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NEWSLETTER

No 4 March, 1985.

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#### PROGRESS MADE ON EPHEMERA MATERIALS

The Archives has managed to process the backlog of ephemera i.e., leaflets, pamphlets, fliers, etc. The next stage involves creating new files for new or previously uncatalogued groups.

Access to overseas ephemera is now easier than was in the past; ephemera from New Zealand will be catalogued separately. The lack of space has prohibited the detailed cataloguing of material from other countries.

#### ORAL HISTORY

The oral history group has met twice in recent months and the efforts have gained momentum at last! This is one aspect of the Archives' work which clearly reminds us of the need for more volunteers. While a number of us are happy to undertake the oral history project, other tasks suffer lack of attention. The meetings have been a lot of fun! Imagine the rather humorous scenario of a group of us interviewing one another as a rehearsal to formal interviews and getting automatic responses!

Graham, has over the years, been able to conduct a number of interviews and has recently catalogued the oral history collection. His experience in interviewing made him the best subject for our practise. He must be feeling rather like a broken phonograph record by now! Our apologies Graham, but thanks for your indulgence.

A hinderance at the moment is access to fairly good quality yet small cassette recorders. While some of the more prominent names in the Gay community spring to mind as possible interviewees, we are eager to know of people who are willing to participate in the scheme as either an interviewer or an interviewee.

  
UPDATE ON CATALOGUING OF JOURNAL ARTICLES- where we are now

The continued efforts over the New Year have brought the cataloguing and keywording of journal articles to a total of 950 listings and cleared the backlog that built up at the beginning of 1985. We can now look forward to processing the articles with greater speed. The process is a lengthy one, considering the accuracy needed when keywording and the backlog was unavoidable considering the number of donations. Now that there are more volunteers who work on the ephemera and the articles the work can be attended to with a little more devotion. Robert Thurling is currently working to enter the keywords on to computer which will facilitate the use of the keywords in terms of currency and accessibility.

A number of visitors to the Archives this year have been able to find articles relevant to their research and it is encouraging to see our work being of some benefit to them and others.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GAY CONVICTS

Recently the AGA Inc. received an interesting letter from a genealogist and local historian in Western Australia. Whilst carrying out his research the historian has uncovered some interesting information about some thirty gay men who were transported to Western Australia for the crime of 'sodomy', 'buggery' or 'unnatural offence' with a man. The period of history covers the convict era of 1850-1868. He goes on to report that of these thirty men there were a small number of couples, some of which were together before, during and after their terms of imprisonment. We look forward to learning more about Western Australia's history as this probing research continues.

Dear members or prospective members,

Membership has been due since .....

So that you may continue to receive our humble newsletter and so that we may continue our work here at the AGA Inc., please send us your five dollars subscription, concessions apply.

Please note that the dollar joining fee applies only to new members.

So fill in the slip below and do it now!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name : .....

Address : .....  
.....Postcode.....

Telephone : .....

Joining fee : \$1.00  
Annual Subscription: \$5.00 or,  
\$2.00 Low income earners.

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to:  
Australian Gay Archives Inc., or A.G.A. Inc.

If posting please return to: A.G.A. Inc.  
P.O. Box 124  
PARKVILLE 3052.

Phone enquiries: 03 328 1238.