

U M M A



No. 5, MAY 2000

Comings and Goings

"The only constant is change" is a tiresome truism, and recent events at the University of Melbourne Archives provide a further illustration. In January, responsibility for the Grainger Museum moved to the University Archivist, joining Special Collections and the Archives. We have not yet settled on a concise way of describing this three part Division, and none of the suggested acronyms (e.g., "GASP", "SPAG") has quite the right tone! In a sense, all the materials are "special", but in fact we now have three distinct curatorial disciplines under the one organisational roof.

The Grainger Museum is the public face of an archive and artefact collection of over 100,000 items. Motivated by the

desire to interpret and contextualise his creative achievements in the fields of music composition, ethnomusicology, clothes design and "free music" experimentation, Percy Grainger developed a highly eclectic collection. In fact the museum is

essentially a one-person archives, its few parallels including Prime Ministerial and Presidential Libraries. Grainger kept copies of all outgoing and incoming correspondence and recovered from his friends and acquaintances, much of the correspondence from his early career — 50,000 items of correspondence

"... historians must hold the original documents of whatever they study, look at the paper, and smell everything. Only by coming face to face with surviving documents, seals, letters, maps, accounts, and receipts can one, I believe, fully weigh the meaning of terms like intention, falsification, and truth".

Deborah Symonds, from chapter 12, 'Living in the Scottish Record Office' in Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Elizabeth Lasch-Quinn, eds., *Reconstructing History: the emergence of a new historical society*, Routledge, 1999, p 165.

including letters from prominent composers such as Edvard Grieg, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Fredrick Delius.

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The University of Melbourne Archives

a Division of the University of Melbourne Library
The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia

Opening Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10.00 am–6.00 pm; Wed 10.00 am–10.00 pm
Summer Opening Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.00 am–5.00 pm; Wed 9.00 am–8.45 pm

Phone: (03) 8344 6848

Fax: (03) 9347 8627

Email: archives@archives.unimelb.edu.au

Web site: <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/archgen.html>

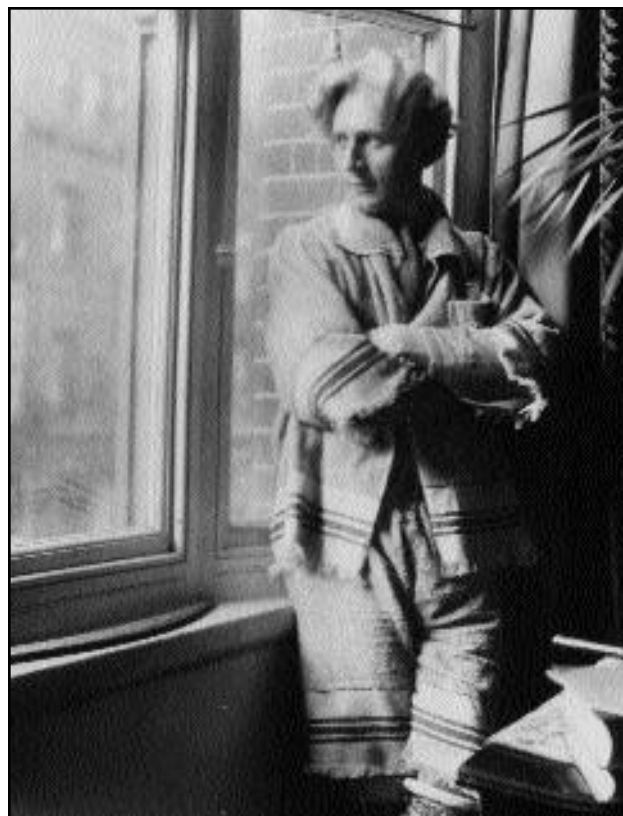
from page 1 Approximately 15,000 photographs document many aspects of Grainger's life: his performing career; friends and intimates, and even his eccentric sexual proclivities. Also included are a very significant holding of music manuscripts, representing Grainger's oeuvre as an innovative composer as well as many works by his contemporaries.

The Grainger development is something of a homecoming. It was part of the Archives for the latter half of the 1970s when its first curator Dr Kay Dreyfus reported to Frank Strahan. With its return, and noting that Special Collections also includes substantial literary archives, virtually all of the archival collections of the University Library are now together. We welcome the Curator Brian Allison and his deputy Geoff Down to the Division.

Contrasted against this organisational gain have been several collection losses. The most significant concerns the University Archives' small collection of 12 archives boxes of Professor Stuart Macintyre's papers. These comprise materials such as correspondence, notes, minutes and clippings relating to his research and various involvements beyond Melbourne. Currently the University of Melbourne's Dean of Arts and since 1991 Ernest Scott Professor of History, Professor Macintyre has operated at the national level in a variety of roles, including as chair of the 1994 Civics Expert Group, member of the Council of the Constitutional Centenary Foundation and National Library Council. As he has decided to deposit his much larger current collection with the National Library and settled on the Library as his permanent archive, we have readily complied with his request and relinquished our component, also thereby maintaining the integrity of his collection.

Such action helps reduce the all too numerous collections around Australia which are split between collecting archives and libraries. Even where custodians are unable to restore dispersed material, they endeavour wherever possible to provide researchers with details of what has ended up where. The key mechanism for directing researchers to relevant holdings is the National Library's Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (see <http://www.nla.gov.au/raam/>). There is no equivalent for government archives, largely because it is assumed that at least most official records of archival value are with the relevant government archives.

Balancing the "loss" of our Professor Macintyre collection were two recent gains which in other circumstances might have gone to alternative homes. The first involves the acquisition of further literary papers including correspondence and manuscripts of the left wing Australian writer and winner of the Patrick White Literary Award in 1986, John Morrison. Another collecting archive with equally legitimate claims agreed to stand aside when it learnt we already held Morrison material, greatly assisting our cause. Equally, our recent gain of the Ministerial papers of Mr Robert Maclellan covering his years as planning minister in the Kennett governments, 1992–1999 occurred with the full support and assistance of the Public Record Office



Percy Grainger wearing his home made towelling clothes in London, c. 1910. (Photo: Roger Quilter's niece. Grainger Museum Collection.)

Victoria. Though not covered by its three principal collecting themes of university, business and industrial labour, transfers of records of the Liberal Party (Victorian Division) have been acquired over the years, which in turn attracted a small number of related personal collections, such as those of Mr Maclellan. His previous accessions cover his time in opposition, and these are clearly complemented by the latest transfer. It is significant not only because under current archival legislation in Victoria, papers such as correspondence and memoranda from ministers' offices are not usually preserved. ♦

Michael Piggott
University Archivist

Disasters: Be Prepared!

by Jason Benjamin
Project Archivist

Archives around the world live under the ever present threat of a disaster wreaking havoc with their collections and services to the public. Disasters can take shape in many forms from insect and rodent infestations, environmental sources such as dust and outbreaks of mould, burst water pipes, fire, and, in extreme cases, damage to buildings and collections as a result of adverse weather conditions. Much can be done to reduce the potential of disasters striking, however, in many cases preparation for the worst is the only option.

Over the past twelve months the University of Melbourne Archives has taken a very pro-active role in reducing the potential for disaster to seriously affect its collections and services. Aided by the recent relocation of the collection to new repository facilities in West Brunswick, staff have been working hard to ensure that the collection is housed safely and that preparations for emergency situations are in place.

Improvements in the housing conditions of the collection has been one of the greatest benefits of the UMA's relocation to its new repository. Fitted with a state of the art air conditioning system that ensures the collection is kept in the best possible environmental conditions and a fire system that is connected to the local fire brigade, the new repository has greatly decreased the potential for disaster to strike. Although the building is fitted with these protective devices, there is no room for complacency which is why a constant monitoring of environmental conditions within the repository and a regular program of potential risk analysis of the new building has become a routine part of staff duties.

Through vigilance and environmental control many disasters can be averted, however, for some types of disasters staff can only be prepared for the worst. No amount of precaution can completely insure against the striking of such disasters as fire, flood and storm damage; staff can only be prepared to respond

in the most efficient manner to the aftermath. At the UMA an active program of disaster preparation has been undertaken which will ensure a quick response and recovery time to any event which may threaten the Archives' collections and services. This preparation has largely taken the form of staff training in the areas of disaster response management and in salvage procedures and techniques.

In July 1999 three UMA staff members attended the CAVAL (Co-operative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries) workshop on disaster preparation and response which was held at CAVAL's Carm store in Bundoora. This two day workshop trained participants in risk assessment, emergency response procedures, salvation methods and on the importance of comprehensive disaster recovery manuals. Included in the workshop were simulations of water-based disasters which gave participants hands on experience with the implementation of emergency response procedures and salvation methods.

This training has already been implemented in the development of a custom made disaster recovery manual and salvage information kits for the UMA. Based on the Baillieu Library's

Disaster Response Manual, the UMA's manual has been especially tailored for the Archives' new Dawson Street building and reflects the unique nature of the building and its off campus position. The salvage kits allow for easy access by staff to vital information on salvage techniques and procedures which will enable quicker response times to emergencies affecting collections.

Although the likelihood of a disaster striking the UMA can not be totally ruled out, through a program of risk assessment and vigilance the chances of a disaster striking have been diminished. In the event of a disaster the UMA's response manual, and staff training in its implementation and salvage techniques will ensure a fast response and recovery time to any event which may threaten the Archives' collections and services. ❖



Wilson Hall burning down, 25 January 1952 (UMA photo no. 613). Although the building and contents were insured for £100,000, there was considerable loss of irreplaceable artworks, furniture and papers.

The Grimwade Collection at the University of Melbourne Archives

by Lisa Sullivan
Grimwade Intern, Jan Potter Museum of Art

The archival material from the Russell and Mab Grimwade “Miegunyah” Collection is a significant component of the Grimwade Bequest which was presented to the University of Melbourne in 1972. Miegunyah — the Grimwade family home from 1910 — and the extensive collection of cultural material which it housed, were bequeathed to the University with the hope that they would provide a record “so that future generations of Australians may have some idea of the manner in which their predecessors lived.”¹

Sir Russell’s wish that Miegunyah and the collection stand as a “museum” reflecting a period and way of life that had long passed, could not be sustained however and in 1987 the property was sold by the University. At this time, the collection was removed from Miegunyah and transferred to the University of Melbourne. Care of the collection was assigned to three University Departments — the Museum of Art, the University Library and the University Archives — highlighting the diverse nature and individual requirements of the collection.

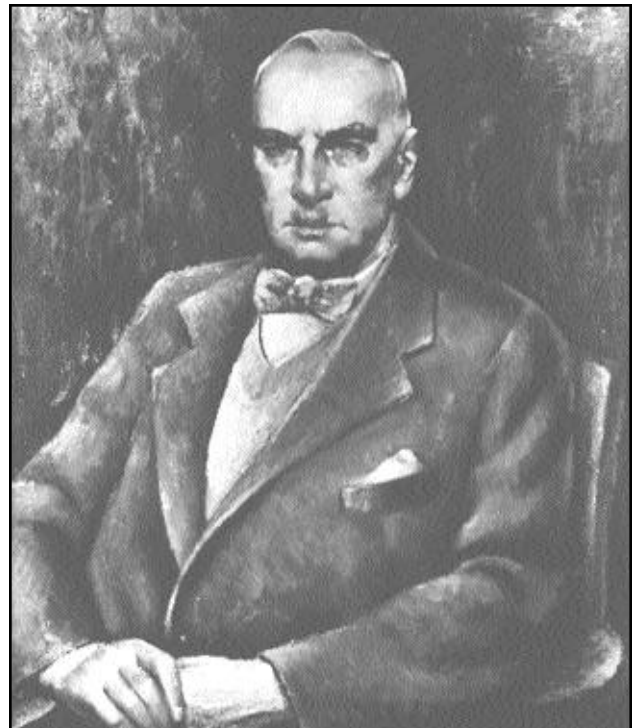
Proceeds from the sale of Miegunyah enabled the establishment of the Sir Russell and Lady Grimwade Fund which resources numerous activities throughout the University, in accordance with the donor’s interests. In recent years, the fund has supported an Internship at the University of Melbourne Museum of Art (now known as the Ian Potter Museum of Art) for a graduate of the Department of Fine Arts’ Postgraduate Diploma of Art Curating and Museum Management. The internship provides the opportunity for practical training within the museum environment and the completion of further research of the Grimwade collection.

The focus of the 1999–2000 Grimwade Internship is research of the archival material at the University Archives, and the relationship of this material to the art collection.

A Collector and his Collection

The works of art, books and archival material which form the collection each reflect the diverse interests of Sir Russell Grimwade.

The art collection consists of paintings, prints and photographs dating primarily from the colonial period of Australian art — 1780s to 1880s. Significant artists such as John Glover,



George Bell, Sir Russell Grimwade, 1951, oil on canvas, 76.5 x 63.7 cm, Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest 1973, The University of Melbourne Art Collection.

Eugene von Guerard, Conrad Martens and S. T. Gill are featured, their works documenting the discovery, settlement and development of Australia. William Strutt’s “Bushrangers, Victoria, Australia, 1852” of 1887 is considered the key work of the art collection, and the circumstances surrounding the acquisition of this work in 1955 reflect Sir Russell’s determination and commitment to the collection of Australiana.²

The book collection replicates the dominant themes of the art collection through the inclusion of rare editions of books relating to the voyages of Captain Cook, exploration within Australia, life on the goldfields of Victoria and early trade and business records of an expanding Melbourne population. The art and book



William Strutt, "Busrangers, Victoria, Australia 1852", (1887), oil on canvas 75.7 x 156.6 cm, Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest 1973, The University of Melbourne Art Collection

collections reveal Sir Russell's interest in Australiana and through this legacy, he has left a rich and historically significant body of works.

The archival collection is equally significant and builds on our knowledge of Sir Russell and his many and varied interests. The archives hold a diverse variety of material ranging from paper based items such as correspondence, research notes, drafts of publications and autobiographical notes to photographs, negatives and over one hundred and eighty objects from the Grimwade Estate. This material reveals Sir Russell's involvement in areas such as business, science, botany, art, photography and his wide contribution to community activities within Victoria.

Grimwade Internship – 2000

The twelve month internship commenced with an initial assessment of the archival collection addressing areas such as identification, documentation, condition and storage of the material. The next phase of the project will involve research of specific areas of the collection with a view to linking archival material with works from the art collection and developing an exhibition that will present elements from both collections at the Ian Potter Museum of Art. It is hoped that works from the book collection will also be displayed.

Research is currently underway into the archival material relating to Sir Russell's involvement in the purchase, transportation and re-erection of Captain Cook's Cottage in 1933–1934. Sir Russell presented the cottage to the people of Victoria to commemorate the State's Centenary Celebrations with the hope

that it would become a museum dedicated to Cook and his discoveries. Sir Russell felt strongly about ensuring that the history of Australia was passed on to future generations, a sentiment that is expressed through the art and book collections.

While Sir Russell's involvement with the University of Melbourne spanned over fifty years during his lifetime and his name continues to be linked through his generous bequest, it is hoped that through the theme of Captain Cook's Cottage an exhibition will evolve which will bring Russell Grimwade and the wealth of material which he bequeathed to the attention of the wider community beyond the University of Melbourne.³ ❖

NOTES

1. Poynter, J. R., *Russell Grimwade*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1967, p. 304.
2. Strutt's painting depicts a robbery on St Kilda Road in 1852, the scene of which the artist visited within hours of the event. The painting was completed some years later, in 1887, and was exhibited at the Royal Academy. It was brought to Sir Russell's attention in 1954 through an article in a 1912 edition of the *Windsor Magazine*, at which point Sir Russell decided to locate the work for inclusion in what had become his extensive collection of Australiana. Once found, an initially unwilling owner was persuaded to part with the work for a large sum. Sir Russell's financially cautious approach to collecting was abandoned in the acquisition of this painting. See Poynter, J. R., *Russell Grimwade*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1967, pp. 284–286.
3. Sir Russell's involvement with the University of Melbourne includes the completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in 1901, membership of the Council from 1935–1955, Deputy Chancellor 1941–1943 and major donor to the School of Biochemistry in 1944.

1999 WMC Resources Ltd Prize for Archival Research

by Elizabeth Agostino
Reference Archivist

For the seven years since its establishment, the WMC Resources Ltd. Prize for Archival Research has encouraged exploration across the wide range of material held at the University of Melbourne Archives. A simple overview of just a few of the titles of past entries reflects the diversity:

- *Slum reclamation in Carlton.*
- *The University of Melbourne System Garden: Whose garden? And whose system?*
- *Dissolution referendum debate at the University of Melbourne.*
- *Success, joint ventures and Comalco: A case study of joint ventures in the Australian aluminium industry.*
- *The Melbourne University Football Club between the wars: Maintaining the amateur ideal.*
- *The Victorian Railway Strike of 1950: a study in the dynamics of union leadership and industrial arbitration in Cold War Australia.*
- *Barriers unknown? Margaret Blackwood's life in science.*
- *"Attacking takes courage": Boxing and the development of Phillip Law.*

The Prize has roused researchers from a variety of disciplines and institutions to delve into the original source material available at the Archives which in turn, has provided inspiration of its own. One previous Prize-winner, in her acceptance speech, claimed it was the lure of discovering something new each time she opened one of the "little brown boxes" that spurred on her research. In a similar vein the 1999 Prize-winning entry, Sandra Baker's *The flute syllabus of the AMEB: a history* is introduced with the following claim:

the initial inspiration for this study was knowledge of the relatively untouched Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) resources in the Melbourne University Archives.

Although history schools provide the majority of entrants, the Prize is in no way exclusive and indeed Sandra's entry was originally submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Bachelor of Music. In fact the Prize has also been sought after by students of such disciplines as Classics, Politics, Law, Information Management, Commerce, Architecture and Botany, all of whom have produced work based substantially on material held in the Archives and related to their field of interest.



(l—r): Mr Andrew Ray, Chair Archives Advisory Board, Sandra Baker, Prof. Adrienne Clarke and Mr Gilbert Ralph, MBE, Consultant Group Historian, WMC.

A particular strength of the Archives' collections is its holdings of mining records including those of WMC Resources Ltd., so it is fitting that the Prize is sponsored by this company. Professor Adrienne Clarke, AO, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Victoria and Member of the Board of WMC, presented Sandra with the 1999 Prize cheque of over \$1,500 and claimed that she was incredibly proud that WMC could be publicly associated with such support and encouragement of young historians and researchers.

The WMC Resources Ltd. Prize was established in 1993 to encourage historical and archival research. It is awarded to the best written essay or thesis on any subject over 3000 words sourced substantially from the collections of the University of Melbourne Archives. The Prize is open to undergraduates or approved diploma students of any Australian tertiary institution and whilst initially awarded at \$1,000 the Prize has been indexed annually and in 2000 will stand at over \$1,500. At this level it is one of the most lucrative awards available for individuals' essays.

It is hoped that the lure of the 2000 WMC Resources Ltd. Prize will provide the same impetus for discovery and exploration of the Archives' holdings as it has done in the past. As in previous times the Archives is sure to reap the rewards, evidenced tangibly by a fresh body of entries, of providing access and exposure to an array of academic pursuits. ❖

Current Projects

While the standard routine functions of running a repository and reading room, assisting researchers, and processing collections takes up the majority of staff time, UMA staff are also involved with a range of other tasks. These include meetings, supervision staffing and finance issues, training, and membership of Library or University committees. As time permits, we are also involved in projects aimed at achieving better preservation and control of the collections. Current projects include:

Liz Agostino, Reference Archivist

- Continuous improvement project focussing on processing researchers' copying requests.
- Assessment of IT competencies (complex documents).
- Development of new tracking and retrieval system.

Fay Anderson, Project Archivist (part-time contract)

- Completing accessions registration and accessions database.

Jason Benjamin, Project Archivist (part-time casual)

- Film/video and photo digitisation projects (member).
- Review of access status of all collections.
- Review of draft lists.
- De-accessioning printed material.

Peter Bode, Repository Manager

- De-accessioning projects.
- Photos digitisation project (member; metadata standards).
- Film/video project (member; preservation criteria).
- Repository space rationalisation.
- Development of new tracking and retrieval system.
- Various current student and other staff placement projects (supervision).

Daniel Cass, Project Archivist (part-time contract)

- Listing of the Sir Roderick Carnegie collection, with significant correspondence noted to item level.

Sue Fairbanks, Deputy University Archivist

- Preparation of application for ARC RIEF funding (trade union heritage resources gateway project).
- UMA and Records Services functional appraisal project (team member).
- Photo digitisation and film/video projects (project coordinator).

Michael Piggott, University Archivist

- Archives Advisory Board review.
- Review of access regulation.
- Preparation of application for ARC RIEF funding (trade union heritage resources gateway project).
- Article for Australian Historical Association bulletin.
- APAI (SPIRT) archives and history PhD scholarship supervision.

Dr Mark Richmond, Archivist

- Bates Smart & McCutcheon architectural drawings.
- Acquisition of academics' personal papers.

Leigh Swancott, Rio Tinto Archivist

- Processing/listing collections (Mary Kathleen Uranium Limited, the Rio Tinto Limited Australasian Reports, John Ralph collection, Southern Copper Limited (formerly Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Ltd [ER&S], Comalco Limited "history" and Mark Rayner collections).
- Revamping UMA home page.
- Carnegie project (coordinator).
- Australian Dictionary of Biography entry (Dr George Williams).
- Film/video project (member: relocating and sorting materials prior to a conservation and preservation survey and appraisal of holdings).

The Myriad Uses of Archives

Archives begin life as personal and corporate records deliberately created and kept to prove something happened or was done. Copies of letters sent, minutes of decisions made at a meeting, photographs of delegates attending a conference, and certificates “certifying” to some action are all examples. Some records endure beyond the original function because of their continuing importance and become archives. Apart from being unique (though their contents sometimes aren’t), archives also support uses well beyond their original function of being “for the record”. These uses cover scholarly research, community-based inquiries and of course teaching and learning.

Some of the variety of uses of the collections of the University of Melbourne Archives is illustrated from the topics noted in recent access registration forms:

- A study of the writer John Morrison.
- Insurance claims in Walhalla district 1910–1914.
- Myer’s shop interior displays.
- Family history inquiry associated with Huddart Parker Ltd.
- Aboriginal–European contact, north-west Victoria, 1830s–1940s.
- A study of the Labour Prime Minister Ben Chifley.
- Research into Como historic house and garden.
- A history of Port Melbourne commissioned by the Melbourne Port Corporation.
- A study of Young Women’s Christian Association’s international networks in the 1920s and 1930s.
- Research into the social history of Sunshine (1890–1951).
- A thesis on the pedagogical roles of Australian composer Mirrie Hill.
- Research into the architectural genesis of the State Library of Victoria.
- An investigation of widows’/mothers’ pensions in Australia in the 1930s and 1940s.
- A study of the social history of Australian participation in the Korean War, 1950–1953.
- The relationship between old left and new left in the anti-Vietnam War movement, 1967–1972.
- Investigation of Melbourne City Council politics 1930s–1950s.
- Use of student diaries, fiction and manuscripts from 1880s–1915 to investigate the identity and networks of friendships based in women’s colleges/education.
- International investments made by WMC Ltd. in the 1990s.
- Images and ephemera relating to Hoffman Brick & Potteries Pty Ltd. for part of a “Save the Brickworks” campaign.
- Consultation of architectural drawings for restoration of 425 Collins St, Melbourne.
- A history of the Victorian Trades Hall Council, 1948–1981.
- A study of the malting history in Queensland, 1871–1971.
- A study of Henry Jones (IXL) Ltd.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARCHIVISTS CONFERENCE 2000

18–19 August 2000

Dallas Brooks Convention Centre, Victoria Parade, Melbourne

BEYOND THE SCREEN

Capturing Corporate and Social Memory

This year’s annual ASAconference features three keynote addresses:

Friday 18 August, 9.15 am — “Beyond the Screen: The Records Continuum and Archival Heritage”, to be delivered by Dr Terry Cook, Clio Consulting and Visiting Professor, Archival Studies Program, University of Manitoba, Canada.

Saturday 19 August, 9.15 am — “Lost in Cyberspace? Cultural Heritage in the Electronic Age”, to be delivered by Elizabeth Hallam-Smith, Director of Public Services, Public Record Office, United Kingdom.

Saturday 19 August 3.45 pm — Closing keynote address “Cultural Heritage and Archives: The Last Word”, to be delivered by George Nichols, Director-General, National Archives of Australia.

The conference also features local archivists, museum professionals and historians, and two University of Melbourne staff, Dr Janet McCalman of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (“Archives and the Historian: A Love Affair”) and Gavan McCarthy, Director, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre and incoming President of the ASA (“Bright Sparcs”).

Readers wishing to attend the conference should contact the Conference Convenor, David Brown (03-9842 0999 or Lucy Burrows, Conference Committee (03-9285 7935) or register on-line at www.archivists.org.au/events/conf2000.