On October 30 this year the Communist Party of Australia will have been in existence for 50 years.

So far the study of its history has merely scratched the surface, and apart from a few early pamphlets, some unpublished theses, and the pioneering work of Dr. Alastair Davidson, there is not a great deal of literature on the subject.

In this enlarged issue of ALR we publish a number of articles from a variety of contributors dealing with various aspects of CPA history.

There has been no attempt at systematic coverage, the opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, and, as Dr. Davidson points out in his article the problem of how to write history, especially the history of a Communist Party, is itself open to a variety of approaches.

As far as possible the articles have been arranged in the chronological order in which the events dealt with occurred. The first is the report of W. Earsman to the Party from the Communist International, here published in full for the first time.

We hope that our readers will be stimulated by the material appearing here into contributing further articles and comments on the subject for later issues.