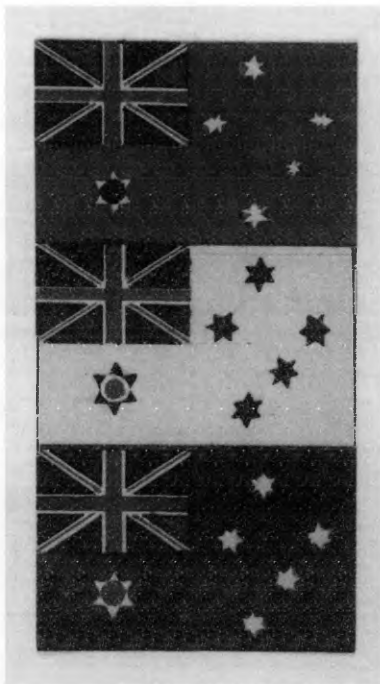


Preparing a gift for Federation

While most people are looking to 2000 and the Olympics as the big event on our horizon, hot on its heels is the Centenary of Federation in 2001. The Olympics will certainly mean a world focus on Australia, but the Centenary will perhaps be an even bigger cause for celebration nationwide.

With the assistance of Australian Heritage Projects Pty Ltd, Australian Archives is preparing a special gift for the Centenary which should be ready for unwrapping by the end of 1997.



Chosen from 32 823 (!) designs, this was the winning entry for Australia's new flag in 1901 — it was then altered slightly into the flag we have today

It's a guide to sources of material about Federation which the Archives hopes will become the definitive authority for anyone undertaking a Federation project of any kind, whether for television documentaries, books, lectures, radio programs, magazines or newspaper articles.

The guide will short-circuit the need for researchers to scour the myriad of organisations which hold Federation records, not to mention the multitude of private collections. All sources of Federation material will be detailed in the one comprehensive volume. The guide will document material from all over Australia, including Australian Archives' extensive holdings, records in private collections, State libraries and archives, the National Film and Sound Archive, Sydney City Council Archives, the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston, the Australia Post National Philatelic Centre and many, many other collections.

In this major co-operative effort, the Archives will produce details of official and private records, pictorial materials, ephemera, film, audio, objects and works of art that relate to Australia's experience of Federation.

The guide will be in four parts:

- Precursors to Federation, 1840s to 1880s
- The making of Federation, 1883 to 1901
- The making of the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1914
- The legacy of Federation, 1901 to 2001.

The Archives will publish the guide in paper form and on the Internet within the next twelve months, in plenty of time for Australian and overseas researchers to prepare for the party!

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