OCTOBER MEETING:

We were indeed fortunate in that, when once again our scheduled speaker was unavailable through illness, Miss Judy Birmingham, M.A., Senior Lecturer in Archaeology in the University of Sydney, was able to fill the breach with a most interesting and well-illustrated talk on historical archaeology.

Miss Birmingham's talk, and the accompanying slides, dealt particularly with four “digs” she and her students had carried out: at Irrawang near Raymond Terrace, where James King before 1855 operated a pottery turning out earthenware similar to the English country pottery of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries; at Wybalena on Flinders Island, where the survivors of the unfortunate Tasmanian aboriginal race lived out their last years from 1836 onwards; at the old Sydney Town Hall cemetery—a race against time and the bulldozer; and at the old goldfield town of Hill End, where the site of the kilns for roasting the quartz provided a rich deposit of archaeological material, if not of gold.

This is a line of research which is new to most, if not all, of us. Miss Birmingham’s talk was well calculated to arouse our interest, and to set us wondering what results might be yielded by properly-directed and scientifically-conducted “digs” at early industrial sites in this area: for instance, the old Dapto smelting works, the kerosene works on American Creek, or Paddy Lahiff’s blast furnace. Perhaps Miss Birmingham could be persuaded to bring her students down this way!

PERSONAL:

The Society congratulates Ald. Frank Arkell (Member) on his election to the office of Lord Mayor of the City of Wollongong. Ald. Arkell, a member of an old Illawarra family, has long shown a keen interest in local history and in the work of this Society. We hope that his new responsibilities will still leave him time to put in an appearance occasionally at our meetings.

We also congratulate Ald. Harold Hanson (Member) on his re-election to the City Council, and hope that he too will be able to put in an appearance.

From the bulletin of the Wagga Historical Society we see that our Past President and Life Member Miss Phyllis de Jersey is now on their Council. Evidently Phyllis is an addict who can’t give the habit away!

“COLONIAL DAY” AT BROWNLOW HILL:

“Brownlow Hill,” near Camden, will be open for inspection, in aid of the Red Cross, on Saturday, 9th November, between 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

“Brownlow Hill,” the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Downes, dates from 1828. Built by Alexander Macleay, Colonial Secretary, it has been in the Downes family for over 100 years, and is classified by the National Trust. It has never before been opened to the public.

Admission $2.00 for adults; children under 12 admitted free to grounds (not admitted to house).

Advance tickets are available from Mrs. D. Berry, “The Pines,” Menangle, 2568.