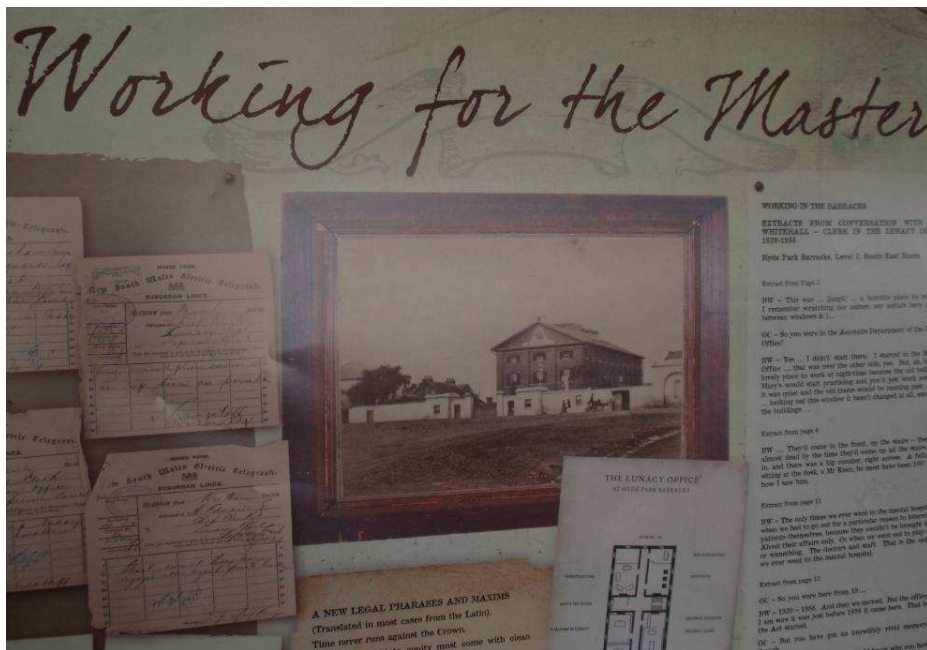


Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW)

No. 237 July – August 2009

# PHANFARE



Panel from the exhibition titled: *(Oral) History of the Office of the Protective Commissioner.*

PHA NSW



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## **PHANFARE**

*July-August 2009*

### **Contents**

President's Report 2

### **Articles**

Fellowships at the State Library of New South Wales 8

'Professional' means you are paid for it! 11

### **Reviews – Events, Conferences**

PHA NSW Continuing Professional Development Workshop: *Making History Pay* (Part 2) - *Fellowships, Prizes and Awards* 9

*(Oral) History of the Office of the Protective Commissioner* 15

*Breaking the Shackles* 17

History of Medicine Library - History Day 5

PHA – History in July 6

### **PHA Reports**

What's On 19

Library Report NOT AVAILABLE THIS ISSUE

PHA (NSW) Directory 2009-2010 23

### **COVER:**

One of 5 panels from the exhibition:

*(Oral) History of the Office of the Protective Commissioner* (see p.15)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2009**

PHA (NSW) has had an active year. Our members are involved in the organisation in diverse ways, both benefiting from and contributing to its activities.

We have forged closer links with the State Library which has provided several CPD events and some of our members have had awards and scholarships from the Library Council of NSW and have regular contact with library staff.

At one of the year's highlights, History in July, it was a particular pleasure to have member Bridget Griffen-Foley as guest speaker. CPD is a core activity of PHA and this year's report illustrates what we have covered and how members also contribute by leading discussions or sharing expertise.

The changes to the Heritage Act prompted PHA (NSW) to respond, particularly to the potential lack of historian in the process of heritage assessment, thanks to Susan McClean and Pauline Curby who drafted a position paper. Ron Ringer and Ian Willis wrote a submission on behalf of PHA (NSW) for the Review of the National History Curriculum. We have had preliminary discussions with a representative for history teachers in NSW schools about historians developing teaching support material.

Our PHAES bulletin is unfailingly compiled each week by Cathy Dunn. *Phanfare* continues production thanks to three cooperatives, Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack; Roslyn Burg,

Mark Dunn, Shirley Fitzgerald and Lisa Murray; Ruth Banfield, Cathy Dunn, Terry Kass, Katherine Knight and Carol Liston.

Our website is kept up to date by Christine de Matos.

Roslyn Burge and Terry Kass represent us on committees at government institutions. We have stressed the importance of funding for State Records NSW to manage digital collections.

Terri McComack has managed PHA (NSW) library and also represented us on the RAHS library committee. We are grateful to RAHS for accommodating our filing cabinet and more importantly allowing us to use their premises for meetings. We also enjoy a good relationship with the History Council thanks to our representative, the President Mark Dunn and our close communication with the Executive Officer, Zoe Pollock.

The committee has worked hard this year, dealing with routine business, and also innovative ideas such as the undergraduate history prize, which we hope to extend to a second university this year. For members we have developed guidelines for agreeing to contracts and managing potential difficulties. We have simplified the scale of fees according to levels of membership and narrowing down the periods of employment. We have arranged for our members to be listed on Expert Guide, and taken out a group membership at the NSW Writers Centre. We have streamlined our ability to assist with inquiries about commissioning a history.

We have been in effect a team of eight people as Pauline Curby has been our public officer and continued to support the executive, although not officially on the committee. Ruth Banfield, Christine Cheater, Rosemary Kerr, Susan McClean, Zoe Pollock and Peter Tyler have been congenial and hardworking team members and I thank them for all their efforts.

Sadly Peter, Pauline and Rosemary will not be standing for the committee again and they will be sorely missed. However other members have volunteered to stand for the committee and they will be very welcome as we move ahead in another year.

**VIRGINIA MACLEOD**

## HISTORY OF MEDICINE LIBRARY - HISTORY DAY

17 May 2009

About sixty people attended the History of Medicine Library's annual History Day on Sunday 17 May. After touring the headquarters of the Royal Australian College of Physicians in Macquarie Street they lingered over the display of rare books in the Council Room and heard Professor John Rasko's lecture – *Did the Ancient Greeks Foreshadow Regenerative Medicine?* Professor Rasko looked at the self-repair qualities of the human liver, while examining the myth of Prometheus to see how much the ancient Greeks understood these qualities.

The exhibition of Rare Books was all too brief – just a week – but was remarkable for its rich display of rare and ancient books; personal diaries and ephemera from the Library's collection, many of which are kept secure for much of the year.

The fine woodwork of the Council Room with views onto the Botanic Gardens, its scale and decoration and book-lined walls (a further distraction) generated an intimate atmosphere for visitors. Gloves were provided and some books were displayed for close reading whilst others were arranged in secure cases.

The wartime diary of William Cotter Barnett Harvey, a Foundation Fellow of the College was on display ("War Diary 1942-1945"); as were *The Official History of Australian Army Medical Services in the War of 1914-18*, by A. G. Butler and examples of Allen S. Walker's 22 volume, *Australia in the War of 1939-45*. Rare books included a discussion of early surgery: *A discourse of the whole art of Chirurgerie*, by Maister Peter Lowe. First published in 1597, the Library's third edition of 1634 was on display.

Another Foundation Fellow of the College, William Wilson Ingram (1888-1982) who retired from his Macquarie Street practice at 91 years of age, travelled to Antarctica in the late 1920s and 1930s on two separate trips (including one with Sir Douglas Mawson). He donated his collection of memorabilia, medals, photos and notebooks relating to his Antarctic travels, kept in his box now known as *the Ingram Box*. Something so personal, with the curiosity it prompts as to the selection made by one man to represent his extraordinary journey made this one of most interesting items of the exhibition.

### ROSLYN BURGE

**LECTURE SERIES:** The Library hosts a series of evening lectures during the year and on 7 September Dr Bruce Storey will present a lecture on "The History of Paediatrics in Sydney": looking at the social and political movements for the welfare of children in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, to the provision of medical care in children's hospitals today.

Monday, 7 September | entry \$10

Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney

Bookings essential 9256.5413 or racplib@racp.edu.au

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

History of Medicine Library, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney

## HISTORY IN JULY

While the French were celebrating Bastille Day, PHA was enjoying its own mid-year gathering that is fast becoming a tradition. The elegant reception rooms in History House were filled with about fifty members and guests. Except for illness and a sudden spell of cold weather causing some last-minute apologies, the space would have been even more crowded. "History in July" is an occasion when professional historians can chat with other people from the history and heritage community, including publishers, librarians, archivists and government officials. As always, the interaction was facilitated by estimable catering.

The star attraction of this year's event was our own member Bridget Griffen-Foley speaking on the way history is portrayed in the mass media. Associate Professor Griffen-Foley is Director of the Centre for Media History at Macquarie University, and has published a number of books in this field. Bridget gave us an overview of the programs on Australian radio and television that since the early days have included a historical component. For our older members this brought back memories of programs long-forgotten. She also referred to some regular newspaper columns, sometimes appearing unexpectedly in the tabloids rather than the broadsheets. In concluding her address, Bridget raised a number of challenging questions that should be considered. You can find these, and the full text of her talk on the PHA website – [www.phansw.org.au](http://www.phansw.org.au)

For me as a historian currently researching nineteenth-century cultural life in New South Wales, it struck me that "History in July" is becoming something like the *conversazione* that were a prominent feature of Sydney life from the 1860s until the early twentieth century. A *conversazione* is defined by the Macquarie Dictionary as "a social gathering for conversation etc, especially on literary or scholarly subjects; a soiree given by a learned society, for demonstrations, exhibition of specimens, etc."

Despite the Italian origin, it was a peculiarly British import to the colonies, like cricket.

For many years the Royal Society of New South Wales held its annual *Conversazione* in the Great Hall of Sydney University, where the professors demonstrated their new scientific apparatus while well-dressed gentlemen and ladies promenaded or consumed coffee and ices as they listened to Handel or Verdi on the grand organ. These amusements were interspersed with 'lecturesses' given by distinguished scholars. It was common for a thousand invited guests to attend, and the following morning all the daily newspapers would publish a detailed account of the evening, sometimes running to two full-length columns of dense type. Everything was scrutinised by the diligent reporters – from machines for testing the tensile strength of metals to the costumes of the women. Thus in 1902 the *Sydney Morning Herald* could write that "the Lady Mayoress was in pale blue crepe-de-chine, finely tucked and trimmed with ecru lace and insertion, with a chou of black tulle on the bodice." On the other hand, perhaps not everybody shared the *Daily Telegraph's* enthusiasm in 1886 for the fact that "adjustments are provided for placing the coils readily in the magnetic meridian and measuring the torsion co-efficient of the suspending fibre."

Well, of course, those events had an elitist tone that is unpalatable today, and we cannot expect the same attention from the mass media. But the basic elements can still be discerned in this annual PHA function: meeting people with similar interests for discussion on serious subjects or just friendly conversation, accompanied by stimulating lectures or demonstrations, and tasty refreshments in a refined setting.

If you missed “History in July” this year, make a note in your diary for next time.

**PETER J. TYLER**



*L-R: Dr Lisa Murray, Dr Elaine Lindsay and Caroline Plim*

*(Photo: Peter Tyler)*

## **FELLOWSHIPS AT THE STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Nearly every state library, and indeed many major archives, museums and galleries, offer Fellowship programs. These are an important way institutions can support scholarly, intense and creative engagement with their collections. Different institutions approach the opportunity differently, with considerable variation in the financial rewards and Fellowship rationale. While Fellowships, for instance, at the State Library of NSW target historical research, those at State Library of Victoria support creative writers and artists.

State Library of NSW Fellowships are designed to support research projects which focus on its collections. They are described on the Library's website at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/awards/index.html>. Given their level of remuneration – most between \$12,000 to \$20,000 for twelve months – the majority of the applicants are independent scholars and early career or retired academics. One award, the Milt Lugers, are aimed at people under the age of 25.

Fellows are provided with their own room and access to facilities, computers & desk, an honorarium for photocopying, and access to staff. This last feature is one of the most valued parts of the Fellowship program. Learning about the collection's tricks of the trade from insiders is often mentioned as one of the most significant benefits of Fellowships. Other Fellows also enjoy the company of their fellow scholars – the “cross-fertilisation” of projects is an inevitable by-product of sharing a common space.

The Library expects that Fellows will make use of the facilities and the collection. We also want our staff to learn from the Fellows who are asked to present at least one paper to them about their project. This paper generally focuses on their experiences at the Library, and their engagement with the collections. A formal public presentation at the end of the Fellowship completes the Fellow's obligations.

Of course projects do not fit neatly into a 12 month Fellowship, so there is no expectation for the delivery of a perfectly formed package at the conclusion. However it is important for the Library to be able promote its Fellowship program through its website and through appropriate acknowledgment in any subsequent publications. We are keen to build a record of the program on our website and therefore want to link to it articles, publications, bibliographies, podcasts of presentations and so on which are based on research completed through the Fellowship.

The Library is strongly committed to the Fellowship program. It is an important way to promote collection research, and benefits both the Fellow and the Library. We also hope that our relationships with our Fellows does not conclude at the end of their terms: we would like think that we will be friends for life.

**RICHARD NEVILLE**  
**MITCHELL LIBRARIAN**



## **PHA NSW CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

### **MAKING HISTORY PAY (PART 2) - FELLOWSHIPS, PRIZES AND AWARDS**

Saturday 25 July 2009

Expanding on the theme of a previous workshop 'Making History Pay', the CPD Event held on 25 July 2009 explored opportunities for professional historians to further their careers as well as to supplement their income through fellowships, prizes, grants and awards available in Australia and overseas. Dr Peter Tyler led the forum during which award recipients shared their experiences, highlighting the challenges and benefits. Representatives of organisations administering some of the awards then presented practical information on the process from the client's perspective.

The experiences of PHA award recipients, Dr Christine Cheater, Michael Davis, Laila Ellmoos, Dr Judith Godden and Dr Peter Tyler provided insight into the wide variety of awards available to historians to further their research. Elizabeth Ellis, former Mitchell Librarian, Dr Elaine Lindsay, NSW Arts, Program Manager for Literature and History, Premier's Literary Awards, Premier's History Awards, and Zoe Pollock Executive Officer of the History Council of NSW outlined assessment methods and procedures in administering the awards. Workshop participants were then provided with an opportunity to ask questions about the application process, eligibility criteria and award requirements.

Dr Judith Godden outlined her experiences as the recipient of the C.H. Currey Memorial Fellowship, (Library Council of NSW), and two overseas grants, the Wellcome Institute of History and Medicine (UK) and the Rockefeller Foundation (USA). The Wellcome Institute grant (up to £1500) contributed to a period of research at the British Library in London. The Rockefeller Foundation grant allowed for travel to the United States to use the organisation's archives with the assistance of an archivist. Judith emphasised that it was essential to investigate if relevant material was held in the collections where research was proposed to be undertaken; to keep up-to-date with changes in the criteria for grants and awards; and to apply well in advance for the overseas-based awards.

The C.H. Currey Memorial Fellowship valued at \$20,000 promotes the writing of Australian history using original sources, preferably using the State Library's collections. Judith received the fellowship in 2001 to research a biography of Lucy Osburn, a pioneer in nursing in Australia. A requirement of the fellowship was to make at least one public presentation and recipients are encouraged to publish the research in some form. Judith suggested that one of the main benefits the grants and fellowships was access to experienced staff with in-depth knowledge of the collections. Despite the awards not replacing a wage, they were a useful subsidy through which to pursue research.

Dr Christine Cheater was the recipient of a NSW History Fellowship in 2008 using it to write a history of the Central Coast region. The fellowship of \$20,000 offered annually to assist a New South Wales resident promotes the research and writing of history relating to New South Wales. Aware of the deadlines imposed on the completion of a manuscript, Christine found it useful to restrict the time period being researched therefore providing an opportunity for more in-depth research. The budget prepared for the project took into account living and travel expenses, as well as the cost of copyright clearance. Christine suggested that one of the significant impacts of receiving the fellowship, and

from which she felt the project benefitted, was the encouragement it provided to put the regional history into a New South Wales context. Her experience as the recipient of a National and State Libraries Australasia Honorary Fellowship (2008) was also discussed.

David Scott Mitchell Memorial Fellowship (2008) recipient Michael Davis emphasised that fellowships and grants had provided him with continuity in research, enabling him to investigate different aspects of a subject. The fellowship awarded by the State Library of NSW and valued at \$12,000 encourages the use of the Mitchell Library's collections for the research of Australian history for writing and publication. Michael's research focused on the influential anthropologist and archaeologist F.D. McCarthy. Other fellowships and grants received included the Manning Clarke and Janet Holmes a Court Fellowships at Manning Clark House, Canberra, the Northern Territory History Award and the National Council of Centenary of Federation Award. Each award was useful in providing support for the completion of different phases of research, each culminating in the publication of papers and books.

Laila Ellmoos, recipient of the National and State Libraries' Australasia Honorary Fellowship in 2007, emphasised that it was essential to be passionate about a research topic and that juggling full-time work and a fellowship was challenging. Her research into first person accounts of life inside NSW gaols in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries evolved from an ABC radio documentary she produced in 2006. Important points made by Laila were that both the application process and the preparation of the public presentation were useful in refining ideas about the research topic. Summing up her experiences, she found the main benefit of a fellowship was that it provided an 'opportunity' and 'space' to focus on research.

The Merewether Scholarship for research into the nineteenth-century history of New South Wales using the Mitchell Library collections was awarded to Dr Peter Tyler in 2008. The topic of Peter's research is the history of the Royal Society of New South Wales, the records of which are held by the Mitchell Library. Peter emphasized the outstanding environment that the library provided for research. Speaking more generally about the wide variety of awards available, he encouraged historians to adopt an 'enterprising and entrepreneurial' approach in selecting research topics and applying for awards and fellowships.

With insight into the award administration process, Elizabeth Ellis, Dr Elaine Lindsay and Zoe Pollock provided practical information about application and selection processes. Elizabeth Ellis explained that judging committees for awards administered by the State Library of NSW looked for a clear and concise exposition of proposed research topic, while evidence of an applicant's understanding of the location of sources within the library, as well as in other holdings was also important.

Dr Elaine Lindsay discussed fellowships in archival research, NSW history and NSW Indigenous history administered by Arts NSW. The awards range from \$15-20,000 and the number of applications this year indicated increasing interest. The selection criteria, ratings system for judging and the obligations of fellowship winners were outlined. Elaine placed emphasis on the need of applicants to show originality in their topic choice and to ensure that all supporting material was submitted. Successful applicants of the

two-year fellowships are required to provide 6-monthly progress reports and a completed manuscript suitable for publication at its conclusion.

The History Council of NSW Awards including the Max Kelly Medal and the John Ferry Award, both of \$500, were discussed briefly by Zoe Pollock. Although the prizes were small, their importance in encouraging the research and writing of history in-particular to those starting their career is significant. Next year the History Council plans to compile a guide to the range of fellowships, awards and prizes available to historians.

The workshop made clear that there are many award opportunities for historians in Australia and overseas. Generally the awards were found to have numerous benefits including encouraging and assisting historians in furthering their research and providing a forum in which research can be shared and discussed. Importantly most of the awards provided some financial support. Hopefully the many positive experiences will provide the impetus for more PHA historians to submit applications. A 'Select List' of fellowship, prizes and awards for Professional Historians compiled by Peter Tyler was distributed to workshop participants and will no doubt provide 'food' for thought.

The websites of the History Council of NSW, NSW Arts and State Library of NSW should be consulted for more detailed information on eligibility, application processes and, most importantly, deadlines.

**CAROLINE PLIM**

#### **'PROFESSIONAL' MEANS YOU ARE PAID FOR IT!**

*Susan Butterworth is a self-employed professional historian working in Wellington, New Zealand in partnership with her husband Graham, in a business named Applied Historians. This is an edited version of a paper she presented to a PHANZA Professional Skills Seminar in November 2004, adapted for Australian conditions and reprinted with the author's approval. Susan Butterworth reminds self-employed historians of the importance of ensuring proper remuneration in contract work.*

When I took up my first contract in 1985 this was such a novelty that there was not even a model to work from. The publisher of the book sent us an American contract, which was so ludicrously unsuitable that my manager and I sat down to work one out from first principles and we did a very good job.

One of the most important things to emerge from the exercise was the realisation that a contract is not a pair of loaded pistols pointed at each other but a definition of common purpose and the means by which it is to be attained. A lot of water has gone under a lot of bridges since then: contracts are much more common and their legal framework has changed significantly. We now have GST and fringe benefit tax, so the original model will no longer serve but the principles are still the same. This is true whether the contract is written or, as is sometimes the case, informal.

Essentially you have to know what you are selling and the commissioning party has to know what they are buying, at what price and on what conditions. Because contract historians live precariously, it feels as if the client holds all the cards and we have to take

what is offered or they will just decide not to do the job. This is not really so. It is our business as professionals to say what is feasible within the budget and resources available and not get trapped into doing more than that.

Bluntly, if the client has a budget of \$30,000, you cannot afford to sign on for something that will take you a year full time. Either you must decline the job or redesign it to fit within the budget.

We all take some bad jobs but the better we understand how to put a proper value on our labour the fewer these will be, or at least we will be making a conscious choice to take a bad one and we will know what it is costing us.

If you have only ever worked for other people, you may think that you want to make about the same income working for yourself. In fact, you need to earn quite a lot more gross in order to make the same net.

Underestimating your overheads is one of the most common errors of first-time contractors. Your chargeable time has to cover a number of costs that an employer normally meets:

- Annual leave.
- Sick leave.
- Superannuation.
- Workers' Compensation insurance.
- Public Liability insurance.
- Administration of your business — tax, filing, tidying your study, going to the shops to buy stationery. You are everything from chief executive to tea lady and your productive time has to pay for the unproductive time.
- Networking — phone calls, emails, going to professional seminars, being seen. This is not a luxury; it is a necessity for being in business.
- Professional development — training courses — computers, graphics, editing, image processing. Remember you not only pay your own way, but forgo working time.
- This more than doubles the cost to you. Contract employers do not like investing in this sort of thing but it is essential to have a good range of skills so that you can be as productive as possible and do not have to outsource aspects of the job.
- Looking for the next job even on a long project. At least 4 or 5 prospects will fail to come to fruition for every one that does so you must always be trying to create the next opportunity.
- General reading to keep yourself current.
- Downtime between jobs.

My partnership business estimates these costs at about 25 per cent of our gross income. It is crucial to claim them back from your tax.

Being in business costs you money. I would strongly recommend you to calculate your own income tax and GST, at least as a dummy exercise in order to understand your finances properly. Costs you must allow for include:

- Cost of maintaining a study – partly offset by what you can claim back on tax: proportion of general maintenance, mortgage, power etc.
- Cost of running vehicle on business.
- Books, magazine subscriptions etc.
- Computers and software. If the cost is less than \$1,000, the ATO lets you depreciate the cost in one year. More expensive items have to be amortised over a longer period.
- Consumables — stationery, printer cartridges, floppy discs and CDs, photocopying if not paid for by the client.
- Professional services as needed – accountant, solicitor, etc.
- Business registration fees.
- Insurance – fire and burglary cover on office and equipment; Professional Indemnity; Public Liability.

### **Costing a Job**

It is crucial to be able to assess realistically how long a job will take and price it accordingly. We use the following formula with a worked example shown in bold:

1. Establish how many words you can write in a day to a finished standard, including drafts, polishing etc. Take 1,000 as reasonable; so for a project of **50,000 words say 50 working days**. (Some people write much more quickly but spend accordingly more time cutting and polishing.)
2. What is the ratio of research to writing? This is usually between 50:50 and 60:40. On a 60:40, basis research time is 1.5 days for every day writing: **75 working days. Total 125 working days**
3. There are roughly 20 working days in a month, allowing for weekends and holidays so **roughly 6 months**. This may vary considerably according to the difficulty or familiarity of the topic.
4. Contingency of 15 per cent to cover illness, unexpected difficulties. 19 days, or one working month. **So now 7 months**.
5. Post-writing: editing, photo research and preparation of images etc. This tends to be hugely underestimated, and must be included. It can easily take quarter of the time required for research and writing. The work is likely to be spasmodic but occasionally urgent, for example, checking proofs or preparing an index. We recommend a separate payment arrangement, perhaps by the hour up to an agreed maximum. This is much more variable and hard to estimate than the writing, especially if there are a lot of images. It is sensible to keep a strict account of your time on a few projects to see how it works out.

### **Other matters a contract should express**

The contract must specify what is to be produced, in what form, in what time period.

Without this, you cannot know whether you have completed adequately. The specification should be as detailed as is practicable at the outset. It can be revised later,

but it should not be woolly; e.g. a book of 50-60,000 words, including appendices, to be agreed, with up to 60 images, no use of colour, to be produced by such and such a date.

To be produced on CD in Microsoft Word format.

The post-writing phase, editing, printing, indexing and so on is often handled by a separate contract because it deals with other parties and business arrangements.

Or it may be an open-ended, ongoing contract to create a website in such and such a format, covering a particular topic over a particular period.

- Are you self-employed or a contractor? Do you have an ABN? Some clients, particularly in the public sector, make this a requirement.
- Are you on PAYE or responsible for your own tax?
- Are you entitled to royalties and, if so, how are these paid.
- Is there any access to employee benefits such as health insurance, superannuation?
- What does the employer provide for you in the way of accommodation, equipment, access to secretarial, library or other services, telephone, email, etc.
- What are the arrangements for meeting out of pocket expenses/out of town travel etc./ photocopying? There should be a specified budget for these incidentals.
- To whom do you report? What are your reporting requirements? These are useful as a check on your own progress and to disclose any slippage in time, or any need to reschedule tasks.
- What is the pay, at what intervals are you paid, do you have to bill the client or is payment automatic?
- Does any confidentiality arrangement impact on your ability to do the job? This may be legitimate, but think carefully before you sign. Once signed, you must observe your obligations, however inconvenient.
- Is anyone in the organisation designated to be your liaison and facilitation person? It is very difficult to carry out a project without a door-opener on the inside.
- Many contracts specify that you will indemnify the client against all claims, proceedings, expenses etc. This is a standard commercial clause, which does not mean much in the history context. However, never publish anything until it has been formally accepted by the client and ensure that anything contentious has been cleared by their lawyer. Professional Indemnity insurance will provide cover against libel or slander.
- A *force majeure* clause. This is a useful safeguard in the event of being unable to complete for reasons beyond your control.
- Do you need an arbitration clause? This is a safety net if the project is likely to be very fraught or contentious. The best way to avoid recourse to arbitration or grievance procedures is to be punctilious in reporting, be honest about any problems, and keep the lines of communication open. Keep all correspondence and if necessary diary events, phone calls etc.
- Termination: what is the process for giving notice on either side?

**SUSAN BUTTERWORTH**

***(ORAL) HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PROTECTIVE COMMISSIONER***

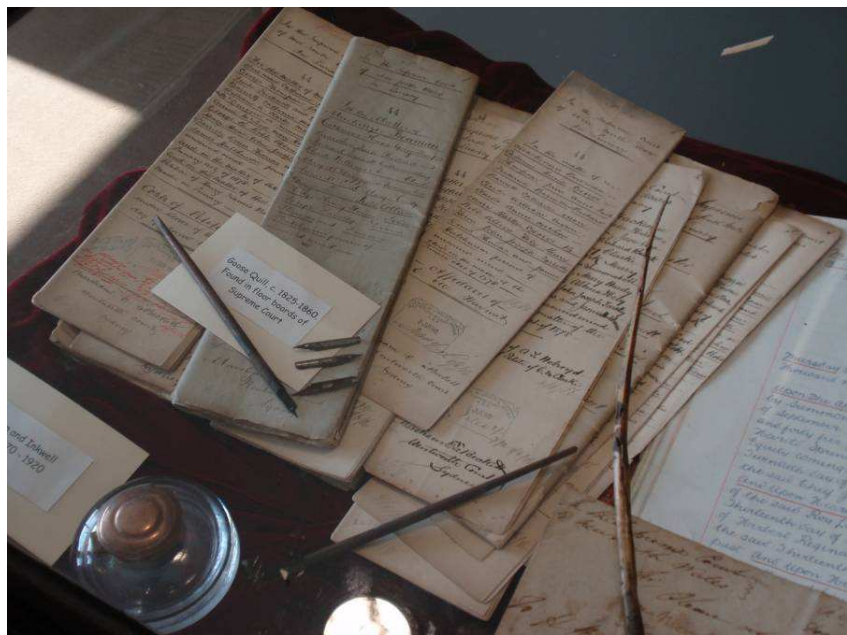
**NSW TRUSTEE AND GUARDIAN**

July and August 2009

An exhibition highlighting the work of the Office of the Protective Commissioner since the 1800s was held in July and August to celebrate the end of the era of the Protective Commissioner. On 1 July the NSW Trustee and Guardian Act 2009 came into effect with the repeal of the Public Trustee Act 1913 and Protected Estates Act 1983, the merging of the Office of the Protective Commissioner with the NSW Public Trustee which created the statutory corporation, the NSW Trustee and Guardian.

Government legislation has changed department names but the work of these entities reaches back to the 1800s reflecting the challenges of caring for people with disabilities or others who need their estates managed– and much more!

Boxes long stored were opened recently to reveal a treasure-trove of primary materials: public records (court transcripts, asset registers of patients personal jewellery, leave records and telegrams from staff pleading illness or the practical distraction of moving house which prevented them coming to work); items used by individuals in their daily office work (an ebony rod used by staff of the Master in Lunacy, an inkwell and a quill pen found in the floor boards of the Supreme Court – its feathering gnawed away by mice, according to Anne Bickford, who lent items for the exhibition); and the cup awarded to Bill Huppertz, who coached the Masters Office basketball team, reminding us of the social life of the department.



*Photo: Roslyn Burge*

This is a small exhibition comprised of a selection of primary records and objects set out in one display case and five panels describing the departmental history from 1878 to 2009. The word “(Oral)” in the exhibition title refers to a collection of oral history interviews (surely a record – 22 one-hour interviews in 12 days and a compilation CD - on top of a fulltime job) conducted by Frances Rush with members of staff past and present to mark the change from the Office of the Protective Commissioner to the NSW

Trustee and Guardian. They record, among other memories of working life, the effort required to shake off the negativity and pain of terms such as “lunacy”.

Five hanging panels highlight the work of managing the protective responsibilities of the department. One panel is devoted to the story of Sophia Stewart who lived in various institutions from 1899 (when she was 21) until her death in 1982. Another panel describes the travails of departmental staff, telegrams pleading sickness and correspondence about cramped office accommodation. Bill Whitehall, a Clerk in the Lunacy office from 1939-1958, remembered the dingy dark offices in Hyde Park Barracks, where the colours of the walls and *one lousy 60 watt light to light that corridor ... would have confirmed everyone’s misconceptions about insanity, lunacy and everything.*



Three panels represent different time-periods and richly combine departmental correspondence, definitions of lunacy and legislative amendments with brief stories of well known individual patients – Henry Lawson, William Chidley and Bea Miles. A plethora of legislation and reports have influenced the work of the Protective Commissioner and the weight of government involvement in personal lives is summed up on the final panel – on the last day of the Office of the Protective Commissioner the financial affairs of 9,115 persons were directly managed by this department which oversaw the private managers of 2754 persons.

*Photo: Roslyn Burge*

The curators, Frances Rush and Marianne Drew, have created a remarkable exhibition. It conveys a sense of the scale of the complex personal and judicial roles of a department which was often “reconstituted” in name and legislative responsibilities over a period of 131 years.

This is not an exhibition for the public, instead it was designed as an internal celebration marking the end of the Office of the Protective Commissioner and the intention of the curators was to showcase the riches of these public records, of people’s lives as well as honouring the staff (many of whom have worked in the Commission or its predecessors for decades). It was displayed in the Justice Precinct Buildings in Parramatta and I acknowledge the generosity of the Acting CEO NSW Trustee and Guardian, Ms Imelda Dodds, in allowing me to visit and record this exhibition.

It is deserving of a much wider audience.

**ROSLYN BURGE**



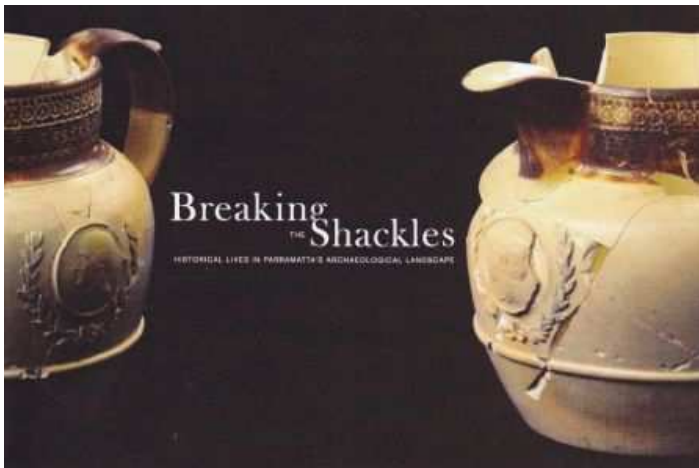
## **BREAKING THE SHACKLES HISTORICAL LIVES IN PARRAMATTA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE**

Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Centre  
1 August – 8 November

Since the first archaeological excavation undertaken in Parramatta in 1985 more than 25 excavations have been conducted. This exhibition, and its accompanying publication (also *Breaking the Shackles Historical Lives in Parramatta's Archaeological Landscape*), draw on those excavations, and emphasise the importance of context for each period of excavation and Parramatta's pivotal role as the third settlement in Australia.

The exhibition provides an opportunity for the Heritage Centre to open its 'vaults' and display items from its collection. Parramatta Council's Heritage Centre ([www.parracity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au)) and Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd collaborated on the exhibition and catalogue. (See Casey & Lowe website for detailed archaeological reports: [www.caseyandlowe.com.au](http://www.caseyandlowe.com.au))

Indeed this is a very satisfying exhibition. It shines a new perspective on Parramatta's 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century history whilst locating each excavation site in its contemporary setting – and a map is included (as part of the exhibition and as a separate sheet of paper for visitors to carry with them). A number of archaeologists have worked on different sites, some of whom have contributed entries to the exhibition and the catalogue.



Within the dimly lit, contained space of the exhibition, wall panels introduce different periods of time and set the context for the relevant local excavation sites. Beginning with Stories from the Buramattagan clan, the panels categorise the different periods of development and lives lived at Parramatta – *New Land*, *Harsh Times*; *Ordering the Chaos* 1810-1821; *Breaking the Shackles* 1822-1850 and *Where to from Here* 20<sup>th</sup> century. Framed prints, maps, town plans and drawings from these periods illustrate the archaeologists' findings and artefacts are displayed in seven Perspex cases located together in the middle of the room.

Eighteenth century governors' ambitions for Parramatta, the agricultural needs of the community, housing convicts and hospitalising people – and their archaeological sites – are described in abundantly worded panels which link sites with excavated items and some of the people who lived and work there.

Siobhan Lavelle's panel, *Archaeology and role of the Heritage Council and Heritage Branch*, reminds the visitor of the importance of those associations: "archaeologists

study landscapes and links between sites and look to the experiences that bounced off the walls of the convict hut, through the spaces of the streets and the landscape, and along the corridor of time from the past to the present.” The language of the panels is active and contemporary. The panel, *Ora Eora Stories of the Burramattagan Clan of the Darug Nation*, explains that whilst little evidence of Aboriginal life has been found among the archaeological digs in Parramatta Aborigines’ practices reflect an awareness of greater sustainability about which we are all more conscious: “No pollution or ruins. Oh what an inspiration and model for us today. We have much to learn.”

The only portrait in the exhibition is that of Balloderre. The Aboriginal group prominently foregrounded in Augustus Earle’s watercolour (*A view in Parramatta N.S. Wales Looking East*) may well be seated in George Street, where Aboriginal tools for grinding or pounding, a stone axe and serapers on display were found in 2002. Excavations at 180 George Street, not far from the Rivercat Wharf on the Parramatta River, unearthed almost 7,000 Aboriginal artefacts.

The Queen’s Wharf was a significant element in the development of Parramatta and thus Sydney the catalogue recounts that regular shipping services are documented from 1793. Military buttons and the shako plate from a soldier’s hat found here during the only archaeological excavations conducted in 1992 are included in the exhibition, together with wooden items which may have been part of a water wheel at Howell’s Wind and Water Mill nearby.

Evidence of a range of architecture is exhibited – from convict huts found in the vicinity of George and Marsden Streets to substantial private houses; and the economic activities – orchards, breweries, mills and market gardens.

It seems the same exquisite care archaeologists take as they excavate has been exercised in the selection of paintings and prints, maps and views of Parramatta chosen to illustrate the growing township and the links to recent excavations.

It is evident that great care and thought has been spent in preparing the exhibition. It was pleasing to view items from the archaeological sites in display cases without the distraction of explanatory text panels: instead these are attached to the case stands. But they can only be read by bowing and peering and maintaining that distortion for any length of time is uncomfortable. Of course my discomfort may have more to do with my agility or lack thereof!

The exhibition should be on your list to visit – with time aplenty to investigate the town’s planning and economy, relish the expansive text panels and the excavated items telling us much about the development of Parramatta.

**ROSLYN BURGE**

### **Parramatta Heritage Centre - History Week:**

There are four events in conjunction with the exhibition *Breaking the Shackles* which will be held during History Week (check website for details - [www.historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au) – and bookings essential 8839 3323).

*Tuesday 8 September* – maritime archaeology in and around Parramatta: floor talk with Tim Smith, Deputy Director, and Sarah Ward, Maritime Archaeologist, Heritage Branch.

*Wednesday 9 September*- Small Treasures. Abi Cryerhall, freelance archaeologist, floor talk on the archaeological site at 15 Macquarie Street, Parramatta. Robyn Stocks and Mary Casey – seminar and walk on early colonial and local pottery.

*Thursday 10 September* – Breaking the Shackles – the lives of convicts with Dr Ted Higginbotham.

*Friday 11 September* – overview of archaeology in Parramatta with Siobhan Lavelle.

*History in July (photo: Peter Tyler)*

## **WHAT'S ON**

**BY CHRISTINE DE MATOS**

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009**

### **EXHIBITIONS**

*'Charles Darwin—voyages and ideas that shook the world'*. Until 23 August 2009.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum.

*'Citizen soldiers: The New South Wales Volunteer Rifles, 1854–85'*. Until September 2009. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

*'Shooting through: Sydney by tram'*. Until 18 October 2009. **Venue:** Museum of Sydney.

*'Femme Fatale: the female criminal'*. Until 18 April 2010. **Venue:** Police and Justice Museum.

*'Irish Orphan Girls'*. Until 30 October 2010. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

### **SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

**Every Wed Walk.** *'Sydney Architectural Walk'*. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Cost:** \$25, conc/mem \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9251 5988.



- Every Sat Walk.** *'Sydney Architectural Walk'—Utzon.* HHT. **Meeting venue:** Museum of Sydney **Cost:** \$25, conc/mem \$20 **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9251 5988.
- 2 Lecture.** *'Evangelicalism and Scandal in Victorian England: The Case of the Pearsall Smiths'*, Michael Roberts, 'Histories on Wednesday' Research Seminars in Modern History **Venue:** W6A, Room 127, Macquarie University **Time:** 12-1.15pm **Enquiries:** Nicholas Baker, ph: (02) 9850 8856; email: [nicholas.baker@mq.edu.au](mailto:nicholas.baker@mq.edu.au)
- 4 Lecture.** *'Annual history lecture 2009'*, Chief Justice James Spigelman. History Council. **Venue:** Government House **Time:** 6.30-9pm **Cost:** \$50, HHTmem/conc \$45 **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 9252 8715.
- 5-13 History Week.** Visit <http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/events/history-week> for full program
- 6 Walking tour.** *'Walk the razor's edge'*, through East Sydney's Depression-era gangland. HHT. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** 4-6pm **Cost:** \$20, mems/conc \$15 **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 8239 2211
- 7 Talk.** *'Dreams from the Motherland'*, Clare Corbould, Library Society & Department of History at the University of Sydney. **Venue:** Dixson Room, Mitchell Library **Time:** 6 for 6.30pm **Cost:** \$22, seniors \$20, mems \$15 **Bookings essential:** email: [bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au)
- 9 Symposium.** *'Scandals, Crime and Corruption'*, State Library & Macquarie University. **Venue:** Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library **Time:** 9.30am-5pm **Cost:** free **Bookings essential:** ph: (02) 9850 8879; email: [tanya.evans@mq.edu.au](mailto:tanya.evans@mq.edu.au)
- 12 Conference.** *'ACHS Conference: 'Catholics in Australian Public Life since 1788'*, Catholic Institute of Sydney, Strathfield. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/>
- 12 Cruise & Talk.** *'Sandstone foreshores - the first hundred years'*, with Jan Morice and Andrew Starr. HHT. **Meeting venue:** Commissioners Steps, Circular Quay **Time:** 10am-1pm **Cost:** \$65, mems/conc \$55 **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.
- 13 Tour.** *'Tank stream tour'*. HHT with Sydney Water. Tickets allocated by ballot. **Meeting venue:** tba **Time:** First tour 7.55am, last tour 5.05pm **Cost:** \$25, mems/conc \$20 **Ballot registration essential:** ph: (02) 8239 2211.
- 16 Lecture.** *'Discounting the West: Shopping Centres and Discount Department Stores in Western Sydney in the 1970s'*, Matthew Bailey, 'Histories on Wednesday' Research Seminars in Modern History **Venue:** W6A, Room 127, Macquarie University **Time:** 12-1.15pm **Enquiries:** Nicholas Baker, ph: (02) 9850 8856; email: [nicholas.baker@mq.edu.au](mailto:nicholas.baker@mq.edu.au)
- 24-25 Conference.** *'War Wounds: medicine and the trauma of conflict'*. Australian War Memorial, Canberra. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.awm.gov.au/events/conference>

- 28 **Conference.** *'Social Democratic Parties and Business: An Historical Analysis'*, Business and Labour History Group, University of Sydney. **Enquiries:** email: [g.gallop@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto:g.gallop@econ.usyd.edu.au) or [g.patmore@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto:g.patmore@econ.usyd.edu.au).
- 28-
- 2 Oct **Conference.** *'Health and Medicine at the Frontier: Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine Biennial Conference'*, Perth. **Enquiries:** email: [L.Layman@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:L.Layman@murdoch.edu.au) or [crienafz@inet.net.au](mailto:crienafz@inet.net.au).
- 29 **Talk.** *'Curator Coffee Conversation: Architecture of the Macarthur Family'*, with Scott Hill. HHT. **Venue:** The Mint **Time:** 10am-12n **Cost:** \$15, mems \$10 **Enquiries:** ph: (02) 8239 2266.

#### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- 'Dragon Tails: Re-interpreting Chinese-Australian Heritage'*, 9-11 October 2009, Sovereign Hill Museums Association, Ballarat, Victoria. **Enquiries:** email: [enquiries.dragontails@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.dragontails@gmail.com).
- 'Seventh International Conference on the Book'*, 16-18 October 2009, University of Edinburgh. **Enquiries:** <http://book-conference.com>
- 'Indigenous Participation in Australian Economies: Perspectives from Anthropology, History and Material Culture Studies'*, 9-10 November 2009, National Museum of Australia, Canberra. **Enquiries:** Natasha Fijn, email: [fijnna@gmail.com](mailto:fijnna@gmail.com); or Ian Keen, email: [Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au](mailto:Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au)
- 'Internationalising Media History—From Australia to the World'*, 23-25 November 2009, University of Sydney. **Enquiries:** Dr Penny O'Donnell, email: [Penny.ODonnell@usyd.edu.au](mailto:Penny.ODonnell@usyd.edu.au).
- 'Centre and Periphery: New Zealand Historical Association Conference'*, 27-29 November 2009, Massey University, New Zealand. **Enquiries:** Dr Christopher van der Krogt, email: [C.J.vanderKrogt@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.J.vanderKrogt@massey.ac.nz).
- 'Baz Luhrmann's Australia Reviewed: An Interdisciplinary Conference On History, Film and Popular Culture'*, 7-8 December 2009, National Museum of Australia, Canberra. **Enquiries:** Dr Shino Konishi, email: [shino.konishi@anu.edu.au](mailto:shino.konishi@anu.edu.au)
- 'Gender and occupations and interventions in the Asia Pacific, 1945-2009'*, 10-11 December 2009, University of Wollongong. **Enquiries:** Rowena Ward, email: [roward@uow.edu.au](mailto:roward@uow.edu.au); or Christine de Matos, email: [cdm@uow.edu.au](mailto:cdm@uow.edu.au).
- '"Lands and Peoples in History and Law": Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society Conference'*, 11-13 December 2009, Wellington. **Enquiries:** Dr Grant Morris, email: [grant.morris@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:grant.morris@vuw.ac.nz).
- 'Isolated Cases? 100 years of Australian medical research'*, 21 February 2010, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.cs.nsw.gov.au/rpa/museum/>

*'Independence and Decolonization'*, 15-17 April 2010, The Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. **Enquiries:** Professor Susan Deans-Smith, email: [sdsmith@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:sdsmith@mail.utexas.edu).

*'21st International Congress of Historical Sciences' (CISH/ICHS)*, 22-28 August 2010, Amsterdam. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.ichs2010.org/>.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

*'Eighth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities'*, 29 June-2 July 2010, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA. Short abstracts due by **13 August 2009**. **Enquiries:** web: <http://www.HumanitiesConference.com/>

*'Australian Television and Memory: A Workshop'*, 16 October 2009, Melbourne. Abstracts of 250 words due by **30 August 2009**. **Enquiries:** Kate Darian-Smith, email: [k.darian-smith@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:k.darian-smith@unimelb.edu.au); or Sue Turnbull, email: [S.Turnbull@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:S.Turnbull@latrobe.edu.au)

*'The Rise and Fall of Australian Manufacturing'*, 20 November 2009, Macquarie University. Abstracts of 100 words due by **1 September 2009**. **Enquiries:** George Parsons, email: [gparsons@hmn.mq.edu.au](mailto:gparsons@hmn.mq.edu.au)

*'In the Image of Asia: Moving across and between locations'*, 13-15 April 2010, Australian National University, Canberra. Abstracts of 250 words due by **11 September 2009**. **Enquiries:** Fuyubi Nakamura, email: [fuyubi.nakamura@anu.edu.au](mailto:fuyubi.nakamura@anu.edu.au); or Ana Dragojlovic, email: [ana.dragojlovic@anu.edu.au](mailto:ana.dragojlovic@anu.edu.au)

*'Aftermath: Holocaust Survivors in Australia'*, 14-15 March 2010, Monash University, Melbourne. Abstracts of 300 words due by **15 September 2009**. **Enquiries:** <http://arts.monash.edu.au/jewish-civilisation/news-and-events/flyers/aftermath.pdf>.

*'Australasian Welfare History Workshop'*, 18-19 February 2010, University of New South Wales, Sydney. Abstracts of 250 words due by **30 October 2009**. **Enquiries:** A/Prof Melanie Oppenheimer, email: [melanie.oppenheimer@une.edu.au](mailto:melanie.oppenheimer@une.edu.au); or A/Prof Anne O'Brien, email: [anne.obrien@unsw.edu.au](mailto:anne.obrien@unsw.edu.au)

To contribute to What's On, send details of your event to [cdm@uow.edu.au](mailto:cdm@uow.edu.au).

**Note: 'What's On' on the web unavailable due to new ACPHA site.**

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