

1969.0002 PAPERS OF SIR GEORGE WHITECROSS PATON 1941-1957

<b>Creator</b>	Paton, Professor Sir George Whitecross
<b>Creator's Activity/Occupation</b>	Academics - Law - Vice-chancellors - Art galleries

**Biography:**

G.W. Paton was a graduate of Scotch College, the University of Melbourne and Magdalen College, Oxford from 1926 to 1929. In the following year he became Barrister-at-Law and lectured in Law at the London School of Economics. He was Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Melbourne from 1931, Dean of Law from 1943 and was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 1951. Sir George chaired the Olympic Games Fine Arts Committee 1953 to 1957, and the National Library Enquiry Committee in 1956 (see below). The Federal Government's Royal Commission on Television, to which Sir George was appointed chairman in February 1953, consisted of C.B. Bednall, Mrs. Maud Foxton, R.G. Osborne, R.C. Wilson and N.S. Young. Its object was to enable Australia to profit from the experience of other countries in introducing and controlling television. The enquiry considered the numbers of national and commercial channels to be established, the economics involved and standards to be observed. In 1956 the Federal Government established a committee, chaired by Paton, "to examine the whole question of control of the National Library and its functions" and advise on possible changes, the central problem being that the National Library was controlled by a Parliamentary committee but performed many services unconnected with Parliament, while financial responsibility for it lay with the Prime Minister's Department. The chief result following the presentation of the Committee's Report was the separation of the National Library from the Parliamentary Library and the establishment of a separate Archival Authority (this authority having been vested in the Library from 1952) over the Commonwealth's Archives. Paton retired as Vice-Chancellor in 1968 and died in 1985.

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<b>Reference Number</b>	1969.0002
<b>Collection/Series Title</b>	PAPERS OF SIR GEORGE WHITECROSS PATON
<b>Date Range of Collection/Series</b>	1941-1957
<b>Size/Extent</b>	1 box (0.12m)

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<b>Access Conditions</b>	Access: Open
<b>Scope and Content of Series</b> Letters concerning Paton's appointment as Chairman of the National Library Inquiry Committee, submissions by interested parties including the Commonwealth Archives Committee, H.L. White (National Librarian), John Metcalfe (Public Library of N.S.W.) and related correspondence, comments and notes; final report. Included are items for background from 1941: J. Metcalfe's paper, "Co-operation between State Public Libraries and Government Departments, 1941; brief outline on the history, government, functions etc. prepared for the Library Committee, 1951; article on the Commonwealth National Library by H.L.White, and a memorandum from J. Metcalfe concerning a dispute with White over spheres of collecting, 1953; notes for discussion with Sir John Latham, draft minutes of a meeting of the General Council at the P.L.V., June 1954; etc.	
<b>Archival History</b> Listed by Cecily Close 19 February 1970. Typescript list converted to item data by Christine Elias November 2019.	
This list created 3 January 2020	

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<b>Title:</b> National Library Inquiry Committee: Folder 1	<b>Date:</b> 1956	<b>Item Number:</b> 1969.0002.00001	<b>Unit/Box:</b> 1969.0002 Unit 1
<b>Description:</b> National Library, First Session July 5. Appointment of Sir George as Chairman succeeding Sir John Latham; Correspondence with A L Moore, Secretary of National Library Committee planning timetable; National Librarian's submission on historical development, functions, administration, location of activities and collections, organisation chart, management of public records of Commonwealth Government; Bibliography; Report by Commonwealth Archives Committee on Future Control of the Commonwealth Archives System; Statement by Acting Prime Minister (Fadden); Points to consider raised by Dr Grenfell Price; Letter (a submission) to Acting Prime Minister from Archie G Cameron, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Draft Record of Committee's first meeting, 3 July 1956; Pencil Memoranda, June - July 1956.			
<b>Title:</b> National Library Inquiry Committee: Folder 2	<b>Date:</b> 1956	<b>Item Number:</b> 1969.0002.00002	<b>Unit/Box:</b> 1969.0002 Unit 1
<b>Description:</b> Minutes and Correspondence since July 5; Chapter III Library Relationships from Schellenberg's Modern Archives, Melbourne, 1956 (photocopy); Colin Mc recommending articles on Canadian Library; Correspondence with Moore regarding notes of 4th session; Draft notes of 2nd, 3rd and 4th sessions; Submission from Librarian on Legislation affecting the Department of the Parliamentary Library as such; Summary record of first meeting, July.			
<b>Title:</b> National Library Inquiry Committee: Folder 3	<b>Date:</b> 1956	<b>Item Number:</b> 1969.0002.00003	<b>Unit/Box:</b> 1969.0002 Unit 1
<b>Description:</b> Agenda Second Session, Melbourne. Contains correspondence between A L Moore, Secretary, National Library Enquiry Committee concerning arrangements; Photocopies of comments on subject of enquiry from Attorney General's Department, Treasury, Public Service Board, Department of Interior, Department of Trade, their satisfaction or otherwise with the present service, likely results if National Library are separated, and whether departmental libraries should be staffed and serviced by the National Library, August 1956; Submissions by the Librarian of the National Library on its activities in films and sound recordings and legal deposit of books; Comments of National Librarian on Submission of the Parliamentary Library Committee; Comments from Department of External Affairs, C.S.I.R.O, Department of Health, Australian National University Research School of Social Sciences; National Library Act 1952, Canada; Some Suggestions for Consideration, evidently by G W Paton; Memorandum from E L Frazer, Librarian of the Parliament of Victoria; Summary of comments by Government departments and others, July/August 1956.			

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<b>Title:</b> National Library Inquiry Committee: Folder 4	<b>Date:</b> 1944-1957	<b>Item Number:</b> 1969.0002.00004	<b>Unit/Box:</b> 1969.0002 Unit 1
<p><b>Description:</b> National Library Committee; Brief outline of history, government and administration, functions and resource prepared as background to Agenda Item No. 1 for members of Library Committee, meeting Canberra, 28, 29 August 1951; The Commonwealth National Library by H L White, reprinted from Education News, February 1953; Memo from John Metcalfe, Public Library of New South Wales regarding dispute with White over spheres of collecting, 18 June 1953. Notes for discussion with Sir J Latham, 12 March 1954. Draft minutes of meeting of the General Council at Public Library of Victoria, 10 - 11 June 1954; General Annual Meeting 10 - 11 June, Library and bibliographical services; Report of a Fulbright scholar on library situation in Canberra, 1955; Co-operation between State Public Libraries and Government Departments, paper for Australian Institute of Librarians June 1941 by J Metcalfe, Canberra, 1944; The Library of Parliament, brief history by E L Frazer, Librarian, 1954; Library of Congress, extract from United States Government Organisation Manual 1955/6; Photocopy of memorandum on administration etc. of the Public Library of Victoria; History of Public Library of New South Wales, June 1956, and related Organisation Charts; Nomination of Lawrence Quincy Mumford to be Librarian of Congress, hearing before Rules of Committee of US Senate, 26 July 1954; Draft Summary Records of 2nd meeting, 26 August 1956; Librarian's submission regarding relations between National Library and Library Services of Commonwealth Government Departments and Agencies; Summary Record of 2nd meeting; Librarian's submission on provision of free library services in territories under control of US Government and its bearing on such provision in Commonwealth territories; J Metcalfe's submission; Points for discussion on draft recommendations to 3rd meeting, 17 September (2 versions); Suggested outline of report; Draft summary record of 3rd meeting; Rough draft of Report; Letter C E W Bean, Lindfield, New South Wales, to Paton clarifying what he has said on principal of classification followed in Archives systems, 18 September 1956; Draft summary record of 4th meeting; Submission of Librarian on development of the Commonwealth Archives programme; Proposed amendments to draft Report; Draft Report; Correspondence regarding name of Library; R G Menzies letter of thanks to G W Paton, 6 March 1957.</p>			

<b>Title:</b> National Library Inquiry Committee: Folder 5	<b>Date:</b> Undated	<b>Item Number:</b> 1969.0002.00005	<b>Unit/Box:</b> 1969.0002 Unit 1
<p><b>Description:</b> Committee's Report with letter from A L Moore covering Sir George's copy.</p>			

End of list