

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

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***E-BULLETIN* No. 48 – 25 March 2009**

Hon Editor, Dr Ruth S. Kerr

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1) *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections (2009)*

Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections (2009), is a useful tool for managing cultural and scientific collections, wherever they are held. *Significance 2.0* will be available in print and web forms.

- To be in the running for a free hard copy of *Significance 2.0* for your collecting organisation, send an email to info@collectionscouncil.com.au with your collecting organisation's name and contact details.
- [Click HERE](#) if you would like to pre-order a personal copy of *Significance 2.0* (estimated RRP \$AUD 29.95) – offer now extended to **31 March 2009**. (We will contact you during April to confirm your order.)

Look for *Significance 2.0* at www.collectionscouncil.com.au from May 2009.

2) Archives of Pope Pius XII

`DOCUMENTARY evidence has been found that pope Pius XII ordered monasteries to shelter Jews being persecuted by the Nazis, a Vatican prelate said overnight.

Peter Gumpel, the late pope's official advocate in the process to have him beatified, the first step towards canonisation, said the November 1943 order had turned up in a Rome monastery in the archives of Augustinian nuns.

... In October last year Benedict said that he was studying "seriously" the opening of the archives relating to [Pius XII](#) before beatifying him.

The same day Vatican spokesman [Federico Lombardi](#) said that it would be six or seven years before the secret archives were opened because of the large amount of work involved.'

(Source: <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,25141470-23109,00.html> - From correspondents in Vatican City - Agence France-Presse - March 05, 2009 04:33am; A Mailing List for Australian Archivists – 5 March 2009)

3) Cologne archives collapse and the value of copying of records

HISTORY | 04.03.2009

Collapsed Cologne Archives Show Challenge of Preserving History



The city of Cologne's archive suddenly collapsed Wednesday

Even as the search for survivors continues, experts ponder the extent of the historical material that has been lost after part of the Cologne city archive caved in -- and how to protect cultural heritage.

With over 26 kilometers (16 miles) of shelf space, Cologne's city archives were no small affair.

The western German city of Cologne had the largest municipal archives north of the Alps, Andreas Freitaeger, an archivist at the University of Cologne, told Deutsche Welle.

The archives contained 65,000 original documents dating from the year 922, as well as 104,000 maps, 50,000 posters and 500,000 photographs depicting life in Cologne, according to the archives' Web site.

Home to important historical originals



Heinrich Boell (1917-1985) was one of Germany's most significant 20th-century writers

"Just several weeks ago, the archive had, together with the city of Cologne, purchased the complete works of (Nobel Prize-winning author Heinrich) Boell," said Freitaeger.

The daily *Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger* had reported that, following six years of negotiations, 6,400 manuscripts, letters and documents from the well-known author had been bought in February for 800,000 euros (\$1 million). The archives had already housed a large Boell collection.

Cologne was also home to the "largest collection of works by (composer Jacques) Offenbach," said Freitaeger. And it housed important documents from Germany's first chancellor, Konrad Adenauer.

Georg Quander, who heads the city of Cologne's culture department, told the AP news agency that the insured value of the archives totaled just shy of 400 million euros, but that the financial loss could not be compared to the cultural loss.

Around 20 archivists and restaurateurs are currently at work recovering the contents of the archives. It won't be clear for some time exactly which items have been irrevocably lost, as some may be able to be restored. But it was the building containing the old inventory -- dating up to 1815 -- which collapsed.

Loss compared to Weimar library fire



Fire caused extensive damage to Erfurt's Anna Amalia

Library in 2004

The newer material in the archives' other buildings is being relocated for safety reasons, with some of the archives' contents headed to Freitaeger's archive at the university.

Though the university's archive is much smaller and younger than the city's, Freitaeger said they would take increased safety measures after Tuesday's tragedy. He said there are smoke detectors located throughout the archive.

The situation in Cologne has been compared to the Anna Amalia Library in Weimar, which was heavily damaged by fire in 2004 -- Germany's most devastating library fire since World War II.

Eberhard Illner, a former long-time department director in the city archives, told a German radio station that the damage caused Tuesday was greater than that suffered in the Weimar fire.

Some 50,000 books, many from the 17th and 18th centuries, and 35 paintings were irreparably destroyed in Weimar, according to the Anna Amalia Library. Another 62,000 volumes suffered partial damage, but were rescued from the flames.

Means to preserve the past



The archive facilities had been in use since 1971

But fire is only one of an archivist's nightmares. Water is another. Documents are also housed in basement rooms below street-level, which could quickly fill up with water if the nearby Rhine River were to flood. Burst water and sewage pipes can also destroy delicate materials.

While steps can be taken to protect damaged archive material, such as freezing objects that have got wet, there is no way to protect archives from every eventuality, Freitaeger said.

In the case of a structural collapse, "no emergency plan will help," he said, adding that keeping a copy of valuable documents is important to avoid completely losing material.

Despite a growing number of libraries digitizing the content of their shelves, Freitaeger said electronic copies aren't necessarily the best way to avoid losing documents since "software doesn't last forever."

Instead, he recommended old-fashioned microfilm, adding that microfilms of many of the country's most valuable documents are stored in the southern German Black Forest region, far away from the originals.

The practice began with the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which Germany signed along with nearly 100 other states in The Hague in 1954.

According to the DPA news agency, 870,000 microfilm duplications of the material archived in Cologne had been deposited at the central warehouse in the Black Forest.

Author: Kate Bowen, Editor: Sean Sinico

(Source: <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0%2C%2C4072655%2C00.html>
4 March 2009)

4) Forum on heritage of the High Country, Friday 15 May

The Heritage Council of Victoria and Heritage Victoria, in conjunction with Australian Alps National Parks, East Gippsland Shire Council and Parks Victoria, is presenting a one day Forum on Heritage of the high country, on Friday 15 May. The Forum will be held at the Masonic Hall in Omeo. The Forum hopes to: raise awareness of the historic places of the high country and to gain broad community acceptance of their heritage values; to identify the threats to cultural heritage; and to see how management affects the cultural heritage values of alpine parks. A registration form with program outline is attached. While the subject matter of the Forum has particular relevance to the Alpine Country, the issues raised are pertinent across the State. The Forum will be of interest to councillors, planners, community workers and tourism promoters, as well as residents' groups, recreational groups and land managers.

The program includes a series of papers by acknowledged experts on issues affecting the landscape heritage of the high country, such as climate change. In the afternoon participants can choose from a number of workshops, including one inviting discussion and comment on the Greater Alpine Parks Management Plan Review. There will also be a full day self-drive tour on Saturday 16 May enabling us to see and discuss problems and solutions in the field.

To register for Heritage of the high country on Friday 15 May 2009, please contact Jane Andrews Forum Coordinator PO Box 428 Kew 3101 (Phone: 0409 804 727 janea@netspace.net.au)
Venue: Omeo Masonic Hall.

Bookings close on Friday 8 May.

(Source: aacai@lists.uq.edu.au - 12 March 2009)

5) University of Melbourne Archives

University of Melbourne *Bulletin* No 24 December 2008 (the news from the University of Melbourne Archives) includes:

- 'Searching For a Forgotten Life: W L Baillieu in the Archives' by Peter Yule;
- 'Researching the Melbourne University Boat Club – Australia's Oldest Boat Club' by Judith Buckrich;
- 'Red Tape – Some Retiring Thoughts' by Michael Piggott (who retired from the position of University Archivist and Manager of Cultural Collections at the end of 2008); and
- the Principal Archivist's report by Helen McLaughlin;

Visit <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives>

(Source: aus-archivists@archivists.org.au – 13 March 2009)

6) *Drought Stories*: a spoken and visual history of the current drought in Victoria – Program Manager position

The History Council of Victoria is seeking to employ a part-time (0.6) Program Manager, on a set-term contract (12 months) who will lead the project. The current drought has had a devastating impact on rural Victoria. **Drought Stories** is an important HCV initiative to record the experience of the drought stricken communities. The Project Manager will train and mentor members of local schools, historical societies and other community groups to gather material, **Drought Stories** will empower rural and regional communities and create a state-wide archive of oral testimony and visual images.

The position is based at the HCV's offices in the State Library of Victoria. However travel to rural areas will be required.

The position is offered as a 3-day position; time fraction 0.6. It is equivalent to Higher Education Officer (HEO / HEW) Level 6.0 to 6.5 (depending on skills and experience), a gross full-time-equivalent remuneration package of pro-rata \$55,030 to \$59,568 per annum, with a four-week annual leave entitlement.

The Program Manager will work in conjunction with the Executive Officer of the HCV, and under the oversight of the HCV Chair, reporting to the project Steering Committee.

The successful candidate will be employed by the HCV on a 12-month contract, subject to a performance reviews after three month.

HCV will make superannuation contributions of 9% based on the gross salary to a complying superannuation fund of the incumbent's choice.

The successful candidate will be based in a fully equipped shared and open-plan office space at the State Library of Victoria, 320 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000.

Position Description

The Drought Stories Program Manager will be a talented and energetic professional with a history/arts background. Essential attributes are:

- experience in project management and strategic liaison
- sound knowledge of oral history processes and ethics
- excellent written and oral communications skills
- experience in training and mentoring.

The position also requires a passion for public history and community, and experience of rural and regional Victoria. Advanced ICT skills are desirable.

The Program Manager's key duties will include:

- **Consult with key stakeholders in rural and regional Victoria for advice, contacts and cooperation in Drought Stories.**
This process will include the formation of a Steering Committee with representatives from HCV, RHSV, the Country Women's Association, the Victorian Farmer's Federation and a charitable body with experience in rural Victoria, probably the Salvation Army.
- **Grant applications**
The Project Manager will assist the HCV in applying for further grants to enhance the delivery of the program.
- **Establish programs for recording oral history and gathering other material in partnership with regional historical societies.**
The Program Manager will recruit and train Drought Stories Mentors (DSM). These will be volunteers from within community organisations who the Program Manager will train, mentor and support in both collecting oral and visual material, and in training other people within their organisations to do so. Where possible, programs will connect local historical societies with secondary schools.
- **Conduct two Regional Training Workshops in techniques, ethics and protocols for gathering oral history and preserving archival collections.**
The HCV has extensive experience in working with the community sector, and utilising partnership-based models of training. The workshops will take place in May and July in Horsham and Bendigo. This training will have considerable long-term value beyond **Drought Stories**, giving DSM participants enduring skills in heritage collection and archiving, and community programs.
- **Promote Drought Stories in regional Victoria through print and broadcast media.**
The Program Manager will enact a public relations strategy, using regional media to encourage the donation of written and visual material and

participation in oral history programs. The HCV has excellent contacts in the ABC, the most important broadcaster in regional Victoria.

- **Collate and catalogue Drought Stories Central Archive, to be held at the State Library of Victoria.**

With the assistance of a part-time Archival Assistant the Program Manager will select, assemble and collate the **Drought Stories Central Archive** in accordance with best-practice archival standards.

- **Launch project.**

The Program Manager will organise a launch of the program in the Horsham and Bendigo regions. A launch during History Week in Melbourne or other event to publicise the program will also be required.

Key Selection Criteria:

1. Experience in project management and strategic liaison
2. Sound knowledge of oral history processes and ethics
3. Excellent written and oral communications skills including report preparation experience
4. Experience in training and mentoring
5. A passion for public history and community

Important Information for Applicants

- Applicants must address the Key Selection Criteria.
- Applicants may address questions about the position to Ms Diane Gardiner, HCV Chair, by phoning her at her place of work, *Public Record Office Victoria*, on (03) 9348 5749, or (03) 9489 2718.
- The closing date for applications is 5 pm, on Monday, 23 March 2009.
- Applications are to be addressed to Ms Diane Gardiner, Chair, History Council of Victoria, P.O. Box 443, Carlton South Vic 3053
- Interviews are expected to be conducted on or about Tuesday, 31 March 2009. It is hoped that the successful applicant will be able to commence as soon as possible after the offer of the position.

(Source: Royal Historical Society of Victoria – 6 March 2009)

7) *The Making of Modern Australia* – online history project and ABC TV series



Become a part of history with The Making of Modern Australia
www.makingaustralia.com.au

A new online history project – and soon to be ABC TV series – invites people from all over Australia to tell their personal stories.

The project presents **a terrific opportunity for history enthusiasts** to encourage their wider circle of family and friends to engage with them in innovative storytelling techniques, and help create Australian social history.

As both a broadband project and TV series, **The Making of Modern Australia** will be an unofficial people's history, with individuals and families sharing their **stories of life in Australia since 1945**.

We are particularly looking for stories around the themes of the four episodes:

- **romance and relationships**
- **faith and religion**
- **parenting and childhood**
- **the Australian home/a sense of place**

Those interested in having their family stories featured in the TV series are urged to get started and upload their material **before mid-April**.

By logging onto www.makingaustralia.com.au, people can upload their stories through a combination of photos, home movies, live webcams, sound recordings and text.

We are looking for stories that are particularly interesting, unusual, uplifting and perhaps heartbreaking.

Where access to the internet or technical skills are limited, people may want to engage the help of younger family members to include their stories and pictures on the website. Alternatively they can send via the postal system a written copy of their story along with some notes on any photos or other visual material they may have to paint the picture.

Dust off the old family albums, or finally grab a digital camera and interview a friend or relative about what life was like for them: first love, separation, finding faith, conversion, family holidays, life in the backyard, latchkey kids...

**Lovers of History, please spread the word so we can gather
as many great stories as possible!**

If you'd like more information on the project contact Sarah or Elissa
sarah.gilbert@essential-media.com or elissa.mckeand@essential-media.com, Tel: (02) 8568 3100.

(Source: elissa.mckeand@essential-media.com at **Essential Media & Entertainment**
Level 2, 6a Nelson St, Annandale NSW 2038;
Main: + 61 (0)2 8568 3100; Mobile: + 61 405 143 547; Fax: + 61 (0)2 9519 2326
<http://www.essential-media.com>)

8) University of Western Australia Symposium, 11-13 June 2009

The name of Terra Australis goes back to early Greek philosophy, but the concept it represents may have a more diverse history. This symposium focuses on the concept itself and changes in the ways that Terra Australis has been understood over a period of many centuries.

The three keynote speakers will address themselves to aspects of this development. Dr Alfred Hiatt (University of Leeds) will consider the early period. Professor Mercedes Camino (University of Lancaster) will talk about the age of European exploration to the South. And Emeritus Professor Norman Etherington (University of Western Australia) will focus on the British colonial period.

Short 20-minute papers are invited on a variety of aspects or interpretations of the theme. Particular topics are: Travel writing, Settlement history, European/Australasian encounter, Cultural or religious interaction, Scientific exploration, Cartography, Archaeology, Literary responses, Women in early exploration, Other allied cutting edge research themes,

Please send a title and abstract of c200 words to Dr Claire McIlroy,
cmcilroy@cyllene.uwa.edu.au, by the deadline of 5 pm, 13th April 2009.

(Source: asha-bounces@flinders.edu.au – 20 March 2009)

9) 'Founders and Survivors: Australian Life Courses in Historical Context'

Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stuart from UTas will speak on the 'Founders and Survivors: Australian Life Courses in Historical Context' project. Hamish will speak about this exciting project and then take questions and discussion. More information about this project can be found at <http://www.foundersandsurvivors.org/>

'The long term aim of this project is to pursue a longitudinal study of Australian settlement-founders, both convict and free, and survivors-through an historical reconstruction of settler Tasmanian society across five generations. It includes a case study of the long-run effects of forced labour on health and survival. Such a database can track for the first time in Australia, the life-courses of ordinary people from the founder population to the present day.'

Drinks and nibbles will be served afterwards.

When - 14th May, 5.30 to about 7pm

Where - NAA Office 85 Macquarie Street, Hobart

Charge - Gold coin donation to cover refreshments

RSVP - david.bloomfield@education.tas.gov.au by 11th May is essential with numbers limited to 25.'

(Source: aus-archivists-bounces@archivists.org.au – 24 March 2009)