally agreed that the government would meet the full cost of erecting a library building, including space for a museum and other facilities.<sup>6</sup> The new Fisher Library (now McLaurin Hall) was not opened until 1909, by which time the Library's accommodation, for both readers and the collection, had become truly desperate. The Fisher Fund had enabled the purchasing of new books and periodicals to proceed apace. When the bequest was received the collection stood at approximately 12,000 volumes. By 1886 it had grown to 18,000 volumes and some of the Stenhouse collection had had to be 'stored in cases in order to allow of more room on the shelves for newly purchased books'.<sup>7</sup> By the turn of the century the collection had reached 50,000 volumes, many thousands of which were stored in the ante-room, the clock tower and other unsuitable rooms nearby.<sup>8</sup>



*Reading Room of Fisher Library, now McLaurin Hall, 1950s  
(G3/224/1723.2)*

The relief at finally having a commodious library for the University's collection must have been immense. The reading room would seat 250 students (about one-fifth of the then enrolment) and a seven-storey bookstack was calculated to have a capacity of 250,000 volumes (about five times the then holdings), and there was room for a future extension. However, it did not take long for the collection to outgrow even this spacious accommodation. When Sir Charles Nicholson's library was bequeathed to the University in 1924 it comprised between 3000 and 4000 volumes, but it had to remain in storage until other accommodation could be found.<sup>9</sup> Construction of the bookstack extension commenced in 1924 but its completion was delayed by the Depression. Thus, 'there was never a time from 1925 on when the accommodation situation was other than desperate — and this only sixteen years after the occupation of Fisher'.<sup>10</sup>

By the mid-1950s total library holdings were approximately 370,000 volumes, and overcrowding was not only apparent in the bookstacks. The Fisher Library's great reading room was now severely overcrowded by undergraduate students; enrolments had risen from 1294 in 1909 to 7,885 in 1956. Everyone knew that something had to be done, but no-one was quite sure what.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor SH Roberts, approached John Metcalfe, Principal Librarian of the Public Library of NSW, about a secondment to the University to give advice on the Library's needs. Metcalfe was not only the State's leading librarian, but he was a national leader of the library profession. He had, in fact, begun his career in the Fisher Library, in 1917, as a junior assistant; he took a first-class honours degree in history in 1923 and in that year joined the staff of the Public Library.

Metcalfe agreed to come, and in 1956 Roberts informed the Senate 'that Mr. Metcalfe would spend six months in Fisher Library and then submit a survey on the needs of the Library'. Roberts viewed this 'as a matter of great urgency for the University' and the Senate accordingly resolved 'that ... Mr JW Metcalfe be invited to act as full-time consultant on library services to the University Library for a period of six months from 1st September 1956 ... with the primary function of reporting on the needs of Library facilities within the University'.<sup>11</sup>

'The needs of Library facilities' related to the Library's urgent need for improved physical accommodation. In 1954 the Policy and Planning Committee of the

Senate had recommended 'that a new University Library to replace the present Fisher Library should be given highest priority'<sup>12</sup> and the following year the Senate had resolved to commission 'a preliminary building programme and diagrammatic sketch drawings of the proposed University Library'.<sup>13</sup> The cost was estimated at £1,000,000, a sum currently beyond the University's reach, so it would be necessary to make temporary arrangements to deal with the Library's accommodation crisis. The Librarian, EV Steel, had, over the years, suggested various improvements but nothing had been done. Metcalfe was seen as an independent outside adviser who may bring some fresh ideas which could allow the Library to cope until the funds for a new building could be found.

Metcalfe's secondment resulted in a Report 'of about sixty quarto pages' of which no copy seems to have survived. He also prepared a summary version for wider circulation.<sup>14</sup> In it he reviewed the accommodation problems of the Fisher Library in the last decade or so, and other difficulties and problems. As well as the main report and the 19-paged 'Summary Report and Recommendations', Metcalfe also produced two 'Supplementary Reports' in the second half of 1957 ('after I had returned to the Public Library'), one on 'Departmental Libraries' and the other on 'Fisher Library Reading and Periodical Room Use'.<sup>15</sup> In these reports Metcalfe addressed many issues, but in the context of library accommodation the main conclusion was that accommodation in the Fisher Library could be improved by physical rearrangements in the present reading room, and the Nicholson Museum of Antiquities, on the level below the reading room, should be converted for library use.<sup>16</sup> While building extensions, or even a new building, are contemplated, Metcalfe does not consider them a short-term possibility. For the longer term he foreshadowed a major extension to the fifty-year-old Fisher building on a site immediately adjacent where 'extensions ... might be made as satisfactory [sic] as an entirely new building, and very much cheaper'. The site suggested was to the west of the Fisher building, where the Mungo MacCallum building now stands.

Metcalfe's consultancy stimulated a focussed discussion within the University on the Library's longer-term accommodation needs, a discussion which led eventually to a much bolder and better proposal for a new building on a new site. In June 1957 the Chairman of the Library Executive Committee, Professor RN Spann, prepared a 'First Report' in response to Metcalfe's report, in

the form of a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor.<sup>17</sup> The Committee generally supported Metcalfe's short-term solutions to 'the urgent problem of increasing the accommodation for students' in the Library (while noting that Steel was opposed to some of them), 'but no long-

term solution is possible without the construction of a new library or extensive additions to the present library, and plans for this should be made at an early date'.

Metcalfe attended the Library Executive Committee meeting on 7 August, 1957 for discussion of his Report and its Supplements. Following this meeting, Spann made a second report to the Vice-Chancellor in which he stressed that 'the problem of increasing library accommodation is now one of great urgency ... . Though a little might be done within existing accommodation, the Librarian and Mr Metcalfe are agreed that this would not meet the problem'. The only feasible solution was to convert the Nicholson Museum to library use. In the longer term, the Committee was not sure whether to recommend a new building or extensions to the present building, its immediate concern being to alleviate overcrowding in the short term.<sup>18</sup>

Spann's two reports had also gone to the University's Library Committee (which was, essentially, the Professorial Board), which met annually to consider reports from its sub-committee, the Library Executive Committee. The Library Committee met in October 1957 and reported to the Senate that a new library building was urgently needed and should be the first priority in the University's building programme.<sup>19</sup> At its meeting in November 1957 the Senate resolved to set aside a site for a new library, and to ask the Government Architect to prepare sketch plans.

By a fortunate coincidence, Metcalfe's consultancy coincided with the federal government's appointment



*The new Fisher Library prior to the completion of the stack, 1965*  
(G3/224/94)

of Sir Keith Murray to chair a Committee of Enquiry into the Future of the Australian Universities. The University of Sydney's submission included a request for £1,000,000 for a new library<sup>20</sup> and Murray subsequently recommended £500,000 for Stage 1 of such a building, noting that the 'immediate

replacement' of the present building was 'a matter of the greatest urgency'.<sup>21</sup> But short-term adjustments and improvements to the Library's accommodation would still be necessary, and Metcalfe's Report made a number of recommendations, some of which were adopted in 1958 and which allowed the old building to cope until Stage 1 of the new Fisher Library opened in 1963.

### The 'New' Fisher Library

Since 1963 the main component of the University Library has been housed in the 'new' Fisher Library, to which the bookstack (Research Library) wing was added in 1967. The rate of growth of the Library's physical collections has slowed in recent times because of the increasing availability of research materials in electronic form. The need for on-site reader places has also diminished, as students and staff are increasingly able to consult the collections remotely via the Internet. Although the future space needs of the Library are difficult to forecast, books, and the need to interact with them on-site, are unlikely ever to disappear completely.

### Notes

1. University of Sydney Archives, Library Committee Minutes, 3 May 1858
2. Chancellor's address, University of Sydney Commemoration, 19 July 1879, pp.4–5.
3. Neil A Radford, 'Thomas Fisher and the Fisher Bequest' in Neil A Radford and John Fletcher, *In Establishing and Maintaining a Library: Two Essays on the University of Sydney Library*, University of Sydney Library, Sydney, 1984, pp.5–30.
4. Will of Thomas Fisher, 29 October 1880.

5. University of Sydney Archives, Senate Minutes, 20 February 1888. The Fisher Fund still provides an income for the Library, to augment its normal budget.
6. HE Barff, *A Short Historical Account of the University of Sydney*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1902, pp.126–27.
7. Library Committee Minutes, 22 April 1887.
8. Barff, *op.cit.*, p.129.
9. Library Committee Minutes, 21 July 1924.
10. Harrison Bryan, 'An Australian Library in the A.M.: Earlier Years of the University of Sydney Library', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, 55 (3), Sept 1969, p. 219.
11. Senate Minutes, 7 August 1956.
12. Senate Minutes, Report of the Policy and Planning Committee, 16 August 1954.
13. Senate Minutes, 4 July 1955.
14. JW Metcalfe, The University of Sydney Libraries and Library Services. Summary Report and Recommendations. Typescript, undated probably May 1957, 19pp. appended to Library Executive Committee Minutes, 29 May 1957, and also appended to Senate Minutes 8 October 1957.
15. JW Metcalfe, Supplementary Reports — I. Departmental Libraries. II. Fisher Library Reading and Periodical Room Use, appended to Senate Minutes 8 October 1957. The latter appears to be substantially the same as his report, Suggested Reading and Periodical Room Alterations, appended to the Library Executive Committee Minutes, 7 August 1957.
16. Although reference is made to attached plans, no copies of the Summary Report in the University Archives include plans. However a set of plans found in the University's Rare Books & Special Collections Library appears to be those referred to: 'Architect's Plans for Extensions and Rearrangement of Fisher Library Building' ca. 1957. (RB378.944S/M.Li/58)
17. RN Spann, Memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor, 20 June, 1957 appended to Library Executive Committee Minutes, 7 August 1957.
18. RN Spann, Memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor, 19 August, 1957 appended to Library Executive Committee Minutes, 7 August, 1957.
19. Library Committee Minutes, 2 October 1957.
20. 'Submission by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal to the Committee on Australian Universities on the Financial Needs of the University of Sydney. June 1957' p. 36.
21. *Report of the Committee on Australian Universities. September 1957*, Govt. Printer, Canberra, 1958, para179 & Table 10.

# The Vicissitudes of Forshall — an archival tale

Roderic Campbell

As part of an Australian Research Council grant project looking at the origins of colonial universities, which I am currently working on with Dr Julia Horne, the University Historian, and Professor Geoffrey Sherington, I am attempting to discover who the original students of this University were. To do this, I have been building a selective database of students who attended the University of Sydney during the first fifty years from its opening in 1852, and been attempting to discover enough to give us a general picture of each student — not just their names and degrees (if they graduated) but also details of their backgrounds: who their parents were and what they did, where the students came from and went to school and what they ended up doing after leaving university.

One of the difficulties with this kind of research is judging what reliance to place on the sources one uses. An array of different sources — printed or archival — might be used to investigate an individual's life so that information could be gleaned from a wide variety of places to build up a picture. Or, sometimes, from nowhere at all — leaving the individual frustratingly elusive.

To find out about the early university students there are two primary sources at the university to start with, one printed and one archival: the University Calendars, and the original *Matriculants, Graduates and Post Graduate Degrees Register* (Matriculation Register).

Calendars, which have been printed since the University's inception, are a convenient starting point since, throughout the 19th century, they published yearly lists of both current students and graduates of the university. Calendars contain other useful information, too: for instance, the winners of prizes and scholarships, annual exam results, from which year-by-year progress can be traced, and graduates' degrees with their graduation year. This allows one to identify who attended in a particular year and the details of their qualifications (if any) but does little to advance our knowledge of their personal circumstances.

Calendars can only really tell us something about the students in respect of their time at university, but the Matriculation Register can throw some light on

their circumstances before they start. The Register is a handwritten ledger-book compiled in Latin by the University Registrar and professing to record each student who, having passed the matriculation examination and paid the fee, was admitted into the university. Each student is listed, together with basic information about him: his own name; his father's first name; the student's place of origin; where he was educated; his age at the time of matriculation; where he was then residing. In the earliest years this ledger was scrupulously kept, but as time went on gaps began to appear in the entries and the last complete annual record was made in 1872; from 1876 students' names only were entered and the final matriculation entry in this volume was made in 1882.

On the face of it, then, for the first 20 years or so that its records are fully kept, the Matriculation Register provides a valuable primary source for clues about a student's background: the data that it provides can be cross-related with other information sources. For example, having the age of the student and his father's name means that the student's birth registration can sometimes be located, leading to more parental details and, in conjunction with different sources, information about the occupational/social and religious background of his family. With perseverance — and sometimes luck — for many of the students a portrait of some sort can be developed.

All this, of course, depends on the information in the primary source being correct. And, indeed, why wouldn't it be? The first page of entries in the Matriculation Register was made amid scenes of the grandest pomp — the actual opening ceremony of the new university, which took place on 11 October 1852 in the Great Hall of the buildings that now house the Sydney Grammar School but were then housing the new university (until it moved to its present site in 1857). The inauguration was an occasion of great moment, taking place before the assembled leading figures of the colony led by the governor-general and including the consular representatives of foreign governments: as the *Illustrated London News* described it, 'an event greatly significant of the progress of the social and intellectual growth of the colony'. Imagine the scene, all animated and colourful, as the London newspaper

paints it, particularly mentioning the finery of the numerous military and naval officers and foreign consuls, with 'their glittering uniforms contrasting with the black gowns ... of the young Alumni, who occupied the front seats'. The doors of the hall, which had opened at 11 o'clock to let in the dense crowds, at 12.30 were closed 'and the ceremony of registering the names of the matriculated students was gone through'. This was the very first act of the new university: 'Professor Smith presented each of the young gentlemen to the Registrar, by whom their names were entered in the matriculation book ...' following which, to the strains of the band of Her Majesty's 11th Regiment, the great procession entered the hall.

This at least was what they would have read in London about the order of proceedings. William L Hutton, the Registrar, must have taken a while entering the students in the book if this was done on the spot, although the London newspaper doesn't enlighten us about that. There were 24 students to be entered and six separate pieces of information about each of them. One imagines the Registrar's scratchy quill dipped incessantly into the inkpot and flying in haste across the page, and much application of blotting paper to avoid smudges as

in the Album' at 1 o'clock, following which all the dignitaries entered in their grand procession, and Sir Charles Nicholson gave a speech; only then 'The students were ... presented for Matriculation, Professor Pell officiating as Proctor, and Professor Smith as Dean'. What the procedure was in subsequent years is not clear either, although a letter from the Registrar a couple of years later provides an indication: it summons two new matriculants to attend a Senate meeting, where they are to be duly signed in the book. The truth is we don't exactly know how the Matriculation Register was compiled, which mightn't be a matter of great importance if it weren't for the fact that it could help explain the errors that have from time to time crept in.

One would think that if the responses given by a student were being directly written down the opportunity for mistakes would be small. But the nature of some of the errors as well as the appearance of the page suggest that the ledger may have been compiled subsequently by copying the information down. On this page and in the early entries the handwriting on the page generally flows evenly, as though it had all been written down together (not stopping and starting); scratchings or corrections are rare. Additionally, some of the errors, though not all,

Wilson. Jacobus	Caroli	Sidneiensis	in Collegio Sidneiense	XII
Offriatt				
Hirst. Gulielmus	Gulielmi	id	apud Mr. Rev. H. Carey	XI
Henricus Abbott			{In Collegio B. Petri	
Forshall. Gulielmus	Hale	Londinensis	Westmisterensi	XXII
More. Gulielmus	Postea	Sidneiensis	in Collegio Sidneiense	XIII
Andreas.	Postephi	Dubliniensis	apud Mr. Rev. Fullerton	XX
Hincock. Joannes	Joannis			

Extract from the Register of Matriculants, Graduates and Post-Graduates (G3/70/1)  
showing the incorrect entry for FH Forshall

the arm moves across the page. One might also imagine such a large crowd becoming restive as this went slowly on. A little pressure affecting the penmanship. Or maybe the ladies and gentlemen attending were otherwise engaged, taken up with the festive nature of this gala occasion, moving about amidst the rising conversational murmur exchanging courtesies and coquetties. It is not certain how the matter was managed. The summary of the ceremony written in the Senate Minutes for that same day also suggests that the names were in fact entered on the spot, although its account of the order and timing of proceedings differs slightly. According to those Minutes, the students' names were 'entered

look like transcription mistakes, such as the curious error appearing on the Register's very first page, by which Forshall, one of that first intake of students, is ascribed the wrong forename — not something you'd think might occur if the student was standing in front of the Registrar speaking his name.

Forshall has a particular interest beyond being one of the original students; he was also the first prizewinner for Greek verse composition, in 1853, and in the same year became the first person to be employed as university librarian. His correct name was Frederic Hale Forshall but he was entered in the Register as William Hale Forshall, an error that

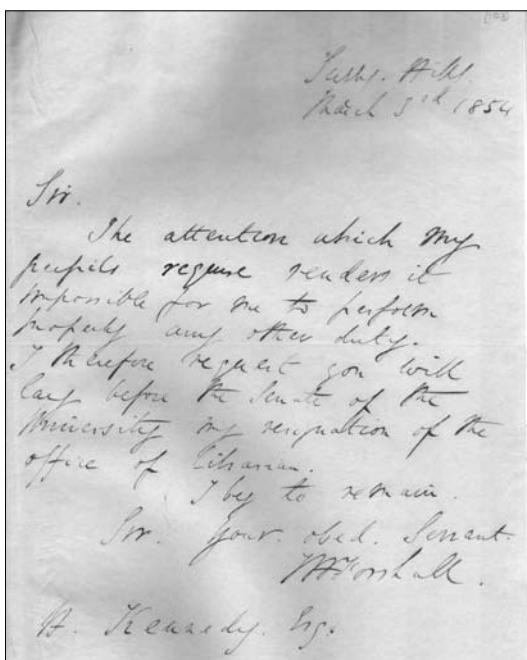
came to be replicated in subsequent Calendars, to the extent that he appears in different Calendars of the time in four separate erroneous variations of his name as well as under his correct name. In the first Calendar (1852–53) on its list of members of the university he's 'W.B. Forshall' (p.97) while on another page (p.28) being listed as the University Librarian correctly in the name of 'Frederic Hale Forshall, late scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge'. In the next Calendar (1854) he's listed both, on different pages, as 'W. Hale Forshall', and under his correct name; in subsequent Calendars he has become 'W.F. Forshall'.

How this came to happen can only be now a matter for speculation. However, glancing at the Register's first page shows us that the forenames of the students immediately preceding him and immediately following him, as well as the student's father's forename preceding him are all William (Gulielmus in Latin), strongly suggesting that the mistake over Forshall's forename was the result of momentary inattention by the transcriber. Another possibility, now that I have seen letters written in Forshall's own hand, is that his initials could have been misread from his signature. Perhaps what in fact happened during the ceremony was that the students themselves signed a special book (the 'Album'), from which subsequently the Matriculation Register was written up. It may seem relatively unimportant but nonetheless such an error is apt to cause confusion, especially with the proliferating versions occurring in the Calendars, tends to incline one to think that in fact more than one person with the same surname was attending the university.

Some of the usual methods of tracking individuals down were not available in this case as Forshall had been born in England, probably in London, and only arrived in the colony three years before starting at Sydney University. Investigation of other records in the Archives revealed that his matriculation payment had been recorded in the cashbooks under his correct name. Resolving this difficulty was finally achieved with a degree of luck as Forshall himself had later

written a history of his school, Westminster School in London, in which he gave a brief account of himself and his time in Sydney and reprinted the Greek verse that won him the prize. This not only

confirmed that the student and the librarian were one and the same, and that there was one single person not three or four, but also that his correct name was Frederic, not William.



Forshall's resignation letter from position of University Librarian, 3 March 1854  
(Letters Received G3/82)

about 19 years old and came to Sydney (his father had a mental breakdown at about this time and was compelled to retire the following year, 1850, which could be an explanation for FH Forshall's leaving Cambridge). From 1849 until 1852 he worked in Sydney as a tutor before being admitted as student at the new university. A minute of a Senate meeting on 12 December 1852 records his appointment as university librarian, on a salary of £50 p.a., apparently while still a student, perhaps having used his father's career to advance his case, but in 1854 he left the university and his position (his last recorded payment as librarian was in March 1854) following a disagreement with John Woolley, the professor of classics.

Forshall seems to have wanted to claim an *ad eundem status* (this means he would have sought exemption from some subjects in recognition of his time at Cambridge) in order to graduate early, but he says Woolley would not permit it. Again, a Senate minute, on 4 March 1854, blandly records the event — the tabling of a letter of resignation from Forshall, citing as his reason, 'his time being otherwise fully engaged'. His resignation was accepted without further comment. Whether this reason was a face-saving formula or did represent his situation is not

known. He seems, however, to have continued tutoring while attending the University and carrying out his duties as librarian, probably in order to have the money to exist on; that possibility is supported by his letter of resignation (3 March 1854), which mentions the demands of his pupils, as well as by an earlier letter he wrote (in 1852) stating that he'd be glad to attend evening lectures were they to be offered by the professors. After resigning, he then returned to England, where, by his own account, he was subsequently 'engaged in the classical and English preparation of Candidates for the University, army, and civil examinations' and published his history of Westminster School some thirty years later.

Forshall's name is not the only error on the Matriculation Register's opening page: two of the students were given the wrong age (each was about two years younger than they were stated to be), and another student was given the wrong birthplace. Elsewhere in the Register other errors occur as well, some minor but others less so, for instance, misnaming the fathers of some students; nor was Forshall the last student to have his forename wrongly recorded in the Register. Even small errors can cause considerable difficulties in attempting to determine accurate information about the students and their background. Nor are the Calendars entirely dependable either, being liberally sprinkled with a wide range of errors and contradictory information.

Some like to argue that written, manuscript or printed sources are by their nature more reliable pieces of evidence — with a solidity, so the argument goes, that oral history cannot match. But all sources, no matter what they might be, or in what form, are potentially slippery and need to be used critically and wherever possible cross-related with other sources. It may seem too obvious to state that no source on its own is wholly dependable but mistakes once made have a habit of being repeated; poor Forshall's listing in the *Illustrated London News* report was as 'W.B. Forshall', repeating the error from the first Calendar, and still today he crops up from time to time misnamed. Even on the beautifully handwritten or printed page not all is always what it seems to be.

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All archival sources are from the University of Sydney Archives Accountant's Office, Cash Books, G18/2/1.

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# Papers of Eddy and Rose – Philosophers at Sydney University

## Nyree Morrison

The personal archives of William Charles Henry Eddy and Thomas Arthur Rose, who were both philosophers, are now available for use at the University of Sydney Archives. These complement the records of the other philosophers we hold, including Sir Francis Anderson, Professor John Anderson, Professor Alan Stout, Dr David Stove, and Alice Ruth Walker.

WCH Eddy entered Moore Theological College with the intention of becoming a Church of England priest. However, while studying philosophy, 'to discover proofs of God's existence', he was deeply influenced by Professor John Anderson. He abandoned his religious vocation and adopted Anderson's atheistic philosophy.<sup>1</sup> Eddy graduated with a BA in first class honours in History & Philosophy (1934), Honours MA in Philosophy (1936) and the Diploma of Education (1938) with the Beavis prize and the Jones medal as the most distinguished graduate of his year. He lectured for a year at St John's College, Morpeth and for two years at Sydney Teachers College and taught in secondary schools.

From Eddy's papers you can discern that he was constantly busy. He was co-founder and president of the Sydney Philosophy Club, a member of the editorial committee of the *Current Affairs Bulletin*, and, also played a role in the founding of the University of Newcastle. After closely studying the many documents of the case of Sydney Sparks Orr (Professor of Philosophy, University of Tasmania, dismissed on a series of academic charges instigated by an allegation of misconduct by an 18-year-old female student of Orr), including the ten volumes of the appeal book containing the pleadings and evidence, and other relevant material in the Supreme Court, Eddy was convinced that Orr was innocent and he wrote *Orr*.

TA Rose obtained his leaving certificate in 1932 and then attended Armidale Teaching Training College. After this he taught in various schools until 1945. While teaching at the Enmore Activity School, 1940-

1944, he attended the University of Sydney as an evening student studying for a BA. He graduated in 1944 with BA First Class Honours and University Medal in Philosophy. In 1953 he graduated MA with First Class Honours and University Medal in Philosophy.

Rose introduced the study of mathematical logic into the work of the Philosophy Department in 1951. Up until that time mainly Aristotelian logic was taught in the Department. In 1954 he was appointed Senior Lecturer.



*Photograph of Eddy and Rose with Anderson. Eddy second from left, back row; Rose second from right, back row (G3/224/1767)*

Eddy and Rose had much in common. They were both involved in the Workers Educational Association (WEA). Rose lectured at the Newcastle branch of the WEA before his appointment at Sydney University as a lecturer in Philosophy in 1945, and Eddy was active in the WEA up until his death in 1973 (in 1972 he was the WEA state president).

Both men were also involved with the Department of Tutorial Classes at the University. Eddy was a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Tutorial Classes until his death.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>. Lorraine Barlow, 'Eddy, William Henry Charles (Harry) (1913 - 1973)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 14, Melbourne University Press, 1996, pp 75-76.

# News from the Archives

Julia Mant

## CHAOS

Not a state of mind but a new database! The Archives is in the process of installing a new archives control system CHAOS (Control and Handling of Archives Operating System) for managing and describing its holdings. State Records NSW has kindly provided the Archives with the Business Operating System (BOS) Software, which has been customised to suit the University's needs. The migration of data from a number of older databases will continue throughout the year. Ultimately, the new system will improve online services to researchers and facilitate integration with the electronic records system.

## Indigenous Records from north-east Arnhem Land

Dr [REDACTED] Gumbula, the recipient of a 2007 Honorary Doctor of Music from the University of Sydney, is the University's first ARC Indigenous Fellow and a leading authority on Yolngu law, knowledge and culture. He was awarded a two-year fellowship to investigate photographs and other archival records from the north-eastern Arnhem Land communities of Milngimbi and Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island), and provide advice to the Archives on managing access to these records. The items he is investigating include over 400 photographs taken by William Lloyd Warner in 1927–29 and Theodore Thomas Webb, missionary, 1926–1939,

which are held in the AP Elkin Personal Archives. In addition there are some relevant photographs and fieldnotes created by AP Elkin on his field research trips in 1946 and 1949, and photographs taken by Dr Margaret McArthur in 1948–49. Dr Gumbula, assisted by the Archives, will be taking digital and printed copies of the images to the Arnhem Land in May 2007. Dr Gumbula's fellowship is a wonderful opportunity for the University and the Archives, and we welcome him to Sydney.

The Archives has created a position for an Indigenous Archives Cadet to assist Dr Gumbula and to undertake archival training over the next two years. This is an important initiative as there is a growing need for Indigenous archival staff as institutions seek to improve their management of Indigenous-related records. The position is due to be taken up in early April 2007.



*Dr Gumbula and family members from Milngimbi and Galiwin'ku viewing images taken by Warner, Webb and Elkin.*

## Accessions registered since January 2006

1717 Koori Centre Records and Student Files, 1979–2000

1718 Department of Illustration Slides, 1970s–1980s

1719 Photograph of Zoology Building, 1930s

1720 Sydney Teachers College Admission and Index Cards, 1920s–1982

1721 Sydney University Women's Group, 1984–2000

1722 Photograph, Inter-varsity Tennis, 1923

1723 Photographs from Francis James, 1950s

1724 Photographs of John A Lamberton, 1950s–2005

1725 Digital recordings of John Cassim (including Sydney Teachers College), 1970s

1726 Sydney College of Advanced Education Administration Files, 1981–1989

1727 Multiple Number Correspondence Series (RecFind) - Scholarship Files, 1976–2000

1728 Additional items, Professor John Anderson Personal Archive - 'Notes from Caird's Hegel'

1729 Information about Mary Coleridge Davis (Secretary of the Board of Social Study and Training)

1730 Electronic files from Office of the Chancellor, 1991–2001

1731 Publications, Cumberland College of Health Sciences, 1987–1988

1732 Records from the School of Information Technology

1733 Minutes, Faculty of Medicine, 1994–2000

1734 Staff Files, Faculty of Rural Management, Orange Campus

1735 Additional personal archives of Dr Annie Margaret McArthur, 1942–1994

1736 Additional personal archives of Professor EL Wheelwright, 1965–2001

1737 University of Sydney Examination Papers, 2005

1738 Seal, Cumberland College of Health Sciences

1739 Minutes and Index, Faculty of Law, 2005

1740 Minutes, Faculty of Arts, 1996–2005

1741 Senior Public Examination Medal, 1900

1742 Minutes, Senate, 2005

1743 Video of Conferring of Degree - Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, 26/11/1999

1744 Additional personal archives of R Ian Jack, 1963–1978

1745 Staff Files, Faculty of Rural Management, Orange Campus

1746 Minutes, Faculty of Economics and Business, 1985–1996 (incomplete) 1985–1996

1747 Standing Committee of Convocation, 1975–1998

1748 Personal archives of Ellice Ettie Peden Dart (née Hamilton), 1911–1914

1749 Cumberland College of Health Sciences Staff Service Card

1750 Minutes, Faculty of Engineering, 1985–1986

1751 Records of the Sydney Association for Studies in Society and Culture (SASSC), 1984–1999

1752 Minutes, Faculty of Agriculture, 1981–2002

1753 Multiple Number Correspondence Series (RecFind) - Personnel Files

1754 Additional personal archives of WHC Eddy, 1952–1974

1755 Records of the Secretary, Association for the Journal of Religious History 1958–1975

1756 Staff Files, Faculty of Rural Management, Orange Campus, 2000–2006

1757 Archival Photographic Heritage Record of the City Road Footbridge, 2006

1758 Minutes, Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, 2003–2006

1759 Testamurs of Isola Florence Thompson, BA, MA, 1885–1887

1760 Minutes and Attachments, Finance Committee, 2002

1761 Personal archives of Alexander H Klotz, Reader in Applied Mathematics, 1963–1992

1762 Multiple Number Correspondence Series (RecFind)–Personnel Files

1763 SRC and Sydney Teachers College photos, 1928–1930

1764 Personal archives of Mr Keith E W Salter, Lecturer, School of Zoology, (1908–1969)

1765 Minutes, Faculty of Veterinary Science, 1981–2000

1766 Minutes, Post Graduate Committee of Veterinary Science, 1981–1987

1767 Minutes, Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science, 1975–1984

1768 Photograph of Engineering students, Woolley Building, c. 1928–1932

1769 Photograph of Engineering I students, 1917 & gathering in the Great Hall c1940

1770 Faculty of Health Sciences Examination Papers, 2006

1771 Additional personal archives of Ellice Ettie Peden Dart (née Hamilton), 1898–1967

1772 Records relating to the Faculty of Medicine 150th Anniversary, 2006



*Cover image:*

*Edmund Blacket and his daughter Edith during the construction of the Great Hall, 1857. Stereo ambrotype taken by Professor John Smith.  
(University of Sydney Archives, P212/22)*