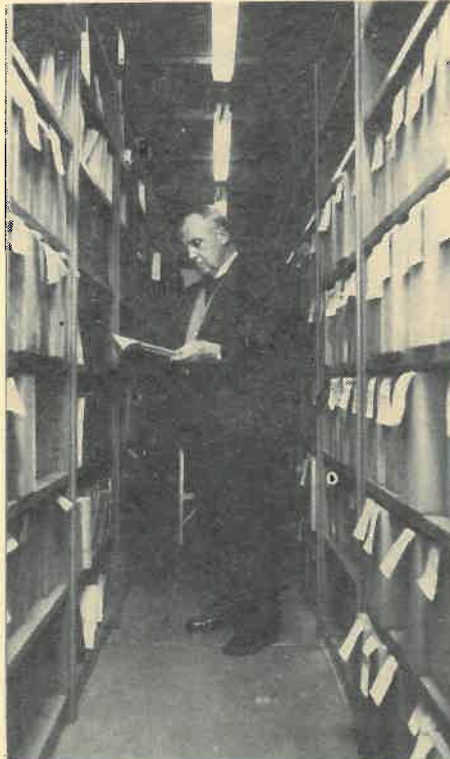


Sydney's archives

So far as the writer is aware, Sydney is the only diocese of the Church of England in Australia which has set up its own archival repository for the safekeeping of its documents and other records.

In years to come, these archives will not only constitute a source of information on the foundation and development of the Diocese, but also a resource on which historians and students will rely for their investigations of the past of this country.

The setting up of the archives has developed from a resolution passed in 1961 by the Diocesan Synod. This resolution established a small committee to make enquiries about the safe keeping of documents and other records, whether parochial or diocesan. The opportunity for establishing a repository presented itself when plans for the building of St. Andrew's House were under discussion.



What are "archives"?

A document — whether in manuscript, type-script or printed matter — may be said, to belong to the class of Archives if it — 1. was drawn up, or used, in the course of an administrative or executive transaction, of which it formed a part, 2. was subsequently preserved in the custody of the body in which it originated for the information of that body and/or its legitimate successors (adapted from "A Manual of Archive Administration" — by Sir Hilary Jenkinson).

What is the purpose of an archival repository?

The primary purpose in setting up an archival repository for the Diocese of Sydney is to preserve the records of the past for the information of the present and the future, and so to assist in the development and growth of the Church in the Diocese, and in the formation of diocesan policy.

From the point of view of the Diocese, this is the sole purpose of setting up an archival repository. There is, however, another use: to make available to accredited students and researchers those records to which access is not restricted.

Classes of Archival material

Perhaps the most important class of documents held in the Sydney Diocesan Archives is what is known as "Acts and Proceedings". These are documents

emanating from the Registry of the successive bishops (archbishops) of the Diocese, commencing with William Grant Broughton, Bishop of Australia until 1847, and Bishop of Sydney from that date.

Later, with the institution of synodical government, came the proceedings of Synod, and its minutes, the minutes of its Standing Committee and of Standing Committee's sub-committees. Also the minutes of the Glebe Administration Board, as well as the minutes of various other special committees set up by Synod from time to time.

Then there is correspondence — episcopal, registry, secretarial, archidiaconal, etc. The records of the architectural panel, with plans, drawings and faculty applications are also included.

The Year Books of the Diocese are also preserved, and also an interesting collection of letters patent from the earliest days of the Church in Australia before there was a Diocese of Australia, when the whole country was the Archdeaconry of New South Wales, a part of the Diocese of Calcutta.

Parochial Records

Recently, the Archbishop wrote to the various parishes of the Diocese, suggesting that parochial records should be lodged in the Archives for safe keeping. These include registers of all kinds, and minute books, together with any important documents held by parishes. Already, some of the oldest parishes have sent in their non-current registers to the Archives, which has its own air-conditioning and humidifying plants to provide the best possible conditions for the preservation of paper.

Secondary Source Materials

Original documents are of course, the best materials for research, but secondary materials are also valuable. Therefore church newspapers, parish histories, relevant newspaper cuttings from the secular press are also useful. The archivist is always glad to receive such materials from parishes or individuals.

To date, there are not many published diocesan histories, or biographies of

Australian churchmen, but there are a few. Copies of these are also gratefully received from donors.

Genealogical Research

This type of research has become increasingly popular since 1970, and the volume of requests from individual researchers is becoming a steady stream. Unfortunately, the archivist can do very little to help in this area, as most of the relevant registers are held in the various parishes.

The Task of the Archivist

The task of the archivist is to try to bring some order out of chaos. This will take much time. The oldest materials in

the Archives date from very early in the nineteenth century. All materials must be allocated to their proper record groups, according to the person or organisation who/which originated them, and then arranged in date order. In the process, duplicates or irrelevant material, with documents considered to be of no archival value, must be culled out.

The next task will be to provide inventories for the principal record groups, to facilitate reference to the documents in these groups. At some future date, the archivist should also compile a cross-reference system with some of the early material held in the New South Wales State Archives.

The archivist is also charged with the responsibility of the physical defence of the archives in the repository. He must, as far as he is able —

- preserve the archives from deterioration or from loss by theft.
- arrange for the conservation and repair of archives.
- personally supervise access to the archives.

This brief article may give readers some idea of the importance of the Sydney Diocesan Archives, and some understanding of the purposes for which it has been established. Any queries should be addressed to the Diocesan Archivist, St. Andrew's House, Sydney Square.

Boyce Horsley
Archivist

Everyman's Army

Since the early days of World War II, Campaigners for Christ have maintained a presence and service within the Australian Army.

One of four philanthropical organizations accredited by the Australian Government for work in the military forces, Campaigners for Christ has sponsored the Everyman's Huts and has had a unique opportunity to serve servicemen and women, both at home and abroad.

Everyman's has provided facilities to "diggers", both on base and in the field, and has seen service in Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

During the Vietnam conflict, seven Everyman's Welfare Representatives saw service with six battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, spanning the whole period of Australian involvement. With Colossians 1:28 as its motto, and in a "Home away from Home" atmosphere, Everyman's seeks to provide a loving, caring ministry as well as an evangelistic witness.

For the past eighteen months, Everyman's has been below strength owing to the loss of two representatives early in 1977. This has meant the temporary closure of one strategic posting. The Federal Executive of Campaigners for Christ, after much prayer and deliberations, sees as a most pressing priority, the increase in Welfare Staff and the re-opening of the Everyman's Club at Balcombe, Victoria.

With these aims in mind and with a view to forming an Everyman's Voluntary Reserve, and Everyman's Welfare Service Orientation Seminar was recently held at 1 RTB (1st Recruit Training Battalion) Kapooka, N.S.W. The Seminar brought together members of the Federal Executive and potential re-



gular and reserve staff, and was the first ever to be held by this organisation and was claimed to "be blessed of God".

Organised and led by the Chief Commissioner of Everyman's Stacey Kruck, the seminar included lectures by the Federal Chairman, Graeme Kent, and the N.S.W. Director, Ivor Jones.

Everyman's continues to present a unique opportunity for service within the military and the doors continue to be wide open. Apart from the pressing need to place a man at Balcombe, the Federal Executive is also seeking to make men available for other postings.

A most exciting and timely venture of faith is the formation of a Voluntary Reserve. Such a Reserve has been welcomed by the authorities and the current campaign by Messrs. Killen and Hawke, to build up Australia's Defence Reserve, gives added impetus to its formation.

Already a Senior Welfare Representative has been appointed to Victoria Headquarters and is waiting for formal accreditation. Details of the appointment and appointee will be given to the Christian public as soon as formalities have been completed.

This will be the first time in its history that Campaigners have appointed a Welfare Representative to the Reserve. It is envisaged that the Reserve will not only provide a caring and meaningful service to the Defence Force Reserve, but will act as a back-up to the Welfare Representatives in the Regular Army.

Ramon Williams

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