

Unknown photographer
*Senior Staff of the National
 Library of Australia* c.1963
 l to r: N.S. Lynravn (Chief Acq.
 Officer), D. Sprod (Chief Catlgr),
 F.G. Cassidy (Admin. Officer),
 C.A. Burmester (Chief Ref.
 Librarian), W.D. Richardson
 (Canb. Public Librarian), Athol
 Johnson (Asst. Nat. Librarian)
 b&w photograph
 18.9 x 24.5 cm
 Pictures Collection
 nla.pic-vn3256696



fire engine, I complained to him that an explanation of its presence should be offered to those furthest from the ground. Jack genially assured me that he would personally deliver me a memo if the place were ever to be on fire.

There are also quite a few ghosts: Athol Johnson, whose hard work got little acknowledgment in the short time between the opening of the building and his death; Cliff Burmester, whose zeal for the collections—and his remarkable knowledge not only of them but also in all things, historical and political—and the knowledgeable reference librarians like Marion Linley, who Cliff trained. I think also of Pauline Fanning, happily still with us, whose knowledge of Australian

is remarkable, as has been the legendary quality of her assistance to authors already famous and to those neither famous nor likely to be.

I look back on the late Sir Harold White not only as a worthy jousting opponent, but also as a remarkable visionary. He was larger than his eccentricities. He not only saw the National Library of Australia as a great institution long before its physical emanation

on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, but he also convinced others of its reality. His converts included hard-nosed people like Treasury officials and prime ministers, not all of whom were always notable for their willingness to support major national cultural initiatives.

CARMEL MAGUIRE, MA FLAA is indulging in the delights of retirement and the geriatric folly of a doctoral degree. She worked at the Library from 1960 to 1964 in the Australian Bibliographical Centre and the Union Catalogue Section, and (after a posting as Librarian of the South East Asia Treaty Organization in Bangkok) returned as Director of the National Library Training School from 1966 to 1969

*The following tribute
 (archived on a National
 Library file grandly titled
 'Opening Arrangements—
 New National Library
 Building Congratulatory
 Messages, G01/25/00041')
 clearly expresses the very
 deep relief felt by staff
 at the opening of their
 building after '40 years'
 wandering the 'wilderness'.
 (Poem reproduced courtesy
 of Lynravn family)*



Untitled Sonnet

BY JOAN LYNRAVN

A thousand years from now these marble halls
 may, like the Parthenon, be clawed by Time
 and all the Treasures sheltered by these walls
 to dust resolved, but here today no rhyme
 can adequately greet the castaways,
 so long a-wandering, at last come home:
 no more to spend the years, the nightmare days
 like unhoused Romans waiting for a Rome,
 nor patiently set up a new beachhead
 for priceless manuscripts, and paintings rare
 in any vacant basement, shack or shed,
 with books a millionfold stored everywhere.
 Such patience surely sets a precedent,
 for Job ne'er earned a marble monument.