

ANME *News*

ANME | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

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Issue No. 9

March 2014

Chinese University Group Visits ANME



On 3rd December, the ANME was visited by a group of lecturers from Xiamen University of Technology. The group of twenty was led by Professor Huang Hongwu, Vice Chairman of Education Fujian Provincial Government and Chairman of the University Council. The visitors, who were accompanied by Mr Frank Guo, UC's International Relations Officer, were shown around the current ANME displays including a display of vintage annual school magazines 1905-1955.

Delegates together with Senior Curator, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt and Director Dr Malcolm Beazley AM. Photo by courtesy of Frank Guo

ANME Director Dr Malcolm Beazley AM then took the group into the ANME Repository and Museum rooms before taking them across to the INSPIRE Centre of the Faculty of Education where they were addressed by the Director, Professor Robert Fitzgerald.

University of Canberra Collections Display, “Curious Corridors”

Following is a Report by Hakim Rahim, a student member on the ANME Management Board, on a new exhibition of heritage and cultural items from the cultural and heritage centres of the University.

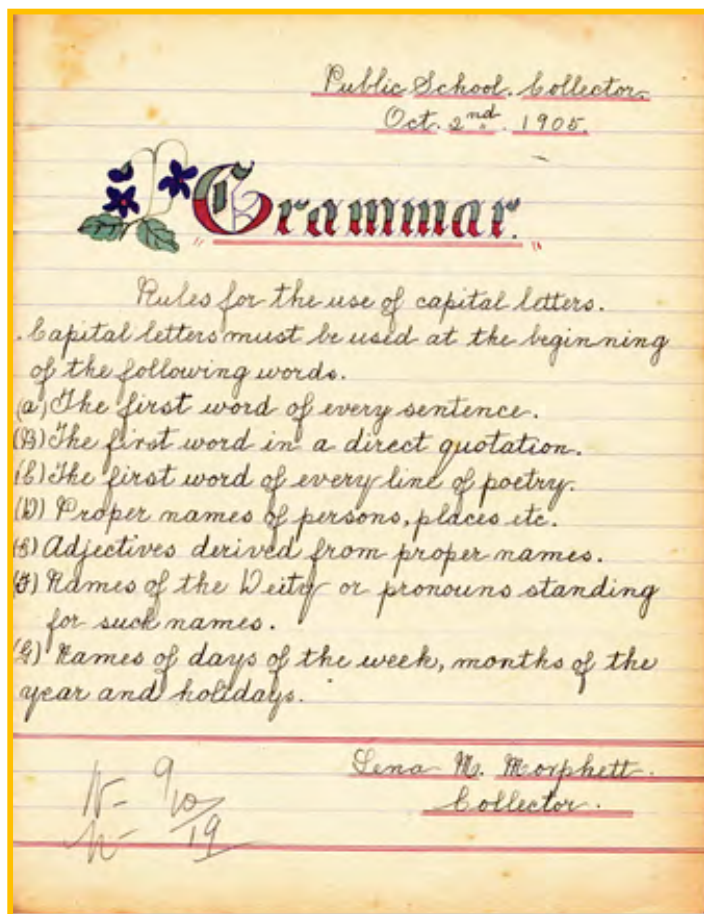
Curious Corridors offers a small glimpse into arts and heritage at the University of Canberra. This month long exhibition brings together collections within the university and celebrates the diversity of arts and heritage through the artefacts from the collections.



Hakim Abdul Rahim (left) with fellow Sustainable Repairs and Restoration Class students in the ANM Showcase Room with Lecturer Alison Wain (third from right).

Take your own self-guided tour. Begin at Building 1, where you will find a map and a slice of what *Curious Corridors* has to offer. Then move to Building 5 where Australia's educational history is on display at the Australian National Museum of Education. Head on to the Library where you can have a taste of the extensive collection of the Lu Rees Archive of Children's Literature. While you are there, take a walk through the corridors of the library to view the University's extensive art collection on its walls. Cultural heritage is on display in Building 7 with artefacts from the Donald Horne Institute's collection as well as indigenous art and artefacts from the Ngunnawal Centre. Building 3 showcases the natural history and geology collections from the Faculty of ESTEM. So take a walk through the Curious Corridors. Who knows what treasures you may find!

Pupil Exercise Books as Evidence of Curriculum Evolution



Many school museums have collections of “pupil exercise books”, work-books or note books in which pupils from past generations wrote their lessons, such as composition, grammar, mathematics, nature study etc. These exercise books from different generations reflect aspects of the school curriculum existing at the time. As such, they are a record of the writing style taught in schools, and used by their parents' generation. During the nineteenth century students were taught the cursive style or “running writing” as it is sometimes referred to today. “Copper Plate” writing style was instilled into pupils in all Australian schools up until the middle of the twentieth century. Grammar was a feature of both the primary and secondary curriculum. The ANME has an extensive collection of school pupil exercise books from most decades of the last 140 years, our earliest school pupil

exercise book dating from 1873. In the example illustrated above, you will notice especially the neatness of the writing and general presentation, in which the student has dated the lesson in which he/she has recorded written notes. In the example, the fine coloured subject heading in decorated gothic script is indicative of the social values of the day. Nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century primary school curricula included such subjects as Grammar, Dictation, Composition, Mental Arithmetic, Nature Study, which are rarely seen in today's Australian school curricula, where subjects such as Environmental Studies, Sustainability Studies, Ethnographic Studies, Asian Studies and Aboriginal Studies most commonly appear.

ANME December 2013 Board of Management Meeting

At this meeting a number of Reports were presented outlining on-going projects and proposed activities and events for 2014. Dr John Grant spoke about two ANME projects which he is undertaking regarding the Australian School Museums database and contacts with school museums around Australia. Also, Dr Grant continues his work on an on-going project concerning the compilation of a Distinguished Australian Educators database. Board member Hakim Abdul Rahim reported on a special meeting of representatives of the University of Canberra's various museum and heritage collections. This newly established group, *UC Collections*, of which ANME is a member, is discussing the possibility of establishing a cultural heritage precinct within the University. Professor Eddie Braggett reported on a project which he has undertaken involving the Hall School Museum Assessment of National Significance. Senior Curator Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt reported on two on-going ANME research projects, "Early Colonial School Teachers in NSW 1789-1830", and "School Teachers as Authors of Australian School Textbooks" which he and Dr Malcolm Beazley are jointly pursuing.

Teachers as Authors of School Text Books – Colin Sale



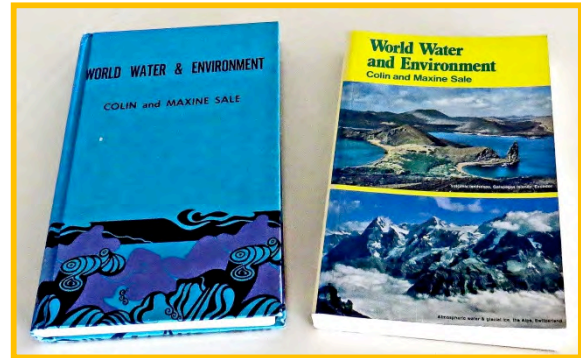
Colin Sale began his teaching career in 1956, as a Junior Lecturer and Demonstrator in the Geography Department of Sydney Teachers' College from where he had graduated, and later at Homebush Boys' High and Albury High, respectively. He published his first textbook in his early years on the staff of Wagga Wagga Teachers' College where he was involved in giving a course to all students on the "Geography of Australia". He together with his wife Maxine had been recruited to join the WWTC staff after teaching in Canada where Colin had taught Geography, and Maxine had taught Science. He became familiar with an excellent text on Canada's Geography and saw an obvious need for a similar text focusing on Australian geography. The result was a hard-back book called the *Island Continent*, published by Shakespeare Head Press, selling for 25 Shillings and it did quite well (56,050 copies 1965-1977). At about the same time, Maxine, having put in a lot of hard work into her Science course for students, also published a book for teachers *Teaching Science in Primary School*, which was very well received (10,050 copies - 1965-1977).

When a new Professor of Geography was appointed to the University of Sydney – George Dury from the UK, with Physical Geography as his specialty – a new Senior High School Geography Syllabus appeared in the mid-1960s emphasizing Physical Geography for the first time as the initial part of the course, and being based on the Water Cycle. As he had always felt that Physical Geography was his specialty, and he had been involved in teaching it in both England and Canada, Colin decided to write a text for the course and *World Water and Environment* by Colin and Maxine Sale appeared in 1968, and it remained the only text for some time (Maxine was a great help in his writing, and there were economic advantages in their appearing as joint-authors). It sold 101,820 copies 1968-1982. The original hard-back edition had a cover designed by Alf Morris on the WWTC staff, but the subsequent editions with a soft cover, had colour photos on a yellow background. The remarkable thing was that Colin had to do all of the artwork - maps and diagrams - with Indian ink and lettering guides, and that all of the photos had to be in black and white, reproduced from colour transparencies. This syllabus was revised and expanded in the late 1980s, with this leading to a totally new

and enlarged edition with a new title - *World Water in Environment and Development*; it sold 38,535 copies 1982-1990.

From the early 1980s, Colin linked up with geography teacher, Graeme Wilson, to write several series of books for Junior High School - *Our Changing World* - Books 1, 2, & 3 (1980 to 1997), *Understanding our World* - Books 1, 2, & 3, of reduced difficulty (1986 to 1997), and *Teachers' Resource Books* for each of these six texts. They also produced another Australian geography text - *Introducing Australia* - 32,000 copies (1988 to 1997).

In 1989 his *Our Wonderful World* was published by Longman, linking both Physical and Human Geography. Although not tied to any known school syllabus it turned out to be well-reviewed, did sell outside Australia as well as at home, and it was taken up by Western Australia as their Geography Syllabus text. It had 424 pages in two editions, with 88,000 copies sold - 1989 to 2004. Sadly, it still had to be produced largely with black and white



photos made from colour transparencies, although with some colour, and the maps and diagrams were still done by the author in Indian ink and lettering guides. After publishers Pearson Education bought out Longman, Colin offered to write a new edition that could be in full colour, but this idea was rejected.

Recent Acquisitions

The ANME was pleased to receive from Mrs Denise Scanlon, a second gift of artefacts and school textbooks from the estate of her relative, Mr Douglas Adams, formally a primary school headmaster. The items included Mr Adam's Certificate of 25 Years of Service in NSW schools, which reads "To Mark your valuable contribution to the education of boys and girls in NSW Government Schools". Other items included writing artefacts from the 1930s and a school atlas, *The World Wide Atlas of Modern Geography*, published in 1892 by W. & A.K. Johnston, Edinburgh. We also received a donation of textbooks and other items from Mr Scott Chadwick and also textbooks and school music books from Dr Meryl Smith during January.

Profile of a School Museum: Friedensberg Historic German School Museum

This historic school museum, located about 2 kms from the Barossa Valley village of Springton in South Australia, comprises a small stone building equipped as a typical old-fashioned one-room school of the late Victorian period. The school was built in 1861 financed by George Fife Angus who supported German immigration to South Australia in the early days of the colony. The school catered for Barossa Valley German families in the district and operated as a German language school until 1917 when it was closed during the First World War. The school contains some of the original furniture of the school including desks, benches with inkwells, slates, blackboard, a teacher's desk and an organ. The Museum also features displays of German school books, samples of written work and photographs of the period. On Sundays the schoolroom was used for Lutheran Church services. At the rear of the schoolroom is a Headmaster's residence, which today is used as a residence for the caretaker. It has a cellar which has recently been restored. Until 1876 all lessons at the school were held in German, but in that year a two-hour daily session taught in English was introduced. The old school building was restored with South Australian Government assistance in the 1990s and re-opened as a museum in 1995. The school is open to the public by appointment, admission \$5, phone contact 08 8568 2287.