NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 5th General Meeting of the Society for 1985 will be held in the

CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE

on

MONDAY 22nd JULY 1985

AGENDA

1. Apologies:
2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
   Minutes of the general meeting held in the Conservation Centre, on
   Monday 24th June 1985, having been circulated in this journal, to
   be confirmed.
3. Papers and Journals:
   Papers and journals received from other societies and organisations,
   since the last meeting, will be tabled at the meeting.
4. Business:
5. Speaker:
   Mr Christopher Nobbs, Arts Teacher with the SA Education
   Department, will address the Society. The subject of his
   address will be his research into :

   The legend of Murmura Darana.

6. Supper will be served.

R.Allison,
Hon. Secretary
c/o The Conservation Centre
120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
DREAMS OF THE ABORIGINAL.

ADDRESS BY DR. A. J. LEWIS.

A meeting of the Anthropological Society was held at the rooms of Dr. J. H. Pullen on Monday evening. The meeting was well attended, and Dr. Pullen occupied the chair. The subject of the evening's discussion was "Native Dreams," and an address on the study of aboriginal dreams was delivered by Dr. A. J. Lewis. He said the dreams of the aboriginal were of peculiar interest, for it was from a study of the dreams of the mind that much of the theory of psychical analysis was derived, and for looking into the psychic part of the human mind dreams had proved to be a most useful window. Any window into the unconscious mind of the aboriginal must be of extreme interest to the anthropologist, for it might also let in light upon his social system, his ceremonies and customs, myths, and beliefs.

What bread did with the people of Virgil, someone else must do with the aborigines of Australia. Symbolism story on the spot was no easy matter, with the best will in the world. It was much less effort to relate an actual dream, and when a native ran dry of dream information, it was probably for much the same reasons as a white man did. Those that he put forward were the same as any other. He said either that he could not remember any more, or that it was too trivial to repeat—exactly what patients at the hospital said, with very often the same half-embarrassed, half-depressive sigh.

Speaking of the work of attempting to obtain information at Ooldea, Dr. Lewis said no response could be obtained to questions as to the group-significance or conventional meaning attached to dreams. Propriety value did not seem to be one of the attributes of dreams among these, nor did they interpret by opposites, as many skilled dream-readers and dream interpreters among citizens. The following type dreams were specially asked for: flying, edges, climbing, toppling, meat, wife, using incompletely clothed, and inhibition dreams. Most of these dreams signified a field of inquiry we would not attempt to enter, nor would we venture into the larger and more troubling place where the most raged historically and the battle was won. It might be that all dreams had a sexual significance. Certainly it was not sitting in an armchair and reading, about it that would enable them to reach a conclusion, knew all about the Australian aboriginal. The work was at hand, and must be done quickly. It would certainly teach them much about the aboriginal. It might help them to know themselves better.

Speakers in the discussion which followed were Dr. Pullen and Messrs. Gurnett, Tindale, and Tindale. Exhibits were shown by Messrs. Pullen and Campbell, and Messrs. Tindale, Stephenson, and Mountford.

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ANTHROPOLOGY.

There was a good attendance at a meeting convened by Drs. R. T. Pullen and T. D. Campbell, and held in the Bank of New South Wales Chambers, North Terrace, on Monday evening. The unanimous decision was arrived at to form a study circle. Professor F. Wood-Jones spoke on several aspects of the study of anthropology, and laid stress on the fact that much knowledge concerning the Australian aborigines now in the possession of persons had come out of the study circle. It was surprising how much knowledge really was, and there was a great deal of it waiting for information to place it on record. One of the first aims of the "society" would be the conclusion of a complete catalogue of works on the Australian aborigines. Dr. R. Pullen was unanimously chosen as Chairman, and F. Wood-Jones and Dr. T. D. Campbell were elected to a committee to discuss preliminary business. Mr. N. H. Tindale was appointed temporary hon. secretary.