VALE:

7.2.71. Mr. M. A. Seeger, Hercules Street, Wollongong.

The Society extends to his widow, Mrs. I. Seeger, its condolences.

COUNCIL SUBSIDY:

With pleasure we announce that during the Christmas recess, the Society received advice from the Town Clerk that "Council has included in its estimate for 1971, an allocation of $250.00 as a subsidy to the I.H.S."

Society Councillors are considering several proposals for the most beneficial use of the subsidy, and further reports shall be made through the Bulletin.

THE 183rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN SERVICE HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Sunday, 7th February, 1971 in the Church of St. Philip, Sydney.

The Society was represented at this impressive service during which, The President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, The Hon. Mr. Justice R. Else-Mitchell, officially handed over to the Parish two of the first eight bells presented to "the Settlement at Sydney" by the Duke of Clarence (later William IV). For many years these two bells have been in the possession of the Historical Society.

THE BELLS OF ST. PHILIP'S

THE ORIGINAL ST. PHILIP'S BELLS:

The history of the bells of St. Philip's dates from the arrival in the colony of Governor Hunter in September, 1795, who brought with him from England a peal of eight small bells. These were stored away unused until the new church (the first St. Phillip's) was opened in 1807. The eight bells brought by Governor Hunter were installed in the round tower. The tower was 49 ft. in height, with a diameter of 12 ft., and the peal of bells was rung for the first time in this round tower on 29th May, 1807. Owing to the thickness of the walls of the tower, the tones of the bells could not be heard distinctly beyond the distance of 300 yards from the tower.