

THE
LIBRARY SERVICE
OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
1962-63



THE LIBRARY BOARD OF
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ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE BOARD

PERTH, 1963

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THE LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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State Librarian:

F. A. Sharr, B.A., F.L.A.

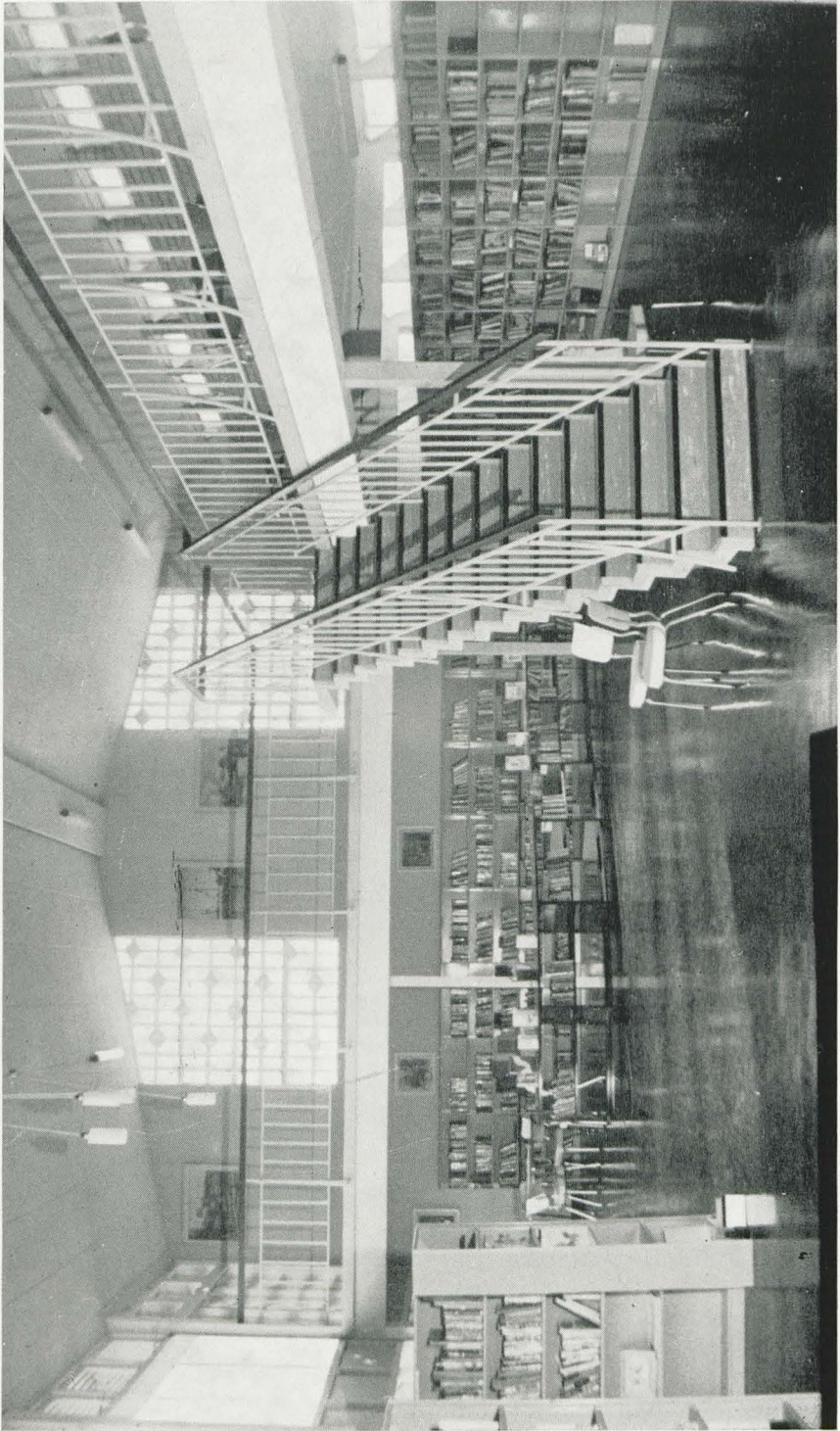
Chief Assistant Librarian:

James Hammond, F.L.A.

Communications should be addressed to:

The State Librarian, 3 Francis Street, Perth.

Telephone: 28 2461



KALAMUNDA LIBRARY

GENERAL SURVEY

The Board's original plan, formulated in 1953, envisaged the establishment of new or the development of existing libraries to a total of 50,000 volumes each year. This figure was based on the hope that the whole State could be served by libraries by 1975, at which date the forecast population of the State would be one million.

This year, the second in succession, the planned programme of an annual development of public library services totalling 50,000 volumes has been achieved.

At the end of the year almost 100,000 volumes were on loan to readers from the 63 libraries in the State. Of these 47% were non-fiction, an increase of 2% over last year. Five years ago the non-fiction percentage was 37%. This points up the growing demand in Western Australia, as in all the rest of the world, for books of information as opposed to merely recreational reading and underlines the wisdom of the Board's policy which was discussed at length in last year's Report of placing the emphasis on information and education rather than on light recreation.

The appointment in mid year of three additional junior staff to the State Library made possible a substantial reduction of the mounting arrears of work "behind the scenes" which were impeding the service to readers.

The demand on the Request and Information service by users of all libraries has continued to grow (by 29% in the year). In May, for the first time over 2,000 requests were received in a month, five times the number in the corresponding month six years ago.

It is the policy of the Government to promote industrial growth in country centres. Decentralization to be effective demands not only co-ordinated effort by all concerned but also sound planning based on reliable information. A business man's judgement is as good as the information on which it is based. The Board therefore welcomed an invitation from the Minister for Industrial Development to explain how the library service can provide up to date social, economic and technical information on any projected development. This was done at six seminars arranged by the Department of Industrial Development and attended by representatives of industry and local authorities of which the theme was "Knowledge is Power".

The membership of the Board remained unaltered during the year except for the resignation of Mr. J. E. Try, in May.

During the absence of the State Librarian in Nigeria, Mr. James Hammond was Acting State Librarian from November to March.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Books totalling 53,950 have been supplied to:—

- (a) Three new libraries at Dumbleyung, Inglewood (Shire of Perth) and Stock Road (Town of Melville).
- (b) Two existing libraries, Perth and South Perth, the initial stocking of which was spread over more than one year.
- (c) Supplementation of the stocks of five other libraries.

There are now sixty-three libraries associated with the Board covering sixty-eight local authorities. Of these nine are in the metropolitan area, six in the outer suburbs and forty-eight in the country. All libraries are stocked with books at a scale of one book per head of population. Fifty-seven percent of the population of the State is within the metropolitan statistical division, while fifty-three percent of the book stock is in libraries within this division. It is clear therefore that a proper balance has been maintained between country and metropolitan needs.



BUSSELTON LIBRARY

Three new library buildings at Busselton, Kalamunda and Merredin, which are illustrated in this report, set new standards for towns of medium size, about 7,000 population. All three provide study accommodation on a mezzanine gallery over the lending library area, an arrangement that affords a more attractive appearance than a single storey building, at little or no extra cost.

At Busselton, in view of the historical importance of the district, special provision was made for proper housing and use of historical documents relating to the area. Agreement was reached with the local authority that the Board would provide photo-copies of suitable local material held in the Battye Library in return for the loan for photocopying of all original material acquired by the Busselton library. The needs both of local and of metropolitan and interstate students are safeguarded by this reciprocal arrangement.

The current wave of new Shire office building in country centres has resulted in a number of fine new libraries in small towns. These form a separate wing of the office building and entrance to them is controlled from the main office counter. They can thus be open throughout office hours, a great convenience to country users, at an economical cost. This arrangement which was devised in Western Australia has resulted in a number of libraries in small country

towns which will bear comparison with the best anywhere in the world.

The new libraries opened at Kalamunda and Wongan Hills enabled children's services to be provided for the first time in those places. It is the policy of the Board that children should be served by all libraries, as adults are, but in the very early days the Board acquiesced in several libraries being started to serve adults only. In most of these places the local authorities have since made provision for children. Only four now remain where children are deprived of the pleasure and value of using a library. The Board hopes that the local authorities concerned will soon be able to rectify the position.

A total of 16,936 requests for particular books or information was received from public libraries through the Request and Information service, as against 13,170 last year.

The following random selection of fifteen requests received on the last Monday in June gives a fair example of the type of books for which readers ask throughout the year. These requests came from the following thirteen libraries in all parts of the State and demonstrate the wide geographical spread of demand for books of information:—

Armadale-Kelmscott	Meekatharra
Balingup	Narrogin
Broomehill	Perth City
Donnybrook	South Perth
Coolgardie	Tammin
Kalamunda	Trayning
Kojonup	

ALEXANDER, F. and FEILMAN, H. B.	.....	<i>From Empire to Commonwealth</i>
BRADDON, Russell	.....	<i>Cheshire, V.C.</i>
BRECHT, Bertholt	.....	<i>Selected poems</i>
BRUUN, Geoffrey	.....	<i>The world in the twentieth century</i>
CERUTTY, Percy W.	.....	<i>Athletics: how to become a champion</i>
CHURNEV, I.	.....	<i>Logical chess, move by move</i>
COWARD, Noel	.....	<i>Red Peppers</i>
HYETT, Jack	.....	<i>A bushman's harvest</i>
LINDE AIR PRODUCTS COMPANY	.....	<i>Oxyacetylene handbook</i>
MIXTER, R. L.	.....	<i>Evolution and Christian thought today</i>
PURVIS, J.	.....	<i>Fix your Volkswagen</i>
ROBINSON, J. A. T.	.....	<i>Honest to God</i>
THORNBURY, W. D.	.....	<i>Principles of geomorphology</i>
The Origin and History of the Plaine des Jarres in Vietnam		
A book on the identification of rocks.		

It is the policy of the Board that the State Library unlike most reference libraries, should lend books as freely as is consistent with its own users' needs, to local public libraries associated with the Board. The State Library thus acts as a strategic reserve to enrich the service of all libraries in the State.

Last year the number of loans to other libraries increased greatly and this increase has continued this year, by 36% to country libraries and 31% to those in the metropolitan area. A request from a country library is virtually never refused because there is no other means of meeting the reader's need, but a request from a metropolitan library for a book in demand in the State Library and still in print is referred to the Chief Assistant Librarian to consider for purchase of a further copy for Circulation stock. If a further copy cannot be purchased, a metropolitan reader may be asked to consult the book in the State Library, particularly if it is a set book for a university or technical college course. The convenience of a home loan for a metropolitan reader, who has ready access to the State Library in its lengthy opening hours has to be weighed against the weakening of the proper service of the library to other users.

The State Library would be encouraged to continue the policy of generous loan in the metropolitan area if more of the books borrowed by certain metropolitan libraries were returned on time. Nearly nine hundred overdue notices and even personal letters had to be sent to metropolitan libraries, out of 2,700 loans, a disproportionate waste of time and money.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

HEADQUARTERS

ACCESSIONS SECTION

I. D. TWEEDIE, B.A., A.L.A., *Librarian*

After the expansion of premises and streamlining of routines last year, this year has been one of consolidation, with few innovations, but considerable effort in continuing to increase output. Staff changes and illnesses have caused some difficulties, but despite these handicaps, the throughput of books processed for Circulation Section and State Library showed an increase of 16% (1961/62, 64,503; 1962/63, 74,500) and the number of orders typed increased by 14% (1961/62, 13,018; 1962/63, 14,848). Allowing for the discard of 11,655 volumes, the total net addition to Circulation Section was 56,517, as against 48,416 for 1961/62.

Stock requests from participating libraries have decreased from last year's peak of 8,239 to 6,630. This is a consequence of the scheme, mentioned in last year's report, of circulating among metropolitan libraries lists of the previous fortnight's orders, from which allocations are made at fortnightly meetings under the chairmanship of the Chief Assistant Librarian. The bibliographical work and expense of checking request forms has thus been kept within bounds.

Previously Circulation Section maintained a file of books ordered to meet readers' requests. This file had to be checked for all new books added to Circulation Section so that the requests could be sent to the appropriate libraries. This file has now been amalgamated with the main order file, with a consequent advance in efficiency and saving in checking time.

Considerable work during the year has been done in ordering and accessioning music for the development of the Central Music Library. This has brought some new problems, since music publishers operate rather differently from book publishers, and new sources of supply have had to be tapped in some cases. However, most of these problems are in course of being overcome, and 2,436 scores, etc. have been added during the year.

A landmark was reached in December when the stock of the Board passed the half-million figure. A short ceremony was held in Accessions Section to mark this occasion, when the 500,000th book, a copy of Cynthia Nolan's "Outback" published by Methuen, was on the completion of its processing, formally presented to the Chairman of the Board who handed it to the Librarian, Circulation Section as a symbol of its circulation throughout the State. The total stock of the Board at 30th June, 1963, was 530,995 volumes; 327,134 in Circulation stock and 203,861 in the various libraries within the State Library.

CATALOGUE SECTION

C. L. DRAKE, M.A., A.L.A., *Chief Cataloguer*

The number of volumes catalogued during the year was 71,335, representing 19,237 titles, of which 10,560 (corresponding to 40,332 volumes) were new to the Library Board's stock. Comparable figures for 1961-62 were 62,107 volumes and 16,883 titles, of which 10,033 were new. Seventy-seven maps or sets of maps were catalogued.

The programme of recataloguing the former Public Library stock was extended to include monographs as well as serials and was entrusted to the cataloguer who has been recataloguing the serials. An assistant was appointed to the Section in October to expedite the work. During the year 5,828 monograph titles were recatalogued while the number of main entries added to the Union Catalogue of Serials for both new and recatalogued titles was 837 (last year, 2,053). The Board's holdings of these serials were, as usual, communicated to the appropriate Australian Union Catalogues while entries for the monographs were sent to the Australian Bibliographical Centre for incorporation in the forthcoming Retrospective Union Catalogue of Monographs.

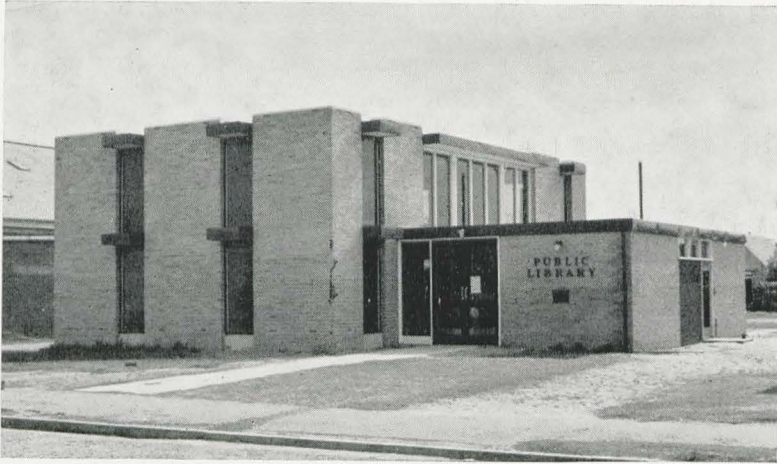
Revision of the printed catalogue was continued, 481 pages being typed during the year.

Lists of material of interest to farmers were compiled with the help of the staff of the Technical Library and sent to the editor of the Journal of the Department of Agriculture at intervals of two months.

CIRCULATION SECTION

A. T. PUGH, A.L.A., *Librarian*

Circulation Section is concerned mainly with the maintenance of a central supply of books from which are drawn the stocks of new public libraries and the regular exchanges which must be made if



BUSSETON LIBRARY

the quality of stock and service is not to suffer. Maintenance of stock involves the receipt, shelving and recording of new books, the rebinding of books which prove their worth and the discarding of worn out and obsolete volumes. In addition, the Section arranges the interlending of books between co-operating libraries.

The exchange programme involved the despatch and receipt of 122,298 volumes, an increase of 22% in the year. All single libraries receive 720 fresh books per annum, or 25% of their total stock whichever is the larger. Local authorities which operate more than one library are expected to make exchanges, in addition, between their own libraries; their exchange ratio from the Board is therefore lower. This saves unnecessary expense in altering the basic stock records in respect of the books which are moved between libraries in the same system.

The selection of books for exchanges is made by Circulation Section only if the local librarian is unable to visit Headquarters and make his or her own selection. Most libraries within about 180 miles of Perth send their librarians to select exchanges, because this enables their local knowledge of readers' interests to be utilised. Circulation Section keeps records of the interests, likes and dislikes of each library, which are consulted before an exchange collection is made up but, naturally, the staff cannot have the same personal acquaintance with local readers and their tastes as the local librarian. It is therefore the policy of the Board to encourage the attendance of local librarians at Headquarters for this purpose.

In addition to the books sent out in the exchange programme 53,950 volumes were supplied for the initial stocking of new libraries and the supplementation of existing libraries. The Board's aim is a development programme of 50,000 volumes each year. There are 50 weeks in a working year. Circulation Section is accordingly

staffed to permit 1,000 books a week to be prepared and supplied for new libraries. The development programme must therefore be carefully planned months in advance to ensure that every week in the year is fully occupied. In the case of the large libraries, of 15,000-20,000 volumes each, full consultation between the local authority and the Board is essential from the outset of the project, followed by strict adherence by both parties to the time table agreed upon, otherwise disappointment is inevitable.

There are four major aspects in the preparation of a new library: premises, book selection, staffing and book supply.

A library, of course, cannot be started until there are premises in existence. Small country local authorities often have a suitable room available and no problem arises. The larger authorities have to build a library. The period occupied in drawing preliminary plans, the formalities of loan sanction, completing working drawings and completing the building is bound to be lengthy. The local authority will wish for a prior assurance from the Board that the books will be forthcoming when the building is ready. The Board can give such an assurance only if it is assured that the necessary funds will be made available by the Government, and that the local authority will complete its building without fail at the agreed date, which may have to be settled up to two years in advance.

The selection of books for one library, of say, 18,000 volumes should be different from that for six libraries of 3,000 volumes each. In view of the fact that virtually all books have to come from overseas, book ordering has to take place many months before the books are actually required for use. The capital value of 18,000 volumes is about £20,000. Clearly, the Board cannot make an investment of this magnitude until it has complete assurance that the library for which the books were selected will, in fact, be ready to receive them as soon as they become ready for use. The Board has no room to stock-pile a large quantity of books. Apart from other considerations, therefore, it is impossible for the Board to buy books for a particular large library and then keep them in store until such time as the local authority completes the building. Equally, if the Board had purchased books suitable to stock a number of small libraries and a large local authority were unexpectedly to provide a building, the Board could not supply to it the type and quality of books which it would wish.

The initial stock of larger libraries is usually supplied in a number of consignments usually of about 5,000 volumes, or 3 tons, each at about five-weekly intervals.

The selection of the particular books for libraries in the metropolitan area, is made by the local librarian. Taking again the figure of 18,000 volumes as the size of the library, the local librarian must be appointed at least some 18 weeks before the library is to open and the building must be ready to receive the books some 5 weeks later. At this time local staff is also required to check the books on receipt against the stock records and to install them in the library.

The Board is normally approached by local authorities who have the erection of a building in mind, some two years before its proposed completion date. As soon as possible, after agreeing the dates with the local authorities, it allocates a particular period to the stocking of each library concerned, so that the future programme is planned with no weeks left unfilled. In fairness to the other local authorities, this programme once fixed cannot be upset if a local authority unfortunately does not complete its building on time.

During the year nine librarians, mostly from services already established, attended at headquarters for training. It is pleasing to note that more local authorities are showing awareness of the importance of their librarians receiving adequate instruction. The work is no longer regarded as one which "anybody can do", particularly as all librarians are being called on more and more to lend books on the Request and Information Service.

To meet the needs of those who live in really remote areas of the State, the Service to Persons in Extreme Isolation sends books to individual readers usually by air. This service is not large in volume but important to the individuals concerned. Nine hundred and nineteen books were lent during the year.

Circulation Section is housed in the Murray Street Annexe (the former Government Printing Office) which it shares with the State Library reserve stack. Consequent upon the disposal of this site by the Government to the Commonwealth, two wings at present occupied by Circulation Section will shortly be demolished to make way for redevelopment. A major move has therefore been necessary. The State Library reserve stack has been moved to the second floor, Circulation stack has been moved from one end of the building to the other and the Section will shortly move its office and working areas to a better location on the first floor, linked to the loading bay by an electric lift. This will permit the completion of the bulk handling system by the adoption of a pallet and lift truck system for the movement of loaded book boxes. The whole system of book handling from receipt to ultimate despatch will then be as efficient as possible.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTRE

HELEN M. GRIFFITH, *Assistant Librarian*

During the past year the number of requests passing through the Bibliographical Centre has again increased substantially, the increase being due partly to the opening of new libraries but also to an increase in the number of requests received from established libraries. This year for the first time the number of requests checked in one month passed the 2,000 mark, 2,134 requests being received in May from 77 libraries. It is interesting to compare this with the number checked in May 1957, when 407 requests were received from 32 libraries. The increase in requests far outnumbers the increase in libraries, one having increased more than five times and the other less than three.

The following figures show the increase in the use of the Request and Information Service this year. A total of 18,470 requests was received (14,343 last year); 92 percent were satisfied; 88.7 percent (16,398 volumes) were supplied from the Board's own stock. 1.35 percent (250 volumes) were borrowed within the State; .8 percent (149 volumes) were borrowed from other States; while 1,005 pages of photocopies were obtained from other States or overseas. 385 volumes were lent inter-and intra-State, and one volume was lent overseas.

The subject catalogue housed in Hackett Hall has now expanded into a second 180 drawer cabinet, and the Outlier Union Catalogue has been moved to a non-public area, as its earlier location in the same cabinet as the State Library author catalogue was causing confusion to readers who did not realise the difference between the two.

The revision of the Union Catalogue of Serials has been completed. One hundred and thirty-seven libraries are now contributing to this catalogue, which proves extremely useful in satisfying the numerous requests for periodicals not held by the State Library.

CENTRAL MUSIC LIBRARY

STEPHANIE MCNAMARA, D.S.C.M., *Assistant Librarian.*

The Central Music Library is not yet open but work has continued steadily throughout the year in preparation for its opening. Substantial donations have been received both from publishers and from the musical community of Perth and the whole of the music stock of the State Library has been transferred to the Music Library. The more serious gaps in coverage, revealed after the intake from these two sources had been collated and assessed, are being filled by purchase. Meanwhile the work of cataloguing all the new stock has continued as quickly as possible consistent with high quality.

When a good balanced collection has been acquired and properly organised the library will officially open to the public. In the meantime it is able to give some service to country libraries associated with the Board, and the strength of latent demand may be judged from the fact that the number of inter-library loans increased during the year from 32 to 224.

STATE LIBRARY

The State Library is the reference division of the Library Service of Western Australia. Its function is not only to meet the needs for information of those who come in person, telephone or write, but also to enrich and strengthen the service of all libraries throughout the State by acting as a strategic reserve of books, bibliographical tools and specialist staff from and by which enquiries or requests of too specialized a nature to be handled locally can be satisfied. By this means the reference service enjoyed by residents of the metropolitan area is extended to all areas in the State where a public library has been established by the local authority concerned.

THE J. S. BATTYE LIBRARY AND STATE ARCHIVES

MOLLIE LUKIS, B.A., *Librarian and Archivist*

A reference to historical records or archives evokes from most people a picture of ancient documents; they do not expect such documents to reflect the happenings of the current year. Notable among recent accessions to the Battye Library however have been the records of two events of great importance to Western Australia in the last twelve months—the British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Perth in November and the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip in March. The records of both of these occasions which have been selected for preservation will be of value not only to those concerned with the organisation of such events in the future but also because the photographs, plans and special publications issued are useful records of Western Australia at the time. Among the material from the Games Organising Council, in addition to the formal records of the Council and its committees, the collections of press cuttings from all over the world containing the impressions gained by visiting journalists of Western Australia and its way of life are of particular interest.

The deposit of records of another type, though these are rather older, has also arisen from recent developments. Following the disbandment at the end of 1962 of the district councils of the Australian Labour Party in Western Australia, it was agreed by the Party that the records of these Councils should be deposited in the Battye Library for preservation, and material from the Fremantle and Midland District Councils has already been received. Trade Unions also are being encouraged to deposit their older records for preservation, and a collection of material dating from its inception in 1902 was recently placed in the Battye Library by the Plasterers' Union. There is a growing interest in labour history and it is good that those responsible for labour records recognise their value to scholars.

The increasing emphasis which in the last few years has been placed on business and institutional records has resulted in the deposit of a number of important collections. Notable in the past year was the decision of the Board of Westralian Farmers Co-operative Ltd. that the archives of their company should be kept in the Battye Library. This company, with its subsidiaries, has activities serving practically all members of the State's population and since its formation in 1912 has been associated with major developments such as the Wheat Pool and Co-operative Bulk Handling. Transfer of the old records will have to be done progressively over a period of years but work on the project has already begun. Another West Australian firm, Nicholsons Ltd., has agreed to deposit its old records in the Library, following its recent amalgamation with an Eastern States business. Interesting records, dating from the 1880's of the Kimberley and Murchison Pastoral Companies kept by one of the directors, the late W. S. Pearse, were donated by his niece Mrs. A. Turton, and a large collection of valuable material was received from Lionel Samson & Son Pty. Ltd., one of the few remaining firms which date from the beginning of the colony. The Perth Chamber of Com-

merce has continued its policy of passing records to the Library as they cease to be required for current reference, and a further quantity of files, to be added to records deposited earlier, was received from this source during the year.

The intake of private records of colonial days is gradually diminishing, most material of this period having now been collected, or at least located and microfilmed. Noteworthy donations of this type however were family papers of George Fletcher Moore and his brother Samuel received from Mrs. M. Rutherford and Mrs. A. H. Savage, the papers of Dr. W. H. Sholl, an early Colonial Surgeon, donated by Sir Reginald Sholl and the diaries of John Allnutt, a pioneer of Bridgetown, lent for copying by Mrs. K. Aberdeen. From England microfilm copies were received through the Australian Joint Copying Project Officer at Australia House of the papers of W.A. Sanford, Colonial Secretary in Western Australia from 1852 to 1855. This important collection is among the family papers of Lord Methuen, by whom it was made available for copying.

Though no large individual collections of private papers were microfilmed this year, some 3,150 pages of records and 190 photographs were copied. Microfilming of the *West Australian* was completed to 1935, but less progress was made with this project than usual owing to persistent mechanical trouble with the camera.

The tape recorder has been used to record reminiscences of a number of people during the year, mainly elderly pioneers with interesting recollections of the districts with which they had been associated. A notable interview, which has already proved useful to students, was given by Sir Charles Latham dealing with his early years on the land, his political career and impressions of some of his parliamentary colleagues.

Government records to a total of 332 feet (or 20 bays of shelving) were received in the State Archives during the year, and a quantity is still awaiting transfer from government departments and the repository. Where possible transfer of records has been deferred in recent months until the move consequent upon the re-arrangement of the stack area at the Murray Street Annexe is completed. Less than 100 feet remain of the 1,300 feet of shelving provided for the storage of archives at the Murray Street Annexe in 1961, but additional space there will shortly be available.

Among important series of official records received this year were Bill files, 1896-1952, from the Crown Law Department, letterbooks, registers and lease books of the Department of Lands & Surveys between 1886 and 1900, and tabled papers of the Legislative Council, 1904-1950. Prior to the removal of the Police Department from its James Street offices, this Department transferred general files from 1920 to 1946, C.I.B. personal files up to 1905 and Liquor Branch records, 1923-1936.

As most departments now have disposal schedules in operation smaller quantities of records have been received in accordance with these both from departments and from the intermediate repository, but even in some of these departments the back-log of non-current records remains and this is being cleared gradually by records officers

working in co-operation with archives staff. In a few cases, both the problem of the back-log and the compilation of a disposal schedule have still to be faced.

Recording, checking and filing the periodicals and annual reports received from local organisations such as educational, religious, cultural and sporting bodies, social welfare groups, industrial and mining companies, scientific, professional and trade associations, has continued. All of these, in varying degrees, contribute to the development of the State, and the record of their activities should not be lost. A number of them have no headquarters and have voluntary officers who frequently change; as a result constant checking is necessary to ensure that the library files of their publications are complete, as back numbers are often unobtainable if there has been any delay in requesting them.

The West Australian literature collection has continued to grow both as a result of the current output of writers from this State and the purchase of rare early editions by local authors. Mr. G. M. Glaskin, now overseas, recently presented to the library the manuscripts of his last four books.

LIBRARY OF BUSINESS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NORMAN HORROCKS, B.A., F.L.A., *Librarian*

It is common practice to examine the constituent parts of a library service under the three broad headings of staff, bookstock and buildings. Under all these three headings this year has been probably the most encouraging since this Library was started over six years ago.

Two of the key requirements for staffing efficiency are experience and adequate numbers for the work in hand. Throughout the past year the three senior positions in this library have remained unchanged for the first time since its inception. Since January the attachment of a General Assistant virtually full-time to routine filing and checking duties has freed the staff for more productive professional work. Additionally it has also meant that this filing is now almost always kept up-to-date, a not inconsiderable time-saver in itself. The addition of a second Student Librarian to the staff in April has made it possible to concentrate on some of the "back-scenes" tasks while still maintaining public service in Hackett Hall.

There is no lack of "back-scenes" work to be attended to and as has been stated in these Reports before much of the success of the work done for the public depends on the effective organization of material not in public view. For example the library has a small but growing collection of trade catalogues. These often provide useful information on equipment and products not found in books and periodicals. This year it has been possible to arrange the collection in alphabetical order of manufacturer and compile an index to its contents arranged by subjects. Hitherto no systematic collection of trade catalogues has been attempted because of the inability to deal with them.

Systematic book selection for this library began over seven years ago. At this time the existing stock was weak in technical

subjects but quite strong in certain areas of science, notably natural history. These strengths have been maintained and reasonable coverage provided in the other scientific fields. Much greater emphasis has been placed on technical and management fields. Although working within the framework of a book-fund that has been reasonable without being over-generous it is now possible to feel that the book collection can meet the great majority of the day-to-day demands made upon it. This is not to encourage complacency. There are still gaps to be filled, many subjects to be strengthened and the price of technical books continues to rise.

A major handicap six years ago was the lack of back files of all but a handful of technical periodicals. Now, with the accumulated holdings of over eight hundred journals acquired not only by purchase but also by donation and exchange to back up the book-stock, the position is much improved. In addition to serving the needs of readers in Western Australia the periodical and bookstock is now being called on increasingly by libraries in other States unable in many cases to obtain their required references elsewhere. Public, special and university libraries in all States have been helped by either direct loan or provision of photocopies; in return, libraries in all Eastern States, France, the United States of America and England have supplied material for use by readers in this library.

The third item mentioned in the first sentence was buildings. Here to a large extent the problem has been a general one throughout all sections of the State Library. The re-arrangement of the stack area early in the year eased the over-crowding there. The plans for the further transfer of material to the Murray Street Annex should give additional storage room for the ever-increasing stock of books and periodicals. Two other problems remain. The shelf space available in Hackett Hall is not capable of much expansion. Space for the new books added to stock can only be found by



MERREDIN LIBRARY: OPENING

transferring older, but still useful, stock to the stack shelves. The second problem is not of such immediacy but in the long run it is undoubtedly of much greater moment. It will simply not be possible physically to store over eight hundred currently received periodicals indefinitely in the present premises. This is a problem which every technical library faces and is under review within the framework of Western Australian conditions.

Printing mistakes often occur in scientific and technical books. They are frequently corrected on a list of errata which is added at the front of the book. Such a list might easily be overlooked when the book is being consulted. It has therefore been the practice for some years now to use a specially designed rubber stamp which is placed against the incorrect line drawing attention to the errata list. Periodicals also contain printing errors and it is sometimes equally desirable to draw these to the attention of readers, but the sheer number of corrections appearing in over 800 journals has prevented this work being done. This year it has been possible with the improved staffing position to undertake this work. All important corrections and amendments in currently received magazines are now being made.

The promotional activities mentioned in last year's Report have continued throughout the year: articles for local magazines describing books added to stock, assistance to local firms about to organize their own library facilities, provision of selected books for a residential course on management, and selection of items for inclusion in the Lists of Books for Farmers prepared by Catalogue Section for the Journal of the Department of Agriculture. Another regular activity is that of sending out "follow-up" letters. These letters are sent to people who have asked to be kept informed of new books or periodical articles on particular subjects in which they are interested; other letters go to people likely to welcome having their attention drawn to a new publication in their field of interest; and others to those who have previously made an enquiry on a given subject. All of these services are aimed at persons likely to be directly interested and they produce a high percentage of responses.

In a Library of Business, Science and Technology the emphasis is usually on the latest developments in a specific field but on occasion the older books and journals provide the required answer. The following non confidential enquiries offer examples:—

It is proposed to import a particular plant into Australia. Is there any record of its having been introduced before? The references found were dated 1888, 1890, 1893 and 1916.

A detailed coloured illustration was wanted of a particular palm tree. It was found in a magazine published in 1860.

Information was required on the use of a heliograph. The fullest description was found in a U.S. Army Manual of 1863.

The following illustrate the more usual type of enquiry which needs up to date books and journals:—

What is the calorific value of the gas supplied by the various Regional Gas Boards in Great Britain?

What information is available on the meters used for measuring the dissolved oxygen in waters and other fluids using the dropped mercury column?

What is the tappet clearance on a 1956 Plymouth?

We are re-organizing the stock control of tools in our factory. We have heard that there is a Brisch classification scheme for this purpose. Have you details of this or any other schemes?

A recipe wanted for toffee suitable for coating on toffee apples.

LIBRARY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

G. A. STAFFORD, F.L.A., *Assistant Librarian*

It is the nature of libraries to grow in size and this in turn creates the problem of finding the space and room to absorb the growth. This year this problem has had to be faced with books, newspapers and maps. In the subject fields of economics and psychology the vacant shelf space that was available in both Hackett Hall and stack has been filled. It has been decided to move some of the older files of Eastern States newspapers for which there is little demand to the Murray Street Annexe. It is hoped that shelving will be provided there to permit the transfer of some more volumes of lesser used serials. Material housed in reserve at Murray Street is still available for use in the State Library provided that twenty-four hours notice is given.

Current affairs and events in Perth have been reflected in the enquiries received. The Freedom from Hunger Campaign and the European Common Market are two subjects that have had a sustained interest for readers. The Royal Visit to Western Australia caused an enquiry about the origin of the 21 gun salute; Sir Robert Menzies' knighthood initiated a number of enquiries about the Order of the Thistle, its history and regalia. More recently the showing of the film "Mutiny on the Bounty" sparked off questions about the fate of H.M.S. Bounty and the actual manner in which Fletcher Christian died. Also in demand is the book list on juvenile delinquency published last year which has continued to stimulate demand for material on this subject.

The revision of stock continued but not at the same rate as last year. This year the field of modern philosophy only was revised. It is hoped that funds will be available next year to carry on with this necessary task of revision.

Two years ago the library received a donation of albums containing some 3,000 postcards and illustrations of sailing vessels and steam ships. The task of preparing an index to each of these albums is now almost complete. Eventually details of construction, tonnage and ownership will be added to the indexes for those ships that visited Australian waters. Various large donations of statistical

material dealing mainly with production and population statistics of various overseas countries have been sorted and organised. This involved, incidentally, moving up some 120 feet of shelving to provide shelf space. Enquiries for statistics on various topics have increased in the past twelve months. The United Nations Demographic Year Book has become one of the best used volumes in the library.

For some time there had been some feelings of dissatisfaction at the scattering throughout stack of the volumes relating to early travels in Australia, particularly as these are some of the most valuable volumes in the library's possession. The dispersal of this material had been caused by its physical size, from small octavos to large folios, and by its subject classification, some works being scientific in their application, others purely historical. It has now been decided to bring all these books together and shelve them in a separate room. Apart from the benefit of having them together, they will now be kept with greater security.

The State Library is open on Saturdays until 9.45 p.m. and on Sundays from 2.5 p.m., and is particularly well used at these times. On one Saturday afternoon recently among the readers present were school children doing their homework, training college and university students working at their assignments, a lawyer consulting the Commonwealth Acts of Parliament, an author reading historical material for a novel, a traveller looking at maps covering his next journey and other persons consulting and reading books on subjects of their interest. This is an actual example of the range of tastes of the readers for whom the library caters.

LIBRARY OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

RONALD WRIGHT, B.A., *Assistant Librarian*

In the course of the year under review a good deal of adaptation and reorganization has been a feature of the work in the Arts Library. The recataloguing of monographs in the old Public Library stock by Catalogue Section began in the literature class and has involved a considerable amount of re-lettering and moving of books on the shelves in stack. The former hand-written cards are being replaced by standard 5 in. x 3 in. typewritten cards. As a result of this it will be possible to include the library's holdings in the Retrospective Union Catalogue of Monographs being built up at the National Library of Australia.

The general trend of enquiries in the Arts Library has conformed to patterns of former years but at the same time has reflected contemporary developments and new interests in the community. As an instance of this it may be noted that while building queries and requests on architectural projects continued, the emphasis was rather on decorative detail, landscaping and the provision of fountains. Similarly in the realm of sport there have been enquiries on such innovations as sport parachuting, ten-pin bowling and the science of karate. The library was able to assist a local authority in the framing

of by-laws for swimming pools. The books on furniture have proved useful to several furniture manufacturers and a number of titles have been ordered to meet their requests.

A reader's request for the meaning of a French word "branquignol" could not be answered from the library's resources and it was finally necessary for an enquiry to be sent to France. It turned out to be a new word coined by the actor Robert Dhery and signifying "a ludicrous and outrageous individual".

The library's comprehensive book collection has made it possible to satisfy from stock most of the demands made during the year. A reader enquiring whether the library had a copy of a Malone Society Reprint "The History of King Leir, 1605" was pleased to discover that it was in the library's stock. However, a request for "The Solitudes" of the Spanish poet Don Luis de Gongora revealed that it was not available in Western Australia and a copy had to be obtained from the State Library of Victoria. The Arts Library in turn was able to satisfy requests for a number of books on the poetry of Tennyson, which emanated from the University of Queensland. Loans such as these, effected through the inter-library loan system, provide a much appreciated service to scholars.

Among the more popular books in the Arts Library are those dealing with numismatics. An early Australian coin was identified from a rare book in this collection, Stainsfield's "Descriptive Catalogue of Australian Tokens", published in London in 1883.

Forebodings expressed about the effect of television on reading and libraries have now proved to be largely illusory. In fact the reverse has applied and there has been a stimulation of interest in reading and the use of libraries. A number of enquiries concerning Oscar Wilde were prompted by a television presentation of his play "A Woman of No Importance". Similarly a reader's request for details of the life of Governor Darling of New South Wales was occasioned by a television feature "Patriots" shown on ABW 2.

The Library's material in turn is being exploited by writers for television who use it in the preparation of special features, film critiques and musical commentaries. Illustrations copied from the library's early newspapers were shown in a series on sporting events.

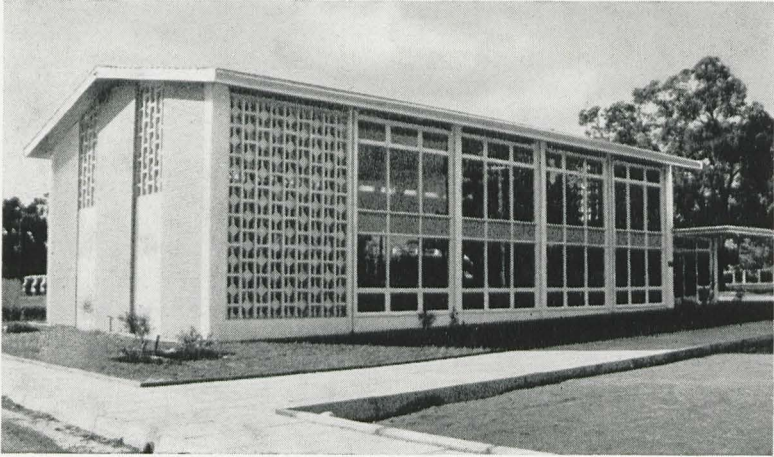
A feature on antique furniture was illustrated by sketches taken from books in the library's collection.

Owing to increased enrolments at the library science classes at Perth Technical College and the broadening of the syllabus of the professional examinations, it has been found necessary to reinforce the student's collection with extra copies of used texts. This provision has involved checking second-hand lists and sources liable to be able to supply the more difficult to obtain texts. A wide range of periodicals on library science is well used by students for the purpose of keeping abreast with current developments in the library field.

INFORMATION CENTRE

REX PRICE

The Information Centre has in the past year continued its function of supplying immediate answers both to those who come to the State



KALAMUNDA LIBRARY

Library and to telephone enquirers. There has been an increasing number of requests for names of agents and agencies; this could be partly due to the Trade Mission which has visited various countries. The following questions asked during the year give some indication of the range dealt with:—

The titles and addresses of Master Printers' Associations in Holland, West Germany, Canada, Switzerland.

The addresses of wire screen manufacturers in South Australia.

The Australian agents for Brown & Sharpe, engineers of America.

The name of a Japanese furniture manufacturer for advice on the repair of a Japanese table.

The address of the Corporation for Bio-Chemical Research in California, U.S.A.

Information on the religion, population, currency, etc. of Mauritius.

The address of Akai tape recording manufacturers in Japan.

The names of the countries in the South East Asia Treaty Organization.

The objects of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Dealers in un-cut crystal or any firm dealing with crystal.

The address of the manufacturer of Wurker sewing machines in Germany.

Western Australian, Eastern States, overseas and foreign newspapers and periodicals have been in constant use during the year. Malayan students find the "Straits Times" a very welcome link with home and visit the Information Centre daily to read it.

The revision of the collection of reference books has continued, to ensure that the latest information is always available. Keesing's Contemporary Archives is now received by airmail thus giving a world wide coverage of events a few days after publication. This service started on 1st January, 1963.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Mr. F. A. Sharr continued as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Examiners of the Library Association of Australia. Messrs. J. Hammond, I. D. Tweedie, A. Ellis and G. A. Stafford are examiners for the professional examination of the Association.

Sixteen members of the staff sat for 44 papers of the Registration Examination in November last and 13 passed in a total of 26 papers. Mrs. S. McNamara was awarded a pass with Merit in 2 papers. Four completed the Registration Examination. The Registration Examination comprises seven compulsory units plus a further two which may be chosen from a number of options.

Evening Classes for this examination continued to be held at Perth Technical College, opposite the State Library, by the Education Department in association with the Board.

Five members of the staff sat for and passed a total of 10 units as part time students at the University of Western Australia. Three were awarded Distinctions. The Board's view is that a librarian in the type of service which the Board administers should, in addition to professional qualifications, possess breadth and depth of general intellectual capacity. It therefore warmly welcomes the success of members of the staff in university in addition to professional studies.

Mr. Norman Horrocks was granted a period of leave without pay to follow his normal long service leave in order to take a course for a Master of Library Science degree at the University of Pittsburgh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With the expansion of the service the number of persons and bodies to whom the Board would wish to express its appreciation for help, co-operation or donations has grown beyond the reasonable limits of this Report.

To all of them individual thanks have been tendered at appropriate times but some should be particularly recorded; the Lord Mayor and the City of Perth for continued hospitality in placing a committee room at the Board's disposal; the Government's London Office for unflinching efficiency and courtesy in handling overseas business; and the librarians of other libraries who have assisted the service by the loan of books and in other ways.

FRED ALEXANDER,
Chairman.

F. A. SHARR,
State Librarian.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF

The following is a list of publications during the year by members of the staff.

- AIKMAN, R. G. and HONNIBALL, J. H. M. The Chapel of SS. Mary and George, Guildford Grammar School: A history. Perth, The Council of Guildford Grammar School, 1962. XIV, 107 pp. illus., tables.
- BISKUP, P. Marx-Leninism and Soviet classification; some thoughts on classification theory and practice in the U.S.S.R. *IN Australian Library Journal* Vol. 12, No. 1, March, 1963. pp. 28-34.
- HONNIBALL, J. H. M. The third Archbishop of Perth, 1947-1962. *IN The West Anglican*, February, 1963. Supplement, 8 pp.
- HORROCKS, N. Reference library notes. *IN Australian Library Journal*, Vol. 11, No. 3, July, 1962. pp. 143-144.
- LAMBLE, W. H. Commonwealth newspapers and periodicals in the State Library. *IN Education: a journal for West Australian teachers*. Vol 11, No. 1, July, 1962. pp. 49-53.
- SHARR, F. A. The library needs of Northern Nigeria. A report prepared under the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan. Kaduna, Government Printer, 1962. pp. [IV], 242, tables.

APPENDIX II.

Towns or districts in which public libraries operate in association with the Board:—

Metropolitan—

Armadale
Canning Bridge
Claremont
Fremantle (a)
Inglewood
Kalamunda
Kelmscott
Kwinana
Melville, Stock Road
Perth (City)
Rockingham
Scarborough
South Perth
Tuart Hill (Osborne Central)
Wanneroo

South-West—

Balingup
Boyup Brook
Bridgetown
Busselton
Donnybrook
Margaret River
Waroona

Great Southern—

Beverley
Broomehill
Darkan
Dumbleyung
Kojonup
Lake Grace
Mount Barker
Narrogin (b)
Nyabing
Pingelly (f)
Wagin
Williams

Central Wheatbelt—

Bruce Rock
Dowerin
Goomalling
Kondinin
Merredin (c)
Narembeen
Quairading
Tammin
Toodyay
Trayning
York (d)

Northern Wheatbelt—

Carnamah
Dongara
Gingin
Mingenew
Moora
Three Springs
Wongan Hills

Murchison—

Cue
Meekatharra
Mount Magnet
Yalgoo

North-West—

Carnarvon (e)
Port Hedland

Other—

Coolgardie
Esperance
Laverton
Norseman
Ravensthorpe

- (a) City of Fremantle, Town of East Fremantle and Shire of Cockburn.
(b) Town of Narrogin, Shires of Narrogin and Cuballing.
(c) Shires of Merredin and Westonia.
(d) Town and Shire of York.
(e) Town of Carnarvon, Shires of Gascoyne-Minilya and Upper Gascoyne.
(f) Shire of Pingelly and Wandering.

The flower on the cover of this Report is a Bird Orchid, *Pterostylis turfosa*, a wildflower of Western Australia which grows over a wide area of the lower South West but is becoming somewhat scarce. Photograph by F. A. Sharr.