Digest of Comment

from

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Paul Hammond Joseph Post Charles Lisner John Birman Donovan Joyce Frank Dalby Davison Peter Randall Harry Seidler Peter Scriven Robert Peach Jascha Spivakovsky Linda Phillips David Swift Harold Williams F. A. Bellingham Verdon G. Williams Myra Roper W. G. James Bern Gandy Raymond Lambert Russel Ward Frank Hutchens C. R. Badger Brian Ellis Doreen Jacobs Ian Bow Roland Foster Ruth McNicoll Raymond Hanson C. B. Christesen Ruth Ladd Arthur Boyd Alexander Sverjensky Margaret Scott Noel Nickson Alan McCulloch Bernard Heinze John Casson

Australian Arts Inquiry

During the months of May and June letters were forwarded throughout the Commonwealth to over 150 people actively engaged in or professionally associated with the creative and interpretive arts.

These letters, signed by Messrs. Eric Westbrook, Robin Boyd, Hector Crawford and Andrew Fabinyi, submitted that advancement in our cultural and intellectual life lagged behind almost all other aspects of our national development. They proposed that an approach should be made to the Federal Government requesting a commission of inquiry into the state of the arts and letters in Australia.

The response to this proposal has been one of almost unanimous support.

I have prepared the following summary from replies received to date.

Geoffrey Ingram

"I need hardly say that this is a matter with which I have been closely concerned and I am entirely in agreement with your views on it. You may be interested to know that the forthcoming Survey of the Humanities in Australia to be published by the Humanities Research Council later this year, there is a very strong plea for the setting up of a commission exactly along the lines you suggest....."

A. D. Trendall, CANBERRA

"Because of the world increase in money and its power through automation and science, it is a reasonable proposition that some of this should be expended on ... an enquiry into the state of the arts and letters in Australia"

Mary Gilmore, SYDNEY

".... the time is indeed ripe for the commission of inquiry you suggest not only to encourage the development of the Humanities in this country, but also to co-ordinate existing forces and give them some sense of direction."

Newman Rosenthal, MELBOURNE

"I need not tell you that I am immensely interested in the matter and that I shall be glad to support and assist in any way I can."

Walter Stiasny, HOBART

"I feel that such a move is certainly due and I should be most happy to be a participant in any way which might be useful. The whole conception is most exciting....."

George Loughlin, MELBOURNE

"I am wholeheartedly in favour of this idea, and should like very much to hear of any further developments. Wishing you every success with your efforts...."

Gertrude E. Johnson, MELBOURNE

"I feel it is very necessary to bring attention to the need to make our cultural and intellectual life as progressive as the huge expansion that is taking place in other aspects of development here. I would be only too glad to fully support any movement on the lines you suggest. Please call on me in any way that you think I could help."

John McCallum, MELBOURNE

" I think the project should have the support of the people in the cultural field in Australia. I would be most interested to lend what support I can, and with the friends that I have been able to discuss it with so far, I found that they were entirely in sympathy with the idea."

Dorothy Helmrich, SYDNEY

"I am wholeheartedly in favour of approaching the Federal Government with a request to support such a Commission of Enquiry. It seems to me that what is most necessary is opportunities for people generally to appreciate the ability of Australian artists, writers, musicians and scientists. There must be a way of raising the general standard of interest and understanding, as well as more opportunities for Australian writers, artists, musicians and scientists to interpret for the people particularly Australian aspects of our country and its potentialities."

Katharine Susannah Prichard, WEST AUSTRALIA

"I am most interested to hear that there is a project being discussed to bring the Australian Government to a more acute realization of the difficulties encountered here by cultural activities and by workers in the various arts. I can assure you of my sincere support in any move for the setting up of a Commission of Enquiry along the lines of the Canadian Massey Commission. Something of the sort is long overdue, and it seems to me that all who are anxious to see the secure establishment of an individual Australian culture will welcome your move. As you say, it's an exciting period of Australia's history - but it's also possibly a dangerous one, dangerous in its mass-production potentialities:
...... Our artists need encouragement today as never before."

Keith Macartney, MELBOURNE.

"...... I am very interested in the idea and would be happy to support it in any way possible. I offer my support both as a private practicing Architect and also as Director of the Small Homes Service of the R.V.I.A."

Neil Clerehan, VICTORIA

"I believe that real and serious writers in Australia have not been and are not now able, because of the conditions pertaining, to produce works in the quantity and of the quality they were or are capable of. Because of those conditions the quantity of works valuable and essential for a real creative culture in our society is too small. I believe also that those conditions can be greatly improved but only, in such a society as ours, by substantial aid from Government. So I am much in favour of the setting up of such a Commission as you have in mind I feel .. however ... that any preliminary committee or group, and any organization it may create, should get as much information of the Canadian scheme as it can and of what is being done under it so far, and get this information not only from official and institutional sources but from other sources, including the writers and artists as well"

Leonard Mann, VICTORIA

" I agree with (the) general proposal to establish an Enquiry."

Hal Missingham, SYDNEY

"Allow me to congratulate you on your project and to express my whole-hearted support. While I welcome the calling of the nation's attention to the arts in general, I am reminded of the development of the National Film Board of Canada, which I understand was largely due to the Massey Report. My own Film Institute is struggling under impossible financial circumstances, and its efforts to promote film-culture in the country and interest in local film production are continually thwarted ... If, in your endeavours, you should need any active help please don't hesitate to call on me."

Erwin Rado, VICTORIA

"May I say that I am entirely in agreement with the ideas expressed therein and feel that an Enquiry such as you say is not only advisable but necessary. As far as may lie in my power, I will be very glad to co-operate with any move which you may make."

Robert Dalley-Scarlett, SOUTH BRISBANE

"As a member of the executive and immediate Past President of Australian Radio Producers Association the movement has my wholehearted support, for, as you know, the creative and production side of commercial broadcasting in Australia is suffering severely as a result of the vast amount of broadcasting time devoted to the playing of records mainly featuring overseas performers. This has seriously restricted the amount of work and encouragement, which can be given to Australian writers, producers, actors and actresses."

Noel Dickson, MELBOURNE

"An organization such as you plan will be warmly welcomed by the growing number of people interested in the creative arts. Please accept my assurance of support for your admirable scheme."

Doris Fitton, NORTH SYDNEY

"There is, without doubt, a definite and urgent need for such a body or group as you propose, in this quickly expanding country which will recognize, help and advance all creative artists and their work All forms of sport receive an overwhelming amount of praise and acclaim, but the poor creature artist is always on the outside, as though he really doesn't belong to the vast background of culture and history that goes to make a nation great."

Albert Arlen, CANBERRA

"I will place your letter before the Council of the Royal South Australian Society of Arts Incorporated, of which I am President, and also before the staff of this School, and will, thereafter, pass on any additional comments which may be forthcoming. Speaking personally I am in full support of the whole idea and you can rest assured that I will be glad to render any possible assistance to your group.

I am convinced that your initial proposals embody the first constructive approach to this question that has been made since I have been in Australia. I am satisfied that there is far too much isolation of the States - some the result of inertia on the part of those concerned - some the result of absolute interstate cussedness and misplaced inflated opinion and distressing blindness toward artists of other states."

Paul Beadle, ADELAIDE

"..... I think it might be well to confine the Enquiry to the "creative and interpretive arts" and not to bring in the social sciences or even the "humanities", which in any case are probably already better catered for.

I do not believe that such a survey, or any Government action arising out of it, is likely to do much to help artists and writers to produce better paintings, novels, plays, etc., or even to induce the general public in Australia to become more interested and even excited about their work. Nonetheless, there are certainly some things that Australia should be doing for itself, rather than leave it to bodies like the British Council"

A. K. Stout, SYDNEY

"I am particularly interested in scholarships to help Australian artists to travel. There are still many who would benefit by such a scheme. Some plan to assist Australian critics to come in contact with a world of which they seem to have had little experience might have even more beneficial results."

Patrick White, CASTLE HILL N.S.W.

"I believe that the time is now most opportune for such an approach to the Federal Government and I would be most happy to be associated with it.

In any plan that is formulated to further this idea, you can count on my ardent support and I should be happy to be co-opted by your Committee in any way to express a South Australian view and opinion."

John Bishop, ADELAIDE

"If there is any way of directing any of the immense amount of money there seems to be around towards this worthy aim, then I am all for it."

Dorian Le Gallienne, MELBOURNE

" I would be most pleased to support any moves towards a Commission of Enquiry into the state of the arts and letters in Australia. I feel that such an investigation is urgently required at this moment when Australia is expanding so rapidly."

Peter McIntyre, MELBOURNE

"That you have my support goes without question should some sort of a committee be formed here in Sydney please let them know where to find me as I would like to associate myself with the movement."

Chips Rafferty, SYDNEY

"I heartily approve of the proposal that there should be a top level Enquiry into the state of the arts and letters in Australia. It is long overdue and I feel sure that it would be of great assistance to their advancement on a national level."

Robert Campbell, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"I am delighted to hear of your plans for giving Australian culture a boost. Please count on my help at any time.

Jean Battersby, VICTORIA

"It has seemed to me also that Government sponsorship of the Arts has been sporadic, casual and without any continuing policy. It has the appearance of being based more often on expediency of the moment than a long-range policy.

The enquiry which you suggest would be capable of compiling evidence to establish whether this is a fact or otherwise and if it is a fact to propose ways and means to overcome the position. Your proposal has my most ardent support.

Could I suggest that in making any proposal to the Federal Government that the terms of reference suggested for the Enquiry should be on the widest possible basis. My experience as the Executive Officer of a similar commission of Enquiry into housing..... was that the broad terms of reference which that body was given contributed greatly to its success.

Walter Bunning, SYDNEY N.S.W.

"I am very much in favour of your idea and I shall be only too happy to give you any possible advice or suggestion in the matter. I am at your disposal for any further discussions if you desire."

Kurt Woess, MELBOURNE

"This splendid idea has my warmest support and I need hardly say that I have the fullest confidence in your co-signatories and yourself who are so unselfishly taking the lead. I shall be delighted to help in any way I possibly can."

Joseph Burke, MELBOURNE

"At present numerous groups are working, often with restricted influence, to establish an interest in the creative and interpretive arts they represent but if these groups throughout Australia could be persuaded to combine their forces for the purpose of presenting evidence to show the need for Governmental support for an Enquiry it would be a big factor in helping to bring it about. I will be glad to help in any way...."

Alan Marshall, ELTHAM, VICTORIA

"I am fully appreciative of the need for a national impetus to establish the cultural life of the country on a world-wide basis. You may be assured of my full co-operation in any constructive scheme that has this aim in view. Since my activities are mainly concerned with the future

development of the Australian composer and Symphonic conductor, I would welcome an opportunity to put forward suggestions to establish both in their proper status."

Clive Douglas, MELBOURNE

"I subscribe warmly to your view that "the creative arts must at least keep pace with the advancement of industry and commerce", and consider it deplorable that they have already been allowed to fall so far behind in respect of Federal Government encouragement. I would like to be numbered among the writers who are in support of the request and feel sure that something really worthwhile will come out of it."

John Morrison, MT. EVELYN. VICTORIA

"I personally would be more than willing to give you any help I could in furthering the institution of a properly constituted Enquiry, and I feel sure that you would get the support of the members of my staff in this important development."

Hugh Hunt, SYDNEY

"I am sure that your suggestion will gain the support of all artists. As a practising musician it has been distressing to observe that, during the last fifteen years, opportunities for Australian soloists have been diminishing at the same time that the commercial life of the country has known its greatest expansion."

Margaret Schofield, MELBOURNE

"..... at this stage (I) feel it is sufficient to say that you can be assured of my support for a Commission of Enquiry by the Federal Government into the state of the arts and letters in Australia."

Roberts Dunstan, MELBOURNE

"I am in complete agreement with the aims of your committee, and would willingly support any action which is likely to bring about a Commission of Enquiry into the arts. I assume that you will call a general meeting at some future time and I hope you will remind me when this is to occur."

Robert Hughes, MELBOURNE

"It was with great interest and enthusiasm I received and read your suggestion of the project for enquiring into our cultural standards ... In the sphere of Ballet in particular (and also Drama, Music & Opera) I feel a great necessity exists for an organization backed by the Federal Government, which can control and allocate scholarships etc. for teachers of these arts and in particular the ability for sending such people overseas in order to gain wider and more extensive knowledge, which, on their return, can be passed on to the students in this country.

... A great necessity has arisen for such an organisation as you have suggested, once established, to have within itself a method of complete liaison with not only each art form but also the humanities the main reason for this being that today no mechanism exists for the dissemination and acquisition of data of all developments in the sister arts such a liaison could prove invaluable in the improvement of teaching methods and education of future artists and scholars."

Paul Hammond, MELBOURNE

"I will tell you at once that any worthy effort to enrich and invigorate our cultural life will have my enthusiastic support." $\,$

Joseph Post, WOLLSTONECRAFT N.S.W.

" the Government should certainly be made aware of its responsibility to the creative arts "

Arnold J. V. Shore, MELBOURNE

"I have read your letter with great interest and would offer your project my full support. Something of this nature has, I feel, been needed in Australia for some time, and I would be pleased to be of any help."

Charles Lisner, BRISBANE

"We in Western Australia have felt for a long time along the same lines as you people do in Victoria - that something will have to be done on an Australian wide basis for the Arts - and your suggestion that the Federal Government should arrange for a Commission of Enquiry into the state of the Arts and Letters in Australia is obviously a very sound approach.

We have so much to offer, to exchange and to stimulate if we only had the necessary means of implementing what we all believe ought to be done. I can therefore assure you of my wholehearted support in this matter"

John Birman, PERTH ...

"I am fully in sympathy with the thoughts expressed and provided there does exist a chance that something practical might emerge from any discussions or activities in connection with your aims I would be not only happy but eager to play whatever part I can in furthering them."

Donovan Joyce, SYDNEY.

"Yes, I am completely with you in the project outlined and am grateful to those who have taken the preliminary steps to establish an organization to further the ends in view."

Frank Dalby Davison, $\frac{ARTHUR'S CREEK}{VICTORIA}$

"I was immensely interested to receive your letter and am in complete accord with your views. I can assure you that I would be most happy and honoured to contribute my services for such work, in which you know I have a very deep interest."

Peter Randall, MELBOURNE

"I would like you to know how wholeheartedly I am behind this proposal. There is a desperate need for people concerned with our visual environment to act. It seems that our whole civilization is destined to be engulfed in an alarming and constantly accelerating pace, with ugliness everywhere.

The confusion and visual horrors that meet the eye in our cityscapes makes an effective organization such as the Canadian Massey Commission an urgent need. Please let me know how I can help."

Harry Seidler, SYDNEY

"May I congratulate you on instituting this excellent idea. For too long in this country have the various Government efforts to assist the arts been arranged without a broad over-all plan, that looks to establishing a strong, Australian cultural future. I feel that there is no doubt should the Government be persuaded to establish a Commission the results would be a great benefit to all branches of the arts.

I wish you every success in your plan and sincerely hope that you will be able to get the leaders in the various field to work together for this admirable scheme."

Peter Scriven, SYDNEY

"You may be assured of my support for any approach made at Government level for a Commission of Enquiry such as you suggest. I shall be pleased to publicize the move in my immediate circle, and if you think I can be of more direct service, I shall be pleased to hear from you."

Robert Peach, MELBOURNE

"I was most interested to read of the activities of your group, and to see what the Massey Commission has achieved in Canada. Naturally anything that can be done to aid the progress of our cultural life here has my wholehearted support and co-operation."

Jascha Spivakovsky, MELBOURNE

".... you have my warmest approval and wishes for the success it deserves. I am entirely in agreement with your proposals."

Linda Phillips, MELBOURNE

"I am in agreement that there is need for a survey along the lines of the Massey Commission and would be pleased to associate myself with any move that would be likely to further the use of documentary film as a cultural medium as far as possible I will see that any proposals that are in line with the aims of my Centre will receive support from me and from the various interested writers and filmmakers with whom we are associated. If your proposals could in some way lead towards the establishment of a Council such as the Canada Council, I am sure the benefit to the Arts in Australia would be enormous."

David Swift, MELBOURNE

"This is a matter very close to my heart, and although one has hoped for a long time that something could be done to further recognition of the Arts as a fundamental necessity in our national community, it all seemed so hopeless.

To excel in trade and sport is all very well but, since my return to permanently live in Australia I have felt that there must be that leaven of the Arts to improve our national loaf of bread. Without it we can never be as potent a power as we would all wish.

I pray that your efforts will reap the desired reward and will look forward confidently to developments. My congratulations to you gentlemen and to Melbourne on this splendid thought."

Harold Williams, SYDNEY

"I have discussed the matter with representative people and any Government Enquiry into the state of the Arts in Australia, we think, could do nothing but good. There is a good deal of difference of opinion as to how this enquiry should be conducted and the application of its resultant findings."

F. A. Bellingham, SYDNEY

"... may I indicate my whole-hearted approval of the plan you suggest ...
.. Musically the Australian scene is not a happy one .. and .. the lack
of some disciplinary method of controlling television gives indications
that this medium will be more detrimental than helpful to sincere artists
- unless something can be done to channel its influences into proper
perspective for the future of Australians in Australia I am happy
to endorse the principal you have in mind."

Verdon G. Williams, MELBOURNE

"Though Australia is becoming increasingly well-known for her export of opera singers as well as sportsmen her international reputation in the Arts generally cannot be considered thoroughly established. Since a country's quality is in the long run very much judged and interpreted by its achievements in the Arts, Australia must take more care for her artists in all fields if she is to achieve any real international status. The proposed Enquiry is therefore a very real important first step in the right direction."

Myra Roper, MELBOURNE

"I am very much in favour of an approach being made to the Federal Government to enquire into the state of the Arts and letters in Australia - this is long overdue. Our cultural development over the past years has been remarkable and it is certainly time that our Government took an active interest in this side of our life and development. I would strongly support a properly constituted Enquiry along the lines of the Massey Commission."

W. G. James, POTTS POINT N.S.W.

"Films are capable of playing an important role in our cultural and intellectual life, and I fully support an Enquiry such as you mention. From the purely sectional viewpoint I feel that film is completely neglected by any government or semi-government instrumentality except as it applies to the overnment's own film making activites.

My first thoughts on some shortcomings include:

- (1) No education or instruction is available in Australia on the technique or the creative art of film making, in film appreciation or how to use film.
- (2) No scholarships, grants or assistance is available to students of the film or film makers in Australia to study or investigate film in Australia or overseas.
- (3) No organized attempt is being made to <u>use</u> films in Australia or overseas as a method of investigating and illustrating Australian life and culture.
- (4) No organized attempt has been made to record on film many aspects of Australian life which are rapidly passing into history. e.g. the Aborigines, Flora and Fauna.
- (5) A healthy field of commercial film making is essential if we are to produce film makers and film of a high standard. Yet Australia is one of the few countries in the world which gives no protection or financial support to local film makers.

There are several independent film makers who, I am sure, would support an investigation such as you invisage. My work as Film Producer for the ShellFilm Unit frequently takes me away from Sydney for periods, but if there is anything I can do to further this project, I shall be most happy to assist."

Bern Gandy, SYDNEY

"I have read the circular with great interest and offer my wholehearted support for the setting up of a commission of enquiry into the state of the arts and letters in Australia. It is my opinion that suo a project would be of inestimable value to the cultural life of the coutry."

Raymond Lambert, HAWTHORN, VICTORIA

"I was delighted to learn that something definite is at last being attempted. Australians concerned with culture have, I think, organized too little in the past I wish the committee you propose to form every success and of course you can count on me, if and when there's anything that you think I may be useful for, at this place 1000 miles away in the bush."

Russel Ward, ARMIDALE N.S.W.

"You can be assured of my hearts endorsement of the letter. This movement to put our Culture on a proper basis would rectify the unsatisfactory official attitude to the arts and a state of affairs which has "gone on too long"."

Frank Hutchens, SYDNEY

"The suggestion outlined by the Committee, for a Royal Commission in the state of the Arts and Letters in Australia is worth full support. The most significant feature of the suggestion, i.e., that it seeks a fact finding enquiry should not be allowed to obscure the practical long range implications. It was, after all, the fact-finding of the Munn-Pitt Report on our library system which enabled public opinion to focus on the essential steps to improvement. The planning of the strategy of advance in the Arts field - which is naturally important - will depend on the detail and accuracy of the survey made by the Commission if and when appointed."

C. R. Badger, MELBOURNE

"I am glad to know that there is a group of interested people in Melbourne who aspire to the Canadian example, which in the matter of support to the Arts is, in its present aspect, such an admirable one. I wish you every possible success, and will do anything I can to help."

" I fully support the ideas ... for an enquiry into the state of the arts and letters in Australia. creative artists, scholars and administrators of educational enterprises are obliged to spend so much time earning a living that they have neither the time nor the energy left in which to create, to think, to do research, in short, to use their gifts to the full in enriching and expanding our cultural life. ... we all must (welcome) this move which has been made by the Melbourne group.

Doreen Jacobs, SYDNEY

" I think some kind of probe into the Arts and letters is a good one."

Ian Bow, MELBOURNE

"I ... shall be glad to co-operate in any possible way. With regard to my own experience and observations as a teacher ... In the years before the A.B.C. came into existence I was able to give operatic performances of 90 minute duration from 2 FC, with complete casts of principals and chorus from my own studio; in the Magic Flute, Tannhauser, Rigoletto, Pagliacci, Cavalleria, Faust, Carmen, Maritana, Orpheus, etc. and also the first Australian performance (prior to its stage presentation) of Puccini's Turandot. At that time 75% of my pupils were sufficiently advanced to be capable of undertaking these works with only 3 or 4 rehearsals in addition to their usual lessons. Nowadays only about 10% are similarly qualified and a complete quartette is as much as I could manage ... It is really distressing to find such a lack of serious interest in vocal art and study ..."

Roland Foster, SYDNEY

"My experience in connection with the visual arts convinces me of the necessity for an enquiry into the State of the Arts and I would strongly support an organization whose aim is to work towards such an enquiry."

Ruth McNicoll, MELBOURNE

"This is the most significant move within my memory in this country. fully support it. In a country where politics has been made to assume the greatest importance; where the agglomeration of rural and urban pursuits has become an end in itself; where even those relaxations such as sport and drinking have become a huge business enterprise, in such a country there is great need for a regeneration of the virtues of living in which the arts must play a noble part.

The idea of putting this on a fundamental level, is a good one, as efforts in the past have shown that moves on a humbler though none-the-less sincere So much depends on the initial basis have mostly been "anathema." stages of this wonderful idea"

Raymond Hanson, SYDNEY

"The need for a top-level enquiry into the state of arts and letters in Australia is surely self evident - at least to the writers and artists themselves. The general public, however, is unaware of the complex of special problems which confronts the creative artist and limits the production of quality work. The chronic state of our literature, for instance, is that of a youthful promise which is never redeemed. As one surveys the history of our literature during the last half century, one is immediately struck by the singular impotence of its creative spirit. An abundance of early talent, so little continuous growth, so few writers who can hold their ground tenaciously and preserve their sap from one One of the reasons for this failure to achieve decade to another. vigorous growth is that the artist has been insufficiently equipped, stimulated, nourished by the kind of society into which he has been born. In this sence the Australian environment is answerable for the literature Now that Australia is entering upon a new and and art it has produced. exciting stage of national development, we must ascertain the factors Only a properly constituted which are preventing full cultural achievement. commission of enquiry can carry out that task, and so clear the ground for subsequent action."

C. B. Christesen, MELBOURNE

"I cannot imagine any matter to which I could more wholeheartedly give my support." Ruth Ladd, SYDNEY

"I would support wholeheartedly your idea of a commission of enquiry into the state of the arts in Australia. I have talked to a number of artists who are also enthusiastic about it. I hope the necessary organization will come about as soon as possible."

Arthur Boyd, MELBOURNE

"It is only by a truly national effort that we can arrive at some positive policy in building the artistic life of our country ... this would offer a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth ... which would lead to a richer national life, and better understanding between the nations."

Alexander Sverjensky, SYDNEY

"As a teacher of the dance I was beginning to wonder whether the training of a pupil was all worthwhile - the frustration of seeing young talent flowering with no permanent outlet for that talent in this country. An enquiry seems to me essential that the plight of our dancers, artists and musicians, as far as creative work is concerned, should be made known. I am completely with you."

Margaret Scott, MELBOURNE

"I would like to offer my support I hope the efforts of those involved will prove successful. The result would be invaluable."

Noel Nickson, SYDNEY

"I consider it a very important step because, although on the surface the arts appear to be flourishing in most departments, their true status is still not commensurate with our general economic prosperity."

Alan McCulloch, SHOREHAM, VICTORIA

"..... I wish to give my wholehearted support to your proposal May I point out at the same time that for several years the Music Sub-Committee of the Australian National Advisory Committee for UNESCO has been seeking to interest the Commonwealth Government in the establishment of a Ministry of Fine Arts and at its last meeting it was resolved to approach the Government again on this important matter. However, I am convinced that an enquiry such as you envisage, having official status and terms of reference will arrest attention much quicker and effectively than an appeal from a single group of interested people such as my UNESCO Committee."

Bernard Heinze, SYDNEY

"In my view this is a scheme of immense possibilities"

John Casson, MELBOURNE