

## News and Notes

### ADOLPH BASSER LIBRARY

A centre for the study of the history of science in this country has been created in the new Basser Library of the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra. Its purpose is twofold: first to build up a specialist library of published material relating to the history of Australian science, including Australian scientific journals; and secondly to collect and preserve archival material (or to record the whereabouts of such material) that throws light on the lives and work of Australian scientists and their institutions.

The Academy wishes to draw attention to the importance of such archival material as draft manuscripts, laboratory daybooks, personal diaries, autobiographical notes and memoirs, and the minutes and unpublished reports of scientific bodies—and to secure that it may be preserved and made available to scholars. For these purposes the Basser Library offers to house such material and to maintain an Australia-wide catalogue of scientific manuscripts preserved by other institutions and individuals.

The Academy asks the help of anyone able to give it in tracing such archival material, and is interested also to learn of any work in progress on the history of Australian science.

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### HONOURS

Mr. J. M. Hewitt, O.B.E., was included in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, 1962. The citation reads: "In recognition of his outstanding public service".

Mr. Hewitt is acting-Branch Secretary for N.S.W. and a member of the R.A.O.U. Conservation Committee.

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### BRITISH MUSEUM EXPEDITION

At the May 1962 meeting of Council a committee, Messrs. R. P. Cooper, M. C. Downes and T. I. Gellibrand, was appointed to investigate all the facts relating to the above-mentioned expedition, and to consider the reply from the British Museum to the letter sent by the convener of the Conservation Committee, and the views expressed by interstate members of Council. At the June meeting the Chairman submitted the following statement for consideration by Council:

1. The conservation policy that was recently adopted permits collecting for scientific purposes (Section 4c).
2. The British Museum made the correct formal approach through the Australian High Commissioner in London, who obtained the approval of Federal and State departments.
3. We are aware that, at least in certain States, the approval was granted subject to the conservation laws of the State.
4. The reply from the British Museum assures us on the protection of rare species.

It was then proposed that the R.A.O.U. adheres to its conservation policy, Section 4c, and that the visit of the British Museum be accepted; that all State and Federal departments be asked to rigidly control the issue of permits, and that no permits be issued for the collecting of rare species of birds.

After each member present had expressed his views, it was unanimously resolved to accept this proposal.

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### EMU PARTS WANTED

Mr. Lloyd Nielsen, Mail Service 118, Jandowae, Qld., is anxious to buy parts or volumes of *The Emu* prior to volume 48. Please address inquiries to Mr. Nielsen.