The following details of Library staff mentioned in the memoirs of E La Touche Armstrong, Leigh Scott and Colin McCallum have been compiled by Shona Dewar and John Arnold from a variety of sources including the Victorian Public Service Lists, E La Touche Armstrong, The Book of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria: 1856–1906, Melbourne: The Trustees, 1906, and the Australian Dictionary of Biography (adb.anu.edu.au, cited here as ADB). Note that in some cases life dates have not been confirmed. Biographical details on many of the Trustees mentioned in these memoirs can also be found in ADB.

Armstrong, Edmund La Touche (1864–1946), MA, LLB; first appointed 1881; Chief Librarian, 1896–1925. See introduction to ‘Fifty years of the Public Library’, pp. 6–9 of this issue; John Arnold, ‘Library profile’, La Trobe Journal, no. 72, Spring 2003, pp. 80–4 (available online at www3.sl.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-72/t1-g-t9.html); and ADB.

Astley, Harold Selwyn (1909–2002), BA, LLB; first appointed 1926; Assistant, 1926; awarded free university place for public servants to study arts, 1932; later a solicitor. See obituary, Herald Sun, 12 Sep. 2002.

Battye, John Sykes (1871–1954), library Assistant, 1889–94. Later Chief Librarian at the Public Library of Western Australia. See ADB.

Baud, William Charles (1890–1945), BA; first appointed 1911; Assistant, 1912; Senior Assistant, 1926; Assistant Librarian, 1939; Chief Librarian, 1944–45. See appointment as Chief Librarian, The Age, 5 Dec. 1944, p. 2; obituary, The Age, 3 Oct. 1945, p. 6.

Boys, Robert Douglass (1866–1942), BA; first appointed 1883; Senior Assistant, 1900; Assistant Librarian, 1913; Chief Librarian, 1925–31; retired 1931. Author of First Years at Port Phillip: preceded by a summary of historical events from 1768, Melbourne: Robertson & Mullens, 1935.

Brazier, Amos William (1862–1929), MA; first appointed 1881; Assistant, 1889; Sub-Librarian, 1900; Assistant Librarian, 1913; retired 1922. Author of Marcus Clarke: his work and genius, Melbourne: Echo, 1902; Libraries and Librarianship, Melbourne: The Author, 1912; The Terms and the Grammar of Creation: a new method, Melbourne: The Author, 1919, and other works.

Bride, Thomas Francis (1849–1927), University of Melbourne, Doctor of Laws; University Assistant Librarian 1873–81. Appointed Chief Librarian of Melbourne Public Library in 1881. Set about improving the administration of the Library and appointing a more professional staff. He retired from the Library in 1895. See ADB.


Clarke, Marcus Andrew Hislop (1846–1881), Sub-Librarian, author and journalist. See entry in ADB.


Crawford, William (b. 1891); first appointed 1913; Attendant, Ararat Lunatic Asylum, 1913; military service, 1914–17; Attendant, PLV, 1921; Library Attendant, 1934; Senior Library Attendant, 1940; retired 1952.

Croll, Robert Henderson (1869–1947), Library Assistant, 1886–91. Later public servant and author. See entry in ADB.

Photographer unknown, Staff of the Melbourne Public Library, on the Library steps, c. 1896–98, Pictures Collection, H13084

Back row includes: E La Touche Armstrong, RD Boys, Harvey, Weatherall, Quirk, FS Bryant, CFH Shellew, WJ Vogler, O’Malley, MH Irving, [unnamed], Atkinson;
Front row includes: JM Kerr, RH Walcott, Barbey, Simpson, Matthen, DW Edwards, JE Shield, [unnamed], Dymond
Curtis, Robert (1829–94), Attendant 1860; later Library Assistant; Secretary to the Trustees and Accountant, 1873–86.

Dewar, Eric Neil (1894–1964), first appointed 1912; military service, 1916–19; Accountant and Assistant Secretary, 1936; Secretary and Accountant, PLV, National Gallery of Victoria and Museums, 1945; retired 1958. See Report of the Trustees, 1958, p. 3.

Dober, Thomas (1860–1931), first appointed 1885; Caretaker, 1906.

Dober, Thomas Leslie (1887–1954), first appointed 1907; Library Attendant, 1915; Senior Library Attendant, 1933; retired 1952.


Edwards, David William (b. 1863), first appointed 1888; Attendant, 1889; Library Attendant, 1900; Senior Library Attendant, 1926.

Esson, Thomas Louis Buvelot (1878–1943), Library Assistant, later a noted poet and dramatist. See entry in ADB.

Evans, John Albert (1887–1968), first appointed 1907; Income Tax Department, 1926; Accountant and Assistant Secretary to PLV, 1926; Secretary to Police Department, 1943.

Feely, John Andrew (1902–1965), BSc; first appointed 1921; Assistant, 1927; Senior Assistant, 1939; Assistant Chief Librarian, 1950; Chief Librarian, 1960–65. Compiler of the Argus Index: 1846–April 1859, 5 vols (typescript, SLV with volume covering 1846–54 published by the Library Council of Victoria in 1976).

Foxcroft, Albert Broadbent (1884–1938), MA; first appointed 1902; Assistant, 1908; Senior Assistant, 1922; Assistant Librarian, 1933; died while employed at PLV. See Shane Carmody, ‘A Life of Scholarship: AB Foxcroft at the Melbourne Public Library’, La Trobe Journal, no. 79, Autumn 2007, latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-79/t1-g-t8.html

Fraser, Isabella Agnes Mary (1881–1969), BA; first appointed 1908; Assistant, 1924; retired 1946. See Minutes of the Public Library Trustees, 8 Mar. 1946, p. 521.


Gagliardi, Pasquale Ferdinando (1843–1898), Doctor of Laws, University of Pisa. Emigrated to New Zealand in 1876 where his brother was living, then moved to Victoria in 1877. In 1881, began working in the Public Library part time. Appointed the first Principal Librarian 1883. He twice declined the appointment of Chief Librarian, 1895 and 1896. See ‘Biographical introduction’, Ferdinando Gagliardi, Australia: letters to the Gazette d’Italia (May 1876–August 1880), ed. by Piero Genovesi, letters translated by Colin A McCormick, Melbourne: Italian Australian Institute Research Centre, La Trobe University, 2016 (letters first published in Italy in 1881).

Garrett, Phillip Vergilius Lake (1905–1985), first appointed 1925; Assistant, 1925; Senior Librarian, 1950. Appointed South Melbourne

Hosken, Arthur (1865–1927), first appointed 1883; Assistant in 1889; Clerk, 1900–27. See obituary, Australasian, 9 Jul. 1927, p. 48.

Howard, John (b. 1863), MA; first appointed 1888; Junior Assistant, 1889; Assistant, 1900.

Howell, William (b. 1875); first appointed 1936; Binder, Government Printing Office, 1936.


Ingram, Ethel Frances (b. 1899), first appointed 1926; Shorthand Writer and Typist, 1926; Senior Shorthand Writer and Typist (Female), PLV, National Gallery of Victoria and Museums, 1949.

Kealy, Thomas Arthur (b. 1909), BA; first appointed 1926; Assistant, 1927; military service, 1942–45; Senior Librarian, 1950; Acting Chief Librarian, 1965–67.


Lodewyckx, Karel Axel (1910–1990), BA, FLAA; first appointed 1929; Assistant, 1929; military service, World War II; Australian War Memonal, 1944–46; PLV, 1946; resigned 1948; Deputy Librarian, University of Melbourne, 1948–; Librarian, University of Melbourne, 1956–73; author of The Funding of Wisdom: revelations of a library’s quarter century, Melbourne, Spectrum, 1982. See University of Melbourne Calendar, 1949, p. 484.

McCall, William (b. 1910), first appointed 1926; Clerk, Public Service Board, 1949.


Macfarlan, Graeme James Lennox (1921–1996), BA, ALAA; first appointed 1941; Assistant, 1941; military service, 1942–46; Technical Officer, FLSB, 1951; Deputy Librarian, University of Melbourne. Married MH Marsden, 1951. See Argus, 12 Jan. 1951, p. 7.

McGlade, Winnifreda Mary (b. 1909), first appointed 1927; Assistant, 1927; retired 1970. See photographs of her retirement function by LR Mills, 1970, H32950/1-13, SLV.


Medley, Diana Mary (b. 1922), US Information Library until at least 1947; first appointed 1950; Shorthand Writer and Typist, 1950.
Mills, Leone Rosa (b. 1925), first appointed 1956; Photographer. See LR Mills, ‘The life and times of a “working-class” girl in Australia, 1925–’, 2013, typescript, MS 15235, SLV.

Morphett, William Stanley (b. 1887), first appointed 1921; NGV Attendant, 1922; NGV Senior Attendant, 1938; Supervisor and Caretaker, 1941.


Oliphant, Ernest Henry Clark (1862–1936), Library Assistant (1884–88). Later a noted journalist and playwright. See entry in ADB.

Perry, Francis Jacob (1907–1965), BA; first appointed 1924; Assistant, 1925; City Librarian, South Melbourne, 1939–47; military service, World War II; inaugural Principal, Library

Phillipps, Arthur Edwin Henry (1860–1938), first appointed 1881; Clerk, Chief Secretary’s Office, 1885; Clerk, PLV, 1898; Accountant, 1907; retired 1926.

Pitt, Ernest Roland (1877–1957), Chief Librarian, 1931–43. See entry in ADB.


Russell, William Charles (b. 1885); first appointed 1926; Binder, Government Printing Office, 1926; Head Binder, GPO, 1941.

Ryan, Martin Benedict (1898–1981), BA; military service, 1917–19; first appointed 1924; Assistant, 1924; military service, World War II; Supervising Librarian, 1951; Assistant Chief Librarian, 1960; retired 1963.

Scott, Leigh (1888–1963), MA; first appointed 1906; Assistant, 1913; Acting Accountant, 1919–20; Librarian, University of Melbourne, 1926–53; see introduction, pp. 34–7 in this issue, to ‘Mainly from memory’.

Shannon, James Alipius (1869–1940), first appointed 1886; National Gallery of Victoria Attendant, 1889; Library Attendant, 1900;
Senior Library Attendant, 1926; retired c. 1934. See obituary, Argus, 20 Apr. 1940, p. 5.


**Stewart, Alexander**, Retired as Clerk/Accountant in 1884.

**Stewart, Gordon** (b. 1915), MC; first appointed 1934; Assistant, 1935; military service, World War II; Secretary, FLSB, 1947.

**Street, Bernard** (1881–1959), first appointed 1913; Attendant, 1915; Library Attendant, 1934; Senior Library Attendant, 1935.


**Vogler, William John** (1866–1919), MA; first appointed 1880; Senior Assistant (Senior Cataloguer), 1906–19. See Armstrong & Boys, The Book of the Public Library, p. 42.

**Weir, William Paul** (1897–1943), BCom; first appointed 1913; Clerk, Department of Labour, 1913; military service, 1916–19; Clerk, PLV, 1926–35; left PLV before 1937.

**Whitelaw, Ethel Burdett** (1910–1996), BA; first appointed 1926; Assistant, 1926. Married FJ Perry, 1937.

**Williams, Neville H**, temporary Junior Assistant, c. 1915–19.