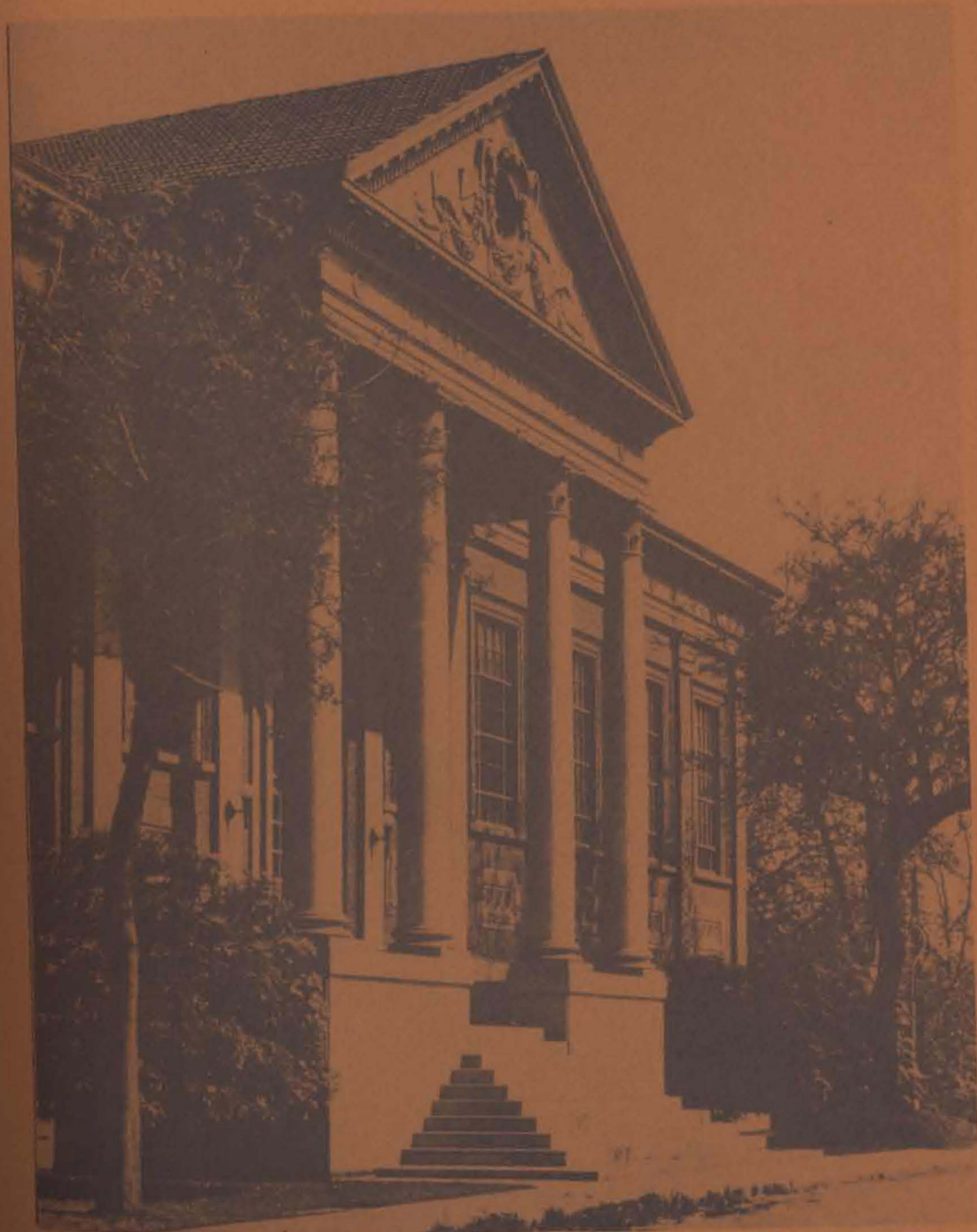


University of Adelaide

LIBRARY NEWS



UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS

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HOW THE BARR SMITH LIBRARY GOT ITS NAME

1980 sees the fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Barr Smith Library by Mary Isobel Barr Smith on 29th September 1930. The building was a gift to the University from her husband, Tom Elder Barr Smith, intended as a monument to his father, Robert, who during his lifetime contributed large sums of money for the purchase of books.

In its early days the income of the University was small and Council allowed only £150 for the purchase of books each year, as it was difficult to provide much more than enough to pay for periodicals and the cost of binding; nor was money forthcoming from the public. C.W. Holgate's survey of the chief libraries of Australia published in 1886 noted that the Library of the University of Adelaide "has but few gifts of value, and in fact very few gifts at all". Robert Barr Smith changed this unfortunate situation when in 1892 he made the first of his donations, which were to amount to £9000, to be expended in the purchase of books for the Library. In appreciation of his liberality, the Council resolved in 1899 that the Library should bear the name of its benefactor.

The example of Robert Barr Smith had a stimulating influence, and has since been followed by a number of gifts and bequests of great value. After the death of Robert Barr Smith in 1915, the members of his family, including his son Tom Elder Barr Smith, and his son-in-law, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Mitchell, gave £11,000 to constitute a fund for the permanent endowment of the Library. To this day the Library is able to make substantial purchases using these and the later endowments of Tom Elder Barr Smith, Sir William Mitchell and his son, Sir Mark Mitchell, who was a grandson of Robert Barr Smith.

In January 1927 Tom Elder Barr Smith generously offered £20,000 to finance the construction of a separate building to accommodate the Library named after his father. Eventually £30,000 was given to erect a building which would comfortably and splendidly accommodate the Library, and allow for future growth, on condition that it should be completed within five years. The inscriptions on the frieze of the reading room commemorate the two donations.

ROBERT BARR SMITH DONIS PER SE ET HEREDES INDE AB A.D.
MDCCCXCII IMPERTITIS BIBLIOTHECAM PRIOREM LIBRIS EXPLEVERAT,

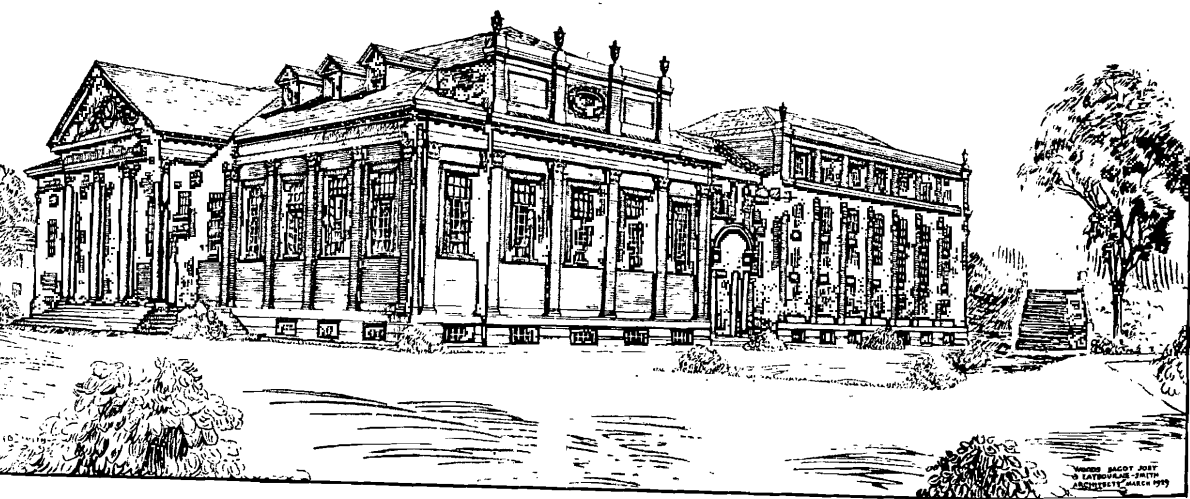
refers to gifts of money made from time to time by Robert Barr Smith, and supplemented after his death by his heirs.

TOM ELDER BARR SMITH HANC BIBLIOTHECAM AD PATRIS NOMEN
ORNANDUM SVMPTV SVO AEDIFICANDAM CVRAVIT A.D. MCMXXX

records the gift of the building by Tom Elder Barr Smith.

When the building was eventually opened on 4th March 1932, Tom Elder Barr Smith gave an account of a conversation with the Chancellor, Sir George Murray, in which he pointed out to the Chancellor, who was also Chief Justice, that the time limit had been extended, and that he thought damages might be awarded against the Council. Sir George agreed but replied that he did not like Tom Elder Barr Smith's chances, as the case might come before him in his other capacity, with the damages, possibly amounting to one farthing, to be deposited in the Library with a Latin inscription detailing the circumstances. At the same ceremony the Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Mitchell, remarked that this was the only time the Barr Smith Library would be devoted to speeches. His conclusion that "henceforth it was destined to silence" would perhaps be disputed by today's readers. In fact there were speeches in the reading room on two further occasions, when in 1966 and 1970 demonstrations were held there. In 1966 a sit-in protesting against education funding cuts had John Bannon amongst its organisers.

THE BARR-SMITH LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



*The Barr Smith Library: Original Project for Completed Building
Future Stack Room Annexe on the Right*

A great deal of thought went into the planning of the new building, and the architect, Walter H. Bagot, took advice from authorities overseas as well as in the eastern Australian cities. It combined a reading room containing books thought to be sufficient for the needs of most readers, with a closed access stack to conserve space. The new building could hold a total of 150,000 volumes, with accommodation for 200 readers and 15,000 books in the reading room; there was also a comfortable common-room for professors. A flying-fox was used to transfer the 80,000 volumes from the cramped old Library in the Mitchell Building to the lower level.

In 1932 it was envisaged that the new building with its proposed stack extension (eventually begun in 1958 to a new design) would house half a million volumes, and in the words of Professor J.R. Wilton in his vote of thanks to Tom Elder Barr Smith, it "should be ample for one hundred years to come". The Library was to reach the half million mark only thirty-seven years later, by which time a second extension had been added, while a third extension, the present Research Services Wing, was on the drawing board.

The building's classic renaissance form was then thought to be highly adaptable, and also appropriate for Adelaide's mediterranean climate. It was received not only as a fine addition to the University, but also to Adelaide, and was described as palatial, beautiful, magnificent, imposing, ornate, splendid, and so on, although a contemporary newspaper article regretted that it was "far from the madding crowd, ... for its beautiful architecture, of which there is little superior in Adelaide will not be readily seen by the general public or interstate or overseas visitors. It would have made a fine addition to the several classically designed buildings on the North Terrace boulevard".

It was however, more than just a beautiful building. At the time, the Library of the University of Adelaide was the only university library in Australia to be adequately accommodated. Munn and Pitt in their severely critical survey in 1935 recognised that the satisfactory library facilities at Adelaide University and the excellence of the collections were on account of the benefactions of the Barr Smith family.

Like other new university buildings of the time, the Library was built of brick, but it was lavishly ornamented with stone dressings to soften the effect and add to its quietly splendid character. Its classic style notwithstanding, there was a fierce and patriotic appreciation of the extensive use of locally produced materials and fittings, and of the excellent craftsmanship evident in the completed building. The eventual cost of the building was £34,718 and Tom Elder Barr Smith generously contributed the extra money needed to complete the lavish decoration of the reading room.

The building stands as a monument, not only to the generosity of the Barr Smith family, but as a physical expression of the belief that the Library is central to the development of scholarship in the University.

Margy Burn.

THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST LIBRARIAN

Robert John Miller Clucas, the first Librarian of the University of Adelaide, was born on 22 December 1871 on the Isle of Man. When the family migrated to South Australia in 1882, the father, John Clucas obtained employment as a school teacher first at Norwood and later in various small towns on Yorke Peninsula. Robert entered the Education Department as a pupil teacher on 1 January 1886, and in 1891 began a one-year course in the Adelaide Training College. He then completed eight moderately successful years as an assistant, mostly at Parkside Public School, resigning in 1900, his salary then being £150 a year. He and his wife, Alice Mabel, had an only child, a daughter, who died in infancy.

On 17 April 1900 Clucas became the Librarian of the University of Adelaide. He was chosen from 114 applicants, the post having been advertised after its rejection by W.H. Ifould who was to become one of Australia's most distinguished librarians but was then a young man on the staff of the Public Library of South Australia. At that time Clucas had no staff and no experience or training in librarianship, and had made but a slow beginning in the studies which were to lead to the award of B.A. in 1908. While ready to perform the clerical duties expected of him, and even to share in cleaning the library which at that time contained about 9,000 volumes, Clucas had the enthusiasm, intelligence and vision needed to enable him to develop professional competence and enhance his office.

From 1901 to 1924 Clucas also held the office of secretary for public examinations, with responsibility for administering examinations not only in South Australia and Broken Hill but for many years in Western Australia as well. In 1923 when 2,640 candidates submitted nearly 15,000 examination papers, and it was estimated that one-third of the time of the small library staff was needed to cope with them, the protests which the Library Committee had begun in 1913 were heeded; in 1924 Clucas was freed from the secretaryship.

Clucas was a part-time lecturer in economic geography from 1904 to 1928. He had a strong interest in cartography and surveying, working for many years in his leisure time on a contour map of the Adelaide Hills, and each year offering the University's engineering students an introduction to surveying. He was a council member of the state branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia from 1925 until his death, and a member of the Royal Society of South Australia. He was a shell collector, an amateur photographer and a music lover. His translation of Theocritus' Idyll XV, *The feast of Adonis*, set in type and published in 1910 by his friend G.F. Hassell who claimed it as the first Greek text with parallel translation to be published in

Australia, is an elegant booklet which was the pride of the Hassell Press.

Beginning with a modern card catalogue and adoption of the Dewey Decimal Classification immediately after his appointment as University Librarian, Clucas worked hard to build up the content and efficiency of the library. He pressed for the means to develop a subject catalogue, and in 1925 began to advocate interlibrary borrowing. By the time of his death the collection had grown to about 80,000 volumes. When in 1927 T.E. Barr Smith offered funds for the building which was needed to house the collection by then greatly augmented through the generosity of donors such as the Barr Smiths and Sir Samuel Way, Clucas opposed the pending visit of the architect, W.H. Bagot, to Europe. "It is to America we have to look for guidance in library planning," he wrote to Sir William Mitchell, the Vice-Chancellor. Nevertheless, he worked enthusiastically with Bagot in designing the very un-American building which was still under construction when he died.

A reticent, retiring man, upright, punctilious and kindly, with a whimsical sense of humour, Clucas was highly regarded by his colleagues and a circle of friends who reflected his varied intellectual interests. "A willing assistant to every professor, a most competent librarian," was Sir William Mitchell's tribute.

Clucas died of cancer on 7 September 1930, three weeks before the foundation stone was laid. The Chancellor, Sir George Murray paid tribute to him at the opening ceremony of the Barr Smith Library in 1932, expressing sincere regret that Clucas did not live to see the completion of the building. Clucas bequeathed 1,300 volumes from his collection to the University.

I.D. Raymond.

ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY STORE

For the convenience of readers who need to consult volumes kept in storage, the Library Store on the second floor of the Old Medical School will be open on Wednesday 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. during the academic year. Prior notice of an intended visit to the store should be given to the assistant in charge of either the circulation desk level 3, Barr Smith Library, or the circulation desk of the Medical Library.

Items normally required for study purposes or for loan are paged daily on weekdays from the Library Store after application to one of the circulation desks and are made available in the Library.

No item may be borrowed directly from the Library Store on a Wednesday afternoon.

These arrangements will be reviewed in the light of demand and the availability of staff to maintain the service.

DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITIONS

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

During September and October there will be a display of materials related to electric vehicles on Level 3 of the Research Services Wing. Interesting items collected by I. Hoffmann and arranged by K. Leverett will be exhibited. The Flinders University electric vehicle has received a good deal of recent publicity; it may not be generally known, however, that it is the latest in an impressive line of South Australian-produced electric vehicles dating back to the earliest days of motoring.

WILLIAM BLAKE

An exhibition of Blake material held in the Barr Smith Library's Rare Book Collection will be mounted in the Special Collections area in October and November. The exhibition marks the publication by Oxford University Press of a facsimile of Edward Young's *Night Thoughts*, with illustrations by William Blake. One of the editors of this venture is Dr Michael Tolley of the Department of English, who has kindly lent the Library his own copy for the exhibition.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY - PAST AND PRESENT

The Medical School was founded in 1885, when six students began the medical course and the medical collection dates from about this time. A lecturer in physiology was deputed to take charge of the medical books as the University's first librarian was not appointed until 1900. In 1922 the Medical Library became a branch library when it moved from the Mitchell Building into the new Darling Building with the Biochemistry, Biology, Histology and Physiology Departments. Later the Library transferred to temporary accommodation in the Physics Building before moving to the Medical School in Frome Road, which opened in 1948. By the 1960s both the Medical School and the Library faced serious accommodation problems and in 1970/71 the Medical Library moved into the Barr Smith Library building. This move was initially considered to be a temporary one until the Medical Library could be accommodated in the School once again; however, the next few years brought unforeseen financial stringencies to the University, and so it was decided that the Medical Library should remain in the Barr Smith Library.

The Medical Library still operates as a branch library, but it is dependent on some central services in the Main Library. Parts of the collection which require special facilities, equipment or staffing, for example, rare books, microforms, and audiovisual material, are integrated with the corresponding collections in the Barr Smith Library. The Medical Library contains approximately 92,000 volumes on preclinical and clinical medicine and dentistry. Although its primary purpose is to provide a service for the university community it also provides some service to outside user groups. Library agreements between the University and the State branches of the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Dental Association have now been terminated; however, the University still has a library agreement with the local branch of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, whereby library facilities are made available to members of the Association in return for an annual grant to the University Library. The University has a library agreement with the South Australian Institute of Technology. Certain user groups from the Institute, including staff and students from the Schools of Pharmacy and Medical Technology and Physiotherapy and the Department of Occupational Therapy, are granted borrowing privileges from the University Library and the Institute reimburses the University on a per capita basis.

GIFTS AND EXCHANGES

Over the years the Library has received many gifts. In 1909 the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery transferred the medical collection in the Public Library to the University. The collection contained many valuable sets of 19th century medical journals, including long runs of the *British Medical Journal* and *Lancet* as well as a few volumes which originally came

from the first medical library in this State - the library of the Medical Society of South Australia. The Society was only short-lived as it was founded in 1851 and it disposed of its small book collection in 1856.

For many years the Library has exchanged copies of *The Australian Journal of Experimental Biology and Medical Science* for the publications of institutions overseas. At present there are institutions from forty-four different countries involved in the exchange programme, including the Chinese Medical Association, the Mayo Clinic, the Royal Society of Medicine and the World Health Organization.

Because older medical literature is consulted infrequently the Medical Library has been able to exist for many years with part of its collection shelved in closed access; journals published before 1951 have been transferred from closed stacks in the Barr Smith Library to the newly established Library Store in the Old Medical School building and older books will be transferred to store later. Although use of the collection declines with its age, the value of all of the items in it does not necessarily decline:-

There is a dead medical literature, and there is a live one. The dead is not all ancient, the live is not all modern. There is none, modern or ancient, which, if it has no living value for the student, will not teach him something by its autopsy.

Oliver Wendell Holmes 'Medical Libraries'
in *Medical Essays* (1883)

INDEXING SERVICES AND DATA BASES

Medical libraries and their users are indebted to the bibliographical services provided by the U.S.A. National Library of Medicine. Its major service, *Index Medicus*, now indexes approximately 250,000 articles from medical journals each year. It has survived for more than 100 years and has come a long way since Dr John Shaw Billings, Librarian of the U.S.A. Surgeon General's Office Library 1865-1895, had baskets of journals delivered to his home each evening where he marked articles for indexing, and returned them to the Library the next day for his library clerks, who were former Civil War soldiers, to copy the entries on to index cards.

In the early 1960s the National Library of Medicine developed a computerized system, MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System), to assist with the production of its medical indexes, including *Index Medicus*, *Index to Dental Literature* and the *International Nursing Index*. MEDLARS includes references to articles in more than 3,000 biomedical journals and is used to produce either retrospective or monthly current awareness bibliographies on specific topics.

The Australian MEDLARS Service is operated by the National Library of Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health. The Medical Library joined the Australian MEDLINE network in 1977 and obtained on-line access to the MEDLARS data base. Users were charged for searches because the Library had to recover the costs of telephone calls to Canberra. In August 1980 we began using MEDLARS through the Commonwealth Department of Health's Health Communications Network and search charges have been reduced accordingly.

The Library does not intend to cancel subscriptions to *Index Medicus* or other major indexing and abstracting services, but with low communication costs it is now feasible to use MEDLINE as a very efficient substitute for *Index Medicus*. For example, one can quickly locate a few relevant current references on a specialised topic using a simple two or three term search statement, and print the references on-line. This aspect of the service is of particular interest to hospital libraries.

Besides MEDLINE, other data bases available through the Australian network include RTECS (Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances), HEALTH (Health Planning and Administration) and BIOSIS PREVIEWS (the machine-readable equivalent to *Biological Abstracts* and *Bioresearch Index*). In addition to the Australian network services there are several data bases of medical interest available through the Lockheed DIALOG and SDC ORBIT systems to which the Library also has access.

With the growth of medical literature, which has been estimated to double in size approximately every twelve years, libraries and their users will become increasingly dependent on these types of services. We hope that we shall continue to provide traditional personal service in association with automated systems.

Judith Lloyd.

AMERICAN FICTION ON MICROFILM

The *Wright American Fiction 1774-1900* microfilm collection has recently been received by the Barr Smith Library and should provide a valuable resource for scholars working in this area. Produced by Research Publications Inc., New Haven, the collection consists of 1,396 reels reproducing the text of all titles listed in Lyle H. Wright's three volume bibliography *American Fiction 1774-1900*, revised edition. San Marino, Huntington Library, 1948-66. Consisting of 10,827 titles altogether, volume 1 (1774-1850) lists 1,814 titles, volume 2 (1851-1875) 2,824 titles, and volume 3 (1876-1900) 6,189 titles. In order to make the microfilm collection more accessible, an author index has been compiled which combines all titles from the three Wright volumes into one alphabetical sequence, with entries referring to both the microfilm reel number and to item numbers used in Wright's bibliography.

DEPOSIT OF PUBLICATIONS IN THE BARR SMITH LIBRARY

The Barr Smith Library has always played an active role in collecting material which has some association by authorship or subject with the University. Over the years a valuable archive has been built up as part of the Research Collection; unfortunately, in spite of regular reminders to potential donors within the University, the collection has never approached completeness.

At a recent meeting, the Education Committee of the University agreed that a copy of each submission to a state or national enquiry made by the University, a Faculty or a Department should be lodged with the Librarian. Arrangements may be made to protect the confidentiality of documents, when this is required. The Education Committee has called for a copy of all submissions made over the last five years to be deposited in the Library; we should be pleased to receive a copy of submissions made at any time by the University.

The Library and the Library Committee will be grateful for the continuing help of all members of the university community in building up a comprehensive collection of material relating to the University. Books, reports, records of proceedings, pamphlets, magazines, souvenirs, and other publications emanating from the University or related to it would be greatly appreciated.

Enquiries and suggestions from interested persons will be welcomed by the Librarian (extension 2370) or the Resources Librarian, Mrs M. Robinson (extension 2285).

GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS - THE NEW ZEALANDERS ILLUSTRATED:
AN INTERESTING VARIANT PRINTING

A copy of George French Angas' *The New Zealanders Illustrated* (1847) was one of the items bequeathed to the Barr Smith Library in 1916 by Sir Samuel Way. Sir Samuel bought a number of books from the E.N. Petherick collection of books on Australasia and since *The New Zealanders Illustrated* is listed in the Petherick catalogue, this may well be the provenance of the Barr Smith Library copy. The work was published in ten parts, each of six plates with a commentary. The list of subscribers shows that 193 copies were ordered prior to publication.

When members of the library staff examined another copy recently offered for sale in Adelaide it was discovered that there were distinct differences in the typesetting compared with the Barr Smith Library copy, although the text and date of publication were identical.

Further investigations revealed that copies held by the National Library of Australia, the State Library of South Australia, The Royal Geographic Society (S.A. Branch) and the Art Gallery of South Australia all had typesetting identical with that of the copy offered for sale and showed only slight variations in the colour of the prints.

The differences start with the 'Preface' and 'General Remarks'; the type is more widely spaced, needing one extra page for the 'General Remarks', and the paper is slightly more pink in colour. Comments to plates 1-12, 31-60 have the same typeface, but significantly wider spacing between words, making lines of up to 190mm. Differences also occur in the colouring of the plates and the amount of gum arabic used to mount them. It is apparent that parts 1-2 and 6-10 of the Barr Smith Library copy must have been reset for some reason.

Since the initial observations, Dr John Tregenza, with the assistance of library staff, has made a more detailed comparison of the Art Gallery's copy, the copy for sale and the Barr Smith Library copy and has produced a comprehensive list of the variations.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS
WORKSHOP

The Barr Smith Library recently was host to a travelling workshop sponsored by the Victorian Branch of the Library Association of Australia. The two-day sessions on 21-22 and 25-26 August were devoted to the reference use of Australian federal and state government publications.

Participants from various South Australian libraries and government departments made use of our Old Rare Book Room for the workshop, which was conducted by Michael Harrington of the State Library of Victoria. Emphasis was placed on the tracing of information in government documents and some time was spent examining the machinery of government. Particular attention was paid to the indexing of parliamentary material and to the use of publications emanating from various government agencies in reference work. A practical exercise involving the use of government documents was undertaken by workshop participants at the end of each session.

Georgina Griffin.

HOUSE OF COMMONS PAPERS ON MICROFICHE

The Barr Smith Library has cancelled its subscription to the loose issues of the British House of Commons Parliamentary Papers (comprising the Command Papers, House of Commons Papers and Bills) in favour of a microfiche version which will be issued by Chadwyck-Healey Ltd. from Session 1980/81 onwards.

Documents are reproduced on 98-frame positive silver halide microfiche at a reduction of 24x. Title strips provide full identification of the documents on each microfiche.

There are several advantages to be gained from the change to a microfiche version, apart from the obvious one of a very large saving in shelf space. The Papers on microfiche will appear in their final order, compatible with H.M.S.O. indexes, so that no rearrangement will be necessary when each session is completed. At present the Library has to keep the loose papers from each session until the index volume appears (some two years later), and then spend a considerable number of staff hours arranging the papers into index order before they are sent for binding. The time spent on ordering replacement copies of papers missing from the sequence and querying anomalies in the numbering will also be saved. One further advantage is that the microfiche will be sent by air mail ensuring a quick, regular delivery.