

Historical Records of Australian Science


Editorial

Historical Records of Australian Science was born in 1981, following a decision by the Australian Academy of Science to transform its 'house' journal, *Records of the Australian Academy of Science*, which had been appearing since 1966, into a more focused historical journal. The aim, which has since largely been fulfilled, was for this to become the 'journal of record' for the history of science, broadly defined, in the Australian region.

The change of name was just one aspect of the journal's transformation. Already, a couple of years earlier, two practising historians of science had been invited to join the Editorial Board. Now, the decision was made to cease publishing in the journal in-house Academy material such as the texts of its annual named lectures or the quadrennial presidential reviews. Henceforth, only historical work would be included. To the historical articles and biographical memoirs of deceased Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science that had always been part of the journal, two new features were added — a book review section and an annual bibliography of current work in the history of Australian science, technology and medicine.

The annual bibliographies that have appeared like clockwork since 1981 (and that are also now available through the website of the Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre at http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/bib/bib_home.htm) have become a leading feature of the journal and a vital resource for all students and researchers working on the history of Australian science. They are the essential starting point for anyone embarking on a new project in this field. All twenty-two of the bibliographies published up until 2002 were compiled as a labour of love by Laurie Carlson, a former student in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne and a senior reference librarian at Deakin University at the time he committed himself to this task. Laurie retired from Deakin University a number of years ago but continued to assemble the annual bibliographies. Now, however, he has decided it is time to pass on the job to someone else. In doing so, he can rest assured that he has made a major contribution to the development of our field. Those who have benefited over the years from his careful scholarship will join me in thanking him very much for his efforts on our behalf, and in wishing him well for the future.

I am pleased to report that a former senior librarian at La Trobe University, John Horacek, has kindly agreed at short notice to take on the task of compiling our annual bibliographies. He has a hard act to follow, but I know he will do it well. The first fruits of his labours appear in this issue.



R. W. Home
Editor