

A guide to the Battye Library Collection



Worth Telling Worth Keeping

Leigh Hays



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FOREWORD

Academics who reach a certain seniority — some would say senility — from time to time receive invitations to write introductions to other people's books. This is sometimes a source of acute embarrassment — 'what *can* I truthfully say about dear old So-and-so's memoirs?' — leading at times to studied ambiguities '... a book without an equal in its field ...' Happily no such problems arise when the invitation concerns a guide to the records of the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. The invitation is an honour, and the words of praise come effortlessly.

No Australian state has shown a stronger appreciation of its past than Western Australia. None has a more respectable record of historical writing, beginning with W.B. Kimberley in 1897 and Dr James Sykes Battye himself in the first quarter of the twentieth century and extending to the numerous practitioners of our own day. Most of this achievement, and certainly nearly all that has been achieved during the last half-century, has been possible only because of the work of the archivists and the keepers of records who have preserved the raw materials of our history.

From its origins in a dusty corner of the old State Library building in James Street the Battye Library has come a long way, so that even the most devoted of its users might be excused for not knowing the extent of its resources at the beginning of the twenty-first century. If its strengths are due in the first instance to an admirable series of Battye Librarians, credit must also be given to the tradition of excellent service developed by all its staff over many years. Their knowledge and patience has helped us all, from the most casual inquirer after cemetery records to the most distinguished visiting scholar.

In recent years, in the face of the financial constraints which have gripped so much of the public sector and so many endeavours in Australian culture and scholarship, the Battye Library has faced mounting demands on its resources. Western Australia has grown rapidly, and the community is more complex. The public at large is more aware of the need to preserve potential historical records. The great growth of interest in oral history, the proliferation of print media, the increasing role of film and video as sources of the historical record have all extended the Battye Library's responsibilities. For some time now the need has been felt of an updated guide to the Library's holdings and it is good that Leigh Hays has been able to write *Worth Telling, Worth Keeping*.

We shall all find *Worth Telling, Worth Keeping* of great value as a research tool, but it has two other merits worth mentioning. For anyone interested in the making of the Western Australian past it is compelling reading; a good browse. As well — though probably the staff of the Batty Library will regard this with mixed feelings — it will prove a stimulus to more research and writing, as we see how much has been written about Western Australian history but how much more remains to be written. Like a good map, this guide charts our discoveries, but also points the way to future exploration.

Geoffrey Bolton
Murdoch University

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In early 1999 Dr Lynn Allen, Chief Executive and State Librarian, LISWA (1989–2001) commissioned me to write a guide to the collections of the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. Thanks to Dr Allen’s vision, and the continuing support of Dr Ronda Jamieson, Director of the Battye Library, *Worth Telling, Worth Keeping* was completed some three years later — as much a celebration of the Library’s collections as a guide to them.

Worth Telling, Worth Keeping only touches on the many treasures located in the Battye Library. In researching and writing this book I was fortunate enough to be able to draw on the knowledge and advice of many Library staff. In particular I would like to gratefully acknowledge Dr Ronda Jamieson and Jennie Carter for their support, encouragement and constructive comments. My thanks go to Gerard Foley, Brian Stewart, Julie Martin, Steve Howell, David Whiteford, Michael Price and other staff for their help and suggestions relating to their areas of expertise. Thanks also to Trish Barr for making endless corrections to the manuscript, Andrew Macdonald for his design skills and Dana Tonello for preparing the manuscript for publication.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Corinne McLeod, for her patience and support through three long and sometimes difficult years.

The Origins of Dr Battye's Library

A people without a past cannot begin to understand the present or prepare for the future. At the end of the nineteenth century Western Australia was a minor colonial outpost with its only historical and cultural reference points located half a world away in the United Kingdom. History was British not Western Australian, and there were few who believed that the colony would ever provide anything other than a footnote to Empire. Yet by the end of the twentieth century Western Australia was a vibrant, multicultural, self-confident society with its own distinct cultural and historical heritage. It is no coincidence that the increased value placed by Western Australians on collecting, preserving and celebrating their past mirrored the growth of a dynamic, confident, outward-looking society.

Thanks in part to the work of the staff of the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History, there are few who would not now accept that our past is worth preserving. This remains true regardless of whose story is being told, whether it is that of unwilling convicts or of free migrants seeking a better life; the dispossession of indigenous people or the settlement of the land; the boom of the gold rush or the despair of the Depression; the racism of the White Australia era or the adoption of a multicultural society.

Throughout the second half of the twentieth century in particular, the Battye Library has been at the forefront in promoting and encouraging Western Australian history through its unique collections of published and original materials. In addition to holding comprehensive collections of published books, newspapers, serials, maps and ephemera, the Library contains extensive collections of photographs and pictorial works, archives, films and oral histories. The only documents not collected by the Library are State Government original records, which are the responsibility of the State Records Office.

As the nation's largest and most comprehensive repository of Western Australian materials, the Library's Published Materials, State Film Archives, Pictorial Collection, Oral History Collection and Private Archives Collection of non-government records contain many precious treasures. In their variety and scope, they provide a rich range of sources for historians, students, researchers and anyone interested in Western Australia's past.

These collections are essential, in both a national and a local context, for gaining any understanding of the history of Australia's western third.

The Battye Library is dedicated to the collection and preservation of the State's documentary heritage. Although only formally established with this mission in 1956, the growth of the Library's exceptional collections and its role in preserving the State's past had their origins in the activities of the Public Library in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During

this period the collecting of Western Australian material was largely due to the enthusiasm and foresight of the first Librarian, Dr J.S. Battye, who was appointed to head the newly established organisation on 1 August 1894, a post he held for the next sixty years. The eventual creation of a library of Western Australian history named in his honour was as much a recognition of six decades of collection development as a realisation of the necessity of promoting the importance of history and of preserving the State's documentary heritage for future generations.



Western Australia's first State Librarian, Dr J.S. Battye.
[Battye Library 21021P]

The Battye Library's collections represent an impressive resource. It is salutary to remember, however, that Dr Battye began building his collection in the late nineteenth century, at a time when community awareness of, and interest in, Western Australian history was not high. A lack of concern for local history is particularly evident in the spirit with which the Public Library was originally established. In June 1887 the Western Australian Legislative Council, as loyal colonists within the

British Empire, voted to provide five thousand pounds to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee; a considerable sum for a colony of just 35,000 souls. Of that money, two thousand pounds was to be sent to London as 'this colony's contribution towards the foundation of and maintenance of the Imperial Institute in London,'¹ while the remainder, after much debate, was 'appropriated as a contribution towards the foundation of the Victoria Public Library in Perth,'² narrowly defeating an alternative proposal to erect an insane asylum.

This decision reflected Parliament's desire to build a monument to British imperialism and, if possible, provide a practical public institution for the betterment of the general populace. In doing so it is unlikely that anyone in the Legislative Council, let alone the entire colony, could have imagined

1 *Parliamentary Debates*, 1888, vol. 13, Second Reading, p. 165.

2 *ibid.*

a library service including a library of Western Australian history. Rather, the new Victoria Public Library was ‘intended to supply the public with a higher ... class of literature, which was not obtainable at the ordinary circulating libraries.’³ It is extremely doubtful that the legislators imagined local publications belonging to that ‘higher class of literature’ it hoped would be available at the new library. As an imperial institution, it was intended to improve the population and strengthen Western Australia’s ties with the Empire by providing similar reading materials to those acceptable in the best British public libraries.

As the Public Library was being established and stocked in the early 1890s, few people were concerned with collecting Western Australian or even Australian materials. When Dr Battye arrived from Melbourne in 1894 he found a total of 5,500 books, most of which ‘were old out-of-date theological books, which had been left to the library, unloaded on the library by people who had no further use for them.’⁴ The omission of Australian colonial newspapers from the Public Library’s collections did, however, prompt some debate in local

newspapers and in the Western Australian Parliament as to the library’s role, leading to the complaint by the well-known federalist Sir Walter James, MLA to the Estimates Committee in 1894–1895 that ‘if they were going to have newspapers at all, those of the sister colonies should have a claim upon us in preference to foreign papers.’⁵



Governor Broome laying the foundation stone for the Victoria Public Library, 1888. [Battye Library 000617d]

Many of the legislators who had voted in 1888 to establish the Public Library had hoped that once built it would be stocked and run through private donations. As a result Dr Battye faced great difficulty in securing support for government spending on a quality library service for the people of Western Australia. On one occasion when he made a request to Parliament for more books and ‘it was said that the library had five thousand five hundred books, one of the members of Parliament said that this was

3 *ibid.*, 1894–95, vol. 7, Estimates, p. 1214.

4 Ronald Percy Wright interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Chris Jeffery, 1978, OH315, transcript, p. 20.

5 *Parliamentary Debates*, 1894–95, vol. 7, Estimates, p. 1214.

impossible, that the library could not have that many books, that there were not that many books in the world.⁶

In spite of this general lack of interest, in the decade after Dr Battye's arrival the Public Library collections did improve and the collecting of a wide range of Western Australian material began. That local and eastern Australian materials were considered worthy for inclusion in the collections at all was a radical step for a library whose intended purpose had been to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria and to act as a cultural reminder of the Britishness of the colony in Western Australia.

The growth of Western Australian materials within the new library was enhanced by the passing of the *Copyright Act 1895*, due in part to Dr Battye's influence. This followed on from the *Newspaper Libel and Registration Act 1884*, which had required the deposit of copies of locally produced newspapers, originally with the Colonial Secretary's Office. The new *Copyright Act* greatly increased the number of local publications coming into the library by requiring publishers to deposit free copies.⁷ The Act remained in force for the next hundred years, ensuring Western Australian publications would be collected and preserved.

During its first fifty years, the Public Library (as the Victoria Public Library became officially known in 1903) began building a significant collection of Western Australian original materials. The first intake of manuscript records from the Colonial Secretary's Office in 1904 formed the nucleus of its archives collection.⁸ Little distinction was made between government and non-government archives. Throughout the first half of the twentieth century transfers of archival records to the Public Library remained haphazard and dependent on the interest and goodwill of the general public and of well-placed amateurs working within government departments. It would be many years before non-government records would be formally organised as a private archives collection separate from government records. It was not until 1945 that an Archives Branch was formed in the Public Library at all.

Indeed, it was not until 1956 that all Western Australian materials held by the Public Library, including published and original materials, were formally grouped together in the new J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. At that stage the Battye Library's collections included books, serials, newspapers and maps, as well as government and non-government archives from the Archives

⁶ Wright, Interview (1978), p. 21.

⁷ Honniball, J., "The Public Library of Western Australia 1887–1955", in *Western Perspectives* (LISWA, Perth, 1990), R.C. Sharman and A.C. Laurel (eds), p. 32.

⁸ *ibid.*

Branch. Although there were photographs and other pictorial material in the new library, they were not organised or resourced as separate collections.

Over the next forty years the Battye Library would grow and change substantially. Important developments included the introduction of an oral history collection in 1961, the formal establishment of an Oral History Program in 1975, the addition of the State Film Archives in 1978, and the establishment of a separate pictorial section in 1980. The removal of government and non-government records from the Battye Library to create the State Archives in 1989 and the subsequent return of the Private Archives Collection of non-government records to the Library in July 1996 were likewise important changes.

Significant in shaping the identity of the Battye Library was the concentration of all its collections in a single location in the purpose-built Alexander Library Building in 1985. Prior to that date the collections within the Battye Library, and indeed all of the libraries and collections of the State Library of Western Australia, were stored in a number of locations scattered around the Northbridge area of Perth.

At each stage of its development the Battye Library has gained an increasingly richer and more diverse range of collections, often consolidating and building on existing holdings of materials so that the Library's mission, to preserve Western Australian history, might evolve, an idea which would have appeared far fetched at the Public Library's foundation. The concept has taken root in the Western Australian community and been able to thrive within the State's Library and Information Service. The treasures held within each of the Library's collections of published and original materials are pointers to the wealth of information available in the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History.

The history of the development of the Battye Library's collections provides a fascinating insight into Western Australia's view of itself. An increased belief in the value of Western Australia's documentary heritage suggests a more confident society which believes that not only does it have stories worth telling, it also has stories worth preserving. Rather than simply being a monument to an imperial monarch, built to disseminate British culture, as the founders of the Public Library envisaged, the Library became a place for collecting and documenting the cultural and creative life of Western Australians. More importantly, the people of Western Australia now think of the Battye Library as a place for their history.

CHAPTER ONE

PUBLISHED MATERIALS

The Foundations of the Battye Library

As a library of Western Australian history it is only natural that the Battye Library's collections of published materials have always been at the heart of its holdings, the foundation stone upon which the Library has been built. Certainly the collections of Western Australian books, newspapers and serials which were gathered by the staff of the Public Library in the first half of the twentieth century formed the basis of the newly established J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History in 1956. While the core collections of published materials were complemented by subsequent additions of exciting new collections of original materials, the growth and development of the Library as a centre for knowledge about Western Australian history has revolved around the continuing increase in the size, breadth and scope of its collections of published materials.

Collecting Western Australian publications to preserve and make available to the community has always been a central role for the Battye Library, making it a valued part of the Library and Information Service of Western Australia. However, local publications were not always given such a high priority. Indeed, with the exception of newspapers, no specific provision was made for the collection of Western Australian published materials until the passing of the *Copyright Act 1895*, which included the vital requirement that a copy of local publications be given free to the library.⁹

Since the passing of the Act and with the pursuit of astute collection development and acquisition policies over the next hundred years, the Battye Library's collections of published materials have grown remarkably, drawn chiefly from Western Australia's small, vibrant publishing industry but including many types of publications other than books. As communities within the State grew, so too did the number and variety of publications they produced, contributing significantly to the growth in the collections. This expansion is attributable as much to an increased community belief

9 Honniball, J., "The Public Library of Western Australia 1887–1955", in *Western Perspectives* (LISWA, Perth, 1990), R.C. Sharman and A.C. Laurel (eds), p. 32.

that Western Australian stories are worth telling and, once told, worth preserving, as to any increased commercial viability in the local publishing industry.

As part of the national distributed collection, the Battye Library plays an important role in collecting and preserving those Western Australian publications which may not be found elsewhere in Australia. The Library holds the world's premier collection of books relating to Western Australia, while its collections of newspapers, serials, maps and ephemera are unparalleled.

Over 50,000 Western Australian book titles are held, covering many subject areas other than history. Particular strengths include the Library's collection of rare books, while the general collection holds biographies and autobiographies, town and local government histories, and works of literature, as well as books on agriculture, the environment, government issues, Aboriginal/European relations and flora and fauna.

Much material has been acquired through legal deposit legislation whereby one copy of each 'book' published in the State was lodged as the legal deposit copy. Often a second copy was acquired for public use while the first became the preservation copy. Items published outside the State containing material relating to Western Australia or by Western Australian authors were also acquired. The definition of what constitutes a 'book' changed during the 1990s when the Battye Library acquired a number of publications in electronic formats, such as CD-ROM. Some Internet publications have been indexed and linked to the Library's catalogue and with an increasing number of electronic publications being produced, the range of material acquired has been broadened to include these new formats.

Serial publications and maps produced by government and private printers were also acquired under legal deposit provisions. The Library's serial collection consists of over 12,000 Western Australian titles, including regular or irregularly published newsletters, circulars, journals and magazines. These include government and business annual reports, association and sporting club newsletters, mining company quarterly and annual reports, social and ethnic publications, street, tourist, and business directories, as well as professional journals. More than 900 Western Australian newspaper titles are held, ranging from manuscript newspapers of the early 1830s to current titles. Thanks to the *Newspaper Libel and Registration Act 1884*, copies of every newspaper issue published in the State are collected.



The Ephemera Collection holds many examples of labels of products, brands and other everyday items no longer manufactured in Western Australia, such as this brand of beer. [Battye Library PR 8499/LAB/32]

Finally there are publications collected under the category of ephemera. These are the minor documents of everyday life such as leaflets and brochures, which can be useful sources of supplemental information for research, providing a more complete and detailed picture of a subject than would otherwise be possible. The Battye Library's collection of ephemeral material contains over 65,000 items encompassing material such as souvenir brochures, invitations, theatre programs, business pamphlets, art exhibition catalogues, electioneering pamphlets, tickets, tourist brochures, government agency pamphlets and menus.

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION

Many items in the published collection are rare, sometimes being the only known surviving copy, and unavailable elsewhere in the world. Treasures from the collections are naturally dominated by rare, old and unusual publications of books, maps, serials, newspapers and ephemera. Their rarity, content and sometimes their beauty give them a special place. While most of these materials were published in Western Australia and acquired by the Library during the twentieth century, a number of unique publications from the nineteenth century are also held. These include some relating to Western Australia which pre-date British colonisation.

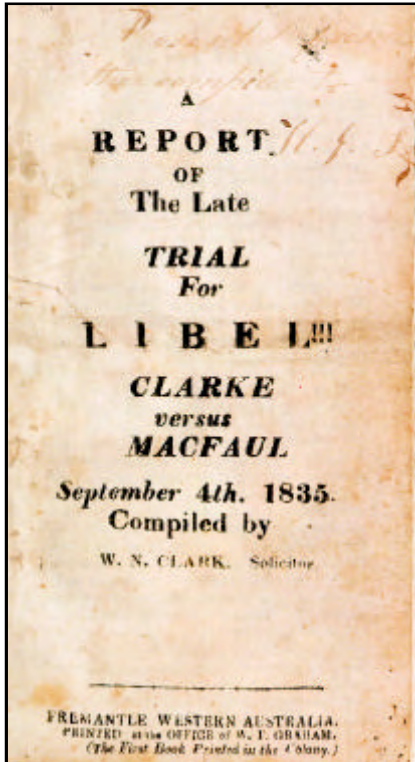
Not all treasures in the collection are necessarily old or rare. A number of quite recent publications can rightly be regarded as treasures, in spite of their widespread availability. Their importance rests with the information they contain, especially when they are representative of a particular subject or area crucial to the history of Western Australia. A concentration of collections of published materials in a particular area may provide a comprehensive subject coverage not available elsewhere or be the only source of information for key aspects of our history.

BOOKS

While the Battye Library's collection of books includes a fascinating rare book section with many valuable individual treasures, the general collection also contains widely available facsimiles and popular titles on a range of diverse, but significant, subjects. Aboriginal/European relations, biographies, European exploration, flora and fauna, general histories, literature, and the history of towns and shires, are some of the important subject areas represented in the collection.

Rare Books

Most of the large collection of Western Australian rare books were published prior to 1910. Some are classified as rare due to their worth, while others may be limited editions, so books from any era can be included. Often rare books are microfilmed or facsimile copies are made.



Front cover of the first book published in Western Australia, 1835.

Small-scale publishing began early in the life of the Swan River Colony. The first book published in Western Australia was *A Report of the Late Trial for Libel!!! Clarke Versus Macfaul [sic], September 4th, 1835*, compiled by W.N. Clark, the successful lawyer for the plaintiff in that case. In response to continued attacks on his client by Macfaull, the editor of *The Perth Gazette*, Clark cautions Macfaull to:

remember that he is only multiplying his own deformity by this defamatory system ... The sneering attack in a late *Gazette* is treated with contempt on the conviction that Mr Macfaull is writhing under the lash of the remarks made by the Plaintiff's Counsel regarding his public Character; and for Mr Macfaull's benefit he is informed that no "Rules and Orders" of any Court governed by the principles of the Law of England can gag the mouth of counsel in addressing a Jury and throwing back a loathsome and slimy stream of slander on the source from which it has incessantly flowed.¹⁰

This rare book is held along with more sedate titles such as *West Australian Mining Practice: a Description of the Mining Methods Followed by the Principal Gold Mines of Western Australia* by E. Davenport Cleland. The latter work was published in Kalgoorlie in 1911 with the assistance of the Publications Committee of the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia.

Another good example from the collection of rare and unusual books is *The Case of the People of Western Australia: in Support of Their Desire to Withdraw from the Commonwealth of Australia Established Under the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (Imperial), and that Western Australia be Restored to Its Former Status as a Separate Self-Governing Colony in the British Empire*. Published in 1934 following the 1933 referendum in which Western Australia voted to secede from Australia, the book was printed in a limited number as a summation of Western Australian

¹⁰ Clark, W.N., *A Report on the Late Trial for Libel!!! Clarke versus Macfaul, September 4th 1835* (1835), p. 1.

grievances against the Commonwealth. Unusually, it was bound in wood and was not intended for wide public distribution.

The earliest books about Western Australia were published in Europe prior to British colonisation in 1829. The Battye Library holds a range of early publications about Western Australia produced by Dutch, Portuguese and English explorers. One treasure in the collection, written in Dutch, is Fransisco Pelsaert's account of the wreck of the *Batavia* on the Abrolhos Islands in 1629, *Ongeluckige voyagie, van 't schip Batavia, nae de Oost-Indien: gebleven op de Abrolhos van Frederick Houtman*, published in 1647. A common theme for early accounts by European mariners was their disdain for the western coast of Australia as both barren and dangerous.

Further accounts of voyages to Western Australia prior to British settlement may be found in John Callander's 1768 publication *Terra Australis cognita, or, Voyages to the Terra Australis, or Southern Hemisphere, during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, containing an account of the manners of the people, and the productions of the countries, with a preface by the editor, in which some geographical, nautical and commercial questions are discussed*. Luis Antonio da Silva Beltrao's *Instruccao: para se navegar em proximidade da costa do norcheste da Nova Hollanda* (1818) is an account of a Portuguese visitor to Australia. Similarly, Phillip King's *Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia: Performed Between the Years 1818 and 1822* (published in 1826) is held in the Battye Library's rare book collection.

A number of books published after 1829 are important to the history of Western Australia since colonisation. For example, *Diary of Ten Years Eventful Life of an Early Settler in Western Australia; and also, a Descriptive Vocabulary of the Language of the Aborigines* (1884) by George Fletcher Moore, details his life while resident in Western Australia from 1829 to 1852. His entry for 9 November 1830 reveals much about his motivation, as a member of the English gentry, in settling the new colony and summarises many experiences common to the early colonists:

Nov. 9th — More than a week has passed since I came here; but such a week! So many new scenes, new people, new languages and manners, incidents and accidents!

I have waited on the governor; been at the head of the Swan River, and in conflict with a tribe of natives; accompanied a party, which chased them for miles through the woods, where they had been making merry with plunder; and after seeing one native shot, and three wounded, assisted in bringing seven

prisoners to Perth. To-morrow I shall set off for the Canning River, my object being to procure a grant at once, if possible, as I do not wish to be at unnecessary expense in keeping my people. Letty has come ashore with a hen under each arm; and James has brought the sow, sheep, and goat. The weather is roastingly hot, but not oppressive.

And now safe to shore,

*'Prima mei pars est exacta laboris.'*¹¹

Of the many rare books held in the collection, *Moondyne: a Story of Life in West Australia* is one of the more interesting examples, as it was written by John Boyle O'Reilly, a Fenian convict who escaped from Western Australia to the United States in 1869. Published in Melbourne in 1880, it gives great detail of life in the Western Australian penal colony, which was established at a time when the last convicts were being transported to the eastern colonies.

George Grey's *Journals of Two Expeditions of Discovery in North-West and Western Australia, During the Years 1837, 38 and 39* (1841) describes, as its subtitle attests, *'Many Newly Discovered Important and Fertile Districts, with Observations on the Moral and Physical Condition of the Aboriginal Inhabitants &c. &c.'* It recounts Grey's expeditions in Western Australia prior to his elevation in later life to the post of governor of South Australia, New Zealand and Cape Colony. This title is also published in facsimile.

Facsimiles

Facsimiles provide reproductions of books, capturing the look and feel of the original publication. The Batty Library holds a range of facsimiles which are excellent resources for students of history. Important facsimiles in the collection include *Journals of Several Expeditions Made in Western Australia During the Years 1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832, Under the Sanction of the Governor, Sir James Stirling, Containing the Latest Authentic Information Relative to that Country, Accompanied by a Map compiled by J. Cross*. Originally published in 1833, this 1980 facsimile provides full text of the journals kept by Western Australian explorers in the period 1829–1832. It is a work which is important as much for the information it conveys about early conditions in the new colony as for its role as a propaganda tool for proponents of increased migration to Australia. Persuading people to migrate to the colonies was seen as a means of relieving Britain's social and overpopulation problems. The difficulties faced by the

¹¹ Moore, George Fletcher, *Diary of Ten Years Eventful Life of an Early Settler in Western Australia; and also, a Descriptive Vocabulary of the Aborigines* (1884), p.21.

Swan River Colony in attracting settlers are suggested by the defensive tone of the introduction to the work which states:

It is not expected that converts to the cause of emigration will be made by the publication of the accompanying authentic documents; they constitute a small, but certainly a very valuable portion of the history of the settlement. The ends hoped for are, by giving publicity to their contents, to disabuse the public mind of erroneous statements, circulated by interested foreigners, relative to Australia generally, and to assist those who already mediate the adoption of a new country, in forming a true estimate of the chances of happiness likely to attend their migration thither.¹²

The push to market the idea of a Western Australian colony can be seen in works like Nathaniel Ogle's *The colony of Western Australia: a manual for emigrants* (1839) which is held by the Library in both original and facsimile. It discusses the colony's discovery, settlement, Aborigines, land-regulations, and principles of colonial emigration. It contains statistical, financial, and agricultural reports, with instructions and hints to settlers, including

directions for the anchorages, an appendix containing the governor's commission, a list of the names of the proprietors, their original grants and number of acres, tenures, conditions, and transfers.

Other facsimiles relating to the history of exploration include *Australia Twice Traversed: the Romance of Exploration being a Narrative Compiled from the Journals of Five Exploring Expeditions into and through Central South Australia and Western Australia from 1872 to 1876*. Originally published in 1889, this 1995 facsimile is the account of the exploring



Ernest Giles' fourth expeditionary party, 1875. From left to right (back) Peter Nicholls, Alex Ross, Saleh Mahomet, (middle) Jesse Young, Ernest Giles, W.H. Tietkens, (front) Tommy Oldham. [Battye Library 000829d]

¹² *Journals of Several Expeditions Made in Western Australia During the Years 1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832* (1833, republished 1980), p. xiii.

expeditions of Ernest Giles. In a similar vein, *Journals of Australian Explorations* by Augustus Charles Gregory and Francis Thomas Gregory is a 1981 facsimile of an 1884 account of their exploring expeditions in Western Australia, while the 1998 facsimile *Spinifex and Sand: a Narrative of Five Years Pioneering and Exploration in Western Australia*, was originally published in 1898 by David W. Carnegie.

Journals of Expeditions of Discovery into Central Australia, and Overland from Adelaide to King George's Sound, in the Years 1840–1 is an important work held as a facsimile. Originally published in 1845, this 1964 reproduction details the expedition of Edward John Eyre, the first European to cross the Nullarbor. Eyre was sent by the colonists of South Australia with the sanction and support of their government. Like most accounts by European explorers from the period, this journal discusses the 'Manners and Customs of the Aborigines and the State of their Relations with Europeans'.¹³

Aboriginal History

The Battye Library's collection relating to the history of Aboriginal communities represents a national treasure in the size, range and content of

its published materials. The Library holds many publications telling the history of Aboriginal/European relations in Western Australia, covering the history of invasion and colonisation by Europeans, as well as Aboriginal resistance to it; the history of government policy towards Aboriginal communities; stories of Aboriginal resilience in the face of discrimination, exploitation and persecution; and stories celebrating the survival of Aboriginal culture.

The history of the invasion and colonisation can be found in important works like Neville Green's *Broken Spears: Aborigines and*

Europeans in the Southwest of Australia (1984), which details the relations between Aboriginal people and Europeans in the south-west of Western



Aboriginal men in chains at the Ord River Station, 1900s. [Battye Library 004648d]

¹³ Eyre, John, *Journals of Expeditions of Discovery into Central Australia, and Overland from Adelaide to King George's Sound, in the Years 1840-1* (1964), taken from the subtitle.

Australia up to the 1850s. Similarly *The Challenge and the Chance: the Colonisation and Settlement of North West Australia 1861–1914* (1996) by K. Forrest, and Anna Haebich's *For Their Own Good: Aborigines and Government in the Southwest of Western Australia, 1900–1940* (1992) give good general histories of the displacement of Aboriginal peoples due to European colonisation in the State.

An integral aspect of the history of European invasion and Aboriginal dispossession is the story of direct violence, exploitation and resistance. First published in 1905, *Dark Deeds in a Sunny Land, or, Blacks and Whites in North-West Australia* by J.B. Gribble (1987 reprint) tells the story of European oppression of Aboriginal people in the Gascoyne. Similarly, Tom Austen's *A Cry in the Wind: Conflict in Western Australia, 1829–1929* (1998) documents the relationship between settlers and Aborigines over the first hundred years of white settlement.

A continuing history of sometimes violent conflict between Europeans and Aborigines is evident in works like *Pinjarra Massacre Site Research and Development Project: Report for Stage 1* (1998) by Natalie Contos, which contains the results of research into the Pinjarra Massacre of 1834, and *The Forrest River Massacres* by Neville Green (1994), which recounts the story of the massacre of Aborigines and the events leading up to it. In contrast, Rod Moran's *Massacre Myth: an investigation into allegations concerning the mass murder of Aborigines at Forrest River, 1926* (1999) examines the accusations levelled by the Reverend J.B. Gribble, suggesting they were made in order to distract from his own misconduct.

The inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives that express the indigenous experience of a colonial past has been an important development in telling the history of the State. For example Robert Bropho's *Fringedweller* (1980) looks at the urban experience of Aboriginal dispossession while *Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance* (1995) by Howard Pedersen and Banjo Woorunmurra tells of the invasion of Aboriginal lands in the State's north-west during the 1890s, the imposition of a new colonial order and the resistance of the Bunuba people. The significance of the latter work is described by its authors who claim:

The truth of this bloody history can be told because it is etched powerfully on the collective memories of today's Kimberley Aboriginal people. Yet white written history does not record the

extent of killing during the Kimberley's early colonisation. Official records significantly understate the level of bloodshed. Police journals and settlers' diaries gloss over the genocidal violence involving the slaughter of Aboriginal men, women and children. There is no mention of distributing food laced with strychnine so that Aboriginal people would suffer agonising deaths in the bush. Concealed at the time and hidden in white historical reflection ever since, this was a war never acknowledged by Western Australian society.¹⁴

In addition to stories of violence, massacre and guerilla warfare, there are books in the collections which chronicle the continued effect of government policies on Aboriginal communities. *Black Australians: a Survey of Native Policy in Western Australia, 1829–1897*, written by Paul Hasluck in 1942, tells the story of government policy towards Aboriginal people. Since the publication of Hasluck's *Black Australians* there have been many other books which examine government policy towards Aborigines, such as *Aborigines of the West: Their Past and Their Present* (1979) edited by Ronald M. Berndt and Catherine H. Berndt.

The twentieth century struggle for Aboriginal rights in opposition to government policy is chronicled in books like Don McLeod's *How the West was Lost: the Native Question in the Development of Western Australia* (1984) and *Noonkanbah: Whose Land, Whose Law* by Steve Hawke and Michael Gallagher. Published in 1989, the latter tells the story of the struggle between the Noonkanbah people, the miners and the government over mining on Noonkanbah Station. Direct analysis of the effects of Western Australian government policy on Aboriginal communities can be found in *Not Slaves, Not Citizens: the Aboriginal Problem in Western Australia 1898–1954* (1973) and *The Stolen Generations: Separation of Aboriginal Children from Their Families* (1999) by Anna Haebich and Ann Delroy. The survival of Aboriginal culture and language in the face of dispossession and displacement is celebrated in these publications and in general works like Phyllis Kaberry's *Aboriginal Women: Sacred and Profane* (1935) and Lois Tilbrook's *Nyungar Tradition: Glimpses of Aborigines of South-Western Australia, 1829–1914* (1983). The latter title focuses on Nyungar genealogy while the former represents groundbreaking work from the 1930s as the first attempt 'to portray Aboriginal woman as she really is — a complex social personality, having her own prerogatives, duties, problems, beliefs, rituals, and point of view.'¹⁵

14 Pedersen, Howard and Woorunmurra, Banjo, *Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance* (1995), p. 9.

15 Kaberry, Phyllis, *Aboriginal Women: Sacred and Profane* (1935), p. ix.

Important sources for the history of Aboriginal culture include a number of publications recording vocabularies and dialects from throughout the State. The earliest example in the collection is *A vocabulary of the dialects of south Western Australia*, by G. Grey, published in London in 1840. Later publications such as *Aborigines of north-west Australia* by Yabaroo, published in Perth in 1899, and *Languages of some tribes of Western Australia* (1907), by R.H. Matthews demonstrate an early interest in documenting what many believed were dying languages.

Recent efforts to acquire books written in Aboriginal languages recognises both the survival and the resurgence of Western Australian Aboriginal cultures and the desire of staff of the Batty Library to meet the needs of all the State's communities. In addition to holding dictionaries for languages like Martu Wangka, Wong-gu-thu and Ngarla, there are a number of other publications in these languages in the collection. For example, Milton Chapman's *Jarntulu-jananya kuurljunu nanikutakaja* (1984), or *The dog swallowed the goats* is written in Martu Wangka, a language spoken mainly at Jigalong, with some speakers at other centres such as Wiluna, Balgo, Fitzroy Crossing, Strelley and La Grange.

Exploration

Another great theme of Western Australian history is that of European exploration by land and sea. The Batty Library holds many books on exploration, ranging from the early Dutch, English and French voyages to New Holland, to the internal exploration of the hinterland. Included is a mixture of histories, commentaries, and published extracts from exploration journals and diaries.

Australia Unveiled: the Share of the Dutch Navigators in the Discovery of Australia (1976) by Gunter Schilder, gives a good historical account of the part played by the Dutch in the exploration of Western Australia. The role of French exploration is told in works like Leslie R. Marchant's *France Australe: the French Search for the Southland and Subsequent Explorations and Plans to Found a Penal Colony and Strategic Base in South Western Australia 1503–1826* (1998).

The Explorations, 1696–1697, of Australia by Willem De Vlamingh, edited and published by Willem C.H. Robert in 1972, contains extracts from the two logbooks concerning De Vlamingh's voyage to, and explorations on, the coast of Western Australia. The Dutch texts with English translation and notes are invaluable for the research and history of maritime exploration. Similarly *A Voyage to New Holland: the English Voyage of Discovery to the*

South Seas in 1699 (1981), describes the voyage of William Dampier, the first Englishman to set foot in Australia. A botanical and historical record of his voyages to Western Australia can be found in Alexander George's *William Dampier in New Holland: Australia's first natural historian* (1999), which contains photographs of original specimens and drawings, as well as journal accounts of plants, marine and land mammals, shells and insects.



Alexander Forrest's Kimberley expedition, 1879. From left to right (back) James Carey, John Campbell, Matthew Forrest, Arthur Hicks, (front) Tommy Piesse, Fenton Hill, Alexander Forrest, Tommy Dower. [Battye Library 001340d]

Important histories of exploration by British colonists of the interior include *The Beginning: European Discovery and Early Settlement of Swan River, Western Australia* by R.T. Appleyard and Toby Manford. Published in 1980, this book details explorations in the period 1829–1850. Later exploration is chronicled in John Forrest's 1875 *Journal of the Western Australian Exploring Expedition through the Centre of Australia, from Champion Bay to the Overland Telegraph Line between Adelaide and Port Darwin*. So too *North-West Exploration: Journal of Expedition from De Grey to Port Darwin* is the official account of Alexander Forrest's 1880 expedition.

Other exploration diaries held by the Battye Library include *Do Not Yield to Despair: Frank Hugh Hann's Exploration Diaries in the Arid Interior of Australia, 1895–1908* (1998). Compiled and edited by Mike Donaldson and Ian Elliot, this is the account of Frank Hann's explorations in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. A similarly important source is *Exploration Diaries*, a six volume typescript consisting of extracts and entire portions of the diaries of early settlers and explorers; the first being the 1826 journal of Major Lockyer, who was in charge of the expedition sent from Sydney to establish a military base at King George's Sound.

Literature

The Battye Library holds a large collection of Western Australian literature, including novels, poetry and plays by authors who were born, or lived or worked in the State. Items in the collection range from works written last century up to the modern works of authors like Tim Winton and Elizabeth Jolley.

Examples of some of the authors and their works represented include *The Boy in the Bush* by the Western Australian writer Mollie Skinner in

collaboration with D.H. Lawrence. It tells the story of Jack Grant's expulsion from school in England in 1882 and his subsequent life in Australia. Former South Perth resident May Gibbs is represented in the collection with classic children's books like *Boronia Babies* (1917), *Gumnut Babies* (1917), *Scotty in Gumnut Land* (1941), *Nuttybub and Nittersing* (1923), and *The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* (1946). The Library also holds a short oral history recorded in 1968, the year before May Gibbs died, in which she talks about her childhood and writing.

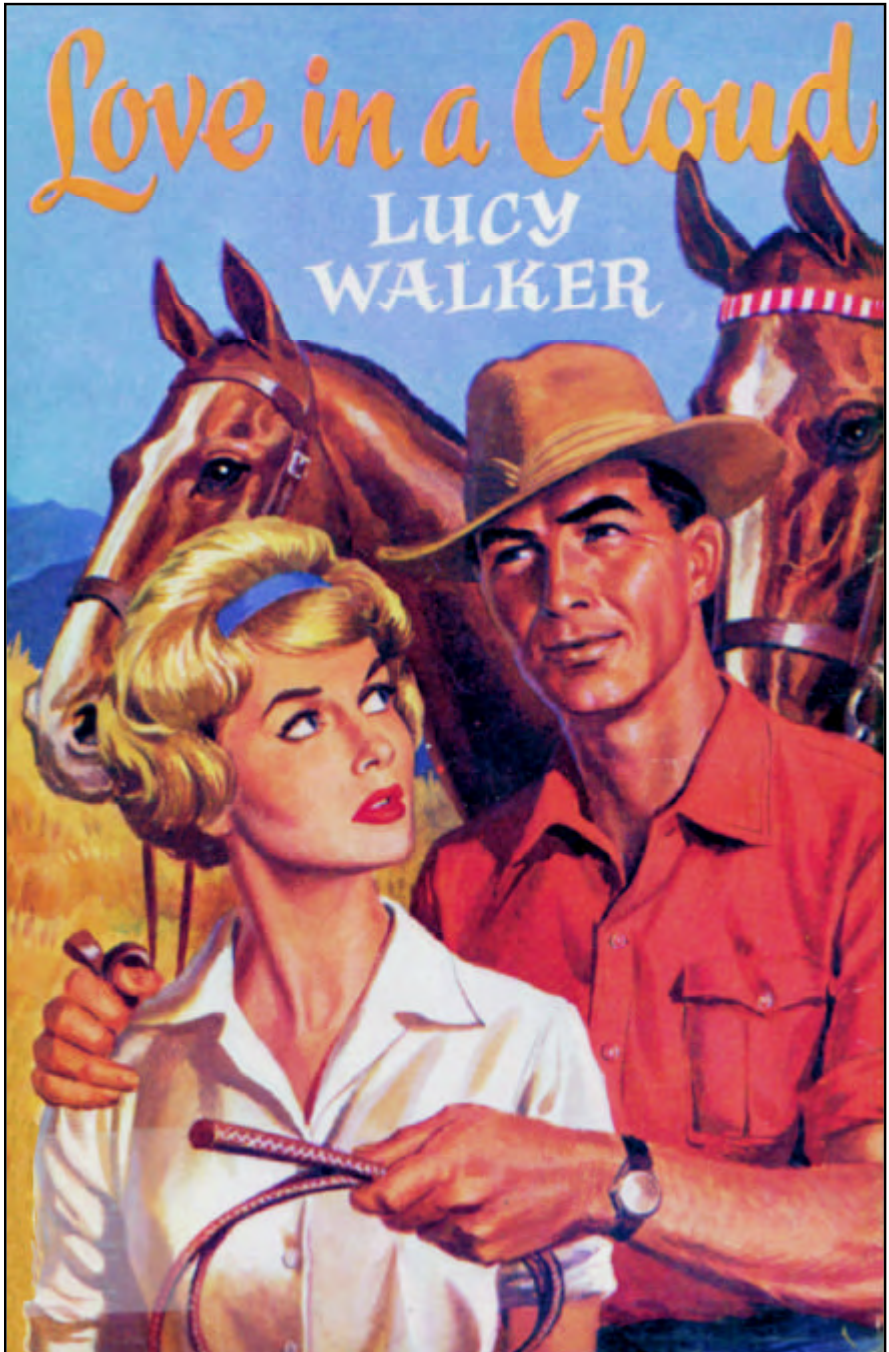
Western Australian-born Xavier Herbert, who wrote *Capricornia* (1956) and *Poor Fellow My Country* (1975), features in the collection. Similarly, the works of Katharine Susannah Prichard are held, including her novel *Haxby's Circus: the Lightest, Brightest, Little Show On Earth* (1930) which revolves around a small family circus as it travels through outback New South Wales and Victoria. *Coonardoo: the well in the shadow* (1929), *Golden Miles* (1948) and the autobiography *Child of the Hurricane* (1963) are just some of her many publications held in the Library.

Scores of local writers in the collection were published between the 1930s and 1960s. These include Jamieson Brown, J.K. Ewers, Lucy Walker and Melva Lear. Novels like *Money Street* (1933) and *Men Against the Earth* (1946) by J.K. Ewers used Western Australian settings and characters. Jamieson Brown's *Harpoon* (1962) and Melva Lear's *Dangerous Holiday* (1959) employed local settings for action-adventure stories, while Lear's *A Secret to Sell* (1965) used Albany's settlement in 1827 as the backdrop for her children's adventure story. Many of the popular romance books of Kalgoorlie-born writer Lucy Walker, the pseudonym of Dorothy Sanders, are included. Published between the late 1950s and early 1970s her stories were often set on stations in the Australian outback with titles like *Kingdom of the Heart* (1959) and *Love in a Cloud* (1960).

Examples of more recent fiction include *Cloudstreet* (1991) by Tim Winton, *Our Lady of Chernobyl* (1995) by Greg Egan, *City of Light* (1995) by Dave Warner, and *An accommodating spouse* (1999) by Elizabeth Jolley. Although the narrative and setting for these novels are often Western Australian, themes are universal. For example, *City of Light* is an irreverent thriller which tells the story of the excess and corruption of the 1980s through the eyes of a policeman turned private detective.



Katherine Susannah Prichard, c.1927. [Battye Library 006767d]



Lucy Walker was a highly successful romance writer. *Love in a Cloud* (1960) is a good example of her work.

Plays and poetry include Dorothy Hewitt's *The Man from Mukinupin: a Musical Play in Two Acts*. Her work is a musical celebration of country life in Australia, set in a Western Australian wheatbelt town at the time of the Great War, while Jack Davis' play *No Sugar* tells the story of the Millimurra family's stand against government 'protection' in the Australia of the 1930s. Also in the collection is probably the first major book of poetry by a Western Australian to be published in the State, *Jarrahand Jingles: a Volume of Westralian Verse* (1908) by E.G. 'Dryblower' Murphy (1867–1939).

As a popular contributor to newspapers like *The Coolgardie Miner* and *The Sunday Times*, 'Dryblower' wrote about the experiences of ordinary people from all around the State, reflecting their interests and concerns. Writing in the manner of a bush poet entertaining his mates around a campfire at night, his poems were sometimes lyrical and often comical, as can be seen in the following extract from *Jarrahand Jingles*:

“Comeanavajarra!”

(Alcohol is now extracted from jarrah trees)

Hail, O hail the new poteen,
 Hail the grog of Gropers,
 In our forests grand and green
 Grows the joy of topers.
 Let us toast the ladies fair
 In a jarrah bumper,
 Mother's milk for millionaire,
 Larrikin or lumper.
 Where the Esp'rance surges swing.
 On to Tuckanarra,
 Hear the invitation ring —
 “Comeanavajarra!”

. . . .

West Australia once produced
 Sand and skinny horses,
 And, when came its golden boost,
 Just a few divorces.
 Then it found the trees it grew
 Unsurpassed for paving
 Which now also yield a dew
 Fit for larynx laving.
 So in London's foggy street,
 Or beside the Yarra
 This salute, in time we'll meet —
 “Comeanavajarra!”

With the proliferation of desktop publishing in the 1990s the range and variety of titles collected grew. More local writers than ever have been able to put their work into print, allowing many more voices to be heard and stories to be told. With small print runs and limited distribution, these types of publications are often difficult to find outside Western Australia. The Batty Library's role in collecting local writing in all its forms provides an important part in preserving and celebrating the State's cultural heritage.

Published materials are sometimes complemented by the Library's other collections of private archives, films, oral histories and photographs. While these types of original materials are discussed more fully in subsequent chapters, they are relevant to mention here in the context of the breadth of materials available for research. Those interested in the published works of Elizabeth Backhouse, for example, whose books include *Day will break* (1945), *Death came uninvited* (1957) and *Death climbs a hill* (1963), can further their knowledge of her work by looking at her *Papers 1933–1993* in Private Archives. These original records contain manuscripts of publications such as *Against time and place* (1990), and unpublished works like *Windmill in the sky*, *The beckoning* and *Children of the winds and the sea*.

Many of her works were published under pseudonyms in the United Kingdom where she worked for a time as a scenario writer for the film producer Alexander Korda. There are film and stage scripts; budget controls and the filming schedules for *Crying of the gulls* (1976) and *Do you remember Sally?* (1977); correspondence regarding the film *The olive tree* (1976), a copy of which is held in the State Film Archives; production files for *The mirage*; a first edition of *Jarrah leaves*, a literary journal (1933); watercolours and mezzotints, illustrations for children's books; photographs of Irene Carter; and a program for *The thin line* (1968). In addition to the rich documentary evidence of her life's work, the Batty Library holds an extensive oral history in which the author gives her life history and comments extensively on her experience, motivation and methodology in writing fiction, plays and films.

NEWSPAPERS

Perth has nearly always had a metropolitan newspaper, with the first manuscript editions being produced within a year of the colony's founding on 1 June 1829. These short-lived newspapers were the *Fremantle Journal and General Advertiser*, first published in February 1830, and *The Western*

Australian Gazette and General Advertiser, published in April 1830. Since then there have been many titles published in the metropolitan area, in regional centres, and by special interest groups. The Battye Library holds over 900 newspaper titles representing metropolitan, regional, special interest and ethnic newspapers.

Metropolitan Newspapers

Perth's largest and only current daily newspaper, the *West Australian*, originally started as *The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal* on 5 January 1833, operating as the *Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News* from 1848 to 1864. Its name was eventually changed to the *West Australian* in 1879 and since then it has always been Perth's major metropolitan newspaper. The Battye Library has a complete set of the *West Australian*, a major resource for all types of research.

The Inquirer: a Western Australian Journal of Politics and Literature, was a competitor of *The Perth Gazette* in the nineteenth century after it began publication in 1840. The strength of the rivalry which existed between these two papers can be seen in the exchanges which sometimes enlivened their editorials. For example, the editor of *The Perth Gazette*, Arthur Shenton, could not help but snipe at the rival *Inquirer* in his editorial of 29 January 1848. After pushing for changes to improve the administration of the colony he concluded with the following observation:

We must now close our remarks, lest we should merit the impertinent sarcasm of our sapient contemporary, who ridiculously enough accuses us of verbosity &c.; but if we did not exert ourselves much more than he has been wont to do, or feel able to write in a manner more useful and intelligible to the public, we would bid our right hand forget its cunning. If our articles *are* comparatively lengthy, they tend to effect infinitely more good than the short, hurried, flimsy trash, which is weekly published by the *present* Editor of the crest-fallen *Inquirer*.¹⁶

The *Inquirer* survived and prospered in spite of the shortcomings alleged by the *Gazette*, going on to change its name to *The Inquirer and Commercial News* in 1855. The newspaper only ceased operation as an independent title in 1901 when it was incorporated into the *Daily News*, which had begun in 1882. It remained Perth's main afternoon and evening newspaper until publication stopped in 1990.

¹⁶ *The Perth Gazette*, 29 January 1848, Editorial.

Other competitors to the *West Australian* included *The Herald*, a major newspaper which was published in Fremantle from 1867 to 1886, and *The Mirror* which ran from 1921 to 1956. *The Mirror* was the ‘scandal sheet’ of its day, dealing with divorce cases, crime and gossip. Sensational headlines such as ‘Nightclubber tried to pull gun on sax player’, ‘Blacksmith Had to Play Second Fiddle to Musician’, and ‘Esther He Cried — But Wife’s Name Was Irene’, all taken from issues in April and May of 1944, reflect the salacious nature of the tabloid. The perspective *The Mirror* gives on Perth society of that period is very different from that of the more ‘respectable’ newspapers.

The other most significant metropolitan newspaper in the collection is *The Sunday Times*. Over the last hundred years, Perth has had few Sunday newspapers and only *The Sunday Times*, begun in 1897, continues to be published. It survived competition from papers like the *Sunday Independent*, which gave Perth a second Sunday newspaper between 1971 and 1986.

Regional Newspapers

Many of Western Australia’s country towns have published newspapers over the course of the years. Some of the earliest regional newspapers were the *King George’s Sound Observer*, produced at Albany in 1868, and the *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, published in York from 1877 to 1926. The latter changed its name to the *York Chronicle* in 1927 before ceasing publication in 1959. In Albany a number of short-lived newspapers succeeded the *King George’s Sound Observer* before the *Australian Advertiser* opened in 1888. It operated until 1897 when its name changed to the *Albany Advertiser*, the title under which it is still published.

Larger rural centres have often had several newspapers at one time. For example, the goldfields have supported a number of newspapers, the most successful of which has been the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, published since 1895. The *Coolgardie Miner*, one of the earliest on the goldfields, was published from 1894 to 1911; from 1913 to 1917; and from 1935 until it ceased publication in 1957.

Major newspapers of the south-west include the *South Western Times*, which has been published in Bunbury since 1932, and the *South Western News*, which was published in Busselton from 1903 to 1963 before changing its

name to the *Busselton–Margaret Times*. Other examples of important regional newspapers include *The Geraldton Guardian* which has been published since 1906, including a period from 1929 to 1947 as *The Geraldton Guardian and Express*. Similarly, the *Great Southern Herald*, covering the Great Southern region, has been published in Katanning since 1901, while the *Northern Times* was one of the few newspapers to cover the north-west, being published in Carnarvon between 1905 and 1983.

Special Interest and Specialty Newspapers

The Batty Library holds a selection of ‘special interest’ newspapers which are publications produced on a special theme, by a specific group or for a particular subject or audience. Religious organisations represent one type of special interest group. Examples include the *Anglican Messenger*, published by the Anglican Church of Western Australia from 1947, and *The Record*, published by the Roman Catholic Church of Western Australia since 1874. It was initially produced as *The West Australian Catholic Record*, then as the *W.A. Record* from 1888, and finally as *The Record* from 1922.

An early example of a newspaper which attempted to cover a wide range of social and sporting topics was *Bell’s Life in Western Australia: A Weekly Sporting and Social Journal*, which was published in fourteen volumes during 1896. It was followed by *Western Table Talk: A Weekly Social, Commercial, Theatrical and Literary Journal* which operated throughout 1897, then *Clare’s Weekly*, produced between 1897 and 1899, and *The Argonaut*, between 1899 and 1900. These newspapers reflected the social life of the times and were attempts to provide a different kind of journalism to Western Australians.

Recent examples of publications designed to give information on Perth entertainment, food and arts include the *Western Review*, published from 1994 to 1998. From January 1998 it has been published on-line as *Trek Magazine* and is updated weekly. *The X Press* is a bi-weekly publication from 1985, providing information on the Western Australian, Australian and overseas music scenes aimed at young people.

The Batty Library holds student publications like *Pelican*, produced by the Guild of Undergraduates at the University of Western Australia since 1930 for circulation amongst students, and *Westside Observer*, a monthly publication begun in 1987 for the gay community.

The *Yamaji News*, published in Geraldton since 1995 by the Yamaji Languages Aboriginal Corporation, provides news and information for the Aboriginal communities of the Gascoyne and Murchison districts. *The Aboriginal Independent Newspaper* provides general information on social conditions for Aboriginal people. Published in Victoria Park since 1997 by AKA International, its opening editorial proclaimed:

This newspaper is privately funded and is a Self Determination project to provide the only truly independent Aboriginal print oriented media voice in Australia.

The *Independent* is the Voice of Self Determination, and we are fiercely proud of that fact.

We also regard ourselves as a voice for Aboriginal Reconciliation, although we will state, without interference, what we believe the agenda should be.¹⁷

The sentiment expressed by the editorial sums up the spirit behind the newspaper but also provides a succinct justification for all small newspapers which give a voice to Western Australia's communities.

Ethnic Newspapers

There have been several non-English language newspapers published in Western Australia which have provided forums for migrant groups to discuss their concerns. These give an insight into the history of non-British migration. While not many have remained in publication, a number are held in the newspaper collection.

The earliest example of a non-English newspaper is *La Stampa Italiana*, published in Perth in 1931 and 1932. It was not until after the Second World War that more ethnic newspapers began operating, reflecting the massive wave of postwar European migration. These included *Echo: Polski Tygodnik Niezalezny*, published in Perth from 1950 to 1952 for the Polish community; *Il Canguro (The Kangaroo)*, a weekly publication dealing mainly with sport, published in Perth from 1955 to 1957 for the Italian community; and *Eco Italiano: Italian Language Newspaper*, which ran for only a few months in 1959. Similarly *Hellenic Echo*, which ran for a few months in 1967 and 1968, was published in Perth for the Greek community.

Subsequent migrant groups from Asia have produced their own publications. For example, the *WA Chinese Periodical* was published from 1995 to 1998

17 *The Aboriginal Independent*, edition one, 25 June 1997, p. 1.

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PHỔ THÔNG TỔ BÁO ĐỊA PHƯƠNG TÂY ÚC, PHÁT HÀNH TỪ NĂM 1993
 PHỔ THÔNG SATURDAY'S WEEKLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHED SINCE 1993

Published since 1993 *Pho Thong* is the newspaper of the Vietnamese community in Western Australia.

for the Chinese Community in Perth, while the *Pho Thong News* has been published from 1993 for the Vietnamese community and is distributed mainly through the Vietnamese Society and Vietnamese shops and organisations.

A number of bilingual newspapers have been published in Western Australia. These include *El Corresponsal (The Correspondent)*, for the Spanish and English speaking community, which ran for only a few months in 1992, and *Japanese Perth Times*, which was published in Subiaco from 1989 to 1996 to provide mainly travel and tourist information.

SERIALS

The Battye Library's collection of published serials contains, in some instances, the only evidence of an organisation's existence and activities. There are many serials produced by both Western Australian government agencies and private organisations, including individuals, businesses and companies, clubs and associations, professional bodies, churches, Rotary and Apex clubs and unions. Government and non-government serials appear in the collection in the form of annual reports, in-house social magazines, electoral rolls, Acts, statutes, magazines, newsletters or yearbooks.

Government Agencies

Some of the earlier government publications include *The Blue Books* which were compiled from official returns in the Colonial Secretary's Office. Dating from 1834 to 1905, *The Blue Books* contain lists of the civil establishment of Western Australia as well as various statistics. After 1905 their function was taken over by the *Public Service Lists* (1909–1990) and the *Statistical Registers of Western Australia* (1896–1969).

Also dating from the 1830s is the *Western Australian government Gazette*, published from 1836 to the present. It contains a wealth of information on Western Australians, their dealings with government and with government policy and procedure, and is an invaluable historical resource. Not only does it provide factual information, but the publications says much about the priorities, concerns and interests of the times. For example, the colony's desperate need for increased population and investment during the second half of the nineteenth century is suggested by the offer of a reward by the local Colonial Secretary's Office, which appeared over many months in 1869. It reads:

It is hereby notified for general information that the Local Government of Western Australia offer as a Reward for the discoveries of workable GOLD FIELDS within the radius of one hundred and fifty miles from the Public Offices in the City of Perth on or before the 31st day of December 1869 the sum of £5000.¹⁸

A number of serial publications document the parliamentary and legislative process, such as the *Acts of the Parliament of Western Australia*. Also held are the *Minutes and Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament ... with Papers Presented to both Houses*, a complete set of Western Australian Acts, including reprints of amended Acts, dating from 1832. First published in 1870, these contain the day-to-day procedures of Parliament, such as notices of motions, questions and votes. They also contain annual reports of government agencies, the reports of royal commissions and committees of enquiry and public accounts.

Other records of parliamentary processes are held in the *Parliamentary Debates* (Hansard) for both the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. Hansard provides a full text of the speeches of the various members of both houses of Parliament. Published since 1876, a volume covering the years 1870–1875 was also compiled from newspaper reports of the time. Finally, *The Western Australian Parliamentary Handbook* (1922–) contains political and official biographies of elected members of both houses of Parliament from 1870, listing governors, present and previous ministries (since 1890) and various lists of officials.

Serials published by government departments include those produced primarily for the use and benefit of government employees. For example, the *Police Gazette, Western Australia*, published from 1876 to the present, contains information relating to criminals and police, including appointments, transfers and resignations of police officers. *The Education Circular*, published from 1899 to 1994 by the Education Department, includes information of interest to teachers, and lists of schoolteachers up to 1969. The *Law Almanac* provides a complete legal directory of all judges, barristers, solicitors, lawyers and public notaries registered to practise in Western Australia since 1911.

Government publications aimed at educating and informing the public include the *Western Australian Year Book*, published from 1889 to provide a statistical

¹⁸ *Western Australian Government Gazette*, 1869, various issues.

overview, along with many descriptive and historical articles. Similarly, the *Bulletin/Geological Survey of Western Australia*, published since 1898, prints information relating to various aspects of the geology of Western Australia. *Landscape: the Journal of the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management* is a glossy quarterly publication containing articles on natural history and has been published since 1985.

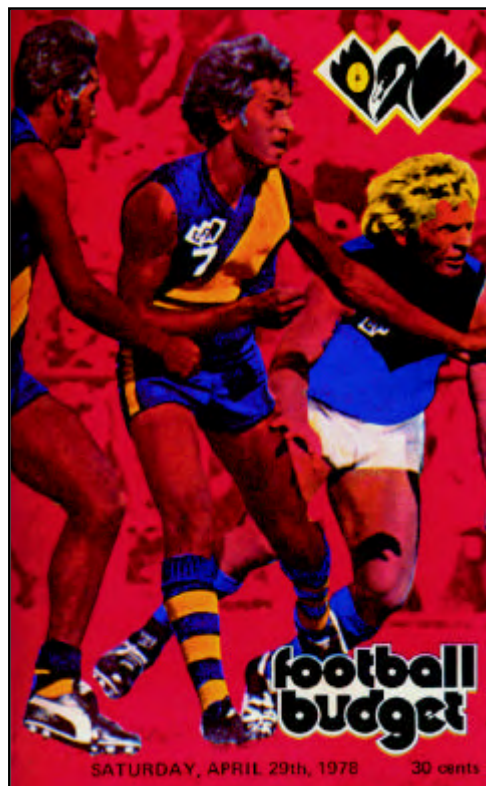
Non-government Serials

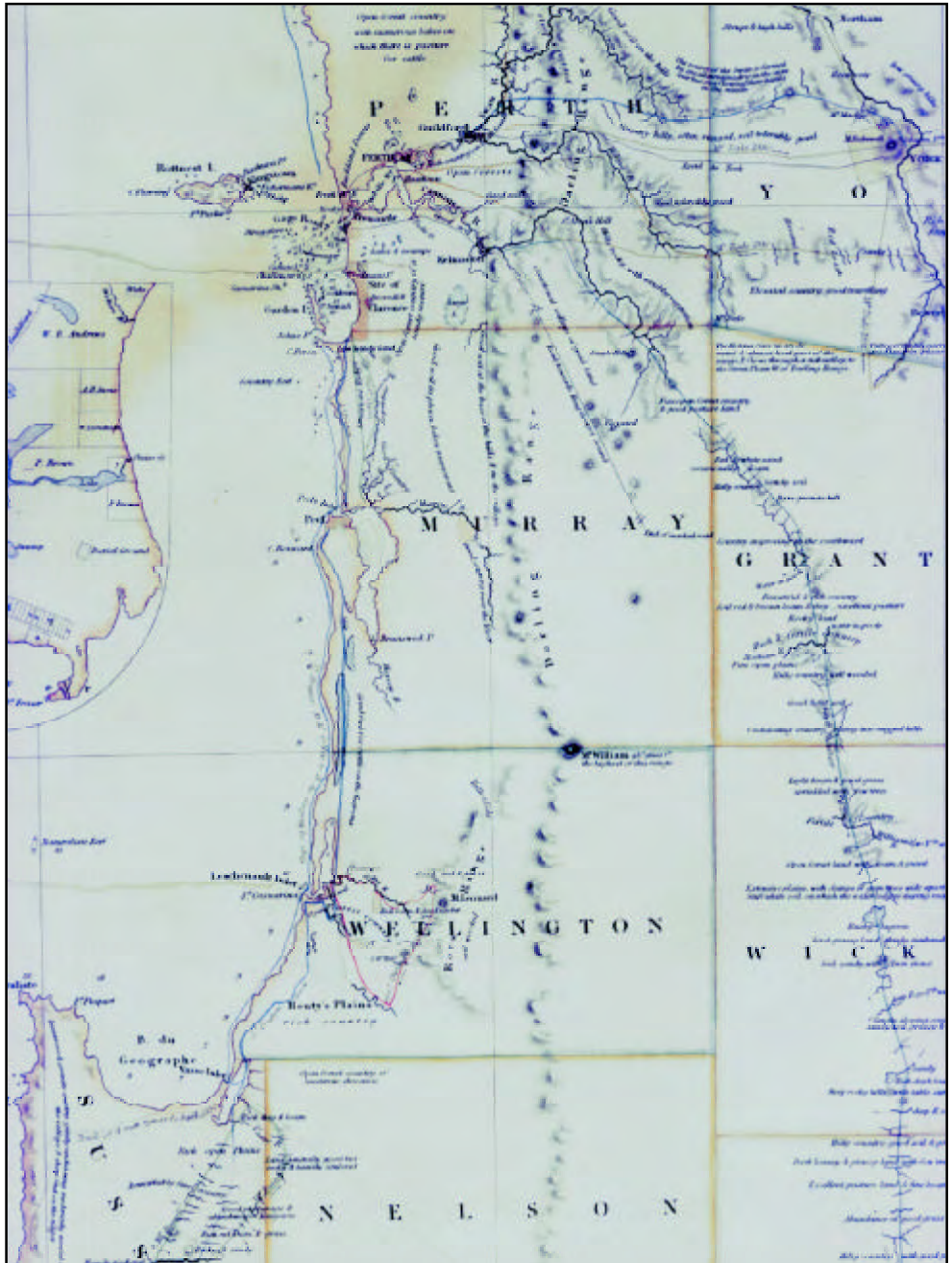
There are a number of rare or informative non-government serial publications in the Battye Library's collection of published materials. Sometimes these serials may be the only record of the activities of Western Australian community, professional and political organisations. For example, the *Western Australia Post Office Directory*, published by W.H. Wise & Co., contains useful information on people, businesses and companies. Published from 1893 to 1949 (except 1948), the directories are divided into four main sequences listing postal addresses by town and, in the metropolitan area, by street; an alphabetical listing by surname; a trade directory; and a series of directories of certain professions. The serial is of great use to genealogists, historians and general researchers.

Battye Library holds local publications like the *Football Budget* of the Western Australian National Football League. The cover of this edition for Saturday 29 April 1978 features footballers Phil and Jimmy Krakouer, with Barry Cable.

Key sections within the community are represented by a range of serial publications. The *Pastoralist and Grazier*, published from 1925 to 1986 and from 1986 as *Rural Update*, contains information relating to the farming community. *Australia's Mining Monthly*, published from 1981 to 1984 as *Mining Monthly*, has articles concerning that industry. Official publications of professional bodies are also held. *The Architect*, published since 1939 by the Western Australian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, covers various aspects of the architecture of Western Australia, while *Brief*, published since 1974, performs a similar role for the Law Society of Western Australia.

A number of serials relate to scientific and academic pursuits. The *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, published from 1914 to the present, gives a science perspective through articles on geology, geography and natural history. Published by the University of Western Australia Press since 1956, *Westerly* features articles on literature, poetry and short stories, chiefly by Western Australians. Other academic serials include *Studies in Western Australian History*.





A portion of the map *Discoveries in Western Australia* featuring descriptions of the countryside made with future colonisation in mind. [Battye Library Rare Map 24/6/1]

Published irregularly from 1977 to the present by the History Department of the University of Western Australia, it prints scholarly articles, as does *Early Days*, published from 1927 to the present by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

Sporting history is represented in serials which include *The Western Australian Racing Calendar*, published since 1890, with details of race meetings, items of interest to the racing industry and lists of bookmakers, bookmakers' clerks, jockeys, and apprentices. *The Football Budget: Official Organ of the Western Australian National Football League*, published from 1936 to 1996 and then as *Real Footy*, reflects the rich history of Australian Rules football in this State.

MAPS AND PLANS

The Battye Library aims to collect a copy of every new map produced in Western Australia and has acted as a legal deposit library for all government and private publishers. While archival maps and plans from Western Australian government agencies can be found in the collections of the State Records Office, collections of some non-government original cartographic and architectural plans and drawings are held in the Battye Library, in addition to some older State, colonial, exploration and pre-settlement maps.

The maps and plans held in the Battye Library, either as a series or as individual maps, cover a wide range of dates, scales and subjects. The collection includes topographic, geological, cadastral, road and tourist maps, as well as maps of many specialist themes, including a limited collection of aerial photographs. Some of the earliest published maps date from the pre-settlement and early exploration period. *Chart of Swan & Canning Rivers on the Western coast of Australia* was engraved and published on 15 January 1829 from a chart forwarded to Admiralty by Captain James Stirling, HMS *Success*. The map includes textual description and shows the route of the HMS *Success* in 1827. Another important record of early exploration and colonisation is *Sketch of the Swan River Colony including King George's Sound*, published by John Murray for the Royal Geographical Society in 1831. The map includes inset maps of Cockburn Sound, King George's Sound and Port Leschenault, and accompanied James Stirling's report to the Royal Geographical Society.

Discoveries in Western Australia: from documents furnished to the Colonial Office by J.S Roe, Esqre. Survr. Genl./ by permission dedicated to R.W. Hay

Esqre, one of H.M. Under Secretaries of State for the Colonies, by his obliged servant, J. Arrowsmith, 31 May 1833, shows counties and the routes of explorers in the Swan River Colony. The makers of the map were much concerned with the types and quality of land in each of the newly explored districts and it was clearly produced with an eye to further colonisation. As Governor Sir James Stirling remarked:

The country in the vicinity of the coast is seldom of great elevation, & in general it is neither rich nor inviting — It presents hills of a recent calcareous formation covered with scrubby vegetation or plains of a swampy & sandy character. The banks of rivers & Lakes are usually of rich alluvial soil.

The higher ranges of hills are of primitive formation occasionally exposing the bare granite rock, but for the most part they are covered with good earth & fine timber. The country within the ranges is from 500 to 1000 feet above sea level & is of the red marl formation. It is not always rich in soil, although much superior to the coast districts.

The names applied to the several districts are for the purposes of reference. None of them have as yet been regularly surveyed or defined.¹⁹

Later maps of exploration and settlement include *The Colony of Western Australia: from the Surveys of John Septimus Roe Esqr. Surveyor Genl. and from Other Official Documents in the Colonial Office and Admiralty*, compiled by John Arrowsmith. Published in 1839, this map shows Western Australian counties and routes of explorers. Insets detail land holdings along the Swan and Helena Rivers, and at Guildford, Fremantle, Perth, Kelmscott and Augusta.

The Library also holds some early privately commissioned maps such as *A plan of Cattle Chosen: the property of the Bussell Brothers: drawn for Mrs Bussell and Ommaney's Compy*, July 1840. Other important early maps and plans from the colony deal with the establishment of buildings and other infrastructure. One of the most important series is the *Collection of Architectural Plans of Public Buildings and Private Residences in Perth, Fremantle and Various Country Towns*, consisting of 77 plans of churches, commercial buildings, halls and other buildings by architects from the firm which eventually became Forbes and Fitzhardinge.

¹⁹ *Discoveries in Western Australia* (1833). From the remarks of Governor Sir James Stirling printed on the map.

Plans for important infrastructure projects can be found in the collection. *Sketch plan of the mouth of the Swan River & proposed canal from Rocky Bay to Gage's Roads, 25/2/74*, is an original sketch plan by C.G. Nicolay (1815–1897) of an area extending from North Cottesloe to Arthur Head. It shows navigation lights, a proposed tram road and bridge in Fremantle, as well as a route proposed for a canal from Rocky Bay to Leighton Beach. C.Y. O'Connor's *Map showing the routes of trial surveys for railway from Eastern Railway to Yilgarn Goldfields: compiled from P.W.D. W.A. 1431*, was published by the Western Australian government Printer in 1892 to show the telegraph line.

Several maps and series document property development and subdivisions in the Perth metropolitan region. The earliest of these is *Suburban allotments near the City of Perth: marked out and opened for sale October 1883*, drawn at the Surveyor General's Office, Perth, by local cartographer J. Hope. On a scale of approximately 1:7,920 this cadastral map encompasses Crawley, Subiaco and the area north of the Perth–Fremantle railway line. *Perth and Suburbs* is a series of cadastral maps of newly opened subdivisions in Perth. Prepared between 1890 and 1910 by Crossland & Hardy for property developers and real estate companies, they include locality maps. The *Townsite Maps, Western Australia* cover the period from the 1880s to the 1960s. These maps show streets, location numbers, townsite boundaries and reserves (for churches, police stations, cemeteries or schools) and sometimes the town's location in the State.

The majority of the Battye Library's collection of maps are published series of maps in a variety of formats. For example the *1:63,360 Topographic Map Series [Western Australia]* was published by the Royal Australian Survey Corps between 1941 and 1957. It covers the south-west land division and isolated northern areas, showing topographical features such as mountains, rivers, roads, tracks and wells. Similarly, *Forest Maps of Western Australia 1:50,000* is a forestry series of the south-west showing land ownership by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Relief is shown by contour and height.

Other maps concentrate on the coastline and waters. For example, *Port of Fremantle* is a 1:7,500 map published in 1982 by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Australian Navy as a part of a hydrographic series issued at varying intervals of between one and five years depending on shipping traffic. The series includes ocean, coastal and harbour charts showing depths, nature of the sea floor, hazards, aids to navigation, tides and currents. Some charts give topographic details of adjoining coasts, while earlier charts show depths in fathoms, and later in metres. *Australia — West Coast Swan and Canning*

Rivers is a 1:20,000 Department of Marine and Harbours map of Swan and Canning Rivers, which shows depths in metres and decimetres using contours, gradient tints and soundings and includes text, illustrations, tidal information and bridge clearances as insets and in the margin.

The scope and nature of these maps reflect the changing priorities of Western Australian society since colonisation, with the concerns and preoccupations of each generation evident in the types of maps they produced. Early colonial maps charted new land features identified through European exploration. Then, as Europeans settled, their maps recorded the seizure, division and sale of lands. Subsequent series of maps from the twentieth century reflect government and corporate efforts to exploit the land's agricultural and natural resources, with many series being devoted to mineral deposits. While charting safe and navigable sea routes has always remained a priority for encouraging commerce and trade, at the end of the twentieth century an increasing number of maps have looked at the State's natural heritage.

EPHEMERA

Ephemera are the minor transient documents of everyday life such as pamphlets, leaflets and brochures. Collections held in the Battye Library can consist of single printed pages or whole groups of similar materials. A broad range of subjects is covered in the collection, providing information of a genealogical, biographical, political, social, business and commercial nature. Most individual items in the collection are unavailable in other Australian libraries.

The *Collection of Material Relating to Ships, Boats and Shipwrecks in Western Australia* is of tremendous interest to historians. It includes a large number of wreck reports published by the Western Australian Museum and arranged in subcollections for each ship name. *Record of Deaths and Tombstone Inscriptions Gathered From Western Australian Graveyards and Cemeteries* is a large collection of tombstone inscriptions from many cemeteries transcribed by members of the Western Australian Genealogical Society.

The *Collection of Biographical Information* is an extensive collection providing biographical and genealogical information on many Western Australians. The *Country Women's Association of Western Australia: Pioneer Women's Memorial Fund Collection* consists of nine volumes of photocopied cards compiled by that organisation which provide brief biographies of many country women pioneers. Some entries include birth and death dates, as well as

maiden and married names. Both genealogists and local historians benefit from the *History of Schools and Teachers, 1867–1985*, which holds four files of newspaper clippings about Western Australian schools and teachers organised in alphabetical order by the main subject of the article.

Large collections of ephemera can contain a great many objects of interest. The *Collection of Material Relating to Royal Visitors to Western Australia* contains a wide variety of information on various Royal visits since 1901. The *Collection of Material Relating to Localities (Suburbs and Towns) in Western Australia* consists of files arranged alphabetically by town or suburb, sometimes containing extensive information about church groups, schools, local businesses, community organisations, social and sporting activities and buildings.

A number of collections relate to Western Australian organisations, clubs and societies. For example, the *Collection of Programmes of Concerts Organised by the Australian Broadcasting Commission* contains a large number of programs for concerts organised by the Australian Broadcasting Commission since 1934 and includes concerts by the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra. The *Collection of Material Relating to the National Trust of Australia (WA)* contains material about the Trust as well as some National Trust listed buildings. The Library holds a good range of ephemera produced by community, social, religious and political groups, providing additional information about a broad range of organisations.

The *Collection of Catalogues of Exhibitions held at Western Australian Art Galleries* is a large collection of exhibition catalogues gathered over a number of years from many Western Australian art galleries. Biographical details of artists are included in some catalogues. The *Collection of Programmes of Festival of Perth Events* contains publications produced for events staged by the Festival of Perth since 1953.

There is a good deal of information relating to political parties, candidates and campaigning. Good examples of these are the *Collection of Material Relating to Western Australian State Government Elections* and the *Collection of Material Relating to Local Government Elections*. Both collections contain election flyers, handbills, how to vote cards, posters and stickers, as well as information on candidates.

The large *Collection of Information Relating to Firms and Businesses Operating in Western Australia* contains general information, sometimes including the names of people associated with these businesses. Other

collections relating to commercial matters include the *Collection of Real Estate Advertisements Relating to Residential and Commercial Properties and Land Sales*. Items produced at the time of selling a property, they may include a history of the house or property and information on the owners.

Some of the most interesting types of ephemera in the collection can be found in the variety of everyday items such as labels, invitations, stickers, advertisements, souvenirs and menus gathered over the past century. These items provide information about companies and products which may no longer be in existence, as well as documenting social and cultural events.



Examples of food labels from the Ephemera Collection. [Battye Library PR 8499/LAB]

The large number of labels in the collection date from the early twentieth century, including local brands of jam, beer, soft drinks and wines. Early examples, such as the labels for the *Good-as-Gold* brand of confectionery and jams, capture the look and feel of different periods in Western Australia's past. Labels from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s are particularly strongly represented in the collection. A good selection of printed advertisements for local products are also held in collections like those of the *Advertising Institute of Australia (WA Branch)* and the *Collection of Stationery Items issued by various bodies in Western Australia*. The latter includes wine labels from the 1960s through to the 1990s.

Invitations and menus in the collection date from the 1880s, commemorating events such as the visit of the Duke of York to Perth in 1901 and the construction of the goldfields pipeline. For example, the Library holds a menu and toast list of the banquet held by G. & C. Hoskins, the pipe manufacturers of the Coolgardie Water Supply, on 29 September 1899. *Souvenirs of Centenary Celebrations, 1929* contains a programme of fixtures as well as a menu for the pioneers' dinner on 3 June 1929.

The Ephemera Collection represents unique materials of value to social historians, those interested in companies and organisations, and in sampling the 'look' and 'feel' of another era. Like the books, newspapers, serials and maps located in the Battye Library, items of ephemera capture and reflect distinct aspects of Western Australia's history.

ARCHIVES FROM THE WEST

The Story of Private Archives

The history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries — the stories of individuals, peoples, social and political movements, communities and organisations — is one almost always told from original documentary evidence located in an archive or library. As a tool for research the archival document has always been the historian's primary source. Certainly any history of Western Australia up to the end of the twentieth century must rely very heavily on the kinds of original paper-based materials located in the Battye Library. This reliance underlies the importance of the Private Archives Collection's role in collecting and preserving the State's documentary heritage. Original non-government records are acquired with the aim of making as many historical sources as possible available and accessible to research and interpretation.

From the moment British colonists arrived in Western Australia in 1829 they set about documenting and recording their experiences in letters, diaries and journals. Although these early records come from a narrow social base of English colonial gentry, as the colony expanded and the number of settlers grew, local businesses and other private organisations flourished. As colonial society prospered, a broader range of people began recording their experiences in private letters and diaries. More companies began operating, also documenting their activities through company records, minute books, ledgers, letter books and account books. The expansion of the colony beyond the banks of the Swan River can be seen in the growth of non-government records and is reflected in the volume of holdings in Private Archives.

Throughout the twentieth century this process continued, with an increasing number and variety of individuals and community groups documenting aspects of their experience. A myriad of private organisations, clubs, businesses, political groups, unions, individuals and societies have produced a mountain of paper-based documentary evidence of their

participation in the story of Western Australia. Through a combination of good luck and good management, the Private Archives Collection has gathered a range of original and unique unpublished documents, letters, papers and manuscripts which provide evidence of their activities.

With the aim of preserving as many different stories as possible, staff of the Battye Library have created an inclusive, representative and varied collection of non-government records. Original unpublished materials in Private Archives are, by their very nature, unique, irreplaceable and, even more importantly, open to historical interpretation. Thanks to archival institutions like the Battye Library, every generation is able to revisit original documents to ask new questions and to read them in light of their own times.

Some collections relate to critical aspects of the history of this State, holding information about important institutions, organisations and people, while others point to the great diversity of stories which can be told about the past from many different perspectives. The cumulative effect of the collections held in Private Archives is to offer a comprehensive range of sources to researchers, no matter what their area of interest, no matter what story they wish to tell.

Origins of the Collection

From its inception in 1956, the Battye Library has held large collections of important archival materials recording the activities of groups within Western Australia. These collections of original documents, letters and manuscripts were first gathered by the Public Library of Western Australia in the early part of the twentieth century, the earliest intake of manuscript records being received from the Colonial Secretary's Office in 1904. These records came to form the nucleus of an archives collection which would develop over the next ninety years to include both private and government records.²⁰

Unlike those Western Australian published materials collected by the Public Library in accordance with legal deposit requirements, archival documents were acquired through the interest and goodwill of people in the general community and of individuals working in government departments. This was true even after 1923 when the Public Library's collections of archives were regularly expanded through the work of a government-appointed State Archives Board, of which Dr Battye was a member. Established as an

20 Honniball, J., "The Public Library of Western Australia 1887-1955", in *Western Perspectives* (LISWA, Perth, 1990), R.C. Sharman and A.C. Laurel (eds), p. 32.



Illuminated address presented to Governor Sir Gerard Smith. [Battye Library Acc 995A]

independent government body, the Board was assigned the task of taking charge of ‘pictures, photographs, maps, documents, relics, manuscripts and publications relating to the history of Western Australia.’²¹ Collecting chiefly from government departments, the State Archives Board ensured that collections of government records were housed safely in the Public Library along with the growing number of private records collected by Dr Battye.

Papers and documents of Western Australian individuals, families, churches, trade unions, companies, associations and non-government organisations became known as ‘private archives’ to distinguish them from official State government records. It is these collections which now form the backbone of the Battye Library’s collections of original materials.

Growth in the volume of non-government records being acquired by the Public Library during the 1920s and 1930s was due in part to Dr Battye’s private enthusiasm for items of local importance, and in part to a newly developed community awareness of Western Australian history. An example of this increased interest can be seen in the Methodist President General’s exhortation at a civic reception in 1921 that ‘members of the older families and controllers of institutions should search through their old boxes and belongings and hand whatever interesting documents may be found to the Public Librarian.’²² The formation of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in 1926 and the enthusiastic centenary celebrations in 1929 gave further impetus to a growing public interest in local history.

With the establishment of the Archives Branch of the Public Library in 1945 and the appointment of Mollie Lukis as the Public Library’s first archivist, all Western Australian collections officially came under the control of the Public Librarian. In drafting regulations for the new department the widest possible meaning was applied to the word archives so that the Archives Branch could include all manuscripts, records and printed matter of an historical nature relating to Western Australia.²³

In 1956 the Archives Branch became subsumed into the new J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History, while Lukis became the Principal Librarian and State Archivist. An extended period of collection development began with many important collections being received by the Library. Over the next forty years increased interest in Western Australian history contributed to a steady growth in the size of the Battye Library’s holdings of private archives. Meanwhile, the role of State Archives in administering

21 Lukis, M.F.F., *The Work of the Western Australian Archives Department* (Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, Perth Meeting, August 1947), p. 1.

22 Reynolds, T. and Coggin, C., “The State Archives of Western Australia”, in *Western Perspectives* (LISWA, Perth, 1990), R.C. Sharman and A.C. Laurel (eds), p. 166.

23 Lukis, M.F.F., *The Work of the Western Australian Archives Department*, p. 2.

government records and providing records management advice expanded considerably.²⁴ In recognition of the changing role of State Archives, it was officially removed from the Batty Library in 1989 to operate as a separate directorate within the Library and Information Service of Western Australia.

Although the State Archives of Western Australia retained control of the Private Archives Collection, the main focus of its activities naturally turned towards managing government records. While the two types of archives had long been organised as separate collections within the Archives Branch and subsequently the State Archives, their formal separation did not become complete until July 1996. In that year the Public Records Office of Western Australia, as the State Archives became briefly known before being renamed the State Records Office in 1999, transferred responsibility for all non-government records to the Batty Library. With the return of these non-government archives to the Batty Library, the Private Archives Collection again became one of the Library's key collections of original materials.

Strengths of the Collection

As previously noted, the Private Archives Collection had its origins in donations of papers and documents from some of the State's leading citizens and families in the first half of the twentieth century. Naturally, the types of materials they offered to the Public Library reflected their interests and concerns: they were keen to document the story of their successes. Particular strengths in the collection, therefore, include a range of nineteenth century papers dealing with the experiences of those wealthy, literate and influential settlers who constituted the colony's elite. Similarly, the Anglican Church attended by the colony's gentry is particularly well represented in the collection through its baptismal, marriage and burial records, as are some of the other Protestant churches in Western Australia.

It was upon these early collections that staff of the Batty Library began to build a Private Archives Collection intended to be more inclusive and representative of all aspects of Western Australian society. Importantly, staff have aimed to collect and preserve those original non-government records which reflect a range of human endeavour in the State's many communities. The Private Archives collection has evolved to be a dynamic conduit through which as many different perspectives and experiences as possible can be gathered.

With such a broad objective, staff have collected architectural plans, correspondence, diaries, maps and microforms, manuscripts, documents,

24 Reynolds, T. and Coggin, C., "The State Archives of Western Australia", in *Western Perspectives* (LISWA, Perth, 1990), R.C. Sharman and A.C. Laurel (eds), p. 167–168.

and unpublished reports from a wide variety of sources. The political groups, charitable organisations, companies and cultural bodies which have donated collections are many and varied. They include Perth Gay Liberation, the Perth Building Society, the Swan Brewery Company, the Conservation Council of WA, the National Country Party of Western Australia, the Marriage Guidance Council, and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, to name a few.

One of the great strengths of the collection, therefore, is the breadth of the organisations and individuals to have gained representation within it. This statement remains true even though Private Archives holds only a few collections — such as the Western Australian Aboriginal Advancement Council collection (1952–1978) — which represent Aboriginal perspectives, and even fewer still which tell the story of non-English speaking migrants. Staff of the Batty Library have sought to redress past imbalances in collection development and have actively pursued other sources, including oral history, to document the stories of under-represented groups, while promoting the Library's role as a safe place for the stories of all sections of the community. The establishment of the Western Australian Migrant Communities Archive within the Library has been another step forward in building a comprehensive and representative collection.

Without substantial community support and interest in history, Private Archives would have quickly become an irrelevant curiosity. Instead, with each year the volume and variety of materials in the collection have grown considerably as more people have come to realise that the Library is the logical place to preserve their stories. Most collections held by Private Archives have been donated, while many items have been microfilmed or photocopied in order to preserve the original.

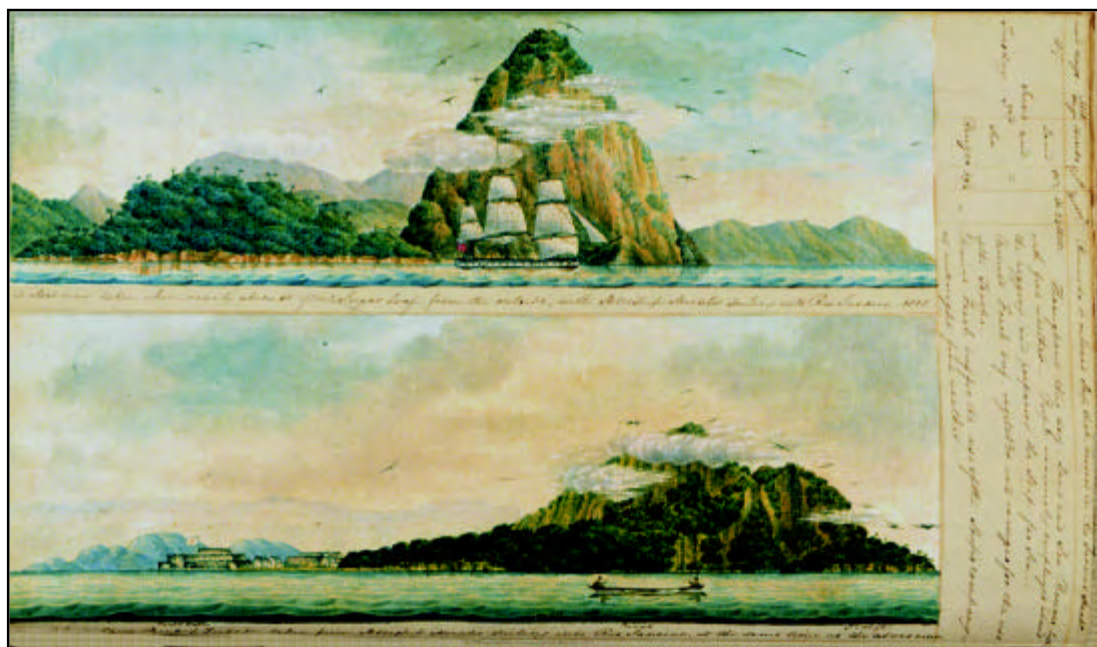
While the size of Private Archives' holdings is impressive — with over 2,700 shelf metres of records — the real strength of the collection lies in the scope and range of its subjects. Indeed, the subjects represented in the Library's collections are as varied as the individuals, businesses, and professional, community and voluntary organisations which have contributed to the everyday life and history of Western Australia over the last two centuries.

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION

Every collection is unique and irreplaceable, however there are a number of individual items, as well as particular types of collections, which should be regarded as treasures. While some of these materials are particularly valued for their beauty, their fragility or their age, most of the Batty Library's archival

treasures are of importance due to the evidence they provide of some aspect of Western Australian history.

Four main categories of archival documents in the collection are highlighted in this section: personal papers, business records, political records, and the records of community organisations. A large proportion are the personal papers of individuals and family groups. There is a relatively small collection of company and business records, mainly from the nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries, while the records of political organisations include significant holdings of union records and political groups. The Library holds large collections of church records, chiefly from the Uniting and Anglican churches, while the category of community groups consists of all other types of donated collections.



PERSONAL PAPERS

Private Archives contains a range of collections of prominent individuals who have played a public role in Western Australia's history. These include the personal papers and documents of politicians, explorers, business people, artists, writers and community activists. Often these records are part of larger collections of family papers which sometimes span several generations, including the papers of several Western Australian families with early colonial origins.

This watercolour of Sugar Loaf Mountain, Rio de Janeiro, is taken from the logbook of J.S. Roe en route to Australia in 1819. [Battye Library Acc 301A]

In addition to documenting the achievements of well-known individuals and families, the Battye Library holds a number of collections representing the activities of people without a public profile. These too are important, reflecting the attitudes and perspectives of ordinary people from a wide range of backgrounds and from different periods in the State's history.

Pre-Settlement Exploration (1829)

Naturally, nearly all collections in Private Archives consist of documents which were written after British colonisation in 1829. However, the Battye Library does hold a few early exploration logbooks and journals of Europeans who visited Western Australia prior to European settlement. These include the Gaimard *Journal 1817–19*, one of the oldest original documents in Private Archives, written by Paul Gaimard (1793–1858), a French surgeon and naturalist on board the *Uranie* during its voyage to Australia and the Pacific.

The Gaimard *Journal* documents an expedition led by de Freycinet which explored the vicinity of Shark Bay, Dirk Hartog, Dorrie and Faure Islands and the Peron Peninsula. Written between September 1817 and June 1819, the first sixty pages of the journal were transcribed by a clerk and contain Gaimard's record of instructions for the voyage, both general and those specific to his work as surgeon. Gaimard wrote the remaining pages with some marginal drawings by Jacques Arago, the expedition's official artist.

Then there are the papers of John Septimus Roe, with documents dating from 1797 to 1878. These contain a number of logbooks detailing Roe's voyages as a young naval officer, including those to Australia, in the period 1813 to 1829. Some volumes are decorated with watercolour sketches of places he visited, such as Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. These logbooks remain part of a larger collection of material relating to his life and explorations subsequent to his arrival in the colony of Western Australia in 1829.

Early Colonisation and Exploration (1829–1850)

From the establishment of the Swan River Colony in 1829, European settlers documented their experiences in personal diaries, exploration journals and letters to friends and family in Great Britain. Some of the personal letters written by the first Governor of the Swan River Colony, Captain James Stirling, are held by Private Archives. In one letter to his brother Walter, written on 7 September 1829, Stirling describes the dangers and difficulties encountered on entering Cockburn Sound with Western Australia's first party of colonists:

[In] approaching the anchorage the *Parmelia*, under my overconfident pilotage, took ground and, the night becoming stormy and a heavy swell setting in, our situation became highly perilous. You may easily imagine what a night it was to me. I expected the ship to go to pieces and saw in that prospect my own total ruin, but after eighteen hours of beating, at daylight she floated off and was brought into an anchorage inside of the Island. This was a severe damper to our hopes and it required some management to allay people's apprehensions, but in time the hurry of landing and the novelty of the scene had their effect, and I placed my establishment on Garden Island in temporary buildings, the weather being too boisterous to admit of making a large settlement on the mainland ...²⁵

While the Library holds the letters of the wealthier, educated, early colonists like James Henty, who arrived in 1829, a number of letters written by his servant William Dyer survive to give a different perspective of colonial life. In writing to his parents on 9 March 1831, Dyer comments on the cost of living and the rates of wages, declaring that:

I do not want to preswaide [sic] any young man to come to this country & blame me afterwards for here are some men who do not like it & they are always finding fault with this country & at the same time might be getting rich it puts me in the mind of the children of Israel who wanted to return back in Bondage for there is no man that will starve in this country if he will work.²⁶

Early records of life in the new colony can be found in the papers of the Hardey family, which include the diary (1830–1839) of Joseph Hardey (1804–1875) who arrived on the *Tranby* in 1830. The diaries (1834–1841) of George Fletcher Moore, who also arrived in the colony in 1829, give a full and vivid account of his service as Advocate General, a post he assumed in 1834 after abandoning his estate south of Perth.

Another excellent account of the first years of the Swan River Colony can be found in the diaries and letters of Georgiana Molloy (1805–1843), dating from the time of her arrival with her husband Captain John Molloy in 1830 until her death. Her letters are of particular significance for their descriptions of the environment in which she found herself and for her keen interest in local flora, especially evident in her correspondence with Captain James Mangles whose letterbooks provide two volumes of handwritten letters on botanical matters, written between 1835 and 1845.

25 Letter from James Stirling, 7 September 1829 [Acc 449A, Item 20]. This particular letter is a copy of one held in the Mitchell Library.

26 Letter from William Dyer, 9 March 1831 [Acc 1598A].

Transcribed from letters received from colonists he met during his visit in 1833, correspondents include his sister Ellen Stirling, Georgiana Molloy, George Fletcher Moore, Captain R.G. Mearns and J. Drummond. As Georgiana Molloy makes clear in her response to Captain Mangles' request for native seeds, the flora of Western Australia presented an exciting new world for English botanists:

We have already collected some seeds as your box arrived just at the proper season. I am not even acquainted with the names of the Native Plants. I will however enter a leaf and description of the flower in each paper. I had some dried Plants by me from the Vasse, a country apparently possessing some exquisite Floral beauties, which I feel most happy in being able to send.

... It is with much regret I leave dear Augusta, our climate is heavenly, the flowers scentless but minutely beautiful. I am told we possess many unknown in other parts of this colony ...²⁷

The Molloys left Augusta in 1837 to take up a land holding in the Vasse district. Like most of the diarists and letter writers from the 1830s, they were preoccupied with acquiring property. A number of collections of diaries and exploration journals from the early nineteenth century illustrate this point. For example, there are the Thomas Bannister diaries, an account of the man who in 1830 led the first overland expedition from Perth to Albany, the garrison town established in King George Sound in 1827. From the small surviving portion of the diaries it is clear that the journey was one of acquisition as much as exploration.

When I consider that the rivers and numerous water-courses, some of which still had water in pools in them, traversed the country East to West, and that our course being nearly North and South, we cut them, I cannot but think that the Colony must possess a very considerable body of fertile land in this part of its territory. ...

I am afraid to say more, lest disappointment should be felt by any individual whose fortune may lead him to this remote part of the world; but from the quantity of good land we actually passed over, and the good quality, and abundance of the water, which I have no doubt, should the country become more known, may at times be procured at convenient distances, it is unquestionably a country deserving the closest examination.²⁸

That sense of disappointment with the new colony is reflected in the papers of John Ramsden Wollaston (1791–1856), who settled at Point Leschenault

27 Letter from Georgiana Molloy to Captain Mangles, 21 March 1837 [Acc 479A].

28 Extract from the diary of Thomas Bannister's expedition to King George's Sound, 1830–31 [Acc 284A].

in 1841. He became a chaplain at the Anglican Church established there in 1848 before moving to Albany in 1849 to become archdeacon. His papers include family correspondence (1840–1845) and diaries (1840–1856), which record his experiences. In his diary he refers scathingly to the ‘Land Jobbers [who] are of course interested in telling falsehoods respecting its soil & productions’ concluding that ‘the Colony suffers far more from undeserved commendation than she would do if *facts* were adhered to; for it does possess capabilities sufficient to reward the enterprising, soberminded & industrious.’²⁹

His cautious optimism about the colony’s future proved well founded as the rate of European expansion was slow. John Septimus Roe, the Surveyor-General, explored, surveyed and helped open large areas for colonisation by white settlers between 1829 and 1870. His papers contain materials relating to his life and explorations of the Western Australian interior in his official capacity, in addition to sketchbooks and logs from his time as a naval officer between 1823 and 1827, notebooks, diaries (1860–1862), certificates and correspondence (1813–1860).

Convict Era (1850–1868)

Private Archives hold a number of fascinating collections from Western Australia’s convict era. These include records produced by those administering the system, such as guards and chaplains, as well as private papers which tell us something from the convicts’ perspective.

Among the treasures in the collection are a number of letters by E.Y.W. Henderson, the Comptroller General for Convicts, relating to the convict establishment in Fremantle in the early 1850s. His correspondence with Sir Joshua Jebb provides a fascinating commentary on the introduction of a convict system reluctantly agreed to by the Swan River colonists. On 1 May 1852 he complained that:

The prejudice on the part of the inhabitants against prisoners generally has I may say disappeared but you can have little idea of the amount of opposition fear and mistrust from the Governor downwards which I have had to encounter in bringing the system into play ... He was firmly convinced that every working party of Ticket of Leave men would become a nest of crime and vice,



Photograph of a miniature painting of J.S. Roe, c. 1820s. [Battye Library 003024d]

²⁹ The Wollaston diaries held by the Battye Library include originals and copies of originals held by the Mitchell Library. This extract is taken from a portion transcribed from Wollaston’s diary for 1842 [Acc 266A, p. 94].

that the men would do nothing and be constantly combined against the authorities. With this idea at the head of Affairs shared in by many of the Colonists who however having lived for many years in the calm sunshine of this lovely but unknown climate had gathered ideas from the ridiculously exaggerated accounts from Van Diemen's Land.³⁰

A number of other collections represent the perspective of those supervising and administering the convict system. The papers of the Reverend Richard William Alderson (1821–1892) contain a diary written between 1857 and



The Pensioner Guards were in charge of convicts transported to Western Australia between 1850 and 1868. This photograph from 1863 shows Governor J.S. Hampton presenting commissions to Captain L.S. Leake and Lieutenants M. Dyett and I.B. Roe. [Batty Library 6923B/196]

1858 while he was chaplain to the convicts in Fremantle, while the diary of James McLean Dempster was kept during his employment as Superintendent of the Native Penal Settlement at Rottnest between 1850 and 1853. The diary of John Gorman, one of the guards sent out to watch over the convicts, gives a vivid description of his impressions of Fremantle and Perth. At the arrival of the Pensioner Guards on 4 December 1851:

a drum and fife struck up “See the Conquering Heroes Come”, we being the first body of pensioners that ever planted foot on the township of Perth — and apparently we did astonish the Natives, the Inhabitants having collected at their doors to see the old veterans pass by.³¹

30 Letter from E.Y.W. Henderson to Sir Joshua Jebb, 1 May 1852 [Acc 2585A/1].

31 The diary of John Gorman [Acc 355A].

Later that evening the men, after months at sea, celebrated at the Freemason's Tavern with Gorman noting that 'the scenes that took place in our Dormitory beggars description. Fighting, Singing, Vomiting' so that at parade the following morning his fellow soldiers were 'half stupefied'.³²

Most of the nearly ten thousand convicts sent to Western Australia between 1850 and 1868 left no private record of their lives. The few documents which do survive are generally official notifications, official correspondence and travel passes. However, Private Archives does hold a few diaries and letters which give some idea of the experience of transportation and of life on a ticket-of-leave.

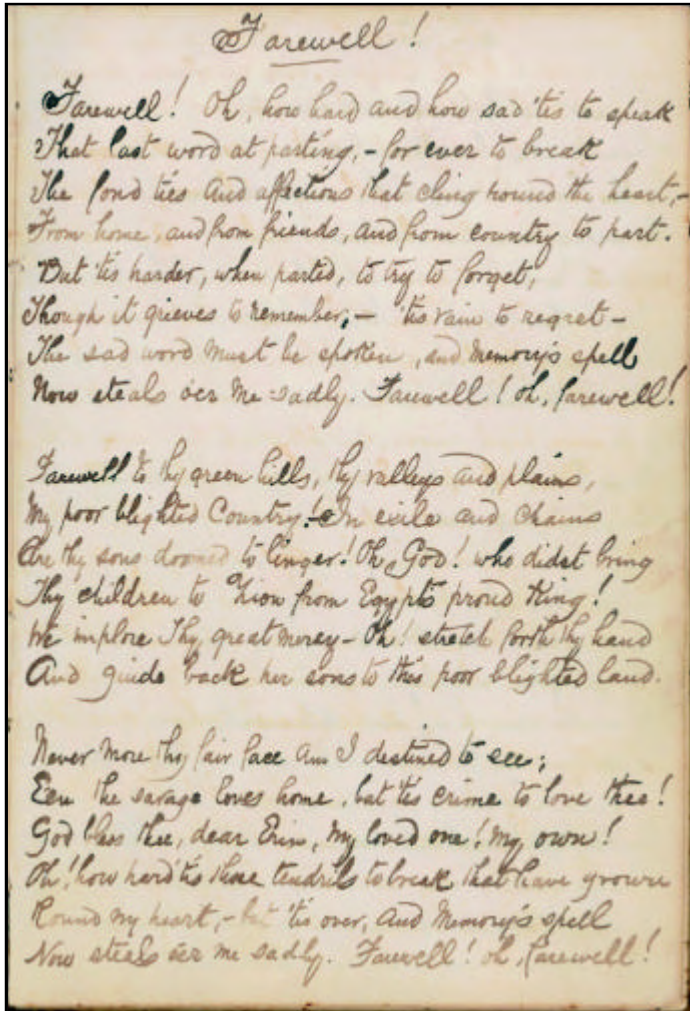
For example, the diary of John Acton Wroth (1830–1876), who was convicted of forgery and transported in 1851, gives details of the voyage on board the *Mermaid* and of his early years in the colony. Other items in the James Acton Wroth collection indicate his eventual rehabilitation through a ticket-of-leave (1857), a conditional pardon (1863) and, with his acceptance into the Unity Grand Lodge (1898), the acquisition of a degree of respectability. The Reverend William Beresford (1799–1880), whose collection of correspondence relates to his resignation from his ministry in Northern Ireland following his conviction for forgery in 1858, later went on to launch the *Herald* newspaper in Fremantle in 1867.

The success of some convicts in the colony should not obscure the isolation and sense of loss experienced by the majority who were forcibly transported and removed from their loved ones. The William Sykes papers, for example, contain letters written between 1867 and 1879 from the convict's wife in Britain, as well as a brief note regarding his voyage on board the convict transport *Norwood*. The Seth Eccles letters are a particularly poignant series of letters written between 1859 and 1865 in which he begs his family to join him in Western Australia:

My probation is up in March 1861 but by good conduct I get several months of that off so that I am looking forward anxiously for the time to come to have my liberty. I now wish to ask you if you would like to come out here — it is a Good Country and I have every reason to believe I shall do well. I can not see anything to prevent it. It will cost you nothing to come — therefore let me know as soon as possible if you will come so that I may give you some instructions how to proceed. There are plenty of men who have been transported [who] are now having money by good conduct and being steady and I can't see what is to prevent me from doing the same.³³

32 *ibid.*

33 Letter from Seth Eccles to his parents, wife, and children [Acc 4232A/7].



'Farewell!' by John Boyle O'Reilly, a Fenian poet transported to Western Australia in 1868. [Battye Library Acc 3708A]

Colonial Expansion (1829–1901)

The Battye Library holds a range of papers dealing with the exploration and expansion of European settlement. These comprise the private papers of explorers and administrators, as well as the documents of colonial families who settled in pastoral and farming districts.

Family papers of some of Western Australia's earliest colonial families, including the Stirlings, the Brockmans and the Bussells, can be found in Private Archives. Perhaps the largest collection of this type is the Bussell family papers, which range in date from 1740 to 1956. The Bussell brothers

Eccles writes with an optimism and a sense of hope for a new life in Australia which was not shared by his family. When transported in 1857, he left behind a wife and two children he would never see again. The offer of free passage to the families of convicts was evidently only accepted by few.

One of the more romantic collections held by the Battye Library consists of a volume of fifteen poems written in shorthand by the Fenian John Boyle O'Reilly (1844–1890). O'Reilly was an Irish poet transported in 1868 on a charge of intended mutiny against the British Government. He was sent to the convict settlement at Bunbury but with the help of an Irish priest, the Reverend Patrick McCabe, escaped in 1869, eventually reaching the United States of America.

arrived on board the *Warrior* in 1830 and were pioneer settlers at Augusta, and later Vasse. Alfred Pickmore Bussell (1816 – 1882) moved to Margaret River on his marriage in 1850, establishing Ellensbrook and Wallcliffe. The papers relate to members of the family both in Western Australia and in England and include diaries, letters, notes, legal documents, plans, sketches, verse, cards, recipes, wills, certificates, accounts and religious writings. This is a large collection, predominantly of letters discussing religion, politics, and domestic life of the Victorian era.

The papers of the Prinsep and Brockman families, who were, incidentally, related by marriage to the Bussells, document nearly a century of family life in Western Australia. These papers recount the collective experiences of a network of prominent families engaged in developing the south-west, as well as in administering the colony. The Prinsep family collection, with papers dating from 1831 to 1929, tells the story of the family after Henry Charles Prinsep abandoned his estates near Bunbury for financial reasons to take up government service as the departmental head for the important Lands and Survey Office. Members of the Prinsep family were prominent in the social and artistic life of Perth throughout the nineteenth century. The Brockman family papers document the story of a pioneering family with extensive land holdings in the Warren River district between 1832 and 1957.

The diaries of Alfred James Hillman (1841–1884), a Perth banker and auditor, provide a detailed and fascinating picture of life in the colony during the 1870s and 1880s. While much of the subject matter is personal, the diaries provide an insight into the life of Western Australia's largest settlement at a time when its population was just thirty thousand, prior to the rapid expansion and growth triggered by the gold rush of the 1890s. Hillman's entry for Friday 5 December 1879, following the performance of *The Colleen Bawn or the Brides of Garryowen*, a musical melodrama staged by a group of local amateurs, reveals much of the character of Perth at the time:

We have been greatly congratulated this morning on the success of the play last evening. Everybody appears to have been very much surprised at the general performance, but it is very amusing, as showing the different ideas on the same subject, when I found on descending into particulars all the actors and actresses are praised or blamed by different people — one person thinks Mrs Price was nearly perfect — another thinks she did not act at all — One thinks Woodhouse splendid, another that he was not at

came down today to go to the play tonight. The
 'Colleen Bawn' was a great success, at least
 so I am told, for it is quite impossible to form an
 idea behind the scenes how it looks in front, but
 the audience appeared to be very much impressed with
 the play, & although of course there were those of
 you thinking who would laugh at the melo-dramatic
 situations, on the whole, the people were very much
 surprised at the dramatic & acting effects.
 Besides, the scene painter & general manager, (I
 ought rather to say muddler) was called before
 the curtain. There was a tolerably good house, but
 the prices were high 3/- for reserved seats, and 2/6
 all round afterwards. We play it again on Sunday
 evening next.

Thursday
4 Dec 1879

We have been greatly congratulated this
 morning on the success of the play last evening
 everybody appears to have been very much surprised
 and pleased at the general performance, but it
 is very amusing to show the different ideas on
 the same subject, when I find on descending into
 particular ^{one} actors or actresses ~~are~~ praised or blamed
 by different people. one person thinks Mr Price was really
 perfect, another thinks he did not act at all. One
 thinks Mr Brown splendid, another that he was not all good
 and consistent & so on through every character. On the
 whole I am inclined to think that it must have been
 good. Roger told me the scenery was equal to anything
 you see in Melbourne & that the performance was the

Friday
5th Dec 1879

The diaries of John Alfred Hillman offer a fascinating perspective on Perth society in the 1870s. This extract describes an amateur performance of *Colleen Bawn* on 4 December 1879 — a major event in the life of such a small community. [Battye Library Acc 4002A, Volume V 11-7-1879 to 31-12-1879]

all good and overdid it and so on through every character. On the whole I am inclined to think it must have been good — Roper told me the scenery was equal to anything you see in Melbourne and that the performance was the best Amateur performance he had ever seen. And they frequently get up pieces in Melbourne.³⁴

By 1900, following the discovery of gold and the influx of tens of thousands of immigrants to the colony, the idea of an amateur production put on by members of Perth's leading families receiving fulsome reviews in the *Inquirer* (10 December 1879) or the *Perth Gazette* (14 December 1879) would have seemed ridiculous.

A good example of a collection which points to the rapid development of Western Australia in this period is that of C.Y. O'Connor. Originally from Ireland, Charles Yelverton O'Connor was an engineer who came to Western Australia from New Zealand in order to work on major infrastructure projects pivotal in the development and expansion of the colony. He was responsible for engineering the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme and the inner Fremantle Harbour. The O'Connor family papers, dating from 1864 to 1899, include some of his New Zealand papers, his application and appointment to Western Australia, with various family correspondence, genealogies, legal documents, biographical notes, certificates, diaries, newspaper cuttings and photographs, as well as reminiscences of her father by Kathleen O'Connor.

One of the most important collections in Private Archives is that of C.Y. O'Connor's contemporary and employer John Forrest (1847–1918). Dating mainly between 1862 and 1919 the papers give details of his life as an explorer and as a politician. Forrest made a significant contribution to Western Australia as its first Premier (1890–1901) and then, after Federation, as a Member of Federal Parliament and as a Cabinet Minister in a number of governments (1901–1918). In 1918 he became the first native-born Australian to receive a peerage when he was invested as Baron Forrest of Bunbury.

Importantly, Forrest's papers consist of diaries of his expedition in search of Leichhardt (1869) and his expedition from Champion Bay to the overland telegraph (1874). Included are correspondence, cuttings, files and other material relating to his personal life and political career, his elevation to the peerage, and pastoral dealings with his brother Alexander Forrest.

³⁴ The Hillman Diaries [Acc 4002A].

The emergence of a pastoral industry in the north and north-west of Western Australia in the latter half of the nineteenth century is reflected in papers, diaries and correspondence held by Private Archives in a number of collections relating to the Durack family. The diaries of M.P. Durack (1865–1950) and his brother J.W. Durack (1867–1936), who together established the Argyle Station near Wyndham, are particularly valuable sources for understanding the establishment of the Western Australian pastoral industry. The diaries also give interesting accounts of European interaction with the Aboriginal people whose lands were taken.

Politicians

The Batty Library holds the private papers of a number of individual politicians from the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries: Western Australia's first Premier, John Forrest (1847–1918); Archibald Sanderson, MLC (1870–1937); George Leake (1856–1902), the former Premier who died in office; 'Dick' Old, Katanning MLA and Deputy Premier from 1974 to 1986; and George Bennetts, Kalgoorlie MLC from 1946 to 1965.

Among the collections of Western Australian politicians are the papers of May Holman (1893–1937), the first female Labor Party member to be elected to an Australian Parliament and only the second female parliamentarian after Edith Cowan. Elected as the Member for Forrest in the Legislative Assembly in 1925, Holman held her seat until her early death in a car accident in 1939. Her small collection of papers consists of correspondence, newspaper cuttings relating to the Holman family, profiles, invitations, souvenirs, speeches and photographs.



May Holman, Western Australia's first female Labor parliamentarian, 1920s. [Batty Library 006758d]

The Leake family papers contain the letters and records of George Leake, Western Australia's second Premier, who took over from John Forrest in 1901 when Forrest left State politics to join the newly created Commonwealth Government. In an interesting collection of correspondence, the difficulties and strains Leake faced while in office are hinted at in his letter of support to Lord Hopetoun. In responding to Hopetoun's resignation as Australia's first Governor General Leake wrote on 15 May 1902 that:

The Federal ideal has been rudely shaken and the commonwealth at this early stage impressed with the hand of meanness ...

How can it be expected that State dignity and importance should be maintained at the expense of the individual! Better have no Governor General than practically ask him to buy the position. There is too an absence of that high Imperial spirit which we all felt to be one of the chief factors operating in favour of an Australian nation.³⁵

Leake then goes on to discuss the pressures of political office, expressing a sentiment with which many contemporary politicians would no doubt identify:

The danger of being misunderstood, the certainty of being misrepresented and the altogether thanklessness of the task checks one's ambition for a political career. The callousness too with which one has to face criticism and venomous attacks is apt to blunt one's sense of refinement or thought for the feelings of others. Yet this knowledge makes it easier for me to return, as I shall very shortly, to the less exciting groove of professional life.³⁶

Community Activists

Included among Private Archives' collections are the papers of a number of individuals who have contributed to the community in a variety of ways. There are the papers of Bessie Rischbieth (1875–1967), who was a campaigner for women's rights, Aboriginal welfare, public and mental health, conservation and the environment. They consist of correspondence, minutes, newspaper cuttings and other records relating to the Citizens' Committee for the Preservation of King's Park and the Swan River, including discussion of the proposed aquatic centre in King's Park, the Mitchell Freeway complex, the Swan River reclamation, the site of the Perth Town Hall, the preservation of the Perth Barracks, printed leaflets relating to conscription and pacificism, and pamphlets relating to Aboriginal welfare.

The Rischbieth collection is a good example of the richness and diversity of material available in one person's personal papers. This is also evident in collections like the Paddy Troy papers, and the Annette and Duncan Cameron collection. As the records of Western Australian political and social activists, these collections contain materials relating to a range of issues and organisations, such as the Communist Party, the Peace Movement

³⁵ Draft of letter from George Leake to Lord Hopetoun, 15 May 1902 [Acc 1955A/26].

³⁶ *ibid.*

and socialist organisations. The Cameron collection is described in Michal Bosworth's *Well Read: a bibliography of Communist Party and other sources collected in Western Australia* (1997) and is important as one of the few existing sources of material relating to the State's Communist Party, while the Paddy Troy collection gives an interesting personal insight into his political life as a trade unionist and communist.

Writers

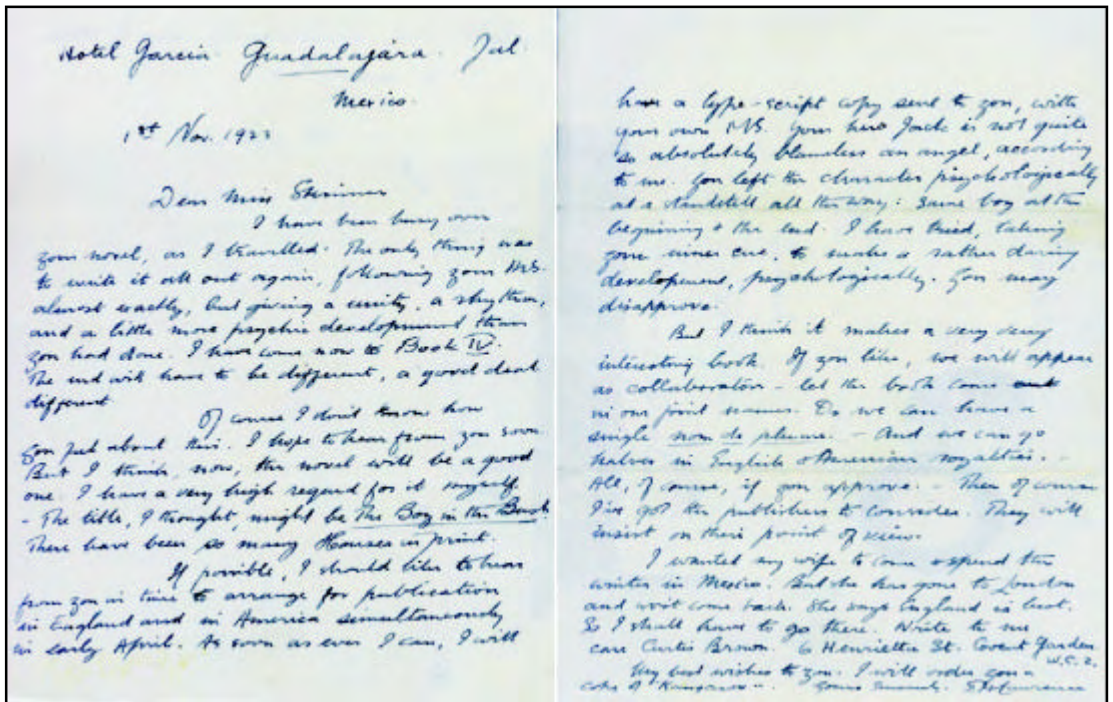
There are a number of Western Australian writers whose personal papers, draft manuscripts and correspondence are held in the Private Archives Collection. These include the papers of Elizabeth Backhouse (1917–); Mudrooroo Narogin (1938–); Henrietta Drake-Brockman (1901–1968); Dame Mary Durack Miller (1913–1994); Shelley Garner (1914–1967); John Joseph Jones (1930–); Malcolm Uren (1900–1973); Glynn Parry (1959–); Mollie Skinner (1876–1955), including her correspondence with D.H. Lawrence; and F.B. ('Bert') Vickers (1903–) who wrote short stories, radio plays and novels.

A good example of the types of items held in these collections can be gained from the papers of Henrietta Drake-Brockman. Her short stories, novels and plays were set in Western Australia and reached both a national and an international readership. Married to Geoffrey Drake-Brockman she was the only child of Martin Edward Jull, a public servant, and his wife Roberta (nee Stewart), a medical practitioner from Scotland. Drake-Brockman was a foundation member (1938) and President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA Branch). In 1963, she published *Voyage to disaster*, the story of Francisco Pelsaert and the wreck of the Batavia off the coast of Western Australia. Her papers contain the research notes and manuscripts for that work, as well as personal diaries and correspondence.

Then there are the Mollie Skinner papers, which include a series of letters from D.H. Lawrence. They had become friends after he stayed at her Darlington house while visiting Western Australia in 1922, and went on to co-author *The Boy in the Bush* (1924). In his letters to her, Lawrence offers in the same breath both generous praise and damning criticism of her work:

I have read *The House of Ellis* [later published as *The Boy in the Bush*] carefully: such good stuff in it, but without unity or harmony. I'm afraid as it stands you'd never find a publisher. Yet I hate to think of it all wasted. I like the quality of so much of it. But you have no constructive power. If you like I will take it and re-cast it, and make a book of it. In which case we should have to appear as collaborators, or assume a pseudonym. If you give

me a free hand, I'll see if I can't make a complete book out of it
 ... You have a real gift — there is real quality in these scenes.
 But without form, like the world before Creation.³⁷



The Boy in the Bush was the only work on which Lawrence directly collaborated, but his correspondence provides advice and criticism regarding a number of Skinner's other works. The collection also contains the unpublished manuscript *Eve in the Land of Nod* with alterations and suggestions in Lawrence's own hand. As with most collections of writers' papers, there are manuscripts of both published and unpublished works in Skinner's papers which reveal much about the way in which the author worked.

War Papers

War letters and diaries of a number of Western Australians are represented in the collection. Conflicts include the Boer War (1899–1902), the First World War (1914–1918) and the Second World War (1939–1945).

This letter from D. H. Lawrence to Mollie Skinner, the West Australian author he met while staying in Perth in 1922, offers to collaborate in writing *The Boy in the Bush* (1924). [Battye Library Acc 1396A/31/3]

37 Letter from D.H. Lawrence to Mollie Skinner, 2 September 1923 [Acc 1396A/31/2].



Phil Fry mounted on a horse in front of the Sphinx, 9 April 1915, several weeks before he was killed at Gallipoli. [Battye Library 000685d]

There are a small number of letters by soldiers who served in the Boer War, often contained in larger collections of family papers. The Library holds other collections such as the Boer War diary (1900) of Cecil Andrews, as well as the notebooks (1900–1901) of Sergeant Major J. Wood of the Australian Bushmen's Contingent.

The Battye Library is fortunate to hold the letters of several young soldiers and their families from the First World War. These include the Heppingstone family correspondence, which contains the letters of three brothers, Arthur, Charles and Hubert, to their family while on active service with the AIF in 1914–1918. The letters of Ernest Hutton, who was killed at Passchendaele in 1917, and those of Corporal Colin Ogborne, killed in France in 1917, provide a poignant insight into the experiences of young Western Australians participating in a war it was popularly believed would 'prove' Australia as a new nation. This pride in Australia's military exploits and a chilling indication of the toll they exacted, are evident in George Heppingstone's letter to his mother, dated 11 September 1915:

Poor little Phil Fry was killed. I am sorry as he was very brave and a good officer and a splendid man. Charlie was with Philip Turnbull for a time before he died and he promised to look after his mother for him and he was quite satisfied then but all thoughts were for his mother. He was a splendid young fellow and was one of our Rhodes scholars. The grand chaps that I know that have crossed the Great Divide has been awful but I am quite certain the Great Creator will give them their reward for such gallantry. The Australian name is spoken of in the most glowing terms here when one has actually seen what the Australians have done and are now doing it is most inspiring. We can certainly claim to have accomplished the most difficult task that has ever been set to soldiers and that without the slightest flinching. There have been some very gallant acts that would have received very high praise in an English regiment, but they are so common among the Australian Army that they pass unnoticed.³⁸

Correspondence, memoirs and diaries from the Second World War are also held in the collection. In addition to the letters and diaries of male servicemen, the *Memoirs 1938–45* of Mary Aitken Brown (1905–) provide an account of

38 Letters of the Heppingstone family, 1914–18 [Acc 3560A].

a woman's experiences serving in military hospitals as a volunteer throughout the Second World War. Among the first to enlist at Lucknow Hospital in January 1940, she served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) which later became the Australian Army Medical Women's Service. Perhaps the most unusual of these collections is that of Raymond Stewart, who was captured at El Alamein in 1942 and was a prisoner of war with the Italians and then the Germans from 1942 to 1945. Included among his memorabilia are diaries, mostly in a very fragile condition as they were written on toilet paper.

Similarly the *Papers 1941–2000* of Major A.E. Siggers detail the experiences of a Western Australian during the Second World War. He was the commanding officer of 'A' Company, 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion and Special Reserve Battalion, AIF, during the battle of Singapore in 1942. At the fall of Singapore, he and his surviving men spent more than three years as Japanese prisoners-of-war. The collection includes personal correspondence and diaries he kept at the battle of Singapore and secretly as a prisoner of war in Singapore and on the Burma–Thailand railway between 1942 and 1945. Siggers gives a relentless and harrowing account of the deprivations suffered by his fellow prisoners at the hands of the Japanese which at times left him depressed and stunned:

I am unable to find words which adequately portray the incredible conditions that prevail, and the terrific mental, nervous and physical strain to which we are subjected. This place is indeed a hell on earth.³⁹

Europeans and Aboriginal Western Australia

There are a number of collections documenting the research, activities and interests of a range of individuals relating to Aboriginal Western Australia. For example, the Buller-Murphy collection contains not only records of the family's pastoral activities, but also a considerable body of research into the State's Aboriginal peoples. Deborah Buller-Murphy (1888–1965) was the daughter of Frederick Slade Drake-Brockman and Grace Bussell. In 1905 she married Winthrop Hackett, then two years after his death in 1916, she married Frank Moulden, before finally marrying Basil Buller-Murphy in 1936. Throughout her life she supported many charities and was a noted financier and chairperson of a number of mining and pastoral companies.

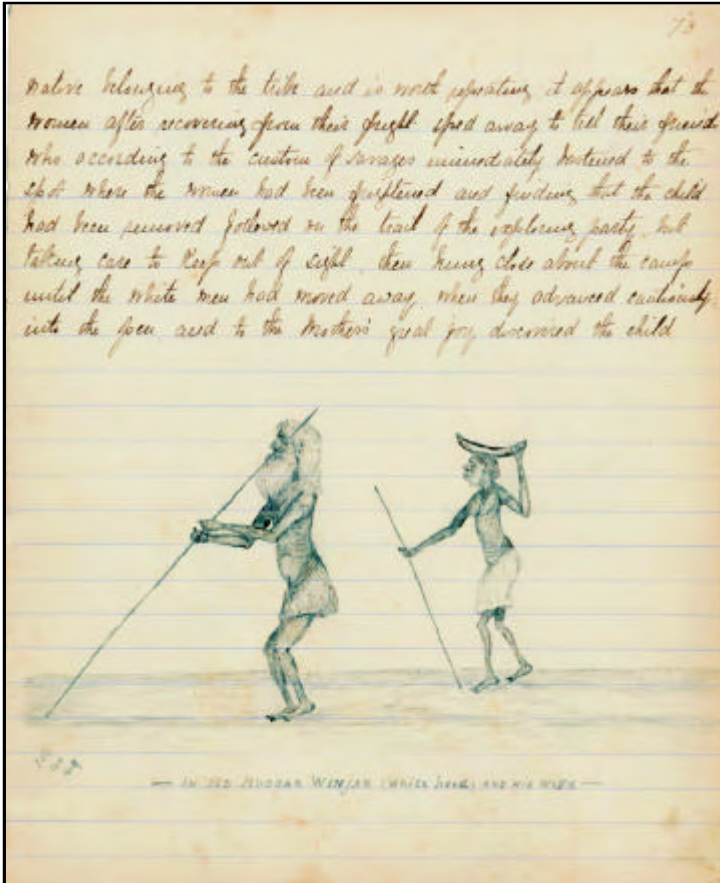
³⁹ Daily diary of Major A.E. Siggers, p. 63 [Acc 5365A/6].

Her papers contain personal records, including letters from her son General Sir John Hackett, as well as the company papers of Tantalum Ltd, Northwest

Tantalum N.L. and Minilya Pastoral Company. During the late 1930s Buller-Murphy also researched the language, customs and legends of the Dordenup tribe with a view to producing a book. While it was never completed her papers do include the notebooks of A.J. Bussell concerning south-west Aborigines and their dialects; correspondence and notes concerning proposed publications on Aborigines; typescripts and dictionaries of the Dordenup language; photographs of Aboriginal rock paintings and art; and Aboriginal songs with translated words and music.

The Account of Aboriginal customs in the northwest of Western Australia 1900 is a manuscript by John Slade Durlacher (1859–1918) based on his experiences in the 1870s and 1880s. This priceless record includes twelve pages on

vocabularies as well as sixteen pencil drawings illustrating the text which deals with subjects such as the exploitation of Aboriginal workers in the pearling industry, camp life, dances, marriage customs, superstitions, tribal boundaries, burial ceremonies, body markings, hunting, fire-making, corroborees, fishing, war, food, gender relations and language difficulties. In addition to displaying the prejudice of his time — a colonial world view he justified on racial, religious and pseudo-scientific grounds — Durlacher’s account suggests a deep curiosity and a sympathy for the people he discusses:



The Account of Aboriginal customs in the northwest of Western Australia 1900 by J.S. Durlacher provides a fascinating description of aspects of Aboriginal life with illustrations made on the basis of his experiences in the 1870s and 1880s. [Battye Library Acc 3839A]

In this word picture I will duly describe the daily domestic life of bush natives pure and simple showing the routine of camp life where its rules have not been interfered with by the white man's masterful spirit and arrogance, which when introduced soon breaks down the native laws and customs which are perhaps nearly as old as the world itself, for who can deny the poor savage of Australia the possession of very ancient laws and customs, despite his low status in the scale of modern civilisation.⁴⁰

Other collections representing European perspectives of Aboriginal people in Western Australia include the Daisy Bates collection (1907–1940). Daisy Bates was an anthropologist and social worker who spent thirty years living with Aboriginal peoples in both South Australia and Western Australia and who wrote about their languages and customs.

Other Personal Records

Collections of personal papers relate to a wide range of different activities which are impossible to comprehensively list here. The individuals whose collections are held in the Battye Library are involved in fields as diverse as botany, history, theatre and sport. For example, the Herb Elliott papers contain documents dating from 1958 to 1967, mainly consisting of correspondence, including letters relating to an offer to turn professional, which he declined, as well as programs and publications concerning him. Born in Subiaco, Western Australia in 1938, Herb Elliott was famous for his outstanding record as a runner of the mile and won an Olympic gold medal competing in Rome in 1960.

Then there are the botanical artworks and private papers of Rica Erickson, a well-known naturalist, artist, historian and author. Consisting of over five hundred images produced from the 1930s to the 1960s, these drawings and watercolours are beautiful and precise. They are often annotated with extra information about the biology of each plant and include drawings of a number of extinct varieties. Erickson's drawings formed the basis of several publications also held by the Library, including *Orchids of the West* (1951), *Triggerplants* (1958), and *Plants of Prey in Australia* (1968).



Botanical drawing from the Rica Erickson collection.
[Battye Library 000307d]

⁴⁰ *Account of Aboriginal customs in the northwest of Western Australia 1900*, p.19 [Acc 3839A].

PRIVATE COMPANIES AND BUSINESS RECORDS

Private Archives has acquired a small number of collections of business records, chiefly recording activities from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The earliest company records are those of Stone James and Co., a Perth law firm dating from 1829 to 1918. Included in the papers are legal agreements from 1829 between Thomas Peel and his indentured work force, as well as documents relating to his substantial grants of land in the Mandurah region south of Fremantle. Stone James and Co. were also lawyers for the Western Australian Company, whose records are an important source for the history of early commercial activities in the colony. Formed in England in 1836 to promote an independent land development scheme for English migrants to Western Australia, the venture failed and migration ceased in 1842.

One of the first companies in Western Australia was Lionel Samson and Son, whose records, ranging from 1843 to 1946, are a prized collection in Private Archives. Lionel Samson arrived in Fremantle in 1829 where he established a wholesale grocery, wine and spirit importing business. The collection contains business letters, ledgers (1843–1899), cashbooks (1866–1897) and journals (1866–1939) of a company important to the commercial history of Fremantle and the Swan River Colony.

Significant to the history of the commercial development and exploitation of Western Australian natural resources, are companies like the Midland Railway Company and the Millars Timber and Trading Company. The records of the Midland Railway Company tell the story of that company's commercial activities in opening up farming lands adjacent to its railway network. Established as a syndicate in 1865 to build a railway line between Guildford and Walkaway, to the north of Greenough, the company completed the line in 1894 and operated as a private railway until it was purchased by the Western Australian government in 1964. Papers in the collection range in date from 1866 to 1967 and contain information on areas like land sales and leases, the construction and management of the railway, company assets and properties, farm schemes, water catchment schemes, and the employment of Aborigines and displaced European migrants after the Second World War.

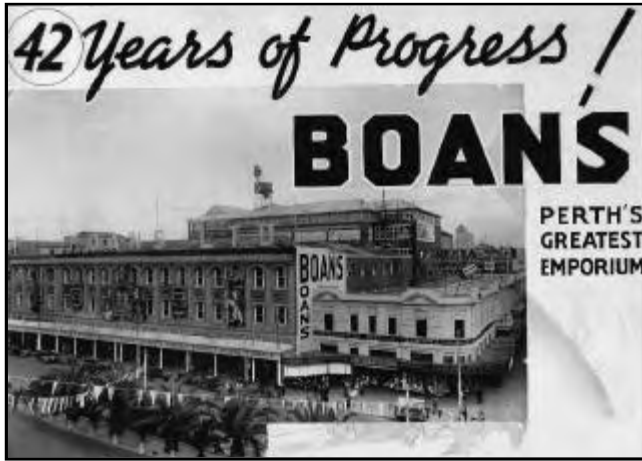
The records of the Millars Timber and Trading Company document the activities of another major West Australian company. Although it did not

change its name to Millars Timber and Trading Company Ltd until 1912 following the merger of seven major sawmilling companies with the Millar organisation in 1902, records in this collection date from 1839 to 1982. The Inchcape Group later took control of the company, which by then was called Millars (Western Australia) Pty Ltd. The papers consist of cashbooks, certificates, circulars, correspondence, files, information sheets, legal documents, ledgers, procedure manuals, a history of Millars Timber and Trading Company Ltd, monographs mostly produced by the company, newspaper cuttings, photographs, price lists, registers of loading and despatch, staff records, scrapbooks, building specifications for the office block at Kewdale, speeches, statistics, and tally books and timebooks belonging to Karragullen Mill.

It is worth noting that the original documents in the Millars records complement the Library's other collections of published materials, images, oral histories and film footage relating to that company. In addition to a number of books about Millars, there are brochures relating to the organisation, serials detailing company price lists and annual directors' reports, and a number of maps and plans. The Library holds a number of oral histories, including an interview with Jim Church⁴¹ in which he discusses working for Millars in the south-west. Visual records of the company's activities over the past hundred years are available through a number of films on the timber industry held by the State Film Archives, as well as through a large collection of photographs. Images of mills and mill towns, of timber displays, of the people employed in the industry, and of the transport and machinery used, capture ways of life and of working which have long since vanished. The Millars records, like many in Private Archives, can often be viewed in relation to materials held in the Battye Library's other collections.

The commercial development of the north and north-west of Western Australia has generally been the domain of a number of pastoral companies, often owned and run by several generations of the one family. The records of the pastoral company Forrest and Co. document their business activities from 1874 to 1943 under the directorship of Alexander Forrest and, after his death in 1901, his son John Forrest. The records of Emanuel Brothers Ltd consist of journals, cashbooks, ledgers and correspondence relating to a range of pastoral stations between 1900 and 1954. As managing agents for Christmas Creek, Margaret Downs, Cherraban, Carlton and Victoria Downs stations, among others, the collection is an important record of a business central to life in the State's north.

41 Jim Church interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Ian Conochie, 1979, OH2600/1.



Boans — Perth's greatest emporium — celebrates the 1938 coronation. [Battye Library 000620d]

Other types of company records from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries form a small but important part of the Private Archives Collection. The records of Boans Limited represent a significant piece of the story of Western Australia's retail companies. Growing from a single department store in Wellington Street, Perth, opened by Harry and Benjamin Boan in 1895, Boans Limited (its name from 1912) came to be the largest private employer in Western Australia, employing staff at a number of suburban stores as well as the city store. In 1985 it was taken over

by the Melbourne based Myer Emporium Ltd. The records cover the period 1895 to 1977 and consist of account books, agreements, bank statements, cashbooks, catalogues, certificates, diaries, files, financial statements, guide/instruction books, invitations, journals, records of work, ledgers of monthly sales, legal papers, memos to staff, minute books of the Social and Sporting Club, newspaper cuttings, loose papers, photographs, price lists, programs, receipts and receipt books, salaries and wages books, a scrapbook, a visitors book and miscellaneous items.

Then there are the records of the Fremantle Gas and Coke Company (1885–1986). This collection is an important record of a privately owned utility company. R.S. Newbald is believed to have started the original gasworks in Cantonment Street, Fremantle. A limited liability company was floated to take over in 1885. From 1886 the Fremantle Gas and Coke Co. and the City of Perth Gas Co. were allowed to enter private property and take up roads and footpaths to lay mains. In 1986 the State Government purchased the company. The records consist of account books, files, minute books, newspaper cuttings, photographs, registers, reports, rules and a manuscript of *A history of the Fremantle Gas and Coke Company Limited (1885–1953)* by Malcolm Uren.

There are a range of architectural drawings in the collection from architectural firms like Forbes and Fitzhardinge, Cameron Chisholm Nicol, as well as individual architects like Monsignor John Hawes (1876–1956) and Iwan Iwanoff (1919–1986). The Hawes papers contain, among the private documents of the Catholic priest who worked in the Geraldton Diocese between 1915 and 1939, plans and sketches for some twenty-one

churches and convents, representing a significant architectural record of religious buildings in Western Australia. The collection of Iwanoff specifications (1951–1986) consists of hundreds of drawings and designs by the private commercial architect for a range of major buildings constructed during the late twentieth century.

POLITICAL RECORDS

One of the largest collections of political material in Private Archives is that of the Australian Labor Party. The records of the ALP consist of the minutes, correspondence and administrative files of the State Executive and of the State Parliamentary Labor Party covering the period 1899 to 1989. The Library also holds a large collection of the papers of the Western Australian Liberal Party, and the records of the precursors to the current Western Australian Branch of the National Party. These include the records of the National Country Party, which date from 1924 to 1988, and the Parliamentary National Country Party, 1953 to 1985.

Only small collections of the records of other political parties, such as the Liberal Party of Western Australia and the Western Australian Greens, are held by Private Archives, however the Library does have the papers of some individuals involved with these organisations. There are also a number of small collections relating to former political parties like the Democratic Labor Party and, as already mentioned, the WA Branch of the Communist Party.

Private Archives holds a number of union records including those of the Trades and Labor Council of Western Australia, known since 2000 as Unions WA. The TLC first met on 23 January 1963, also acting as the State Branch of the ACTU. The Battye Library holds their records, which include minutes, correspondence, accounts, issues files and related documents from the period 1965 to 1981.

A number of other unions are represented through local branch records. These include the records of the Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's



Mrs Samson, wife of the Mayor of Fremantle, opens the Fremantle tramway. [Battye Library 000624d]

Union, 1901 to 1973, and the Federated Miscellaneous Workers' Union, WA Branch, 1926 to 1962, the latter forming in 1957 through the amalgamation of various unions. The Australian Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association, Perth Branch, whose records are contained in Minute Books dating from 1925 to 1963, began as the Perth Electric Tramways Employees' Union and went through several name changes and amalgamations over the years. The evolution of the organisation is reflected in a range of records consisting of the minutes of the Perth Electric Tramway Employees' Union (1925–1939), the Western Australian government Tramway Employees' Union (1939–1946), the Western Australian government Tramway, Motor Omnibuses and River Ferries Employees' Union of Workers, Perth (1946–1963) and the Fremantle Tramway Employees Industrial Union of Workers (1947–1952), which later became the Fremantle Branch of the Australian Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Private Archives contains records from a number of private and non-government organisations. These organisations were engaged in social activities, charitable works, artistic and cultural pursuits, community work and environmental campaigning.

The Western Australian Theatre Company collection (1900–1990) and the Perth Repertory Club records (1919–1956) document the activities of local theatrical bodies for most of the twentieth century. The Perth Repertory Club was formed in 1919, but amalgamated with the Company of Four in 1956 to form the National Theatre. The National Theatre operated until 1984 when it liquidated and its building was taken over by the National Trust and Playhouse Theatre, operating as the Western Australian Theatre Company from 1986 until it finally closed in 1990. These two collections consist of minute books, annual and financial reports, correspondence, scrapbooks of cuttings and programs and texts of plays. They include the constitution, minutes and correspondence of the Theatre Council of Western Australia.

Private Archives holds the records of a number of Aboriginal missions which were established and run by private organisations sponsored by Christian churches. These include the Anglican Church-run Forrest River Mission records (1911–1968) and the records of the Kalumburu Benedictine Mission (1942–1981), which document the activities of the

Kimberley Mission, established in 1908. Mission records contain information which is important to Aboriginal people and which reflects the history of Aboriginal–European relations in this State. An example is the records of the Mount Margaret Aboriginal Mission, an organisation located halfway between Leonora and Laverton established in 1921 by Mr R. Schenk under the auspices of the Aboriginal Inland Mission. The mission included homes, dormitories, a school, a dispensary, a hospital, and workrooms. Its records consist of a range of administrative documents, but more importantly a register of births (1921–1966), deaths (1923–1969), admissions to the Graham Children’s Home (1931–1966) and the endowment of cottage families.

There are a number of very large collections relating to religious bodies. These include extensive records of the Anglican Church, the Uniting Church and its precursor bodies the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches. These collections contain many different types of records, including original registers of baptisms, burials and marriages, which are often of great interest to genealogists and other researchers. Of other religions practised in Western Australia, only the Jewish faith is represented, with the registers of the Perth Hebrew School (1919–1955) held by the Library.

While Private Archives does not hold any original records of the Catholic Church, which are maintained in its own archival repositories, the Battye Library does hold copies of the records of the Benedictine monastic community at New Norcia in a large and significant collection with documents which range in date from 1814 to 1978. The original items are still located at New Norcia, but this collection is important to the history of the State and is therefore made available in the Battye Library on microfilm.

Other collections relating to non-government organisations include those such as the Fairbridge Society records. Kingsley Fairbridge established a Farm School in Pinjarra in 1912 with the object of providing disadvantaged and orphaned British children an education, and training in agriculture. From 1918 the Fairbridge Society operated in cooperation with the Children’s Farm School Immigration Society of WA Inc. The Fairbridge collection contains a diverse range of correspondence, notebooks, personal papers, accounts, financial records and reports which document the history of the Society in Western Australia.

There are a range of collections dealing with women’s organisations. The Karrakatta Club records document the activities of Australia’s first women’s club between 1894 and 1964. The Women’s Service Guild collection



Karrakatta Club Executive Committee, 1900. From left to right (back) Miss J. A. Nisbett, Mrs Richard Sholl, Miss Elsie Onslow, Miss Helen Ferguson, Mrs Beasley, (front) Mrs George Leake, Mrs J. Griffiths Foulkes, Lady Onslow, Dr Roberta Jull, Mrs H.D. Holmes, Mrs Thurston. [Battye Library 006545d]

documents the activities of that organisation from 1896 to 1992, but also tells the story of an important social development in Western Australia as women increasingly demanded a voice in public policy and political debate. It could be argued that this desire was sometimes sublimated through organisations devoted to issues dealing exclusively with women's practical needs, or to encouraging charitable works such as defending children's rights and demanding better social conditions. Despite this it is clear that the Karrakatta Club took a strong interest in political issues with its Legal and Educational Department being established to 'specifically watch all legislation that in any way concerns the welfare of women and children and all alterations in the educational code'.⁴² By 1897 meetings devoted to the issue of female suffrage were commonplace but were framed in the broader context of women's rights:

Miss Nisbet called the attention of members to the anomalies existing in the laws relating to the guardianship of children,

⁴² Minutes of the first meeting of Karrakatta Club, 18 December 1894 [Acc 3049A/23].

showing women cannot obtain a divorce for sin on the husband's side and that fathers have it in their powers in WA to remove children from the mother's care at any age, even if only a day old and that they can also will away the guardianship to absolute strangers when they are dying and the mother is without redress. She also alluded to the very great injustice meted out to women in giving them lower salaries than men for doing the same work.⁴³

The Women's Service Guild was one organisation which advocated direct participation in the political process, being founded in 1909 as a non-party union of women to agitate for women's rights. It took an active part in political and policy debate for nearly ninety years and its records are a significant holding within the Private Archives Collection.

Other community and political pressure groups represented in the collection include environmental organisations like the umbrella Conservation Council of Western Australia, which has donated records to the Battye Library in recent years. They add to holdings like the records of the Friends of the Earth (1973–1985), an organisation which contributed to the proliferation of a range of environmental action groups. These collections provide an important resource for those interested in the development of environmental issues.

The collections acquired by the Battye Library from these community organisations, and indeed from the individual donors, businesses and corporations, and political groups discussed above, are complex. In the twentieth century both individuals and organisations have generated a huge volume of records. At the same time archival collections being acquired by the Battye Library are less frequently purely paper-based and are more likely to include other formats such as tape recordings, photographs, films, publications and electronic data. The management of these types of heritage materials, undertaken by the different collections discussed in this guide, has required the Battye Library to place an even greater emphasis on provenance: the context, links and background of each of the Library's collections. Without maintaining the conceptual links between items stored in separate locations and environments, usually for preservation purposes, much of the meaning of individual items can be lost. In particular, within the thousands of collections held by Private Archives, and the hundreds of thousands of individual items held within each of those collections, there are many stories.

43 Minutes of meeting of Karrakatta Club, 26 December 1897 [Acc 3049A/23].

CHAPTER THREE

WESTERN IMAGES

The Story of the Pictorial Collection

Of all the collections within the Battye Library, the photographs and other images in the Pictorial Collection often excite the most immediate and positive response. The photograph is something that is familiar, evocative and capable of transmitting a great deal of information quickly. Its power to connect with people in a direct, emotional sense is matched by its importance as a universal and democratic means of expression.

Until the popularisation of photography in the twentieth century, images had traditionally been used to represent or glorify deities, to express spiritual belief, or to demonstrate power, wealth and importance in both secular and religious institutions. Of the first Europeans in Western Australia, only the wealthiest had images as keepsakes of loved ones or to demonstrate their social status, while images were essential trappings of power for colonial authorities. With the development of photographic reproduction in the second half of the nineteenth century, the use of images as a record of personal and familial activity and achievement became more widespread. In Australia, as society moved towards egalitarianism and democracy, the twentieth century saw a steady democratisation of the image through the advent of cheap mass-produced photographic technology.

The value of the Pictorial Collection can be directly attributed to the growing role of the image as a record of people, places and events. The power of these images to excite the imagination of the public reflects the wealth of information they store and the emotional responses they are able to provoke. Perhaps more importantly, images from the Pictorial Collection make available in an immediate way the experiences of generations of Western Australians from many backgrounds, both as the subject of the image and as its creator. Everyday stories have been captured as images from the perspective of people from all walks of life.

Birth of the Pictorial Collection

The origins of the Pictorial Collection in the Batty Library can be found in the establishment of the State Archives Board by the Western Australian government in 1923. The Board was given charge of ‘pictures, photographs, maps, documents, relics, manuscripts and publications relating to the history of Western Australia’⁴⁴ which were placed in the care of the Public Library of Western Australia. Similarly, prior to 1945, some photographs and a number of individual artworks were acquired directly by the Library as an incidental by-product of its normal activities.

With the formation of the State Archives Branch of the Public Library under Mollie Lukis, the collecting of pictorial materials intensified after 1945. Photographs, sketches, drawings and artworks were brought to the new State Archives by private donors, in addition to family collections of documents, diaries, letters and other materials. At first donations by private individuals — often from prominent Western Australian families — formed the backbone of images in the Pictorial Collection. As the Pictorial Collection grew, the range of images and donors expanded, including donations from private collectors, businesses and organisations and, to a lesser extent, government agencies.

Images held in the Pictorial Collection are predominantly, although not exclusively, photographic. The main types of materials stored are albums and photographic prints on media such as paper, glass positives, opal types and tintypes. Other images are held in a large collection of negatives (both celluloid and glass), postcards, illustrations from published sources, colour transparencies, and artworks, including photographic reproductions and some sketches. Even though the majority of the early artworks acquired by the Public Library and later by the State Archives, were transferred to the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 1955, the Batty Library still retains a number of works which were deemed to be more of informational and historical value than of artistic merit.



During the twentieth century photography became affordable and accessible to more people. Mrs Emanuel with her camera, 1911. [Batty Library 006980d]

⁴⁴ Lukis, M.F.F., *The Work of the Western Australian Archives Department* (Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, Perth Meeting, August 1947), p. 1.

During the 1950s the number of photographs held by the Library grew significantly through donations and acquisitions from large organisations. For example, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society had their large collection of photographic and pictorial material copied and deposited with the Battye Library in 1959–60 in response to concerns about the suitability of their storage conditions at the time.⁴⁵ During this period the Battye Library received photographs from a variety of government departments including the Department for Native Affairs, the Premier's Department and the Department of Tourism.⁴⁶

By the 1960s a significant range of pictorial material had already been acquired by the Battye Library, the result of previous decades of incidental acquisition by the State Library. Key collecting strengths were further developed with increased donations from members of the public. In response to this growth in photographic materials, a Pictorial Collection was formally constituted as a section within the Library in 1980–81 with a pictorial librarian allocated to the full-time management of the collection and the implementation of collection policies.⁴⁷

Strengths of the Pictorial Collection

The Pictorial Collection was established from collections of pictorial material which had been gradually acquired over many years, almost by accident,

in a haphazard and often unexpected way. Photographs or items lent for copying had come to the Battye Library from all sections of the community including individual members of the public, associations, clubs, businesses, companies and local and State government authorities, while a small amount of material came from overseas. The new Pictorial Collection continued to build on existing strengths, which were broad, representative and inclusive in their nature.



'Attack of natives near Hanover Bay, 1837' — Lithograph of a sketch by Lieutenant George Grey, Kimberley District, 1837. [Battye Library 000871 d]

45 The Library Board of Western Australia, *Eighth Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1959–60* (Perth, 1960), p. 19.

46 The Library Board of Western Australia, *Seventh Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1954–59* (Perth, 1959), p. 22.

47 The Library Board of Western Australia, *Nineteenth Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1980–81* (Perth, 1981), p. 10.

From its formation, the new Pictorial Collection attempted to cover all aspects of Western Australia's history, including portraits of people from all walks of life, social gatherings such as picnics and dances, sporting events, business activities, and rural and mining industry activity. Most subjects are very well represented up to 1930. After 1930 the representation is more uneven, with collections produced since 1950 being poorly represented.



In addition to collecting a broad range of subjects, staff have endeavoured to acquire images representative of the works of photographers and the various processes they used. While working to make available to the public a comprehensive selection of images, the staff of the Pictorial Collection have attempted to maintain provenance: that is, the historical context and background information of images. It is not uncommon for photographs to come to the Battye Library as part of a larger collection which may include archives, publications, film or sound recordings. The strength of the Pictorial Collection lies in its ability to meet the expectations of a public interested in using a State image bank, and the research needs of historians, genealogists and other researchers.

A crowd waits for Bert Hinkler to land, 1 April 1928. [Battye Library 000614d]

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION

With over 250,000 individual images in the Pictorial Collection and roughly 200,000 images waiting to be appraised, accessioned and catalogued, there are countless thousands of pictorial 'treasures' buried in the Battye Library. Given the scale of the Pictorial Collection, therefore, it is more useful to identify those collections of photographs, artworks and other images which can best be described as treasures. These special collections might consist of a handful of photographs or contain thousands of images located across a wide range of collecting areas.

The earliest pictorial material acquired by the Public Library and which later became part of the Pictorial Collection was received from private

individuals who donated their own family photographs, sketches, drawings and artworks. In addition to the category of personal material, there are images which are government records, as well as commercially produced images. The most recent field of acquisition has been that of the postcard, both in its published and unpublished forms.

Within each of these types of pictorial material there are key collections containing a range of physical formats and types of image. Each represents a unique aspect of our visual, social and historical past, telling many different stories about the Western Australian experience.

PERSONAL IMAGES

There are a variety of images produced by individuals and private organisations in Western Australia for personal use. These images are held in a range of different media, consisting chiefly of black and white photographic prints and negatives produced by amateur photographers and enthusiasts from around the State. In addition, the Battye Library holds a number of early images from the nineteenth century produced by other photographic means, as well as a small but significant collection of artworks in its Special Collections. These personal images constitute a significant part of the treasures in the Pictorial Collection.

Special Collections

Although the majority of early artworks held by the Battye Library were transferred to the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 1955, those retained in the Pictorial Collection include botanical sketches, cartoons, engravings, etchings, lithographs, portraits and sketches. The artworks represent images of landscapes, buildings, people, flora and fauna, providing unique information about these aspects of Western Australia's cultural and natural heritage.

The earliest works held are the botanical drawings by Ferdinand Bauer (1814) and the sketches of Captain John Septimus Roe. As some of the first representations of native flora and fauna they are invaluable records of the European perception of the natural world of a strange new continent. Subsequent watercolours in the collection from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, such as those by C.L.L. Wright, are also extremely valuable scientific records, in addition to being beautiful representations of native plants.

Within the Special Collections there are some original plans and drawings dating from 1835, which give useful information about the architectural heritage of Western Australia, as do a number of sketches and paintings of early buildings. For example, there is a pencil sketch of the Western Australian Company's Australind storehouse (1841) and a painting of the Arthur River Hotel, used as a coach station for the Perth to Albany run, painted by a passenger in the 1870s.



By far the largest number of artworks are watercolour paintings, most often representing landscapes, buildings and people. For example, the two earliest paintings, painted by Thomas Turner in watercolour on linen, date from the 1830s and are the first representations of Augusta. There are a number of portraits containing the images of some of the earliest European settlers in Western Australia. John Henry Gregory, who landed at South Beach with his family aboard the *Warrior* in 1829, is depicted in a portrait probably painted in the United Kingdom in 1828, prior to his departure. Several other family members are represented in a similar manner, including his daughters Sophia and Eliza.

Augusta, 1830. Watercolour by Thomas Turner. [Battye Library 000628d]

There are also a number of caricatures of the settler elite. Cartoons, often portraying less than flattering aspects of Western Australia's ruling class, were an important popular outlet for social and political comment and criticism during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Controversial Governor Sir Gerard Smith — the subject of corruption allegations which eventually drove him from office — is depicted astride a camel on his 1899 tour of the Goldfields.



Governor Sir Gerard Smith's tour of the Western Australian goldfields received much criticism. It was also the cause of some amusement, as the third verse of this cartoon's caption observes:

These newspaper scribes
Can't parry the jibes
Hurled against us by critics outside
So I'LL take a hand,
When the Goldfields I've scanned —
And each critic will squirm in his hide.



A rare contemporary image of convicts breaking rocks, by W.A. Stone, 1867. [Battye Library 003100d]

Cartoons in the Pictorial Collection also reveal aspects of Western Australian social history. One of the few depictions of Western Australian convicts is a cartoon done by W.A. Stone showing prisoners breaking rocks in 1867. Another interesting example is a series of cartoons by Hal Warwick, drawn nearly fifty years later. Each panel gives an A to Z of patriotic and anti-German sentiments, reflecting popular attitudes during the First World War.

Early Photographic Images

The earliest photographic images produced in Western Australia and held by the Pictorial Collection consist of a number of different formats including daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes and cyanotypes. Using a variety of different photographic processes and materials these images were usually the product of a professional photographer.

As the earliest photographic process, the daguerreotype was used in the first part of the nineteenth century to produce sharply detailed images on metal sheets. These were usually stored in leather cases. Daguerreotypes in the Pictorial Collection are generally well preserved and, like most images using this method, consist of formal individual and family portraits. A portrait of Captain and Mrs J.S. Roe and family,⁴⁸ taken around 1853, is typical of the kind of daguerreotype popular at the time. While most examples are of individual portraits, unusually the Batty Library holds a daguerreotype of a Perth street taken around 1860.⁴⁹

The Pictorial Collection has a number of ambrotypes, the method of photography which briefly eclipsed the daguerreotype in the late 1850s. Using a polished glass plate, which unlike the expensive silver-coated copper plates used for daguerreotypes required no special preparation before use, the ambrotype was cheaper and easier to produce. Although similar in size, pictorial style and presentation, the ambrotype gave a sharper, less reflective image. It contributed to the development of a new popular appreciation of photography by making available quality portraits to a greater number of people across a broader social spectrum. The portrait of Tom Oakley,⁵⁰ taken around 1860, is typical of the style of photograph produced using this method.



A typical daguerreotype, taken of J.S. Roe and family, c. 1853. [Batty Library 884B]

48 Roe family portrait [884B].

49 Perth street scene c.1860 [4791B].

50 Oakley family collection [BA205/3].



Perth street scene. The daguerreotype was used mainly for family portraits and individuals. Landscapes were not common. [Battye Library 4791B]



Ambrotypes, also mounted in special cases, were cheaper to produce than daguerreotypes. Images were typically portraits, like this one of Tom Oakley. [Battye Library 205/3]

and required special storage cases, *cartes-de-visite* were sometimes sent to family members overseas and within Australia. It was popular among better off families to arrange *cartes-de-visite* in specially designed albums, a number of examples of which are held by the Library. Along with tintypes,

the photographic method commonly used from 1852 until the early 1930s to produce cheap images — mainly portraits — on metal surfaces, they also helped make photographic portraits more accessible to the general public and to popularise the concept of photography.

Other interesting types of image popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were the panoramas and stereoscopes — a card with two exposures of the same image viewed through a stereoscope to give a three-dimensional effect. The Pictorial Collection holds several hundred panoramas, taken mainly around the turn of last century, as well as a number taken by Reg Lambert from the 1930s. The largest collection of stereoscopic images consists of ninety-six taken by William Kirk during the royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of York in 1901. He also took stereoscopes of wildflowers and caves in the south-west.

The invention of the albumen print process in 1851 produced images on a paper background. At first the process used glass negatives made with a collodion wet-plate, the same method used to produce ambrotypes. From the 1870s albumen prints were achieved using a dry-plate gelatine process, increasing further the popular impact of photography. In the second half of the century cheap images like *cartes-de-visite* became common. These consisted of photographs mounted on small cards, which were often used as calling cards. Small, inexpensive and, unlike older forms of portraiture which were fragile

Personal Photography

Many images and collections of images held in the Pictorial Collection are the products of amateur photographers and enthusiasts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While family snapshots and personal subjects constitute an important element within this type of material, amateur photographers captured a stunning variety of images, documenting many different aspects of Western Australia's history.

Their subject matter was not dictated by commercial concerns. Their personal photography captures family life, community activities and social life throughout Western Australia. One of the earliest collections of private photographs is that of A.H. Stone (1801–1873). It contains good examples of the types of images produced by amateur enthusiasts, with images of Perth in the 1860s and 1870s, including portraits, streetscapes and both formal and informal group shots of Perth society.



A. H. Stone, an early Western Australian amateur photographer, 1873. [Battye Library 000615d]

In the twentieth century the Pearce Collection, taken by Violet Pearce, a member of the Van Raalte Club in Perth, is illustrative of the diversity of subject material produced by non-professional photographers. The 145 photographs in the collection range from ships, Fremantle Harbour and wharf, views of Perth in the 1950s, St Margaret's Anglican Church in Nedlands, the University of Western Australia, boats on the Swan, views of Claremont, and portraits including some of Violet Pearce herself.

Personal photography has captured important images of the Aboriginal community, chiefly from the perspective of the European observer. For example, the work of C.H. Powell, a white mine manager in the north of the State, records images of Aboriginal life in the late 1890s. Other images which record the outsiders' view of Aboriginal culture can be found in collections like that of Harry Green, forty-two images taken while visiting communities in the Nullarbor Plain, Mt Margaret and the Warburton Ranges as a missionary between 1930 and 1960.

The Pictorial Collection holds few collections of photographs by Aboriginal photographers. The Ralph Winmar collection is an exception, containing 304 images from the 1920s to the 1970s. This collection gives an Aboriginal perspective on life at Badjaling Mission and is very important, not just as a record of family life, but as one of the few collections of photographs of Western Australian Aboriginal life by an Aboriginal photographer.

Private Organisations

The Battye Library contains a number of pictorial collections originating from private organisations or businesses. Chief among these is that of West Australian Newspapers, with 1,160 photographs taken by newspaper staff. As a product of the activities of the State's major newspaper, the collection contains a comprehensive selection of images of places, people and events covering the period 1957 to 1964.



Boans' advertising c.1925 promotes Western Australian produce with the slogan '100% White Labour' in a period when the racist White Australia Policy was unquestioned. [Battye Library 000619d]

Photographic collections from businesses include firms which commissioned or acquired photographic records of their business activities and work processes, including daily activities and special projects. For example, the Swan Brewery collection consists of 4,205 images spanning the period 1894 to 1975, but chiefly of the 1960s and 1970s. Images in this collection focus on the Swan Brewery building, hotels throughout the State, other breweries and events sponsored by the Swan Brewery.

Similarly the Boans collection, donated to the Battye Library in 1984, contains over three hundred images of buildings, people, vehicles, sales, displays and shop fittings from one of Western Australia's leading retail organisations. Photographs from the 1890s to the 1970s capture information about the commercial culture, the staff and the operation of a business which was an important local institution for much of the twentieth century. These images are fascinating in their own right, but can also be viewed as part of a much broader resource of original and published materials. The Library has a range of publications dealing with aspects of Boans' history available for research, including histories, catalogues, pamphlets and print

advertisements, as well as staff newsletters and magazines. An extensive documentary record of Boans Ltd is available in a large holding of company papers in the Private Archives Collection. Other Boans-related materials include the advertisement *Boans May Sale* (1972) and the promotional film *Boans fashion parade* (1962), both held by the State Film Archives. A number of oral history interviews with former employees describe experiences working in the organisation from the 1930s to the 1980s from perspectives as varied as those of a company director and a shop assistant. As with many of the collections of photographs held by the Batty Library, the Boans images form only a part of a much larger holding of original and published materials.

Other examples of photographs recording work processes can be found in the Maunsell and Partners collection of nearly 300 aerial photographs taken between 1964 and 1972 recording the construction of the Robb Freight Terminal, the East Perth Railway Terminal and the Kewdale/Forrestfield Terminal. The Taylor collection similarly documents the building of pipelines in Western Australia between 1900 and 1936, including the goldfields' pipeline in 1902.

The Millars Timber and Trading Company collection⁵¹ documents that company's forestry and milling activities in the south-west. Taken between the 1870s and the 1970s, more than 2,000 photographs chronicle the history of the timber industry in Western Australia. There are images of mills and mill towns, people, timber displays, transportation systems and machinery spanning a century. They document ways of life and of working which have long since vanished, and record the evolution of the industry from handsaws and horse-drawn teams hauling giant logs, to an industrialised and mechanised industry with chainsaws and huge log-trucks. This collection represents a significant resource for researchers.

Other types of non-government organisations to keep photographic records of their activities include some of the churches, missions and religious orders. There is a collection of seventy-eight photographic prints, which date from 1914 to the 1980s, from the Australian Inland Mission Frontier Service.



Millars Timber and Trading Company Limited employees take a break, 1915. Jack Crawley (lying down), with (left to right) Alan Dineen, Herb Buegge and Dave Roper. [Batty Library 000686d]

⁵¹ The Millars Timber and Trading Company collection is held in three parts at BA307, BA908 and BA929.

This small collection features portraits of staff, as well as images of mission activities. Perhaps the largest and most significant collection relating to a religious organisation is that of the Kalumburu and Drysdale Missions. This huge collection of approximately 10,000 images presents a unique and comprehensive pictorial history of the Benedictine Missions covering the period 1908 to 1970. These images record the way of life of both missionaries and Aboriginal communities.

Like the Kalumburu–Drysdale Missions collection the photographs of the New Norcia collection were lent for copying by the monks of the Benedictine community. They provide images of the buildings, activities, and social and religious life in and around the monastery at New Norcia, presenting a significant record of the structure, purpose and development of Western Australia's oldest religious community.

GOVERNMENT IMAGES

The Battye Library has collections of photographs from a number of government sources, including some State government departments and agencies. From small collections like that of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority to the huge Government Print collection, they document many diverse and historically significant aspects of life in twentieth century Western Australia. For example, the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority collection, which consists of just 186 photographs taken in the 1970s, records the process of traditional fire-making and housing styles in Aboriginal communities, as well as shearing and other activities on Desert Farm, Wiluna. The larger government collections examined below, including the Government Print, Department of Industrial Development, Western Australian government Railways and Ord River collections, reflect the diversity of government images available.

Government Print Collection

One of the most important collections is that of the Government Photographer. Also known as the Government Print collection, it consists of about 88,000 images with 60,000 photographic negatives and 28,500 photographic prints taken over a period of sixty years from 1920 to 1984 for government departments, agencies and instrumentalities. The negative collection was transferred to the Battye Library in 1977 and 1984, while the photographic print collection was received from government

departments, private sources and copies prepared by staff from 1954 onwards. The largest donation of photoprints was from the Tourist Bureau in 1954 and 1969, and consisted of hundreds of individual images.⁵²

The subjects covered in the Government Print collection are as many and varied as the activities of the government and local communities. As well as tourist shots, there are photographic records of factory work, and government supported industrial and rural schemes, such as land clearing. Photographs of government institutions such as the Woorloo Sanitarium, or of government-supported industries such as pearling, can be found alongside photographs of fish, plants and crops. All photographs were taken to support and document the business of the Western Australian government. There are many images of beaches, streetscapes and people; in fact a whole host of images not readily associated with official government business.

West Australian Government Railways

The West Australian Government Railways (Westrail) collection consists of over 5,000 photographic prints depicting the development of the railway transportation system in Western Australia. The images are concentrated chiefly in the 1960s and 1970s and include photographs of steam and diesel locomotives, rolling stock, trains, trams and buses, stations, yards, workshops, tracks, bridges and other structures, as well as personnel, special events and projects undertaken by Westrail. As a record of a state-owned railway, the photographs are both a unique and an important record of government activity in the State, as well as being of particular interest to railway enthusiasts.

Department of Industrial Development

The Pictorial Collection holds a large number of photographs from the Western Australian Department of Industrial Development. Containing 965 photographs, generally commissioned from commercial photographers, this collection covers the period 1966 to 1974 and documents industrial projects from around the State. Included are images of subjects as varied as the



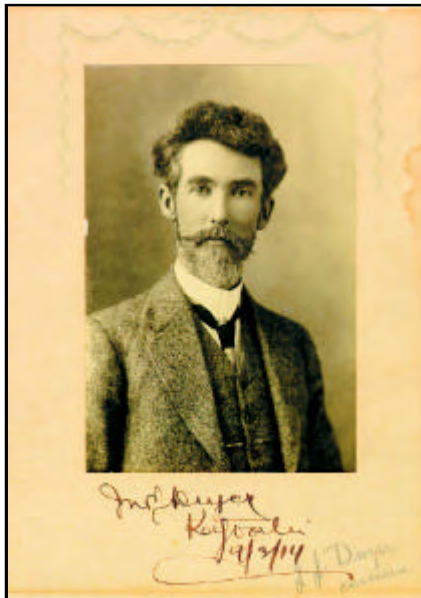
A hostess welcomes passengers aboard the Australind, December 1960. [Battye Library 006688d]

52 The Library Board of Western Australia, *Seventh Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1954–59* (Perth, 1959), p. 22.

Sarich Orbital Engine; the commissioning of the Mt Newman Iron Ore trains; the construction of the Fremantle Inner Harbour; the establishment of the Mt Tom Price township; and the workings of the Albany whaling station, including images of whales being flensed. The photographs provide a guide to industrial projects in locations all around Western Australia. More importantly they capture a period in the State's history during which rapid economic development, fuelled by a minerals boom, saw an expansion of mining and industrial operations. The Department of Industrial Development helped promote, and effectively recorded, the hold the idea of 'development' had on the political and public imagination.

Ord River Dam

A collection of over 2,000 photographs documents the construction of the Ord River Dam in Western Australia's north between the years 1969 and 1971. Government support for the building of large-scale infrastructure was seen as an essential feature of 'nation-building'. The images in this collection record various stages of the project, the machinery used, construction techniques, and related projects to build supporting infrastructure. The existence of a detailed series of photographs documenting this and other government projects represents an important visual record of development in the second half of the twentieth century. These images tell us much about the political and social priorities of Western Australian governments and their constituents.



Kalgoorlie studio
photographer J.J. Dwyer's
self-portrait, 1914. [Battye
Library 000618d]

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Until recent times the practice of photography was limited to the dedicated enthusiast, usually with the financial resources to buy expensive equipment and supplies. When most people wanted an image of themselves, their families or some important event or object, they would employ the professional services of a commercial photographer. Within the Pictorial Collection there are photographs by commercial photographers who either worked from studios or travelled around the State. Individual photographers represented include E.L. Mitchell, Stuart Gore, Susan Watkins and J.J. Dwyer. Other photographs produced by commercial studios can be found in the collections of Illustrations Ltd, the Dease Studio, Stevenson Kinder Scott, and Passey, which includes material from Rome Studios.

Travelling Photographers

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries a number of photographers travelled around Western Australia working in the commercial field. The Batty Library has good examples of this type of work in the J.J. Dwyer collection. The photographer J.J. Dwyer (1869–1928) worked from his studio in Kalgoorlie and travelled throughout the State. The collection consists of 578 photographic prints taken between 1900 and 1928. Consisting chiefly of images of Dwyer's journeys overseas and in the eastern states, his collection also includes photographs of the eastern goldfields, with shots of mine workings in Kalgoorlie and Aboriginal people on the goldfields. The J.J. Dwyer collection is a valuable record of life in regional Western Australia, as he was able to obtain images not readily available to the studio photographers who remained in Perth.

Another example of the work of a travelling photographer can be seen in the E.L. Mitchell collection. Born in the United Kingdom in 1876 before migrating to Australia in 1899, Ernest Lund Mitchell set up a photographic studio in Perth around 1910 at 264 Murray Street. This collection consists of 640 photographic prints from the 1930s to the 1950s. Mitchell photographed Perth buildings, business premises and window displays, country towns, ships, motor vehicles and plants, as well as aerial views of Perth. Images include a series of interiors of the South Fremantle Power Station, salmon fishing at Hopetoun, a surf lifesaving carnival, a ship loading iron ore at Yampi, Yanchep, and a number of photographs of the Northern Territory and the Kimberley. More of Mitchell's photographs are held in the recently purchased William Main collection.

The Lambert collection containing the private and professional work of Reg Lambert (1896–1995) represents some of the work of a travelling photographer. From 1918 Lambert rode his bicycle around the south-west of the State chasing business, something he describes in his 1978 oral history:

after taking the school photos there, a few more family groups resulted and one thing led to the other, which meant that I had a group photograph to take of the Busselton band, the Busselton fire brigade, bowls' group and a few others like that. In taking the groups indoors I used a flash and the flash at that time was flash powder, fired in a little flashgun with a flint and steel igniter and it blew up a huge column of smoke. That was the type of flash that was used in those days.⁵³

⁵³ Reginald Lambert interviewed for the Batty Library Oral History Collection by Ronda Jamieson, 1978, OH294, pp. 17–18.

Family and individual portraits were the bread and butter of photographers, and in particular travelling photographers. By the 1930s larger businesses like Dease Studios devoted considerable resources to tapping the rural market. As Desmond Dease recalled, his salesmen would travel by car to:

visit the shopkeepers, the hotels, the homes, nice homes and everything else, making appointments. Now, then the photographer would come along after and attend to the appointments which he had made ... there was a salesman first. Then there was the photographer, he would come. Then another one would come later on with the proofs, see ... And interview the people with the proofs and take the orders, whatever they wanted.⁵⁴

It was a significant investment of time and money to offer the services of a commercial studio to Western Australia's rural population. Many images donated to the Batty Library are the result of travelling photographers having popularised and distributed photographs throughout the State.

Studio photographers

A large number of photographs in the Pictorial Collection were produced by commercial photographic studios in Western Australia.⁵⁵ Most originate from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and were donated by individual collectors or as complete bodies of work from photographic studios.

A good example of early commercial photography can be seen in the Illustrations Ltd collection, donated to the Batty Library in 1963.⁵⁶ Consisting of around 5,000 photographic negatives taken from 1902 to 1958, the images are the product of the studio's specialised work in the commercial field and in the production of catalogues for businesses. There are images of buildings, the interiors of buildings, motor cars, machinery, furniture and window displays. These images are an important record of the fashion and material aspirations of Western Australians in the early twentieth century, and of the development of a consumer society.

The work of a number of other early commercial photographers can be found in the remarkable Passey collection. As a private collector, R.W. Passey acquired a personal pictorial collection covering the period 1848 to 1933. Consisting of 2,048 photographic negatives, predominantly from the

54 Desmond Dease interviewed for the Batty Library Oral History Collection by Michael Adams, 1987, OH1650, p. 150.

55 For a complete listing of early Western Australian photographers see South, R., *Photographers, photographic studios and associated businesses in Western Australia 1893–1970* (WA Genealogy Society, Bayswater, 1990?) [microform].

56 The Library Board of Western Australia, *Twelfth Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1963–64* (Perth, 1964), p. 22.

first decade of the twentieth century, the collection was acquired in 1970. Images came chiefly from the Rome Studios in Hay Street Perth (1900–1910), while earlier images are known to have been from the studios of S.M. Stout, Nixon and Merilees and L. Gray-Williams & Co.

The Passey collection contains images of places throughout Western Australia including scenes of official buildings, streetscapes, railway stations, hotels, ships, farm scenes and bush scenes. Locations include Perth, Fremantle, Albany, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Beverley, Katanning, Wungong, Northam, Darlington, Kanowna, Day Dawn, Cue, Geraldton, Boorabbin and Gingin. Social and community events from the early part of the twentieth century include the Royal Agricultural Show (1907) and the Horticultural Show (1907). The collection contains images of special events such as the Fremantle Municipal Tramway and Electric Lighting Board opening (1905) and the arrival of Hyland's Circus in Perth. The images represent an invaluable resource for all researchers into Western Australian history.



Hyland family acrobats at Hyland's circus, Perth, early 1900s. [Battye Library 000622d]

Then there is the work of other professional photographers, such as Charles Walker, Abraham 'Izzy' Orloff and Stuart Gore. Born in New South Wales, Charles Walker lived and worked in Western Australia from 1905 until his death in 1920. Many of his images were used by the *Western Mail* and in local postcards. Gore and Orloff, on the other hand, were two of Western Australia's best-known photographers, who vied with each other for business in Perth and Fremantle.⁵⁷

The Battye Library holds a large number of images produced by Izzy Orloff from his Fremantle studios, the bulk of which were taken between the wars. Donated in 1990, there are more than a thousand negatives of images from Fremantle, including portraits and streetscapes. The Stuart Gore collection is also very large, with more than 1,700 negatives of panoramas, scenery and series of photographs. Taken mainly in the 1920s and 1930s,

⁵⁷ Hoffman, L. and Jeffery, C., *Izzy Orloff: Photographer* (Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, 1989), p. 17.

the photographs consist of aerial and other views of Perth, children, the goldfields, the 10th Light Horse, the 1929 centenary celebrations, and images of the army, navy and air force.

In addition to being engaged in commercial photography, photographic studios gained a large portion of their business from producing professional portraits. Some studios, such as that of Susan Watkins which operated in Claremont between 1935 and 1975, specialised in photographic portraits. Watkins describes the range of work done by her studio in a 1995 interview:



John Robert Imms was one of the first men to enlist in Western Australia, joining the 10th Light Horse Brigade on 1 October 1914 as a trumpeter. He served in the Middle East, including a period on the Turkish peninsula from May 1915 to the evacuation in December of that year. This photograph was preserved with proceeds from the 'Adopt-A-Soldier' appeal. [Battye Library 000623d]

When I started in '35 (of course, this was during the Depression and it was a fairly lean time for everyone here) photographs were taken mainly of children, when girls made their debut, [laughs] weddings, birthdays. I think those were the main occasions or when a child first goes off to school in school uniform, I remember those. Definitely engagements, yes, that was always rather fun because there was a lot of excitement.

... and then, of course, the war came, photographs of men going away or men wanting pictures of their wives and children to take with them, that was very much so. During wartime, photographs were taken of children to send overseas to fathers and so on. I don't think the pattern changed very much then, but as the years went by there was less of the debutants and all the nonsense that went on at that stage. I used to suffer because quite frequently a girl would go off to the hairdresser and then come in with her hair done in some very bouffant, quite ridiculous style which was not as she normally looked and, not having known her before, I, of course, didn't

know. I think the simpler the hair is, especially with young girls, the better. I think anything that dates a photograph is sad. I did have problems with that. Although even now there are still girls that come out at all sorts of charity balls and so on, that was much less so as the years went by fortunately. I was never keen on taking weddings. In fact, I never really enjoyed taking more than one person at a time. I always preferred to take people singly.⁵⁸

Like all professional photographers Watkins was sometimes forced to take what work she could, but it was as a portrait photographer that she made her reputation. When Susan Watkins donated forty-five of her portraits of

⁵⁸ Susan Watkins interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Criena Fitzgerald, 1995, OH2638, p. 37.

well-known Western Australians in 1964, her collection became the only one by a female professional photographer in the Batty Library.⁵⁹

Further portraits can be found within other collections, such as the Passey and Dease collections. The Dease collection in particular contains a large number of portraits taken between 1900 and 1927. Produced by Denis Dease and his son Desmond between 1890 and 1959 at Dease Studio in Perth, this collection came in several consignments and consists of seventy-six photographic prints, as well as more than 6,000 glass plate negatives which have yet to be listed. The photographic prints include portraits of Dease family members, as well as members of the Professional Photographers' Association and other groups. The glass negatives are mainly portraits, with just a few photographs of buildings and streets. Many of these contain images of First World War soldiers, the subjects of an 'Adopt-A-Soldier' program to raise money for the preservation of glass negatives.

Other large holdings of commercial photographic studios include the Kinder and Scott collection. There are nearly 70,000 negatives donated by Stevenson, Kinder and Scott, covering the 1960s to the 1980s. The collection contains a wide variety of jobs commissioned by Western Australian companies, government agencies and private organisations. Images range from promotional photographs of Plaistowe's confectionery products to shots of housing construction. Given that most examples of commercial photography held in the Pictorial Collection are from the first half of the twentieth century, the Kinder Scott collection is important as representative of the kinds of work being produced in the late twentieth century.

POSTCARDS

Like all of the images in the Pictorial Collection, postcards provide a rich picture of life in Western Australia. Amongst the significant number in the Batty Library are a few unpublished postcards sent as personal messages to friends and family, usually in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, most postcards were published by private companies and, on occasions, by government agencies.

While there are a number of individual items and small groups of postcards from the nineteenth century, most postcards are of twentieth century origins, in particular from the first two decades of the twentieth century. Postcards

⁵⁹ The Library Board of Western Australia, *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1964-65* (Perth, 1965), p. 28.



'Australia will be there, 1914-1918.' An example of one of many individual postcards in the Pictorial Collection. [Battye Library 001051d]

can be found scattered throughout the Battye Library's photographic collections, however there are a few specific postcard collections from private sources, while there are also several significant collections of postcards from commercial sources. Most collections were acquired during the 1990s and consist of postcards based on photographic techniques, rather than graphic designs.

The Falk collection is a large series of 408 commercial postcards produced by P. Falk between 1906 and 1911. It is an important record for that period containing both black and white and coloured postcards covering a wide range of images. On a smaller scale, the Bon Marche Stores collection, dating from 1906 to 1913, consists of more than sixty images of Perth, including some coloured postcards.

Other early examples of postcards can be found in the Martin collection, showing buildings and views from Perth and Fremantle around 1900. Included are seven postcards showing Perth Fire Station, Parliament House, Perth's Wellington Street, Fremantle and its Harbour, Perth Central Railway Station, Fremantle from Monument Hill, and Fremantle Railway Station. The Witt postcard collection, produced from 1900 to 1910, contains 18 views around Perth,

Wongong, Northam, York, Bunbury and Albany, as well as images of Aborigines washing wool and of Crown Law Department staff around 1908. A later collection, within a general collection of photographs and postcards from 1910 to 1920, includes a set of 23 embroidered cards sent by soldiers from France and Belgium during the First World War, as well as postcards of scenes around Western Australia. Examples of later postcards feature tourist views from the 1950s. The collection includes five postcards and two brochures illustrating Kununurra; the Jewelled City, Elephant's Foot and Cabaret Caves at Yanchep; *Happy days*, dainty series postcards; the Porongorups and a pictorial souvenir of Busselton.

One of the largest collections of postcards is that of John Roberts. Donated by the founder of the Western Australian card collectors' society in 1993, the collection consists of 566 postcards from the 1880s to the late twentieth century. Perhaps the most diverse set of images is a collection of 476 black and white postcards dating from 1903 to 1911, known as the Postcards of Western Australia collection.

Of other postcard collections acquired in the 1990s, the Nucolorvue Productions collection is the largest. It contains around 400 postcards featuring images including public buildings, scenic views of geographic features, and aerial views of major towns, taken mainly in the early 1990s. Similarly, the Rolsh collection, received around the same time, consists of 293 postcards from the 1970s to the early 1990s.

Over the past hundred years there has been a vast array of subjects photographed for use in postcards, ranging from buildings to landscapes, places to people. Postcards in particular say much about how each generation of Western Australians have chosen to represent themselves to each other and to the world. Even the type of humour employed in novelty cards reflects changing social values. Not only do the images on postcards, and the captions which accompany them, record specific events and actions, but they also reveal a wealth of information about the social and cultural conditions of the time. Postcard collections, like all the artworks and photographs held in the Battye Library, represent an invaluable visual record of aspects of Western Australia's history.

CHAPTER FOUR

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY

The Story of the Oral History Collection

In the course of human history, libraries, books and even the written word are quite recent innovations. The urge to explain the world, to describe experiences and to explore the human condition through mythology and storytelling have only recently been standardised and fixed in the written form as literature and history, and only more recently still collected and categorised in libraries like the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. The whole idea of history, in particular, has rested squarely on the written word. The certainty of the printed form with its uniform fonts, standardised formats and overwhelming mass production has usurped pre-literate oral traditions to such an extent that it is easy to think that only the written word can convey historical truth. Yet the need to share stories and experiences and to learn from each other's personal accounts and reminiscences through the spoken word remains a powerful force in society. By harnessing that force in the form of oral history, the Battye Library has collected a vibrant and fascinating historical resource for future generations of Western Australians.

The oral record is important as a universal and fundamentally democratic form of expression. Every person has their own story to tell, and with the development of technologies capable of recording the spoken word, literate societies have been able to reclaim and rediscover the power of the oral record. An old form of communication, previously limited to the immediate members of a family, clan or tribe, now provides a rich new source of social, political and personal history. By embracing this concept of oral history, a people's history has been captured, infused with a breadth and immediacy seldom found in written records, giving a fresh perspective to Western Australia's cultural heritage.

Listening to a recording of someone talking about events from the early twentieth century or the last half of the nineteenth century is like building

a bridge to the past. An oral history can provide much more than simple facts about dates and events. Original sound recordings are able to convey the sense of humour of the subject, their speech patterns, inflections and vernacular expressions which may have long since vanished from contemporary use. Language, infused with cultural assumptions, can capture the feeling of an era, giving colour and tone to a past more effectively than the formal language of the written text.

Few people write their stories, while for those who do, text confined to the essential facts often loses the colour and flavour of the individual experience. Even the best writers struggle to convey through writing — literary or historical — experiences which can be readily communicated through an interview. In its Oral History Collection, the Battye Library has not only sought to capture the voices of Western Australia's many communities but has aimed to record a different kind of history: a people's history.

A Unique Collection

The State Library of Western Australia began collecting oral histories through the Battye Library in the early 1960s. Not only was it the first State Library in Australia to collect oral history and record its own interviews, but for twenty-five years it remained the only one. The Library's collection of oral history now contains over 11,000 hours of tape representing interviews with more than 5,500 Western Australians,

making it the largest and most comprehensive collection in any Australian State Library and second only to that of the National Library of Australia.



March for equal pay,
Fremantle, May Day 1965.
[Battye Library 001303d]

The Battye Library is the major archival repository for oral histories produced by individuals and groups throughout the State. These include interviews which are part of community and private oral history programs, as well as sound recordings which are sometimes donated specifically to the Oral

History Collection or as part of a general donation of the papers and records of individuals and organisations. For example, the Library received a donation from the Committee for Equal Pay which included recordings of speeches and rallies between 1958 and 1961.

A large number of oral histories held by the Library are, however, the result of its own activities spread over several decades. It is noteworthy that the Battye Library began collecting oral history at a time when few people in Australia knew what oral history interviewing involved, let alone occupied themselves in doing it. Unlike the other collections held by the Battye Library, therefore, the Oral History Collection is not the product of the careful appraisal and acquisition of existing material offered to the library. In a sense, it has been an artificial creation, with the Library consciously setting out to conduct its own interviews and, in more recent times, in partnership with other institutions. It has also managed oral history projects in the community, providing training and advice to improve the overall standard of oral history being produced.

Composed primarily of structured interviews recorded on audiotape in which the people being interviewed talk about their lives or particular events and experiences, interviews span over 130 years of memories. For the public of Western Australia the collection provides a fascinating link from the twenty-first century to the nineteenth, with many of the people interviewed born in the late 1800s — the earliest being born in 1863. The size, range and breadth of the Oral History Collection is attributable to the collection building strategies pursued by Oral History staff, as well as to the Battye Library's ongoing commitment to fostering the development of this distinctly Western Australian resource.

Origins of the Collection

The Oral History Collection had its origins in the enthusiasm and vision of Mollie Lukis, State Archivist. While in the United States on a Carnegie Grant in 1956, she was exposed to the field of oral history pursued since 1948 by American historians interested in recording their own recent past. She saw the tremendous potential for oral history to capture and preserve those aspects of Western Australia's history which might be overlooked, or left only partially told, in the more traditional documentary forms.

After the State Library was presented with a tape recorder through the generosity of Jean Rogerson in 1961, Mollie Lukis finally began work



Coal miners were some of the first subjects interviewed by Batty Library staff in 1961. Here miners drill in the shaft of the Cardiff Coal Mine, Collie 1947. [Batty Library 000163d]

recording the reminiscences of people who ‘have themselves played a part in the history and development of the State or who have been associated in some way with significant persons or events.’⁶⁰ The first interviews were conducted with specially targeted individuals later that year, including an interview with the pioneering aviator Sir Norman Brearley, who established Australia’s first airline in 1921.

From the earliest days the collection of oral history was not limited to the State’s leading citizens and high achievers, but was also concerned with ordinary Western Australians from all walks of life. Under the guidance of Mollie Lukis, the Batty Library staff conducted a series of interviews with individuals on the Depression, as well as with former residents of the north-west and with Collie coal miners.

As the possibilities, and scope, of oral history as a medium were explored, the subjects for interview and the kinds of people being interviewed also expanded. By the late 1960s interviews were based on themes or events, and sought to include people from remote and rural areas of the State. For example, in 1963 a series of interviews was conducted by Robert and E. Hall in the Shire of Bridgetown/Greenbushes with residents of the Bridgetown area talking about the history of the town. This type of

⁶⁰ The Library Board of Western Australia, *Fourteenth Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1965–66* (Perth, 1966), p. 28.

community-based project, often with local government support, was to become an important area for collection development. John Thomson, Forester with the Department of the North-West, on his travels through the north in connection with his work, volunteered to record interviews with people associated with the many different aspects of life and work in that area. From 1965 to 1967 he interviewed ‘leading citizens and old identities, station owners, drovers, shearers, stockmen, station hands and in some cases their wives’⁶¹ from the Pilbara to the Kimberley.

The pioneering work was undertaken on a trial and error basis. There were no guidelines or methodology of interviewing techniques, sometimes resulting in sub-standard recordings. Sound on some of the early audio tapes could be poor or even inaudible, while most interviews, through the interviewer’s inexperience, lacked the guidance and planning needed to elicit the interviewee’s full story. Technical expertise and improved interviewing techniques were developed as staff of the Battye Library undertook an impressive array of interviews. Practices which are now taken for granted slowly developed. For example, in the early part of the 1960s, audio tapes were wiped and re-used once a transcript had been made, a practice copied from the United States and which was fortunately abandoned before too many original recordings were lost. Tapes kept included the commands of a bullock driver to his team, and an Aboriginal message stick containing the greetings from Aborigines at Ethel Creek Station and the replies.

Up until the mid-1970s sporadic interviews by the Battye staff and interested individuals from community groups were the main source of oral histories in the collection. Although some interviews with people made prior to 1961 were subsequently donated to the Battye Library, the bulk of new material came from interviews conducted by staff. Only in 1975, after the Library Board of Western Australia approved funding for three positions in oral history, was a well-resourced Oral History Collection formally established within the Battye Library. With three full-time staff — two to interview and one to transcribe — the Oral History Collection began a period of rapid expansion as the program was allowed to blossom.

Development of an Oral History Collection

In 1974, with offices located within the Battye Library, staff of the new Oral History Collection set about publicising their oral history programs on radio and through public talks and newspaper articles, generating a

61 *ibid.*, p. 29.

tremendous level of public interest. Forty-five interviews with people of widely different backgrounds were produced in 1974–1975, increasing to eighty-nine in 1975–1976.⁶² This generated a snowball effect in the community with many people anxious to learn how to interview for family, local history and educational purposes. At first, untrained enthusiasts undertaking interviews would bring audio tapes to the Battye Library to add to the Oral History Collection. Staff found that the quality of these recordings was often extremely poor, in some cases rendering the recording worthless. There were also problems with interview technique where planning had not been done or where interviewers dominated so that persons being interviewed could not tell their story. A lack of knowledge of preservation and documentation meant that irreplaceable recordings were sometimes lost or were impossible to identify.



Trudy Walherden transcribing an oral history at the Battye Library, 1966. [Battye Library 006983d]

As a way of improving the oral histories being conducted, oral history staff instituted a number of educational measures. From the commencement of its interviewing program in 1961, the Battye Library had aimed to take a lead in the field and to set professional standards. By initiating training courses and workshops and preparing supporting handouts in the 1980s, oral history staff adopted a new role. To assist in its new educational role, staff produced a number of resources during the 1980s and 1990s. The first aid to be made available to the public was an audio tape: *How to Interview: a step-by-step guide to successful interviewing*. In 1992 an education kit was subsequently developed called *Young, Old and in Between: exploring family memories across the generations*. It contained an audio tape on interviewing for family history purposes, and a booklet which included essential information about equipment, copyright, confidential material and research sources. The Oral History Association of Western Australia, in partnership with the Battye Library, produced *Capturing the Past: an oral history workshop* (1998), an educational video for schools and community groups.

62 The Library Board of Western Australia, *Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Board: The Library and Information Service of Western Australia 1975–76* (Perth, 1976), p. 13.

Through education and training, oral history staff aimed to empower local groups and communities in metropolitan and country areas in order to gain a wider representation of the State's history in the Oral History Collection and to enrich local history collections in public libraries. Training workshops usually led to community oral history groups being formed to undertake local oral history projects with guidance from the Battye Library. Partners and participants in these sponsored training programs were encouraged to lodge their interviews with the collection in order to share resources amongst researchers. As a result, the size and the quality of the Oral History Collection was considerably enhanced, while the standard of oral history being practised throughout the State generally improved.

Following the formal reorganisation of the Oral History Program in 1989, more emphasis was placed on providing a consultancy service to offer expertise in designing and managing projects. Partners were often asked to pay the cost of employing contract interviewers and transcribers, providing employment and training in oral history for graduates. While the Oral History Collection benefited significantly from these joint projects using contract personnel, it also undertook its own interviews in order to be able to record those stories which were vital to the history of the State, but which might be unable to attract funding.

Under the auspices of the Battye Library, oral history flourished in Western Australia, with the Oral History Collection evolving in unexpected and exciting new ways. With each series of interviews new subjects and areas of interest were unearthed. From a collection which began recording the reminiscences and recollections of prominent citizens and ordinary individuals, a rich repository of information has been gathered on widely diverse subjects.

Strengths of the Oral History Collection

The Battye Library was a pioneer in the field when it began gathering oral histories in the early 1960s, interviewing elderly people with memories stretching back into the nineteenth century. Undoubtedly the strength of the collection flows from the many interviews with everyday Western Australians talking about their lives. Over the decades the range of subject matter and themes represented within the collection developed phenomenally. As oral history became a more sophisticated medium, staff targeted specific topics and materials. As a result, a very wide range of employment groups, social backgrounds, ethnic communities, lifestyles and experiences are represented in the collection. By striving to be inclusive of all sections of the community, the collection reflects the diversity and complexity of the peoples of the State.

There are interviews with writers, pastoralists and graziers, parliamentarians, nurses, business people and community leaders. More than 340 occupations are represented. There are recordings with individuals talking about their working lives as mothers, prospectors, stockmen, farmers, labourers, miners, journalists, bush poets and composers, nurses, teachers, railway workers, shearers, typists and even as an undertaker.

Work is just one form of human activity and these interviews invariably touch on many other aspects of an individual's experience. Life stories may include personal and family relationships, experiences of war, migration and natural disasters, as well as accounts of prevailing social conditions and attitudes. For example, interviews with farmers might describe work with horse breaking or droving, along with the less glamorous aspects of daily life on a station or farm, but could touch on topics like music and dancing in a social context. Similarly, interviews intended to elicit information on specific topics like aviation, trade unionism, land settlement schemes, or fisheries and whaling, often end up providing a wealth of information on a local primary school or sporting organisation.

The Oral History Collection sought to be regionally and geographically representative, gathering interviews from over 250 country towns in Western Australia. The number and quality of interviews from rural areas rapidly increased during the 1990s, being carried out in the local community where oral history groups are active, sometimes with the guidance and support of the Battye Library, but increasingly as independent programs. These local groups include Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Collie, Geraldton, Harvey and Port Hedland. In the metropolitan area there are over 70 suburbs represented in the collection, including Cockburn, various foothills suburbs, Subiaco, Swan Shire and Victoria Park. These projects were often undertaken in cooperation with local government and/or local history groups.

There are over 190 interviews with Aboriginal people in the collection. Some of these are held in trust with carefully worked out restrictions on access and others are short interviews recorded for radio. Aboriginal Australians remain under-represented, though this is being addressed and there are some excellent fully transcribed and indexed interviews on open access. Also represented are eighteen ethnic groups, including interviews describing the experiences of migrants from postwar Italy and Vietnamese refugees.

A particular strength in the collection is the significant number of interview series on specific themes or subjects. These include series on business and industry, education, the changing role of women in society, the Depression, architecture, pearling, land settlement schemes, housekeeping and food,

community organisations, farming and droving, nursing and nurse educators, mental health services, women and the peace movement, human relationships, sport, the Main Roads Department, Aboriginal missions and settlements, aviation, cycling, surf lifesaving, railways, trade unionism and industrial disputes, the arts (particularly theatre and music), the environment and conservation, migration, working and being unemployed, real estate, and the Vietnam war. Many of these oral histories have transcripts — some with comprehensive indexes — while the balance have a synopsis of content. Together they represent a diverse and vibrant variety of themes and topics relevant to the Western Australian experience.

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION

The Oral History Collection contains a number of different types of materials, consisting of some sound recordings made for radio — chiefly for the Australian Broadcasting Commission — but comprising mainly oral histories. There are several styles of interviews represented in the collection. The mode of interview first attempted was the one-off recording of individuals talking about their own lives. These include interviews with prominent citizens, Western Australian politicians, business and community leaders, as well as with some ordinary people.

A significant proportion of the collection consists of series of interviews, often the product of a joint project between the Battye Library and some external organisation or group. Local community groups, government agencies, professional associations, companies and cultural bodies have used oral history to record aspects of their history. Other series of interviews have recorded the stories of Western Australian women, particularly in the peace movement, as well as authors.

LIBRARY INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUALS

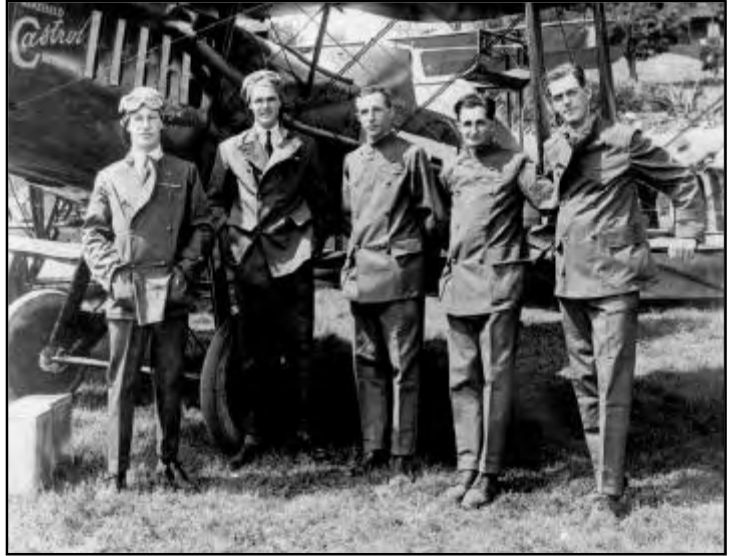
A large proportion of the collection in oral history consists of interviews with individuals detailing their life's story or some key event in their life. Often these recordings were simply unstructured reminiscences in which an individual described his or her own life with minimal questioning by the interviewer. In subsequent years it became more common to interview individuals as part of a series devoted to broad themes. Guided by the

interviewer, interviewees were led to address specific events in their lives, or a particular topic about which they had information.

The first oral history taken by the Battye Library was that of Sir Norman Brearley (1961), who was responsible for establishing Australia's first airline, Western Australian Airways. The first regular service began on 4 December 1921 when three planes set out from Geraldton for Derby with mail and passengers, but ended in tragedy when one of the planes crashed, killing the pilot and his passenger. In the early days of flying in Western Australia's north-west, company pilots had to deal with mechanical problems and dangerous physical conditions, the most serious being the unsuitability of the landing fields prepared by the new Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation. The hazardous nature of the industry is evident in Sir Norman's comment that:

we had a spare plane at Hedland and we had one at Carnarvon, and they were always there, and usually there was one undergoing overhaul in Perth, and if there was a false landing there were other spare planes to go out and take up the running, and if the false landing wasn't too serious the pilot would stand by until the repairs were effected and then he would fly back to where it was most suitable to go.⁶³

Subsequent interviews, such as the one with Sir Charles Latham (1962) in which he describes the clearing of land in the early part of the twentieth century, as well as his life as a politician, reflected a desire to record the experiences of prominent individuals. The interview with Alex Sanderson (1967), who worked with C.Y. O'Connor on key engineering projects like the construction of Fremantle harbour, dealt with their association in Western Australia.



Pilots associated with Norman Brearley (centre) on the inauguration of the north-west service of Western Australian Airways on 5 December 1921. Includes from left to right Charles Kingsford Smith, Robert Fawcett (killed on his first flight), Len Taplin and Val Abbott. [Battye Library 000616d]

⁶³ Sir Norman Brearley interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Mollie Lukis, 1961, OH901, p. 16.

The taking of oral histories from prominent citizens has continued to the present day. There are a number of oral histories of politicians in the collection, including extensive interviews with former premiers Sir David Brand, Frank Wise, John Tonkin, Sir Charles Court and Ray O'Connor in which they discuss their political careers, other politicians and key themes in the history of Western Australia. The collection holds interviews with former Governor and Chief Justice Sir Francis Burt (1994–1995) consisting of 22 cassettes and a 596 page transcript, providing a fascinating insight into his life, career, and opinions. For example, in discussing his role as governor, Sir Francis deals with the constitutional conventions which underpin the post and recounts his personal experience of it, observing that:

the office was very largely I thought transmitting the wrong message all the time in what people like to think of as an egalitarian Australian society. It was transmitting the wrong message, built on the prestige of royalty and salutes and guns and all this; the things that I regarded rather as rubbish, but other people didn't. That was one of the things I found hard to reconcile, to come to grips with, and I often felt myself being pushed out as a sort of Gilbert and Sullivan totem pole that people reacted to in a certain way. It was very tribal. I think that's getting fairly close to what I found unsatisfactory about what was otherwise a pleasant occupation.⁶⁴

Another significant oral history is the twelve hour series of interviews with mining magnate Lang Hancock (1990), which gives great insight into the establishment and development of mining interests in the Pilbara. It is one of a number of interviews with prominent Western Australians from outside the field of government and politics.

At the same time as the collection was targeting public figures, it was also reaching out to ordinary people. A number of early interviews captured individuals from around the State recounting their experiences of daily life in their communities. The recording of 'Pop' McCamish (1965) talking about his early days in Collie and his life on the coal fields, and a similar recording with 'Pop' Randall (1960) recounting his experiences on the goldfields, are two of many. Other early oral histories taken by staff were aimed at collecting a variety of Western Australian stories. Mollie Lukis' interview with C. Reading (1965), describing his experience as a bullock driver in the 1920s, reflects this trend.

⁶⁴ Sir Francis Burt interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Ronda Jamieson, 1994–95, OH2629, p. 344.

Jack Honniball's interview with Jessie Burnett (1962) regarding her childhood at the overland telegraph station at Eyre's Patch from 1877 describes everyday events from a way of life which has long since vanished. The extent of the isolation experienced by the telegraph operators and their families can be seen in Burnett's recollections of the wreck of a supply vessel:

There were reefs here, reefs there, reefs there and if it was a good captain he could just sail in and out between those reefs and leave his load of poles and things, but if the captain was not good, he got caught on a reef. There was not a hope of salvage, because when the tide came in, it could bash up 30 and 40 feet high ... We used to get 12 months supply at a time. A ship only came down once a year, later on 4 times a year. One year it didn't come down when it was supposed to before Christmas. There was a strike, I suppose, or a dispute they called it, and we had crow and kangaroo for Christmas. We all had it. I know I ate eleven snakes' eggs.⁶⁵

From an early stage, interviews with ordinary people were gathered by the Battye Library as part of a theme or subject, usually as a geographic or regional group which often combined occupations. One of the earliest series of interviews was undertaken with Collie coalminers in the early 1960s, but perhaps the most important early series was conducted by John Thomson in the mid-1960s. Thomson interviewed over 30 individuals from across the north-west of the State, recording the experiences and recollections of a broad range of people from all sorts of backgrounds, including 'Dusty' (1966) a Halls Creek prospector, Ernie Chapman (1966) an Aboriginal stockman talking about life on Ivanhoe station from 1936, and Sam Thomas (1966) describing his childhood and early working life as an axeman in the south-west, as well as his subsequent working life as a drover and cameleer in Meekathara. The interviews covered memories from the late nineteenth century to contemporary events. For example, Thomson's interview with Bernard O'Driscoll (1966) dealt with vermin and dingo control in the north-west from 1961 to 1966, while other interviews, such as that with Bill Prince (1966) recorded the life of shearers in the north-west from the 1920s.

There is an interview conducted by Thomson with Jim Edwards (1966) whose experiences as a prisoner of war and working in the north-west of Western Australia formed the basis of one of the main characters in Neville

⁶⁵ Jessie T. Burnett interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Jack Honniball, 1962, OH918, p. 3.

Shute's novel *A Town Like Alice* (1950). Thomson's oral histories record not only the life stories of those he interviewed, with all the factual information of day-to-day life and events, but a snapshot of north-west culture, with many of the subjects sharing stories, singing folk songs and reciting bush poetry. His interview with Percy Thomas (1966), for example, records not only information about his work as a camel driver, and about the Thomas family and life in Roebourne from 1890 onwards, but also captures Thomas singing local folksongs such as *The Nullagine pub* and *Cooking johnnycakes down at the bend*, a bush ballad he learnt in childhood in the late 1890s, with words probably made up by 'a teamster having a crack at the shearers.'⁶⁶ It reads:

The wool season's now at an end,
 You can see those dirty black shearers
 Cooking johnnycakes down at the bend.
 They growl at the cook and his tucker,
 They growl at the shears and the sheep.
 The boss, they say he's a snorter,
 They snore, grunt, and growl in their sleep ...⁶⁷



Giannatti's Home from Home Family Hotel wrecked by rioters and destroyed by fire during the Kalgoorlie race riots, 1934. [Battye Library 000626d]

Other interviewees, such as John McMicking (1966), recite their own songs and poetry, popular bush ballads of the time, or the songs and poems of popular poets like William H. Ogilvie.

A collection strength is the eyewitness accounts of important events in the State's history. For example, the collection holds a number of interviews with people present during the Kalgoorlie race riots in 1934, the earliest interview

being conducted in 1976, with a series of ten interviews on the race riots done by Bill Bunbury from the Australian Broadcasting Commission (later Corporation) between 1985 and 1988. Rather than being a full recounting of the individual's life experience, these interviews concentrated on the specific events of the riots.

⁶⁶ Percy Thomas interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by John Thomson, 1966, OH138/3, p. 9.

⁶⁷ *ibid.*

BATTYE PARTNERSHIPS

By the 1990s oral histories collected by staff of the Battye Library, although including interviews with outstanding individuals regarding their achievements and lives, more generally addressed issues and specific themes of importance to the State and its people. The practice was for the Library to enter into partnerships with a wide range of external bodies in order to attract new sources of funding to support these types of oral history projects. To a certain extent, this practice influenced the kind of oral history being collected, reflecting a new range and diversity of subjects covered and of people interviewed.

A particularly successful example of such a joint project the Battye Library engaged in during this period is the *Radio 6PR Nightline Four Generations Oral History Project* (1990–1991). With the financial backing of Perth radio station 6PR, a series of interviews was carried out by Criena Fitzgerald for the Battye Library in which four generations of women from each family were interviewed regarding their experiences of growing up and living in Perth and Fremantle. In one family a fifth generation was interviewed, a boy aged five. Subjects for interview were nominated by listeners to 6PR before being selected by staff. In all, seventeen interviews were recorded, reflecting the generational changes in experiences, beliefs and expectations of the interviewees, telling a fascinating story which spans most of the twentieth century.

The following extracts highlight the difference in attitude to voting expressed by the first and fourth generations of women. The experience of gaining the vote was still very fresh in the mind of the first generation:

CF: *Did you see voting as important?*

FOSTER: ... I did believe, and I always have done, that the vote for a woman was fought for. Some died for it. Therefore, we should use our vote sensibly ... I never asked my father, my husband, or anybody, who should I vote for. I would think about it and read about it and then I would vote for who I thought. ...

We're lucky to be able to have a vote, and it's only through those that fought and died for it. Of course, they were called all sorts of names and all the rest of it, but still, they stuck to their guns, and women got their vote. So therefore, why not use it sensibly?⁶⁸

68 Florence Foster interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Criena Fitzgerald, 1990, OH2352, p. 59.

In contrast the response of the fourth generation to the issue of voting reveals a different attitude:

CF: *Did you register to vote?*

MUIR: I did when I was eighteen. My dad made me when I was eighteen, and I didn't vote after that. I got fined for not voting.⁶⁹

Unlike the 6PR project, most oral histories undertaken by the Batty Library in partnership with businesses, unions, government agencies, community groups and other bodies were aimed at telling stories directly related to the sponsoring organisation. The biggest and most obvious exceptions to this, however, are those projects which involved the National Library of Australia.

National Library of Australia

The National Library is a major partner in the production of oral history in Western Australia. It participates in projects with the Batty Library in order to enrich Western Australian representation in the national collection.

Early interviews conducted by the National Library with prominent Western Australian's like Elizabeth Durack and Robert Juniper (1965) were undertaken on behalf of the National Library and subsequently added to the Batty Library's Oral History Collection. Then there are interviews with writers such as Katherine Susannah Prichard (1960), J.K. Ewers (1965), Randolph Stow (1974), Walter Murdoch (1965 and 1975), Dame Mary Durack (1976), Elizabeth Backhouse (1993) and T.A.G. Hungerford (1998).

Over the years a number of NLA projects incorporating Western Australian components have been conducted by staff from the Oral History Collection as part of larger national programs. Participation in such projects has enriched the Batty Library's own collection. For example, a Commonwealth funded *Cultural Context of Unemployment Oral History Project* (1985–86) recorded nearly one hundred interviews with young people from all parts of the State and from all cultural and social backgrounds.

Interviewees represent a range of subcultures from within a generation that was faced with the threat and the reality of long-term unemployment, exclusion and alienation. A Perth skinhead discussed social customs and politics within his group noting that:

⁶⁹ Denis Muir interviewed for the Batty Library Oral History Collection by Ciena Fitzgerald, 1991, OH2355, p. 43.

There's a lot of different types of skinheads. I'm a socialist skinhead; same as most skinheads are. You get fascists and communists and you get ska skinheads and things like that.⁷⁰

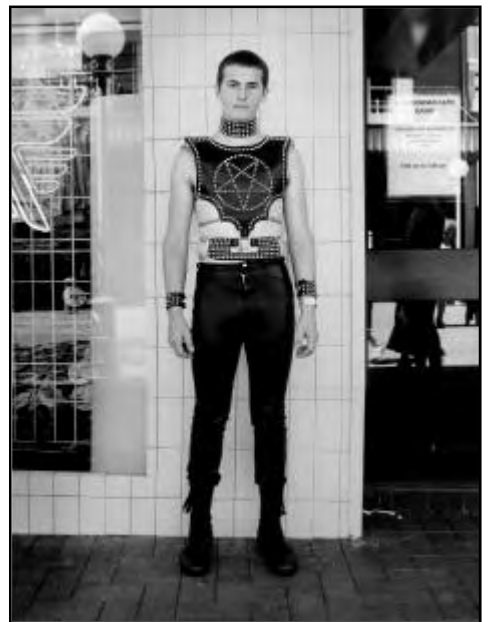
Another interviewee struggles to come to terms with long-term unemployment reflecting that:

My older brothers, they were leaving school in the early seventies, and it was relatively a lot easier to get a job then. They were able to get a job and, sort of, establish themselves a bit more in their jobs. And my sister went on to tertiary education and again she left in, sort of, mid-seventies. It was beginning to get difficult then, but she had a tertiary education so it wasn't too bad. So I think that being one of the last born and leaving school in the late seventies I just left at the wrong time. And of course once you've been unemployed for a while it becomes increasingly more difficult...⁷¹

In a decade popularly associated with excess — the decade of the yuppie, personal consumption and corporate high-flyers — these interviews with young people tell a very different story. One unemployed youth discussed the impact of being without work between 1980 and 1985:

But by the time I'd been unemployed for three months I began to think that I've been trying really hard, I've been going out every day and looking quite extensively. This is getting ridiculous that I can't get a ... I'm not really looking for anything special. Just a storeman or something like that. So that I began to become very depressed ...

... it got so bad in fact that I couldn't sleep at night and during the day of course I was totally bugged and really tired. So I even had to spend two nights in Charlie Gairdner Hospital just to get my cycle back. Once I knew it was really ... I was just sort of ... depression really. I was able to cope a little bit better and become a bit stronger, I suppose, inside and I coped perhaps a little bit better with it. And I was determined that I would not let it get me down too much so I began to occupy myself and began to read more. I began to meet with other unemployed people to do things. I started going to CYSS — Community Youth Support Scheme — and I also became more



Punks in Western Australia. 'Starfighter', 1984, photographed by Krystyna Woznica. [LISWA Art Collection 985.61]

70 Clayton X interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Stuart Reid, 1985, OH2518/2, p. 28.

71 Robin Stevens interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Stuart Reid, 1985, OH2518/3, pp. 4-5.

politically active as well ... But the whole period of unemployment's been bad. Its boring. The main thing you have is lack of money ... So the income affects people's attitudes towards you as well, which is the most horrific thing.⁷²

Other projects taken up in partnership with the National Library included the *Australian Response to AIDS Oral History Project* (1993) which recorded five interviews with Western Australians, and eleven interviews with the *Albany Whaling Oral History Project* (1975). Such a diverse range of projects includes the experiences of many sections of the Western Australian community.

Government and Government Agencies

The Batty Library entered into partnership with Western Australian government agencies, with the Library providing the expertise needed to support government initiated oral history programs. Government departments and bodies to commission oral history projects have included the Office of Racing and Gaming and the Building Management Authority.

As a result of such partnerships the number and range of interviews in the Oral History Collection increased considerably. An arrangement with the Building Management Authority and the Fremantle Prison Museum resulted in interviews being carried out with ex-prisoners and prison staff, including those from the women's section. As a result, over a six-year period the *Fremantle Prison Oral History Project* (1989–95) produced fifteen interviews. Similarly, the *Parliamentary History Project* resulted in several oral histories being conducted with former and current members of the Western Australian Parliament and its staff, including interviews with premiers and cabinet ministers, as well as secretaries and Hansard reporters. Another partnership with the Federal Parliament led to oral histories taken with former Western Australian federal politicians like Kim Beazley Snr and Sir Fred Chaney, the recordings and transcripts being added to the collection.

Other Western Australian government agencies to commission oral histories through the Oral History Collection include the Health Department and the East Perth Redevelopment Authority. The latter conducted an important project to commemorate the history of the local community in the light of the redevelopment of the East Perth precinct. Interviews were recorded with members of East Perth's Aboriginal community, including the

⁷² *ibid.*, pp. 6–7.

prominent elder Ken Colbung, to record life in the area from an Aboriginal perspective. Other interviews recorded experiences of growing up in working class East Perth in the early part of the twentieth century, as well as of working in the East Perth Gas Works in the 1940s and at the locomotive depot as a train driver (1943–1970). This series of interviews records memories of ways of living and working which have been lost due to the redevelopment of the area.

Local Government

Local government has been a key partner with the Batty Library in gathering oral history from around the State, enabling the collection to acquire interviews with a variety of people exploring a wide array of subjects. Usually working with local historical societies and oral history groups, local governments throughout Western Australia have contributed significantly to the Library's Collection. Shire councils, like the Shire of Swan, have participated in a number of oral history projects during the last decade. For example, the *Swan Shire Bridges Project* (1993) resulted in seventeen interviews with residents of the Upper Swan Valley talking about local bridges, grape growing and life in the valley from the 1920s onwards. The Shire of Swan has subsequently contributed to the completion of a major project on Midland, accompanied by a book based on the interviews.

The ongoing *Geraldton Regional Library Oral History Program* and the *Port Hedland Centenary Oral History Project* (1993), have produced thirty-six interviews with local residents, and are good examples of local government involvement in producing oral history in cooperation with the Library. Similarly, other local government oral history projects which have been added to the collection include the *Gingin Shire, Lancelin Oral History Project* (1989) with fifteen interviews relating to Lancelin, and the *Perenjori Shire Oral History Project* (1997–98) with more than twenty interviews with local residents. In areas closer to Perth, the Shire of Kalamunda, in cooperation with local community groups and the Batty Library, produced the *Foothills Connection Project* (1989–90) with nearly forty interviews with residents describing their lives in the region and the changes over the years.

Universities and Educational Bodies

Staff of the Batty Library have undertaken a number of interviewing projects in cooperation with Western Australian universities. Oral history projects, often involving a third party, have been completed with the University of

Western Australia, Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University and Curtin University of Technology.

A good example of this kind of cooperation can be seen in a project undertaken with the Department of Organisation and Labour Studies at the University of Western Australia. Twenty interviews were conducted with miners and their families about living and working in Tom Price and Paraburdoo as part of their joint *Pilbara Iron Ore Oral History Project* (1991).

Similarly, the Oral History Collection contains forty-three interviews by Jack Darcey, as part of the *Murdoch University and the Fishing Industry and Development Council Project* (1989–90). In addition to recording the general experiences of Western Australian fishermen for most of the twentieth century, interviewees in the project discuss key issues such as the depletion of shark and fish stocks towards the end of the twentieth century, the types of fish harvested, the impact of research, the changing attitudes of fishermen to the industry, changing work practices, the economic viability of the industry and the effects of quotas on fishermen.

Bill Kent describes the impact on the Western Australian tuna industry of the Federal government's quotas, known as individual transferable quotas, which were introduced to save the Southern Ocean tuna fishery from collapse:

The way they allocated the quotas out, it destroyed or put a lot of people in Western Australia in an uneconomical situation. Therefore a lot of them sold out of the industry. The effect on the fishermen was really drastic. Some of the South Australians come across and bought quotas off Western Australian fishermen ... Meself, there was no way I would sell and I tried to encourage everybody else not to ... Now when the fishery was operating in Esperance, there was up to a hundred vessels operating in Esperance, licensed tuna vessels. Soon as the quota system come in, it dropped down to about thirty and at the present time there's only four or five vessels left in the industry in WA.⁷³

Other interviews in the series record fishing practices and ways of life which vanished long ago. For example, the problems of marketing and distributing a fisherman's catch were very different in the early 1920s:

⁷³ Bill Kent interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Jack Darcey, 1990, OH2266/36, p. 7.

But you had to catch a market ... So you caught most of your fish at night and then you'd have to get to Mandurah. Then when we'd caught the fish we'd put them on stringers, put them out to cool them under shelters and that. And when they got cold, you'd pack them, you see, like you do meat. They had to be cool. Then you had to catch the coach. When I went there there was only coaches, like horse coaches, at about seven o'clock in the morning, then catch the train at Pinjarra at ten o'clock and get to Perth by twelve o'clock. And then the markets was at Wellington Street ... You couldn't go and fish in the middle of the day or anything like that. The fish had to be fresh.⁷⁴

Curtin University of Technology's School of Architecture, Construction and Planning has contributed an important series of interviews to the Battye Library's collection with its *Architects and architecture series* (1980–1990) in which nearly fifty Western Australian architects were interviewed by Curtin architecture students. Architects such as Brian Klopper (1981) and Peter Overmans (1988) talk about their professional careers, their own designs and about Western Australian architecture. Like the *Murdoch University and the Fishing Industry and Development Council Project*, this project is of tremendous



significance in that by recording contemporary reactions and opinion, it has effectively created a record of industry practices and concerns from the late twentieth century. In the process, architectural students were given a marvellous insight into the history of their profession.

Fishing on the Mandurah estuary, 1912. [Battye Library 001743d]

Other oral history projects undertaken by the Battye Library with Western Australian educational institutions, with the aim of collecting reminiscences about past events, include the *VAOC Oral History Project*, a series of seven

⁷⁴ Lionel Renfrey interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Collection by Howard Smith, 1989, OH2266/28, pp. 3–4.

interviews produced by Edith Cowan University exploring the wartime experiences of members of the Volunteer Air Observation Corps during the Second World War. Similarly, the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library at Curtin University produced two oral histories with Western Australians associated with former Prime Minister John Curtin, including an interview with his daughter Elsie Macleod (1994).

Business and Unions

Since the first series of interviews with Collie coal miners in 1961, there have been a large number of projects involving industry and union groups recording the experiences of people in the work force. The *Arnott, Mills and Ware Project* (1992), for example, contains over twenty interviews with former employees at the Mills and Ware biscuit factory and was commissioned by the Food Preservers' Union of Western Australian Union of Workers. This series of oral histories records workers' experiences at the factory and addresses the effects of the closure in 1992. The project's significance lies not just in recording a story specific to Arnott, Mills and Ware in Western

Australia or even the general experiences of factory workers, but in chronicling the human impact of late twentieth century industry rationalising operations. The project records the consequences of technological change forcing older labour intensive industries to compete in both national and global markets.

The collection holds a number of oral histories aimed at business and working people which have been commissioned by business and professional groups or unions in partnerships with the Battye Library. The Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia, for example,

undertook a series of oral histories in partnership with the Library, including an interview with Allan Bower (1998), a veteran sideshow operator at the Perth Royal Show and at country shows since the 1940s. His oral history not only tells his life's story, but gives an insight into the changes which have taken place in rural Western Australia, as well as describing the evolution in rides and games offered to the public by carnivals.

Community Groups

During the last two decades of the twentieth century staff from the Oral History Collection worked with small, highly motivated community groups devoted exclusively to local and oral history. These groups became increasingly active



Arnotts' factory, packing line number 1, c.1980. [Battye Library 000625d]

in recording the memories of their older residents. For example, the Serpentine Historical Society completed thirty-five hours of interviews by Wilma Mann with local residents in *Speaking of Serpentine* (1998).

Interviews recorded by local oral history groups form an important part of the collection. For example, the Harvey Oral History Group recorded more than a hundred recordings with local residents between 1988 and 1996. These represent an important collection in terms of the number, variety and range of subjects, including a series with children. Similarly, the Bunbury Oral History Group produced a number of interviews, including recordings of the life stories of local residents, in the *Bunbury Mangrove Project* (1996–97) as well as with Bunbury residents regarding their wartime experiences as civilians during the Second World War. The Busselton Historical Society also completed a variety of oral histories with local residents during the 1980s and 1990s, with its work continuing. With more local groups than ever before undertaking their own interviewing projects, the range of topics which are the subject for oral history projects has expanded beyond simple life story interviews to address specific issues, events and themes of local interest.

Other community groups wishing to record and celebrate their own or related stories have commissioned oral histories in cooperation with the Battye Library. Often these consist of just a handful of interviews due to limited resources. For example, the Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association produced two interviews regarding the foundation of the organisation, while the Ngala Community Centre, through the *Friends of Ngala Oral History Project* (1995), contributed six interviews regarding their history. Similar projects have resulted in interviews from the Italo-Australian Cultural and Welfare Centre, the Paraplegic-Quadriplegic Association of WA and the Rotary Club of Albany Port.

RADIO INTERVIEWS AND HISTORIES

The Oral History Collection contains a range of interviews and histories produced on Western Australian topics for broadcast on local and national radio. Most recordings in the collection originate from the Australian Broadcasting Commission, consisting of radio programs either produced in Western Australia or with significant Western Australian content.

In addition to recordings of talks and one-off sound productions, the collection includes recordings of a number of ABC radio series. *Within Our Time* (1982–84), *Talking History* (1986), *Living History* (1983–84),

Flying Out West (1986–87) and *That's History* (1991) contain a large number of important interviews done predominantly by Bill Bunbury. The *Within Our Time* series was written and produced by Bill Bunbury for broadcast on ABC radio 6WN. Each broadcast mixed interviews with narrative and historical context. Programs covered such themes as *Goldfields riots 1934* (1982), *Forests* (1983), *Migration 1900–45* (1983), *Postwar Migration* (1984) and *Vietnam* (1984).

Similarly, the spoken history program *A Sick Year 1919* (1988), discusses the devastating effects of the Spanish Influenza epidemic and the related social and political upheavals experienced in Australia at the time. In Western Australia at the height of the epidemic in May 1919 the Nationalist government of Sir Hal Colebatch (1872–1953) refused to quarantine the cargo vessel *Dimboola*, in spite of public concern over the spread of influenza, attempting to unload it with non-union workers. When the Premier heard of a protest planned for the weekend by the Lumpers' Union — the name for the wharf workers' organisation — he hastily recruited a militia from the Commercial Travellers' Club on the Friday night, and on the Sunday morning they travelled up the Swan River to Fremantle in two ferries. As one witness recalls:

most of them had rifles but they also had truncheons to wallop the wharfies with, and the police were armed with rifles and bayonets like the army style...⁷⁵

The arrival of the militia precipitated a full-scale riot. Unionists heaved stones from the Fremantle bridge trying to sink the ships carrying the militia as they passed beneath. Police and militia were pelted with rocks and wooden pickets. Sporadic shots were fired by police, and unionists were bludgeoned with truncheons, resulting in the death of Tom Edwards, a unionist who received a blow to the head from a policeman. Further recollections of the Lumper's Strike are held in an interview with Bill Hartley (1986) also conducted as part of the *Talking History* series.

Bill Bunbury's ABC radio shows have contributed a number of interviews on important themes to the Oral History Collection. For example, *Living History* (1983–1984) recorded eight interviews relating to the Depression in Western Australia, while *That's History* (1991) produced four interviews relating to the Kendenup Project to sell and settle farmland in the south-west of the State in the first part of this century. *Flying Out of the West*

75 *A Sick Year 1919*, recorded by Bill Bunbury, 1988, OH1848, Side 1. There is no transcript available.

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA

Monster Demonstration

TOWN HALL, BOULDER

TO-MORROW (WEDNESDAY) NIGHT

At 8 o'clock,

To emphatically PROTEST against the running of the TRANS-AUSTRALIAN TRAIN to KALGOORLIE, thus endangering the lives of the community.

ALL RESIDENTS must, in their own interests, attend, to show indignation and disapproval, and thus make meeting effective.

Roll Up in Thousands, so that this scourge may not be forced upon us.

15th April, 1919.

S. BESTON, Mayor.

"Evening Star" Print.

The influenza epidemic of 1919 made some Western Australians regret the opening of the rail link with the eastern states of Australia. [Battye Library PR8679/KAL-BOU Gen29]

(1986–87) produced fifteen interviews relating to the early aviation industry, amongst them John Quigley's recollections of working for MacRobertson Miller Airlines (MMA), the experience of being a passenger on a flight from Adelaide to Perth in 1929–30, and memories of the air mail flight crash landing in 1921. Similarly, Bill Bunbury conducted a series of interviews in 1986 with Italian Australians regarding their experience of internment in the south-west of Western Australia during the Second World War.



Unemployed men march on Parliament House, 7 July 1931. [Battye Library 000853d]

The Library holds a number of interviews and recordings from regional and nationally broadcast ABC radio programs, such as *6WF Talkback* (1985) in which Western Australian callers discuss the constitutional crisis of 1975 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the dismissal of the Whitlam government.

Sound footage of interviews with John Longley, Alan Bond and others regarding the launch of the *Endeavour* replica came into the collection from the national current affairs broadcast *The World Today* (1994). Other ABC interviews in the collection include recordings from *The Search For Meaning* (1988) in which Caroline Jones discusses spirituality and religious beliefs with her guests. Western Australians interviewed for *The Search For Meaning* include public figures such as Sister Veronica Brady, Rose Hancock, Graham Mabury, Wendy Fatin, Sally Morgan, the Reverend Keith Dowding and David Helfgott.

Another important series of interviews conducted by the ABC and held in the Oral History Collection are those recorded for the radio program *Happy Families* (1985–86), produced by Gillian Berry. In *Happy Families* ordinary Western Australians discuss the changes in personal and family relationships in Australia since 1900, raising such issues as divorce, homosexuality, fatherhood, de facto partnerships, birth control and the tensions experienced by families and individuals from migrant cultures, providing a unique insight into the changing patterns of family life in Western Australia.

In recording the lives, work, opinions and experiences of thousands of Western Australians, the Oral History Collection seeks to develop a broad and inclusive resource for all those interested in the history of the State and its people. It offers a forum for a range of voices and perspectives, telling stories which have not always been heard. Oral history constitutes an invaluable addition to the Battye Library's collection, supplementing the more traditional forms of knowledge held in published materials, archives, photographs and film.

CHAPTER FIVE

WESTERN FILM

The Story of the State Film Archives

Over the course of the twentieth century the moving image has enthralled, entertained and educated generations of Western Australians. From the moment the first flickering images electrified audiences in the late nineteenth century, the impact of film on this small, isolated community has been significant. Given the capacity of film to convey images from distant remembered worlds as well as those of an immediate Western Australian world framed by distance, film's significance to the State's scattered communities has extended well beyond that of simple entertainment.

Not only did film quickly capture the public imagination as a way of experiencing other peoples and places, it soon became accepted as a medium for communication and self-expression. Like people in communities all around the world, Western Australians embraced the new technology as a way of representing themselves and of creating and telling their own stories.



Fred Murphy (centre) with two unidentified filmmakers, c.1930. [State Film Archives]

Early screenings of locally shot footage of Perth residents at the races (1905) and of Perth street scenes (1907) were enthusiastically received by a public which took delight in being represented on film and in recognising themselves.

While amateur filmmakers captured everyday images from around the State, professional filmmakers worked to produce more sophisticated forms of storytelling, filming news events, making short films, producing documentaries, and shooting feature films. In spite of a small population base and the absence of a robust film industry, local filmmakers and amateur enthusiasts struggled throughout the twentieth century to tell stories from a perspective far removed from Hollywood and the dominant Australian population centres in Sydney and Melbourne.

Few Western Australians are aware of the part played by the State Film Archives in collecting and preserving local film footage, yet the collections are an invaluable resource providing a unique social, cultural and visual record of Western Australia in the twentieth century.

It is significant that the Battye Library's State Film Archives is the only publicly supported regional film archives in Australia. Although small in comparison to ScreenSound, formerly the National Film and Sound Archives in Canberra, it performs a vital role in preserving Australia's motion picture heritage. Containing over 3,000 film and video titles and over 2,000 items waiting to be assessed, sorted and added to the catalogue, the State Film Archives is a collection of historical and contemporary films, videos and television productions, produced in, and/or relating to, Western Australia. Dating from 1907 to the present day, the collection includes government and privately made films and videos, personal films, newsreels, and commercial and educational films.

Antecedents: the Government Film Unit

The origins of the State Film Archives can be found in the establishment of a film unit by the Western Australian Education Department during the Second World War. With the objective of producing propaganda and training films for distribution through schools, youth groups and community organisations, the Education Department began producing short documentaries covering such subjects of contemporary concern as democracy, citizenship and physical fitness. Based at the Perth Technical College, the unit also began collecting other Australian, British and American instructional films for both schools and adults.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ "The State Film Archives of Western Australia", in *The Moving Image: Film and Television in Western Australia 1896-1985*, History and Film Association of Australia (WA).

The film unit was based around a small core of filmmakers, led by the cameraman and producer Norman A. Uren. By 1948 it had expanded into a full branch within the Education Department with its own State Advisory Committee, an interdepartmental committee legislated for under the Education Act. The new Western Australian Audio-Visual Education Branch was responsible for a central film library which collected, managed and distributed all film resources throughout the State to schools, government departments, individuals and community organisations. In addition, the Branch ran an expanded Government Film Unit which, with the assistance of filmmakers like Norman Uren, Leith Goodall, R.H. Miller and Alex McPhee, produced new films on behalf of Western Australian government agencies for distribution and inclusion in the collection. In 1958 the Branch moved from the Perth Technical College to a new Audio Visual Aids Centre in Leederville, where it remained for the next eighteen years.

An Archive is Born

While the adult film library, which had grown steadily throughout the fifties in conjunction with the schools' film library, was renamed the State Film Centre in 1961, it was not until 1967 that a State Film Archives was formally established. In that year the Education Department effectively closed the Government Film Unit, retaining only a small production team to make its own films for the classroom. Government agencies were then required to use private production companies for filmmaking and their participation in overseeing the State Film Centre came to an end. The new State Film Advisory Committee had the dual responsibility of directing film-lending services to community groups and giving advice regarding the fate of a significant backlog of archival film. For the first time some consideration had been given to the old film stock in storage at the State Film Centre, film which represented nearly twenty years work by the Government Film Unit, as well as old titles acquired for the schools and adult film libraries.

The acknowledgement by the State Film Centre of the need to manage their archival film coincided with a public push for the preservation of local film heritage following the tragic loss in the mid-1960s through fire of nearly all of the footage produced by Fred Murphy, the State's leading professional cameraman between the wars. When nearly 100,000 feet of nitrate film stored on a rural property perished in flames, Western Australia lost an irreplaceable part of its cultural heritage, but gained a new appreciation of how precious and fragile that heritage can be.

The calls for a local State Film Archives to preserve and provide access to Western Australian film heritage were further fuelled by dissatisfaction amongst the film community over the lack of progress with film archives at a national level, as well as concerns about Perth's distance from Canberra, the natural location for any national film archive. The creation of an archives subcommittee by the State Film Centre Committee in 1967 was, in part, a response to this groundswell of concern, but it was not until 1969 that a film archive section was formally constituted.

A Part of the Battye

In July 1978 responsibility for the State Film Archives and the State Film Centre was transferred from the Education Department to the Library Board. Because the stated mission of the State Film Archives was to collect and preserve all film relating to Western Australia, it was formally separated from the State Film Centre to become a unit within the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. To accommodate these changes, the State Film Archives was relocated to James Street, in premises near the State Library, where it remained until 1985 when the entire library moved into the purpose-built Alexander Library Building.

Since becoming a part of the Battye Library, the State Film Archives has achieved a number of significant outcomes in improving access to its collections and in streamlining physical management. In the early 1990s the State Film Archives became the first original materials collection in the Battye Library to move significantly from manual finding aids to the State Library's electronic catalogue. As a result all public access copies of materials from the State Film Archives can now be located on-line. Also in 1993, under the auspices of the Friends of the Battye Library, a three-volume bibliography containing detailed shot lists of all pre-1950s material in the collection was published.⁷⁷

In the early 1990s a decision was taken to transfer all nitrate stock from the State Film Archives to the National Film and Sound Archive (now ScreenSound) in Canberra due to concerns surrounding the safe storage of this material. With the physical integrity of the State Film Archives' other collections safeguarded through the removal of nitrate stock, access copies of these films were made and are available for viewing in LISWA's State Film and Video Library in the Alexander Library Building.

⁷⁷ Heard, Kaylene, *Bibliography of 16mm Film Produced in Western Australia to 1950 from the State Film Archives of Western Australia* (Friends of the Battye Inc., Northbridge, 1993).

During the late 1990s, the State Film Archives' holdings of unsorted and uncatalogued material were mapped and prioritised while renewed efforts were made to identify and preserve unique items through the Save Our Film campaign.

Strengths of the State Film Archives

The strengths of the State Film Archives collection are apparent when its historical development, the evolution of its collecting practices and the types of films produced in Western Australia are considered. The collection



Movie theatres offered a new form of entertainment for Western Australians. Movie theatre program for the *Prince of Wales Theatre De Luxe*, 12 May 1923. [Battye Library PR11094/29]

is particularly strong for the period from the late 1930s to the early 1960s, containing a significant body of government films produced by the Government Film Unit. Informational films such as the *Westralian News* newsreel series and various access copies of Commonwealth information films dealing with Western Australia were acquired from the State Film Centre. In addition the State Film Archives collection contains a large amount of promotional material relating to the development of the State, documenting the mining boom of the 1960s and early 1970s.

The push to preserve local film heritage in the late sixties, which had given the impetus for the creation of the State Film Archives, significantly expanded the types of film footage being collected by the archive. Following the destruction of the Fred Murphy collection, the State Film Archives sought professionally shot and produced footage from the 1930s onwards.

The brief given to the newly established archive, however, was to collect and ensure the preservation of *all* Western Australian film footage. This resulted in a rapid acquisition of a wide range of private film collections recording the activities of individuals, groups and events throughout Western Australia. As the archive developed and expanded, locally produced television was also accepted into the collection with the inclusion of news and some general television footage. In addition to documentary films which attempt to educate and to explain aspects of local society, the archives holds creative attempts to explore the Western Australian condition through short and feature films.

This variety of footage distinguishes Australia's largest regional film archive, not just as a collection important to Western Australians, but as one of national significance.

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION

GOVERNMENT FILMS

Government films form the core of the collection. Since the formal establishment of the State Film Archives in 1969, films produced by Western Australian government departments, agencies and instrumentalities have been, by a Premier's directive, and as records of the State, deposited with the State Film Archives as part of the government recordkeeping process and legal deposit requirements. These films and videos include those produced by commercial production houses for the Western Australian government

and constitute a valuable record of the various government departments' efforts in film and video production for in-house promotional uses.

Motion pictures produced prior to 1967 by the Government Film Unit were the foundation blocks upon which the collection was built. The State Film Archives contains over a hundred titles produced by the Government Film Unit, whose main client was, naturally, the Education Department. Other State government departments to use their services, either by themselves or in conjunction with the Education Department, included the Main Roads Department, the Government Railways, the Public Works Department, the Department of Industrial Development and the National Fitness Council. The Government Film Unit also made films in partnership with some non-government organisations.

Not all government films in the State Film Archives' collection were produced by the Government Film Unit. For example, the collection includes the most complete set of Western Australian promotional films in existence, produced for the Tourist and Publicity Bureau by independent film companies. Similarly, there are a number of access copies of films relating to Western Australia made by the Commonwealth government's film unit.

Education Department Films

In its work for the Education Department the Government Film Unit produced films for the classroom, such as the instructional film *Hockey: techniques of play* (1956) and educational films like *The Clothes You Wear* (1958) and *The Daily Miracle* (1947) which tells the story of the production of an issue of *The West Australian* newspaper. In the days before television and video were the main forms of audiovisual educational aid, the circulation and screening of films in schools throughout the State was a large-scale program. Films like *The Golden Egg* (1964) and *The Estuary Fisherman* (1969) reflect the Education Department's ongoing demands for short, local documentary films about Western Australia.

Another role of the Unit was to promote the activities of the Education Department through films like *Kent Street High School — Victoria Park* (1947), *Mount Hawthorn Infants' School* (c.1945), and *Teachers in Training* (c.1950). These short films display an overwhelming belief in the importance of marshalling youth for the future wellbeing of the State, a belief also evident in films like *Democratic Youth Training: Bickley Youth Camp 1945* (1945), *Youth* (1944), and *Salute to Citizenship* (1948). This last documentary presents images of students taking part in vocational training, dramatisations, art classes and, most importantly, physical activities and

sport. The concluding commentary sums up the optimism of the era in declaring that:

These are the citizens of the future — theirs is the task ahead.
Their salute to citizenship is the responsibility of the nation. In
the words of Disraeli — *the youth of the nation are trustees of
prosperity.*

Following the Second World War many documentaries were produced by the Government Film Unit and by individual members of the Unit, sometimes working directly for the Education Department. As a body of work they reflect, through their subject matter, structure and narrative, the sense of great optimism in postwar



Filming the loading of bananas onto a truck at Carnarvon, 1948. [Battye Library 008042d]

Australia and typify the dominant cultural, social and political assumptions on which that optimism was based. For example, the majority of Education Department films document and celebrate the wealth of Western Australia, a wealth based on bountiful rural produce and the development and exploitation of plentiful natural resources. Titles like *Export Lambs* (c.1950), *Lamb for World Market* (1959), *Banana Growing in Carnarvon* (1948), *The Golden Grain* (1948), *The Destiny of Grain* (1954), *Irrigation — Harvey Area* (c.1947), *Tobacco Growing in Western Australia* (c.1948) delivered educational films for the indoctrination of several generations of schoolchildren. Similarly, that other great theme of the Western Australian frontier mentality, wealth based on the development of the land, can be seen in such titles as *Blue Asbestos* (1950), *Karri* (1947), and *Gold* (1958). Over a thirty year period these films fostered an uncritical view of the importance of development in the rural sectors to the wealth and prosperity of the State.

The WA Tourist and Publicity Bureau

The films produced initially by the Western Australian Tourist and Publicity Bureau and subsequently by successive government tourist agencies to promote the State offer a fascinating picture of the views Western Australians held about themselves. The earliest government-sponsored tourist film, made by a private company, was *A Trip to Rottne Island* (1912) which

filmed a journey to the island and some of its main attractions. The first modern tourist films produced were part of *The Golden West Series*, a series of seven short documentaries produced between 1946 and 1948 by non-government filmmakers R.H. Miller and Leith Goodall of Southern Cross Films for the Western Australian Tourist and Publicity Bureau.

Made for showing in commercial cinemas throughout Australia, these films promoted the themes of an idyllic society set in a new Eden with wealth based on abundant natural resources. Such titles as *Cornerstones of Prosperity* (1947), *The Find of '93* (1948), and *True Australians* (1948) celebrate respectively the Western Australian sheep and wheat industry, the gold industry, and the karri and jarrah logging industry. Other films in the series include *Westward Ho!* (c.1945) — a montage of popular tourist destinations in Perth and the south-west — and *Man's Castle* (1947) — a tribute to the postwar housing reconstruction and the growth of Perth's suburbia.

Subsequent Tourism and Publicity Bureau films refined and repeated these themes of growth and prosperity. *Western Wonderland* (1948) documented the south-western apple and salmon fishing industries, while a further production by Southern Cross Films, *A Town is born* (1951), documented the establishment of Wittenoom. Films like *The Western Third* (c.1952) promoted the State in general, while *Central Hinterland* (1969) featured the wheat belt area. Attempts to encourage visitors to Western Australia in *West Australian welcome* (1960), *Across Australia by Eyre Highway* (1963) and *And the natives are friendly in Perth, WA* (1970) marketed the idyllic image of a prosperous, rural-based society enjoying a relaxed and comfortable lifestyle.

Commissioned Films

The Main Roads Department commissioned a number of films such as *Bridges* (1963), *Roads through the rugged Kimberley* (1964) and *Byways to highways* (1957) to document such projects as the construction of the Causeway and the Narrows Bridge, as well as roads and bridges throughout Western Australia.

The Western Australian Government Railways sponsored a number of films, including *Pathway to Progress* (1965) to celebrate the completion of the standard gauge rail link to the rest of Australia. Similarly, the Public Works Department commissioned films like *Broome Jetty* (1967) from the Government Film Unit, and *Ord River Dam* (1972) from independent

filmmaker Bryan Lobascher, to promote and celebrate their activities developing Western Australia's infrastructure.

Indeed, the wave of prosperity which accompanied the development of the State's iron ore, oil, gas, nickel and bauxite deposits in the 1960s gave a fresh impetus for local motion picture making. In addition to their own production endeavours, government used the efforts of independent filmmakers like Bryan Lobascher, David Moore, Brian Williams, Michael Baker and Don Shephard to produce films such as *The Mineral Wealth of Western Australia* (1963), *Operation Iron Ore* (1964) and *Moving Mountains* (1966). Concerned with celebrating the triumphs of mining, these types of film come closest to representing a particularly Western Australian film genre.⁷⁸ The mining films in the State Film Archives' collections are important as documents of rapid changes in Western Australia's economy and society, the scale and effect of which are equalled only by those of the gold rush of the 1890s.

The value of these commissioned films as a record of the activities of government departments is matched by their value as social, cultural and historical records. Not only are the priorities of successive Western Australian governments apparent through the choice of subject matter for filming and how they are filmed, but the cultural assumptions of the time are captured in the narratives provided for each film.

Sponsored Films

The Government Film Unit made a number of films on behalf of non-government organisations. For example, *The Kwinana Oil Refinery* (1954) was produced on behalf of the British Petroleum Company and *All points North* (1957) was made in partnership with MacRobertson Miller Airline Services (MMA). The latter film provides a striking example of the kinds of beliefs which underlined the films produced by the Government Film Unit. The language of the narrative is that of the colonist and missionary bringing civilisation, peace and prosperity to a wilderness through the exploitation and the mastering of a hostile environment; themes, incidentally, which are repeated constantly over the following decades in Western Australian film.

In the pioneering spirit of the early explorers, the air services provided by MMA are shown to bring civilisation to the people of the north. From a clean, green, ordered Perth, the MMA flight makes its way north across a

⁷⁸ Foley, Gerard, "Western Australia: history and images", in *Oxford Companion to Film in Australia* (OUP, Melbourne, 1999).

hostile landscape to land at ‘oases of civilisation’. Indeed the narrative is scattered with such adjectives as ‘lonely’, ‘terrors’, ‘dreaded’, ‘harsh’, ‘vast’, ‘dry’, ‘desolate’, ‘angry’, ‘arid’, ‘rugged’ and ‘primitive’ to describe the landscape. In the spirit of the missionaries of the north-west who are lauded in the movie as being ‘on the edge of the desert carrying forward the frontiers of Christianity,’ the narrator claims that ‘only the aeroplane can bring that vital touch of civilisation’ to the landscape. Clearly, the narrative reveals many stories in addition to that projected on the screen.

Other government materials held by the State Film Archives include a small but significant series of Commonwealth Film Unit films from the 1960s and early 1970s. The unit produced short films on Western Australian towns such as *Geraldton* (1965), and activities such as exploration in the Indian Ocean in *The Unknown Ocean* (1963). *Another Sunny Day in Western Australia* (1961), like the films produced for the Tourist and Publicity Bureau, emphasised the variety of sports and other recreations available to Western Australians in a panegyric to outdoor living.

COMMERCIAL FILMS

The State Film Archives holds Western Australian commercial films and videos, produced in the main by local filmmaking individuals and companies. These include documentaries, feature films, newsreels, advertisements and short films made for a paying public or commercial client, for entertainment, promotional and other commercial uses.

The earliest commercially produced film in the collection, indeed the earliest extant film on Western Australia, is *Perth Street Scenes* (1907). This short film was shot by L.J. Corrick, whose family travelled Australia entertaining audiences with vaudeville acts and screening occasional motion pictures. Produced as a commercial entertainment with the aim of attracting as many residents to Corrick’s show with the promise that they might see themselves on screen, *Perth Street Scenes* is part documentary, part amateur film, part commercial enterprise. Yet it is also a visual document of life in Western Australia in the early part of this century. In just under two minutes of footage it provides excellent shots of William Street, Barrack Street, Hay Street, St George’s Terrace and the inhabitants of Perth going about their business in the city. While it lacks any narrative qualities, the film does provide a fascinating record of a number of aspects of Perth society of that era such as dress, transport, architecture and traffic flow.⁷⁹

79 For an excellent discussion of the historical, social and filmic aspects of the film see Shoesmith, Brian, “Perth Street Scenes: 1907” in *The Moving Image: Film and Television in Western Australia 1896–1985*.

Early films, although produced for commercial purposes, often fail to sit comfortably within the category of newsreel or documentary or feature film. For example, Corrick produced several films which documented events in Western Australia, including *Royal Show* (1909) and *Day Postle Match* (1907) — the film of the foot race between Robert Day and Arthur Postle in Boulder, Western Australia, to decide the ‘World Champion Three Distance Runner’. Another early film, shot by Stuart Booty with the assistance of Fred Murphy, was *Busy Bee* (1914), which records community road repair work between North Fremantle and Cottesloe. It was produced partly to document the event and partly as an incentive to maximise a volunteer work force keen to witness their own labours.

Documentaries

The development of the documentary as a genre distinct from newsreels can be seen in key examples held in the collections. The filmic qualities which constitute documentary films as they are known today, such as structure, composition and narrative, can be seen developing.



Fred Murphy, filming from the rear of the truck, made many short films in Western Australia. [State Film Archives]

Sponsored films like Fred Murphy’s *Western Australia — the land of opportunity* (1920) was commissioned by C.J. de Garis to promote his property development in Kendenup. Part documentary, part promotional film, the film was first shown at the Theatre Royal in Perth in 1920, before being eventually distributed overseas, in Great Britain in particular, in the hope of attracting investors.

Another of Murphy's sponsored films was *Song of the Shirt* (1923) which documented the manufacture of shirts, clothing and shoes by Goode Durrants through a montage of connected images. Later films like *New Norcia*, *Western Australia* (c.1926) used extensive subtitles to shape the film and to narrate the story of Western Australia's oldest Benedictine community. *The Golden West* (1929), which was produced by Australasian films for the Centenary Committee and for commercial distribution in the eastern states, uses subtitles to narrate Western Australia's history. Productions like *Round Australia with MacRobertson Expedition (Parts 1–4)* *Twentieth Century travel through outback Australia* (1928) and its abridged version *Westward Ho!* (1928) show an increased sophistication in the construction of the documentary.

The State Film Archives holds an important collection of documentary films by Stuart Gore, who began experimenting with film in 1928, and in 1929 worked with William Owen to film the festivities and activities surrounding the celebration of Western Australia's centenary. The result was a series of short films, including *Historic Pageant and Tableau* (1929) and *Naval Military Display* (1929), which were incorporated with personal footage of Gore's wedding and honeymoon in *Centenary Year* (1929).⁸⁰

Following the Second World War Gore and Jan Kennedy, later his wife, made the film *Water and Gold* (1946), a documentary about gold production in Kalgoorlie. This film and four others were shown during their 1948 tour of the north-west, during which *North-West diary* (1948) was filmed. Although the State Film Archives does hold a print of *Water and Gold* with an added soundtrack, these films were made and shown as silent pictures. While being screened they were accompanied by a personal commentary from Stuart Gore. *North-West diary* was subsequently shown with a selection of earlier films along the theme of 'See Australia first!' at the Perth and Fremantle Town Halls, as well as in towns throughout the south-west. Gore and Kennedy eventually took their films to Great Britain in the 1950s, where they toured with their documentaries in order to finance further filming of their travels.

While most films produced in Western Australia after the Second World War were under the auspices of the Government Film Unit, a small number of independent documentary filmmakers like Gore and Kennedy worked to produce films about a wide range of topics. In the absence of a viable feature film industry, the documentary was often the only area to provide local filmmakers with opportunities. Even then, they struggled to raise capital. Often their films were sponsored or commissioned by Western Australian or international corporations.

⁸⁰ Heard, Kaylene, *Bibliography of 16mm Film Produced in Western Australia to 1950 from the State Film Archives of Western Australia* (Friends of the Battye Inc, Northbridge 1993, vol. 3), p. 229.

Not all of these documentaries were simple corporate promotional films. For example, the airline MMA commissioned several films over two decades, including *Cattle Kingdom of the Kimberleys* (1966), *Pearl of the Kimberleys* (1966), *Carnarvon Gateway to the North* (1966) and *The Last Frontier* (1968). *A Spring Collection* (1974) celebrated the spring flower shows in Perth's King's Park, bearing more resemblance to a Tourist Bureau film than an advertisement for MMA.

Other examples of independent documentaries held in the collection include *Across the Bar* (1970), which looks at hotel bars throughout Western Australia and *Tokyo Rose North* (1987) which follows the tour of an all-female rock and roll group through the north of Western Australia. The development in recent years of documentaries incorporating dramatised re-enactments can be seen in *The Coolbaroo Club* (1995) which tells the story of the Coolbaroo Club which, between 1946 and 1960, was an important meeting place and community focus for the local Aboriginal community in Perth.



Cinematographers film a pearl diver as he is helped into his diving suit, Broome c.1960. [Battye Library 000111d]

Newsreels

The newsreels held in the State Film Archives are a vital document of a broad range of Western Australian events and social customs. Produced for cinema audiences the newsreels were a source of political and social news, packaged in an entertaining format. The State Film Archives holds a good collection of newsreels produced for smaller companies such as the *Melbourne Herald* Newsreel, as well as larger companies like Cinesound Review and Movietone News. These newsreel companies used local cameramen to film specific stories about Western Australian people and events. Local stories were made for inclusion in nationally circulated newsreels, either in the main body for general release if the story was of national significance, or for insertion as a news item for Western Australian audiences only.

The earliest newsreel in the collection is *Kalgoorlie: Glimpses of the Famous Golden Mile* (1925), produced for the *Australasian Gazette*. It provided Australians with a visual postcard from Western Australia's goldfields. Indeed, most newsreels produced in subsequent years used a magazine



The first assignment in Western Australia for a Fox-Movietone camera crew — waiting for the arrival of German aviator Hans Bertram at Maylands Aerodrome, June 1932. [Battye Library 000621d]

style format when dealing with Western Australian content. This can be seen in the *Melbourne Herald Newsreels'* footage *Dame Sibyl Thorndike: 3rd May 1932*, which showed Dame Sibyl arriving in Fremantle; the *Western Mail Newsreel's* film of the new airmail service arriving in Australia in *Handling the Overseas Mail* (1932) and in Cinesound's tourist film *Beautiful Busselton* (1932).

In spite of the newsreel companies' tendency to use light entertainment pieces when presenting Western Australian content, there are a number of Western Australian stories with news and current affairs content held within the State Film Archives, for example, the *Melbourne Herald Newsreels'* *Jap Cruisers Visit Australia* (1932), *Perth Swelters Under Nine Day Heatwave* (1932) and 20th Century Fox's *Funeral of John Curtin* (1945). But perhaps the most striking of these newsreels is the Cinesound footage of the Kalgoorlie race riots in 1934, riots that resulted in several deaths and in the flight of non-English

migrants from their homes in the goldfields to surrounding bushland. It is the only newsreel of an event of both local and national historical significance.

In the face of intense national and international competition, early filmmakers Fred Murphy and William Dease struggled to produce the *Westralian News Gazette* newsreels for irregular screening in Perth cinemas during the 1920s. Unfortunately none of these newsreels has survived to be a part of the State Film Archives collection.

It was not until 1947 that a sustained attempt was made to produce a regular newsreel service aimed specifically at a Western Australian audience. The *Westralian News* newsreels were produced by Leith Goodall of Southern Cross Films to provide local news items for the Mayfair Theatre in Perth. In total, thirty-five weekly issues were produced and screened at the Mayfair and the State Film Archives holds a near complete set of them. Once again the content of the newsreels was usually presented magazine-style, dealing with such topics as sporting events, fashion shows, social events and the arrival of international celebrities in Australia. A



Souvenir program for the Metro Theatre. Cinema offered a new source of entertainment, glamour and escape. [Battye Library PR11094]

typical newsreel contained a mixture of pieces on a variety of topics. For example *Westralian News* (18 July 1947) contained short pieces entitled *Charities Drawing*, *Manufacture of Cigarette Papers*, *Optical Art* and *Wheelmen Have Day Out*, combining topical events with general interest stories.

Following the demise of the *Westralian News*, local filmmakers continued to work as stringer cameramen for large newsreel companies until the introduction of television heralded the decline of the newsreel as a cinematic product. Some, like Leith Goddall, subsequently worked for the Western Australian government Film Unit and then as a stringer cameramen for television companies.

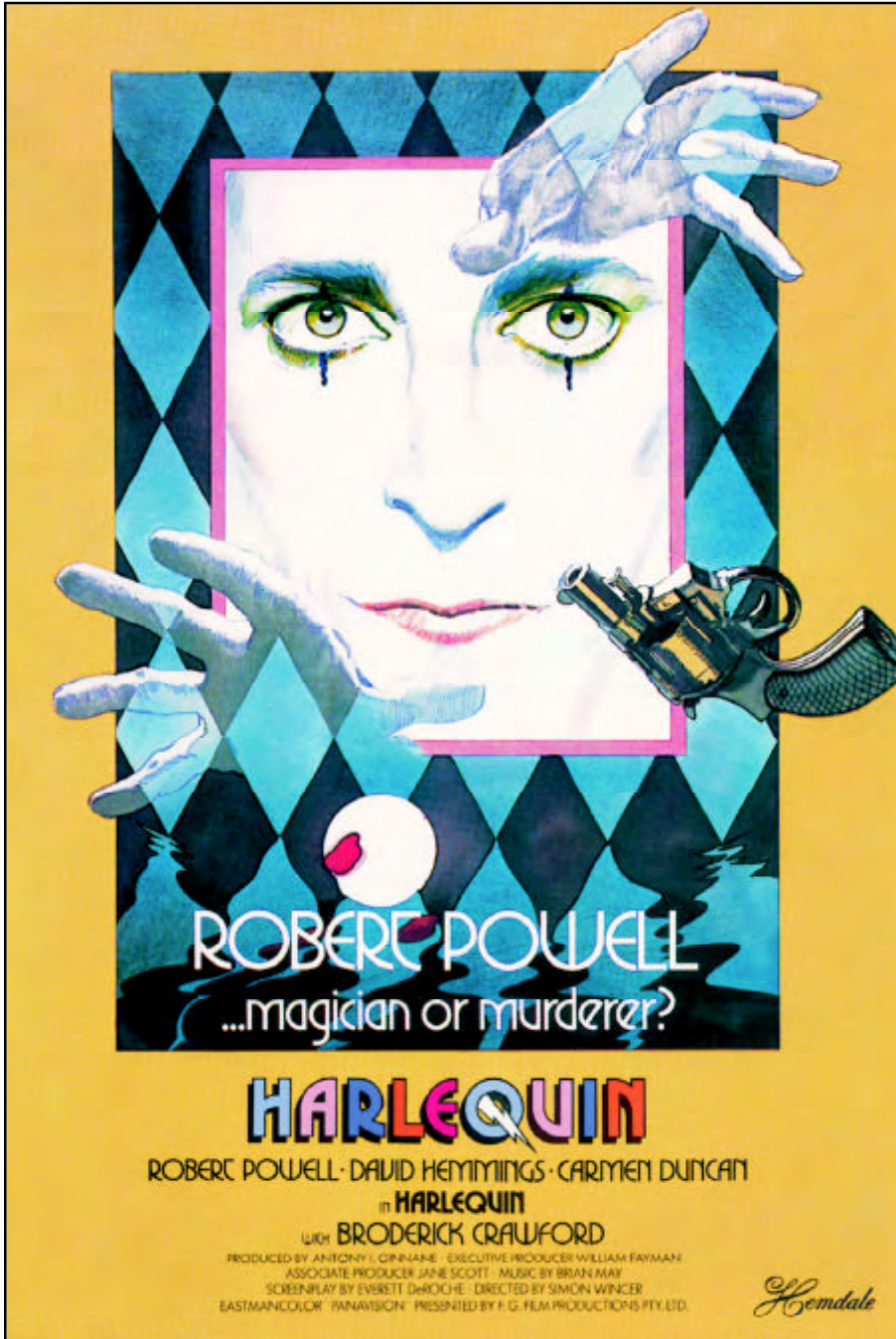
Feature and Short Films

Feature films represent only a small proportion of the commercially produced films held in the State Film Archives. Yet throughout the twentieth century Western Australian filmmakers have struggled in isolation to sporadically produce feature and short films for commercial distribution. These productions represent a small fraction of the Australian film industry's output and a minuscule proportion of world films, but they are an important record of the creative impulse in Western Australian society, telling stories which explore the human condition in a unique environment.



Dream sequence from *Dreams and Screams* (1923) by Fred Murphy showing Jack Kelloway and Lydia Carne dancing in Queen's Park. Copied from film stills in the State Film Archives, made available by Peter W. Hitchens. [State Film Archives]

Once again the earliest fictional film in the collection was a product of L.J. Corrick's vaudeville troupe. *Bashful Mr Brown* (1907) represents the first attempt to provide a structured plot in a Western Australian motion picture, using slapstick to tell the story of Mr Brown's disastrous courtship of a beautiful young woman at an afternoon tea. *Dreams and Screams* (1923) is another short comic film made by Fred Murphy for Sir Thomas Coombe. First shown at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Perth, the film features the ballerina Lydia Carne and the comedian Jack Kelloway.



Harlequin (1980) was an international production filmed in Western Australia.
[State Film Archives]

With the advent of ‘talkies’ in the 1930s, producing commercial films became more expensive for local filmmakers as the new technology required a technical infrastructure available only on the east coast. At the same time, the trend towards longer feature films added to the cost of producing films. In spite of these difficulties, a few small, often short-lived, production companies have tried to make feature films in Western Australia.

In the 1950s and early 1960s most commercial films produced took the form of documentaries or sponsored films. The late 1960s and the 1970s saw the beginnings of a movement to entrench Western Australia’s filmmaking culture in the mainstream with the development of technical and tertiary media studies and motion picture courses, film festivals and local film production support and funding bodies such as the Perth Institute of Film and Television (now the Film and Television Institute) and the Western Australian Film Council (now ScreenWest).⁸¹ The State Film Archives holds only a modest proportion of the commercial production which came from this resurgence of interest in Western Australian films but is actively collecting archival copies of film from that period. However, because ScreenSound Australia has as its main priority the collection of

Australian-made feature films, in many instances the State Film Archives has only access copies available and not the original films themselves.



Filming on the set of *Plugg* (1975). [State Film Archives]

A good example of the renewed interest in local filmmaking experienced during the 1970s is *Plugg* (1975), a feature-length sex comedy set in Perth which chronicles the misadventures of a bumbling private eye in his efforts to close down the Pussycat Escort Agency. Although a Western Australian production, *Plugg* used nationally known actors like Noel Ferrier and Norman Yemm. The internationally financed *Harlequin* (1980), although filmed locally, was consciously ‘placeless’ in telling a universal story for an American market.

81 Foley, Gerard, “Western Australia: history and images”, in *Oxford Companion to Film in Australia* (OUP, Melbourne, 1999).

Another film in the collection is *Fran*, made by Barron Films in 1985, in which Noni Hazelhurst plays the part of a single mother battling bureaucracy. Barron Films has been perhaps the most successful Western Australian film company to date, achieving a long life in producing feature films by diversifying its productions to include feature, short and documentary films.

Shame (1988) is another feature film in the collection. It tells the tale of a female lawyer's attempts to uncover the truth behind a series of attacks on young girls in a small Australian outback town. Although the film is set in and around Toodyay the narrative does not place the town or the action in a specifically Western Australian context.

Films in the collection which deal more directly with Western Australian place and perspective include *Blackfellas* (1992), the story a young Aboriginal man released from prison, torn between his friends and his desire to go straight, and *Tudawali* (1987) a docudrama of the life of Aboriginal actor Robert Tudawali. In a similar vein, the feature-length, anti-nuclear film *The Pursuit of Happiness* (1987) is a conscious attempt to represent a Western Australian perspective through a fictionalised work.

In addition to the feature films, the State Film Archives holds a small collection of short films, such as *Taking a Look* (1986). As with the production of feature films, the costs of production and the difficulties in gaining distribution have deterred individual filmmakers and small production companies from making fictional films in Western Australia.

Cinema Advertisements

The earliest advertisements made exclusively for Western Australian cinema audiences and held by the State Film Archives were produced by Fred Murphy. These include portions of short silent commercials for Yalumba Wine, Pyrex toothpaste and Foy and Gibson's department store and are part of a small selection of Murphy footage which survives on *Miscellaneous Film* (1920).

The Swan Overflows (1926) is the unlikely title for an advertisement for the Skipper Bailey Motor Company. The commercial graphically demonstrates the advantages of Chevrolets by driving them along a flooded Barrack Street and Riverside Drive.

Among a small collection of political advertisements is *Man of the Hour: 21st August 1943*, a film by the Australian Labor Party urging Australians to re-elect John Curtin. *We're fighting this War for Liberty: August 1944* is an

advertisement made by the WA Branch of the Australian Constitutional League. It argued the 'No' case in the referendum for 'Constitution Alteration — Postwar Reconstruction and Democratic Rights'.

The collection includes a series of Liberal Party advertisements featuring Sir David Brand speaking directly to camera. In 1959 he campaigned for the election of a Liberal government and as Premier in 1962 campaigned with the slogan 'Put the people first', while in 1965 he stressed the need for job creation by a Liberal government, especially for young people.

A wide range of advertisements for screening in local cinemas were produced by filmmakers after the Second World War. The level of production and sophistication ranges from a silent print of *His Majesty's presents ...* (1950), used to promote coming attractions, to the trailer for *Harlequin* (1980), released for international distribution. Some advertisements were made in the form of short films, such as *Perth, Western Australia — host city for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games* (1962). In addition to these catalogued titles, the State Film Archives holds a large collection of cinema advertisements from the 1960s and 1980s which are in the process of being sorted, listed and catalogued.

With the arrival of television, a number of commercials were made with both media in mind, such as the series of R&I Bank commercials produced between 1978 and 1983, and the MMA advertisements filmed in the early 1970s. Advertisements made exclusively for television are dealt with later.

PERSONAL FILMS

One of the considerable strengths of the State Film Archives is the large number of personal films which record personal and/or family life and related events. These privately made 'home movies' form a significant proportion of the entire collection. Dating from the early 1920s, this footage gives wonderful insight into Western Australian life and culture from personal and unique perspectives. Often the personal footage commemorates some special event or seeks to tell a particular story. The level of technical ability and artistic endeavour exhibited by amateur filmmakers varies considerably from film to film. Some titles are the product of amateur home films while others were intended for more formal screening amongst friends, family and community.

The personal films reflect the efforts of several generations of amateur filmmakers. While most of them filmed anything and everything which caught their eye, there are nonetheless a number of distinct themes evident in the State Film Archives' collection of personal footage. These include amateur dramatic productions, travel, local events, home life and social life.

Many amateur filmmakers experimented with film to produce short works of drama and comedy. Although these personal films were never intended for commercial release, they were often scripted and highly structured. For example, the Western Australian Amateur Movie Club produced a comedy entitled *The Rivals* (1930), while the Westralia Amateur Cine and Drama Club produced *Barretts Luck* (c.1935). Subsequently, the Westralia Amateur Cine Club produced the comedy *A Step-Farther* (c.1935). All films were silent, with subtitles and performances by members of each club.

Another fine example of a good amateur production by a local filmmaker can be seen in Jack Whitbread's *The Secret Agent* (1935), a short mystery set around the wreck of the *Kwinana*. The tendency for amateur filmmakers to film everything around them is evident in other films from the Whitbread collection. *Movie Pie* (1934–1951) contains a montage of nearly two decades of Western Australian sporting events, travel experiences and social events.

The State Film Archives holds films shot by a number of members of amateur film clubs who produced their own home movies. Len and Beryl Montagu, for example, filmed family life in Perth and surrounding areas from the 1930s to the 1950s, sometimes producing short subtitled films such as *Beauty Spots of Western Australia* (1938). The importance of these family films to Western Australian history is not to be underestimated. In addition to being often charming personal records, family films document the costume, social activities and interactions of the times, capturing the vitality of community and family life from a perspective different from that of newsreels, government documentaries or social commentaries.

The efforts of local cameramen and camerawomen to document their own lives and the activities of people in their communities has resulted in a rich source of social history. For example, station life in the north-west for the middle decades of the twentieth century has been well documented by amateur filmmakers like Anneliese Helene Goerling and Mary De Pledge.

Goerling's films document life on Marloo Station (1925–1930) in three reels of film held by the State Film Archives. Similarly Mary De Pledge's films of her home, Mandora station, and of the Kimberley region (1950–1960) are held in ten reels, providing marvellous footage of the period.

Other personal films depicting life on stations and in the north-west can be found in the Godbehear collection of footage filmed between 1950 and 1960. The personal footage contains scenes of European station owners at work and at play, as well as footage of Kimberley Aborigines in daily life and dancing in corroborees.



Some Western Australians began making their own films. Fred Murphy with the cast and film crew from a 1920s production. [Battye Library 000629d]

Another strength of the State Film Archives is the large number of films recording life in Western Australian country towns in a variety of farming districts. Good examples of this style of personal footage can be seen in the films of amateurs like William Smith and George Lodge. The earliest film in the collection is by William Smith who became interested in film through his friendship with Paddy Baker, the 'picture show man' for most of country

Western Australia. There are thirteen reels of film dating from 1928 to 1940, dealing mainly with aspects of life in Wyalkatchem. Smith made the films to be shown to raise money for the local community at agricultural shows, fairs and fetes.

George Lodge filmed mainly at Koorda but, like William Smith, recorded events in Wyalkatchem, as well as Mt Marshall and Bencubbin. Filming between 1947 and 1961, George Lodge produced a number of works, including *A Wheatbelt Newsreel Numbers 1–3* (1947) for local screening, incorporating footage of local football, hockey, cricket, horseracing, agricultural shows and parades.

Similarly, life in Western Australia's capital city and its surrounding districts are amply represented in collections like those of Jack Platt. He was another

member of the Westralia Amateur Cine and Dramatic Club and, like most amateurs, filmed anything that caught his eye. Following his marriage and the birth of his children in the late 1930s he mainly concentrated on recording the lives of his own family and of the local community. With more than thirteen reels of personal footage filmed between 1925 and 1976 capturing images of his family in the Perth suburb of Cottesloe, Jack Platt produced films like *Mosman Park Community Events* (1945–1969) as a fascinating record of local life.

The Sir Frederick Samson collection provides an invaluable record of life in Fremantle between 1940 and 1962. The Samson personal footage, containing twenty-seven reels of film, records notable events, people and places in the life of the port city. Subjects filmed range from general ‘postcard’ footage of the town to specific events like the opening of the Fremantle Fishermen’s Co-operative in 1947, contained in *Sir Frederick Samson collection — Reel 25* (1947). While concentrating on Fremantle, Sir Frederick Samson’s films sometimes recorded unexpected material such as his trip to the Monte Bello Islands to see the effects of the fallout from atomic testing.

Indeed, private footage of Western Australians travelling throughout the State and, in some cases, internationally is an important theme of collections held in the State Film Archives. One of the earliest examples can be found on seven reels filmed by William McLean as he travelled through the north-west of the State on a wool-buying trip in June and July of 1929. This collection includes footage of Carnarvon and Roebourne, as well as dozens of stations, and was filmed in the Murchison, Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

A good example of the travel home movie providing images from areas rarely filmed can be seen in the collection of Dr Leslie Le Souef. His films were made between 1947 and 1956, providing excellent footage of life in the north-west of Western Australia during that period.

LOCAL TELEVISION FOOTAGE

Over the years, the State Film Archives has sporadically collected footage from local television stations. Dating from the 1960s, and mainly comprising news footage, the collection has developed unevenly, much of the footage concentrated over a few years. For these periods the footage held gives an

interesting historical motion picture insight into some Western Australian events and interests.

Channel Nine

The State Film Archives has a large holding of Channel Nine news footage for the period 1975 to 1976 and 1978 to 1980. There are nearly 300 titles in this series, most of which are half-hour news broadcasts for each day of each week of the year. They represent snapshots in time which are a record, not just of the events the news broadcasts reported, but of the costume and attitudes of the period.

In addition to the half-hour broadcasts, there are some sixty individual news stories catalogued in the collection for the years 1975 and 1976. These cover serious journalistic stories such as jarrah die-back, *Channel Nine News* (30 December 1975), as well as general news items like the arrival in Perth of the Australian band Skyhooks, *Channel Nine News* (28 December 1975).

ABC

The State Film Archives holds a range of access copies of locally produced programs from the ABC. These includes *Outback with Harry Butler* (1969) and a series of eleven films of *In the Wild with Harry Butler* (1976–1978). The largest series of ABC television footage in the collection is the *Weekend Magazine* series, from 1969 to 1982. *Weekend Magazine* featured a variety of stories with a specifically Western Australian theme. For example, *Nedlands Baths* (1976) highlighted the closure of the Nedlands Baths after seventy-six years of operation, while *Yandeyarra: a station run by Aborigines* (1976) focused on the achievements of an Aboriginal group in managing the station.

Seven Network

Another major collection of television footage is that of the Seven Network, comprising over seventy titles of locally broadcast television news items, some documentaries, and some children's television. Included in the collection are individual news items like *150th Celebrations News Item* (1979) and *Dwellingup fire* (1961), as well as short films for broadcast like the *Opening of Narrows Bridge* (1959). Other Channel 7 news footage from the 1960s and 1970s is currently being processed by the Library.

The largest series of films in the collection by far is the *What in the World* films, produced as information and entertainment segments for children. Thirty-four short films were made between 1973 and 1975 and feature local presenters such as Gary Carvolth. *What in the World* provided information and interviews about a wide range of activities in segments like *Baking Bread* (1974), *Shadow Puppets* (1974) and *Skydiving* (1975).

Advertisements

Advertisements made for broadcast on television also form part of the collection. The State Film Archives holds a number of commercials made for the Boans company such as the *Boans May sale* (1972) and the *Boans sale: golden oldies Vol. 3* (1972). These particular commercials are of great historical value in the information they reveal about the types of items Boans was trying to market, in the costume of the actors, and in the cultural messages the advertisements conveyed in their attempts to sell their products.

In addition to these catalogued films in the collection, the Armstrong collection consists of a large number of advertisements made for television in the 1960s and 1970s. Included are commercials for Western Australian companies featuring everyday consumer items like Mills and Wares' Milk Arrowroot biscuits and Plaistowes' confectioneries. It is a collection which constitutes a fascinating record of the development of a media-led consumer society from the postwar boom, as well as the growing sophistication of marketing and filmic techniques used by the advertisers.

EPILOGUE

A REMARKABLE COLLECTION

Since its creation in 1956 from collections established by the old Public Library of Western Australia, successive archivists and librarians have built on existing collection strengths and past practices to clearly define the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History's mission and to further develop its remarkable collections. Extensive collections of original and published materials are the result, in part, of historical accident but more particularly of the Library's dynamic and forward-looking collection development.

While the Battye Library enjoyed the benefits of legal deposit, its collections of published materials have also been developed and enhanced by the shrewd acquisition of Western Australian past and present titles. In pursuing its charter as a library of West Australian history, the Library has imaginatively assembled a range of collections of original materials. Building on Private Archives and Pictorial Collections which had their roots in the Public Library of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, staff of the Battye Library enthusiastically embraced new formats and ways of thinking about history, first seizing the chance to include the State Film Archives within its collections and then actively creating its own Oral History Collection.

These two collections in particular reflect the dynamic and innovative approach to Western Australian heritage materials which has characterised the development of the Battye Library's collections. Western Australia's distance and sense of isolation from the rest of Australia have often meant a reluctance to surrender original materials like film to a national collecting body, yet they have also engendered a sense of independence and self-reliance. It is significant that Western Australia was one of the first States to have a library with its own Oral History Collection and State Film Archives. The size and scope of these collections, which are the largest outside nationally administered repositories, reflects the Library's preparedness to collect and preserve all aspects of the State's history.

The evolution of a library with such a parochial collecting focus has necessitated the accommodation of types and formats of published and original materials which might not otherwise have been housed in a State

Library. By accepting all sorts of materials into its collections, the Battye Library has been forced to develop an integrated approach to the management of its collections, recognising common objectives and practical considerations for different types of heritage materials. The importance of maintaining provenance, for instance, is particularly relevant for photographs given that the context of the image, the names of the people and places photographed, and even the names of the photographers may be reliant on documents, ephemera or publications which need to be stored in the Battye Library's other collections.

Similarly, donations of original materials by individuals and organisations often include many different types of media and it is vital to have both a clear provenance and a coordinated approach to collection building. It is not uncommon for donated collections to comprise documents, photographs, publications, film, audio tapes and even floppy discs. In distributing materials by format throughout the Battye Library, it is vital to maintain the intellectual link between these different materials and the context in which they were created.

Crucially, the staff of the J.S. Battye Library, in spite of a parochial mission to preserve and promote Western Australia's history, have always looked to play a role in contributing to the national management of Australia's documentary heritage. For example, as an independent regional archive, the State Film Archives seeks to complement the collecting strategies of ScreenSound Australia (formerly the National Film and Sound Archive), whose brief is to ensure the long-term survival of a representative collection of Australia's film, television, sound and radio material and associated documentation. With ScreenSound Australia's concentration on a national focus and emphasis on collecting commercially produced film, the State Film Archives' concentration on personal footage and its regional collecting focus dovetails nicely into a cooperative national collecting policy.

Much the same could be said for the role of the Battye Library's other collections of original and published materials. As part of a distributed national collection the Battye Library's published materials fall within a coordinated strategy with many Western Australian publications and ephemera being found only in the Battye Library.

The great value of the Battye Library's collections of published and original materials lies therefore, not in the replication of work being done at institutions like the National Library of Australia, or at ScreenSound Australia, but in its existing distinct collecting strengths and in the unique treasures it has acquired over more than a hundred years of collection development. All of these considerations contribute to making the Battye Library's collections a remarkable national treasure.

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