



Heritage Week and public libraries in NSW

THE OFFICIAL launch of two NSW Branch publications, *Rotting History* and *Microfilming Local Government Records* will take place in the Galleries of the State Library of NSW, 6 for 6.30, on 10th April, 1984; that is, during Heritage Week.

The timing is deliberate. The Branch wishes to emphasise the functions Public Libraries and Librarians have in collecting and conserving the local record of our Heritage. Often they are the only organisation specifically involved in this vital area which Heritage Week symbolises. Public Librarians should consider making this point at their own locations during this week.

Further, there will be an explosion of microfiched genealogical records which many people are going to want to use. Their library would be an excellent starting place for them and this would demonstrate a service by the library outside normal expectations and perhaps tap another audience.

We know that Public Libraries are much more than book lenders but we must keep telling others on appropriate occasions.

Public funding has to be earned year by year and public demonstrations of function and relevance are an essential part of earning activities.

David Hawkins,
President, NSW Branch

Restored film epic for commercial screening

THE 1927 Australian silent film epic 'For the Term of His Natural Life' which was reconstructed by the National Film Archive of the National Library of Australia, has begun commercial distribution.

The film, being distributed by Greater Union, opened in Melbourne on March 9 at the Carlton Moviehouse, and will be shown in Brisbane in April and Perth in September. A release in Adelaide is being negotiated.

Since it was restored by the National Film Archive in 1981 it has been a feature of a number of film festivals in Australia and overseas, including Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, San Francisco, New Delhi, Berlin and Cannes and has been highly acclaimed by critics.

The Director of the National Library's film section, Mr Ray Edmondson, described the film as 'a unique experience which is also first-class entertainment'. Based on Marcus Clark's novel about an Englishman wrongly convicted of murder and transported to Australia, the film was the first major epic produced in Australia. Its budget of £60,000 (\$120,000) far exceeded that of any previous Australian film and in relative value has only been equalled by a handful of recent productions.

An LP recording of the new sound track of the film, based on the original music continuity, and a pianola roll have been re-issued and will be on sale at theatres where the film is shown.

The Conference looks at heritage and its preservation

One of the topics to be covered this year at the LAA-NZLA Conference, 'Libraries: After 1984' is 'Our National Heritage: The Australian Librarian's Commitment To Its Preservation'.

State Librarian for Western Australia, Robert Sharman, will speak on the topic at the Conference, to be held in Brisbane from 27-31 August. He is well qualified to do so, and to address wider implications because of his vast professional experience.

Robert Sharman (right) was appointed State Archivist of Tasmania in 1949, on his twenty-first birthday. Three years later he became the foundation State Archivist of Queensland. Since then he has seen service as an Archivist at the Australian National University in Canberra, and was also Assistant State Librarian of South Australia for a time.

As a former editor of *Archives and Manuscripts* and current chairman of the Standing Committee of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services, Robert



Sharman is sure to present his conference audience with some soundly-based, thought-provoking views on the task of maintaining the integrity of our historical past.

New book in honour of famous Australian librarian



Dietrich Borchardt is pictured here with the editors — John Horacek of the Borchardt Library, La Trobe University, and Harrison Bryan, Director General of the National Library of Australia — of a book of essays in his honour. Entitled *Australian Academic Libraries in the Seventies*, the book was launched by the Vice Chancellor of La Trobe University, Professor John Scott, at the Borchardt Library on 23 February. The occasion was arranged through the Melbourne office of James Bennett and the book's publisher, University of Queensland Press.

Heritage Week
April 8 – April 15
A week of discovery

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