Back again

This is Pambu Series 3 no. 1 June 1988. We're attaching a list of Pambu issues and dates, From the first issue in 1968 to the special issue of March 1986, so that you can check your sets and we're planning, if there's sufficient demand, to microfilm our 1968-1986 master set as many issues are now out of print.

In this issue we look back on 20 years of PMB productions, with special reference to their application to Pacific Island national resources and socio-economic development. We give news of our former Executive Officer and look at the present, with our new staff, offices and productions and at the future with our planned productions. We provide news from correspondents, and a special french language supplement describes New Caledonia's archives and historical societies. We end with a price list for PMB microfilms mentioned in the text and in-print publications.

Bob Langdon "retires"

Bob Langdon, the Bureau's Executive Officer from its beginnings in 1968, "retired" in 1986 to devote his time to a revised edition of The Lost Caravel. This has now appeared, under the title of The Lost Caravel Re-Explored (Brolga Press, 1988) but Bob is by no means idle. You'll hear more of him later in this issue.

PMB's new staff, new offices

Bess Flores came from over 15 years as South Pacific Commission Librarian in Noumea, New Caledonia, to take up the position of Executive Officer of the restructured Bureau.

PMB secretarial staff also changed. Part-time secretary Mrs Stella Cheah resigned early in 1987 and Mrs Gillian Scott was appointed in June 1987, just in time to move the Bureau from its office in the Research School of Pacific Studies, Coombs Building, to new quarters in I Block near the Menzies Library.

A new brochure and a new mailing list

The revised Pacific Manuscripts Bureau brochure was distributed in December 1987 to recipients selected from a wide range of "Pacific
interest" mailing lists. Over 400 brochure recipients have asked to be placed on our mailing list and will, with those already on the PMB list, receive their issue of *Pambu*.

Our enlarged mailing list includes not only anthropologists, geographers, historians, librarians, linguists and political scientists who already know of the Bureau's work, but also development workers in agriculture, economics, fisheries, health and community affairs, diplomats, doctors, geologists and oceanographers. For these new readers we're providing a short survey of the Bureau's microfilms and their possible applications.

Pacific Island natural sciences and natural resources

Take for example marine sciences and marine resources. The PMB microfilms of American whaling ship logs and journals (PMB 200-412, PMB 768-908; 910-911; 914-915) indexed in *Where The Whalers Went* (Canberra: PMB, 1984) contain over 200 years of marine records: sightings and catches of whales, references to unusual concentrations of fish, detailed observations on weather conditions and ocean currents, and occasional descriptions of landfalls. The geographical area includes the Mariana Island, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand, the Juan Fernandez Islands and all points between. The time span covers 1756 to 1927, with the greatest concentration between 1830-1900.

A more modern, Japanese, report on Tongan fisheries (Kyokukyo Hoge Ltd., 1965) is contained in PMB Doc.32. The marine algae and coastal marine resources of Tonga and Fiji are described in W.H. Harvey's 1855 papers (PMB 29) while Captain William Driver's 1831 logbook and memoirs (PMB 39) give details of his beche-de-mer and tortoise shell trading activities in many Pacific Islands.

Captain William Hamilton describes the pearling industry and trade in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Samoa during the years 1882-1905 (PMB 15).

The Rev. George Turner, who travelled to the Ellice Group in May 1878, observed the large concentrations of pumice stone floating in the sea after a volcanic eruption in the Society Islands and remarked "The islands to which the pumice stone had drifted and the time of its arrival there will be interesting to those who study the question of ocean currents" (PMB 129). Volcanologists will also find records of volcanic activity on Ambryn Island, noted in the Pentecost Island Roman Catholic Church mission papers, filmed as PMB 52.

Land resources and their economic exploitation and development are also well represented.

J.A. Guillemin's 1837 listing of plants discovered in the Society Islands (PMB Doc.29) is supplemented by a large collection of later studies by various botanists in French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Vanuatu (PMB 969).

Gilbert Burnett's 1908 reports on, and catalogues of, Papuan timber trees and James Mann's 1911 description of the properties of six Papuan timbers are both contained in PMB Doc.307. Forestry in Tonga is the subject of J.W. Woods 1968 report to the Tongan Government (PMB Doc.32).
A great deal of attention has been given to coconut plantations and the copra trade. In 1961 and 1965 W.V.D. Pieris reported to the Tongan Government on methods of replanting coconuts and improving production (PMB Doc.32). Copra production on Santo is the main concern of the 1905 and 1911 diaries kept by Maurice Witt (PMB 1,8) and of W.T. Robinson's 1927-1960 papers (PMB 50). Work on a coconut plantation is very rarely described from the worker's point of view. H.I.N. Mouuga, who appears to have been the foreman of a team of French Polynesian and Niuean workers, kept a diary (PMB 14) of life on J.T. Arundel's plantation on Flint Island. Writing in a mixture of Tahitian, Mangarevan and English, Mouuga details daily weather conditions, prevailing winds, areas of land cleared, palms planted, coconuts harvested and cut. He also describes working conditions - being bitten by fire ants, suffering from earache and other illnesses without a doctor, having no more hard tack biscuits because the tins had all rusted - and relations with his team and with the Arundel family.

The Arundel family interests are described in J.T. Arundel's own diaries and business records (1870-1919). These deal with coconut plantations, the copra industry and the phosphate trade on various Pacific Islands including Ocean Island, Nauru and French Polynesia (PMB 480-495, 498).

T.H. Donaldson's 1914 Nauru diary also deals with phosphate and the activities of the Pacific Phosphate Company (PMB 967). R. Chave's 1871 "Adventures of a guano digger in the Eastern Pacific" provide an earlier account of guano diggings on Starbuck and Malden Islands (PMB 20).

The history of the Fiji sugar industry from 1869 to 1886 is traced by J.C. Potts (PMB 84) and J.H. James gives an account of an attempt at cotton production also in Fiji (PMB 125).

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company's records detail their 1920-29 oil explorations in Papua New Guinea (PMB Doc.302) and E.R. Stanley's Report on the Salient Geological Features and Natural Resources of the New Guinea Territory (1922) is available in PMB 606.

Some of the consultant reports to the Tongan Government have already been noted. Other reports on PMB Doc.32 deal with Tongan inter-island shipping, wharf and airport facilities, telephone services, meat supplies, budget, finance, development of a tourist trade, and other aspects of socio-economic development in Tonga.

Health and medical services are also represented in the Tonga consultancy reports on PMB Doc.32: B.F. Derrick's 1966 report on the Tonga hospital, and T.W.W. Wood on family planning in 1970. Leprosy and other health records of the Roman Catholic Mission in Fiji from 1908 to 1930 were microfilmed on PMB 448 and 463, with corresponding Wallis Island records, 1946-1961, on PMB 963.

The Church of Christ mission records of births at Duindui Hospital Aabo between 1946-1956 and 1962-1969 are contained on PMB 49. The Paton Memorial Hospital birth, morbidity and mortality data from 1947 to 1969 are on PMB 54.

In 1964-1965 the Canadian Government and the World Health Organization jointly mounted a mission to Easter Island "to study the relative roles
of environment and heredity". The reports of this study, including the detailed medical records and photographs of all Easter Islanders resident there at the time, are held on PMB 532 to PMB 536.

Information on education in the Cook Islands is provided by W. Coppell (PMB 65); in Vanuatu by the 1894-1967 records of the Tonga Training Institute (PMB 42); in Fiji by the All Saints School logbooks, 1924-39 and 1952-70 (PMB 430) and the Roman Catholic Mission records (PMB 432, 450, 454, 455); and in Solomon Islands through the letters and diaries of Lina Jones (PMB 594-599; 713-715).

Lina Jones is one of the many women whose writings have been collected. They appear chiefly as letter writers:

* Amelia Williams, Samoa, 1855-56, 1864, 1873-74 (PMB 24)
* Marist Sisters (European) Fiji, 1892-1930 (PMB 464)
* Petities Soeurs (Fijian Sisters) 1893-1930 (PMB 465)
* Lina Jones, Solomon Islands, 1926-1942 (PMB 713-715)
* Methodist Church NZ women missionaries, Solomon Islands 1920-1969 (PMB 945-947)
* Phebe Parkinson, PNG, 1898-1939 (PMB 19)

or as diarists:

* Mrs Rickard, PNG, 1883 (PMB 19)
* Eleanor Walker, PNG, 1892-1893 (PMB 98)
* Helen Paton, Vanuatu, 1903-1905 (PMB 33)
* Jane Molen, Hawaii, 1876-1877 (PMB 527)
* Lina Jones, Solomon Islands, 1924-1942 (PMB 594-599)

The other women writers include scientist Kathleen Routledge (Easter Island 1911-1923; PMB 531); three biographers or autobiographers

* Frances Swaby (Elizabeth Colenso) PMB 560;
* Winifred McHugh (Rev. Small, Fiji) PMB 156;
* Sr. Margaret of the Cross (autobiography, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) PMB 145

four historians

* Arleah Tyler and Anna Po‐uha (L.D.S. Tongan Mission, 1955-1957) PMB 514
* Catherine Dengate (British Navel Vessels in the Pacific) PMB 516
* Liane Webster (German Colonial Melanesia) PMB 116
a playwright, Isobel Whippy (Pritchard, Fiji, PMB 419) and a compiler of legends and oral history, Ella Collins (New Britain and New Ireland, PMB 650).

Because of the sources of the material, most of the women diarists and letter writers are missionaries or the wives of missionaries, and their writings concentrate on daily mission life and church work in the late C19 to the early or mid C20, chiefly in Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. They were practical women, teachers and nurses, who observed, recorded and influenced health conditions, dress, food, nutrition and social behaviour patterns.

It would be interesting to compare these writings, mostly by Anglo-Saxon or European women, with the present day work of Pacific Island and other women active in Pacific Island community development. The Decade for Women gave a great impetus to women in development planning and their work will in turn become "history" - if the records are collected and preserved for future use.

The same may be said of Writings by Pacific Islanders in general. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau’s collection of microfilms contains very few of these - so we’re hoping to hear from you ...

NEW PRODUCTS

A Promise Fulfilled

Under the title "Volume of indexes to Pacific serials planned", PAMBU Series 2 no.2 (2nd Qtr. 1980) pp 1-3 described proposed guides to the contents of

* Pacific items in *Annales Hydrographiques*, 1848-1968 (filmed as PMB Doc.220-257)

* Obituaries in the *Pacific Island Monthly*, August 1945-December 1979 (vols. 16-50) (filmed as PMB Doc.342-367)

* Pacific items in the *Annales des Sacres Coeurs*, 1894-1940 (filmed as PMB Doc.181-193)

* Pacific items in the *Annales de Notre Dame de Sacre-Coeur*, 1881-1975 (filmed as PMB Doc.337).

As soon as he had finished and launched his Lost Caravel Re-Explored, former Executive Officer Bob Langdon rejoined the Bureau on a short consultancy to complete preparations of these for publishing in one volume. They are now in press under the title *The PMB Book of Pacific Indexes*.

At the same time he put the finishing touches to the *PMB*’s Index to Quarterly Jottings from the New Hebrides (1893-1966), filmed as PMB Doc.34-40 and this too is now in press.
Both volumes will be deposited in PMB member libraries and will be available for sale from the Bureau at prices to be established.

Bob, and the Bureau secretary Gillian Scott, then undertook filming for PMB 999 (R. Langdon's 1976-1982 correspondence re The Lost Caravel) and PMB 1000 (PMB correspondence re documents on microfilms PMB 1-999).

These have already been reproduced, on 35mm, and distributed to PMB member libraries. They are available for sale now.

L'AVENIR CALEDONIEN: New Caledonian politics on 16mm microfiche

The Avenir caledonien, organ of the political party Union Caledonienne, began publication in 1954. Its 33 years of committed and often virulent French language commentaries on the Political and socio-economic life of New Caledonia are now available on microfiche.

No complete sets are known to exist but 943 of the 974 issues published between 11 December 1954 - 28 August 1987 have been microfiched. 9 other Union Caledonienne documents, mostly conference proceedings and tracts, were also microfiched. Missing issues are being tracked down for inclusion later this year.

In the meantime, sets of the microfiche have been distributed to member libraries and enquiries re sales are welcome.

CURRENT PROJECTS

40 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

If you needed information on, for example:

* traditional fishing methods in French Polynesia
* the status of women in New Caledonia
* non formal education in Papua New Guinea
* fungus exports from Tonga

would you think of the South Pacific Conference papers as a likely source of such information? Probably not, but the South Pacific Conference, Research Council, Session, Planning and Evaluation and other committee meeting papers cover all these topics and more. They record discussions on special themes or on projects and programmes which have been presented or evaluated:- development in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, health, the environment, education, and the social and economic problems and prospects of Pacific Island countries.

Biographical information on the Conference delegates and SPC staff - the people who shaped the South Pacific Conference and the South Pacific Commission - is recorded in Conference documents from 1947 to the late 1960s and again in 1976.
Also recorded are the changes in political status of Pacific Island countries and the resulting procedures whereby the South Pacific Conference evolved from a forum without decision-making powers to the governing body of the South Pacific Commission, from an organisation where all major decisions were made by an "inner circle" to an organisation where every member country, regardless of size or political status, has equal rights.

The student of regional history and politics will therefore find much of interest: the interplay between country and country, the great occasions such as the 1965 South Pacific Conference in Lae where Ratu Sir K.K.T. Mara demolished the first barrier to equal representation and participation; the poignant speech made by Oala Oala Rarua withdrawing his nomination to the Secretary-General's position in favour of D.F.D. Betham; the far-from-rambling thoughts of Albert Henry; the passionate debates on nuclear testing and waste dumping in the Pacific, and the statements of ordinary men and women, such as Kondon Akau-undo at the 1959 Conference in Rabaul:—

"I am from Kundiawa in the Chimbu ... Perhaps you will laugh at me because I speak pidgin and I cannot read or write, but in a short time I will die and so will the pidgin language die and my children will be able to speak English and so will understand all."

This statement, prophetic in essence if not in detail (for nearly thirty years later, pidgin is by no means dead) foreshadows the findings of the 1976 two-man review team of J. Cavalevu and R. Herr that the basic objective of the South Pacific Commission should be "to enable people to hear, see and do development for themselves". How people are to be enabled to "hear, see and do development for themselves" is a fundamental theme of the South Pacific Conferences and their related meetings.

Another fundamental theme, and one which is often more obvious, is the design of an organisation which would meet the objectives:— its structure, functions, administration, staff, buildings, projects, programmes, budget, finances, resources in information and equipment. All of these are recorded, often in great detail, in Conference, Session and other meeting papers and many are referred to year after year: — the Canberra Agreement, and its many subsequent modifications; agreements on diplomatic privileges and immunities or on Commission land and buildings; staff rules and regulations; project documents. They are the essential nuts and bolts of the structure.

Yet there is at present no published comprehensive index to these papers. The documents are housed in ex-water closets, exposed to dust, humidity and insect attack. The headquarters buildings themselves are at risk. An expert report in 1949 gave them 40 years of useful life, if well maintained. SPC oral traditions maintain that if the buildings are still standing, it's because of the coats of paint on the outside and the termites holding hands on the inside; and that, if a fire broke out in the building, within 20 minutes the apartment above would collapse into the flames.

In its fortieth anniversary year, therefore, the South Pacific Commission agreed that the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau should microfilm
South Pacific Conference and related records, beginning with 1947 and ending with 1987, and should compile comprehensive name, title, subject and country indexes to the microfilms. Microfilming was completed in January 1988 but some refilming has been found necessary. We hope that the complete set, on 16mm film, will be distributed to participating libraries by the end of 1988. The comprehensive indexes also are in preparation. (An earlier version of this paper was presented to the 27th South Pacific Conference, Noumea, 1987; we are grateful for the South Pacific Commission’s permission to use it.)

AUSTRALIAN VIEWS OF THE PACIFIC

Since late 1987, the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau has collected, from all Australian daily and weekly newspapers, radio, television and periodicals such as *Time* and *The Bulletin*, clippings of any articles, and notes of other media reports on all Pacific Islands. They range from job advertisements, letters to the editor, and financial reports to in-depth political analyses and are available for reference in the PMB office, Room 22 - I Block, ANU, GPO Box 4, CANBERRA ACT 2601 (tel: 062 492521).

A similar service is provided by the ANU Research School of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science. Their clipping collection on Fiji, PNG, Indonesia and the Pacific Islands dates back in some cases to 1952 and is oriented towards foreign affairs. The collections is available on 35mm microfiche, updated annually. Enquiries should go to Ms Gillian Evans, Department of Political Science, RSSS, ANU, GPO Box 4, CANBERRA ACT 2601 (tel: 062 492142).

FUTURE MICROFILMING PLANS

By the time this issue of *Pambu* appears, two new microfilming projects should be well in progress. The biggest will be Emeritus Professor R.S. Parker’s Papua New Guinea collection. This includes

: a 1000 page manuscript of Professor Parker’s book on aspects of the Papua New Guinea-Australian Administration to 1975

: correspondence and documents relating to Professor Parker’s work with the Administrative College from 1962 to 1969

: correspondence and documents relating to Professor Parker’s work with the Public Service Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in 1972

: unpublished and semi-published background materials associated with all the above but particularly reflecting Professor Parker’s interest in pre-independence local government and district administration.

Cook Islander Jon Jonassen, at present Director of Programmes of the South Pacific Commission, has contributed to the Bureau some of the results of his longstanding interest in Cook Islands music, dance and family history. He was a member of the famous Betela Dance Group which several times between 1968 and 1979 visited Tahiti, New Zealand,
Hong Kong, Manila and Japan. Jon Jonassen's collections of Japanese-English brochures and his series of photo-essays in the Cook Islands Photo Review are a record of the tours. A "first" for the Bureau will be the reproduction on 35mm colour microfilm, of the Cook Islands-Japan brochures. Included on black and white 35mm microfilm will be the photo-essays, and his 1986 history and genealogy of the Nicholas family as well as the words, in English, Cook Islands Maori and Tahitian, and music of all the songs which he has written and recorded over the years.

Future possibilities

Through the network developed by our brochures, mailing list and personal contacts we have identified many other possible microfilm projects, and are following them up.

These include in the fields of agriculture and botany: - papers of a family longtime resident in Fiji, and grey literature on the economically important plants of the Cook Islands, South Pacific area soils, the minor edible aroids and the vernacular names of New Caledonia's medicinal plants. Unpublished files and grey literature relating to fisheries in Micronesia have also been suggested to us.

Health in the Pacific Islands, with particular reference to filariasis is covered in a C19-1956 collection of strip and reel microfilm taken into PMB's care for cleaning and possible re-filming. Other health materials could include the late 1950s-early 1960s personal letters of a maternal and child nurse in Papua New Guinea, and a 1979 consultancy report and associated field papers on the health of women and children in Western Samoa.

In the socio-economic field, we have been offered grey literature relating to both the Papua New Guinea Youth Movement and Tok Pisin programmes. We have expressed interest in a cooperative programme to microfilm La France Australe, New Caledonia's longest running daily newspaper which appeared during the ninety-year span between 1889-1979. Private papers relating to the early and middle years of the South Pacific Commission may be made available to us.

A diary/scrapbook and several unpublished novels of historical interest may come to hand. The diary/scrapbook was compiled by a C19 English settler in the Loyalty Islands and the novels, by English and New Zealand women, concern C19-early C20 Fiji and Tonga respectively.

A very large new missionary records project under serious discussion concerns further microfilming under PMB auspices of the Pacific Section of the Archivio Padri Maristi in Rome. These would be a valuable complement to the Roman Catholic Church records already filmed by Father Theo Cook in the Oceania Marist Province Records Project.

Finally - though not exhaustively, as other leads are always coming in - the PMB has submitted to PARBICA a draft proposal for a survey of microfilm projects which

(a) have already been carried out within Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia
(b) are currently being carried out

(c) urgently need to be carried out. A questionnaire, designed to find out (i) which archives or libraries in Melanesia, Micronesia or Polynesia might be prepared to cooperate (ii) to what extent (iii) how (iv) and at what cost, has been distributed to PARBICA and Pacific Information Centre members.

A request for help

In establishing our future programme we need not only more offers of material but also your comments on the potential value to you of the material we have already described.

* Is any of this material likely to be of direct interest to you?
* Which?
* Have you any other material to offer or suggest?
* What subject areas would you like us to develop?
* What kinds of material (e.g. correspondence? private papers? business and church records? grey literature? rare and out of print published books and serials?) should we microfilm?

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau's activities and programmes will be examined and its future policies decided at the PMB Members' Review Meeting on 4 September 1988.

Your comments, suggestions, offers and opinions are always very valuable to us and will be especially valuable if they reach us before the Review.

So, if you can answer any of the above questions or if you'd like to have your views taken into account - visit us, ring us up, write to us, telex or Fax us by 4 September!

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Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
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CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telegrams & Cables NATUNIV Canberra
Telex AA62694 SOPAC
FAX No. (062) 571893
Telephone (062) 492521
PMB's sister/brother organizations

Since 1980 several Pacific Island-based or Pacific rim organizations have undertaken regional microfilming programmes. They include:

* Association These-Pac write in English or French to

Association These-Pac  
4 rue Archambault  
Anse Vata  
Noumea  
NEW CALEDONIA

for a sample copy of their Bulletin listing microfilmed theses on New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna.

* Melanesian Studies Resource Center - write to

Kathryn Creely  
M.S.R.C.  
c/- Central University Library C075K  
University of California, San Diego  
LA JOLLA CA 92093-0175 USA

for a subscription to their accession lists of unpublished material relating to Melanesia.

* Pacific Information Centre - write to

Judith Titoko  
Pacific Information Centre  
c/- USP Library  
Box 1168  
SUVA FIJI

for PIC publications list, brochures and information on their microfiche programme.

* South Pacific Commission Library - write to

Kath Berg  
Librarian  
SPC  
BP D5  
Noumea Cedex  
NEW CALEDONIA

for a catalogue of 1980-1985 SPC publications, including technical meeting working papers, on microfiche.

* The University of Hawaii Pacific Collection

Ms Karen Peacock, Curator, who succeeded our beloved Renee Heyum, can inform you about the Hamilton Library's microform collections and programme. Write to her
and programme. Write to her

c/- Pacific Collection
Hamilton Library
University of Hawaii
2550 The Mall
HONOLULU HAWAII 96822

She or

Mr Jones George
Administrator
Division of Archives and Historic Preservation
Federated States of Micronesia
Kolonia Pohmei
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS 96941

will also be able to tell you about the now completed programme
to microfilm, and distribute to former Trust Territory of the Pacific
Island Archives, the Trust Territory’s records.

In our next issue we hope for more news on Pacific regional and
on Pacific national programmes.

RADIO COCOTIER : CORRESPONDENTS’ REQUESTS

M Eric Vibart
93 Avenue de la Republique
92120 Montrouge
FRANCE

is writing a book about French author-sailor Alain Gerbault who, between
1923 and 1941, roamed French Polynesia. According to the brochure Alain
Gerbault: Visages, published by the Association Alain Gerbault, he "refused
to behave like a polite little hero and tried in vain to awaken French
opinion to the dangers confronting Polynesian islanders ... He tried
to revive local traditions, including songs and dances forbidden by
the Church and the Administration ... He introduced football as a counter-
attraction to alcohol and undertook important ethnological and linguistic
researches ... His last voyage was a desperate flight through the Pacific,
seeking to escape the menaces of war. Emotionally and physically worn
out, he visited the Samoas and Tonga and finally the island of Timor
in Indonesia [where] he died on 16 December 1941" [translated by Pambu
editor].

M Vibart’s own researches in Australian archives have led him to
discover that Alain Gerbault was closely watched by the Australian Naval
Intelligence Service at the beginning of the war. He hopes that someone,
perhaps in the Services, removed (and kept safe) Alain Gerbault’s
ethnological and linguistic papers from the yacht "Alain Gerbault" after
Gerbault’s death. M Vibart also has reason to believe that the yacht
itself is now somewhere in Australia.

If you have any information or suggestions for M Vibart, or if
you would like to know more about the Association Alain Gerbault, write
to him in English or French at the address above. He will be delighted
to hear from you.
This leads us naturally to our supplement for Francophones: an article by Bruno Corre on the Territorial Archives of New Caledonia and an article by Bernard Brou on the Societe des Etudes Historiques de la Nouvelle-Caledonie.

Non-francophones will be interested to know that Bruno Corre's article has been translated into English for the PARBICA Journal and that the New Caledonian Historical Society, like the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, is having its 20th anniversary this year.

**LES ARCHIVES EN NOUVELLE CALEDONIE**

"par Bruno Corre"

Le monde des archives en Nouvelle Calédonie connaît depuis quelques années un essor remarquable même s'il reste modeste et essentiellement tourné vers le domaine des archives publiques.

Deux services d'archives publiques ont officiellement vu le jour en 1987 : le Service Territorial des Archives d'une part, le Service des Archives de la Commune de Nouméa de l'autre. Ces deux organismes découvrent ou redécouvrent pour être plus précis, depuis peu, un patrimoine dont il faut bien reconnaître qu'il n'a pas toujours été entouré du plus grand soin jusqu'à ce jour. L'histoire des archives en Nouvelle Calédonie reste donc encore mal connue, faute de documentation bien entendu.

**ARCHIVES COLONIALES ET TERRITORIALES**

On sait que dès les premières heures de la colonie, la matière des archives n'est pas restée ignorée. Des textes officiel attestent de telles préoccupations. Pendant le XIXe siècle et au début du XXe siècle, les archives produites en Nouvelle-Calédonie n'étaient pas conservées dans la colonie mais expédiées en Métropole dans les différents services chargés de l'administration locale encore embryonnaire à Nouméa. A mesure que l'Administration s'organisait localement, les archives, nécessairement, pouvaient e devoir rester sans place. On comprend ainsi pourquoi ce sont les dépôts métropolitains d'archives qui conservent les documents se rapportant à cette période (Archives Nationales, Archives d'Outre-Mer, Services Historiques des Armées principalement).

On ne trouve en Nouvelle Calédonie qu'un pôle reflet de cette période. Quelques pièces, isolées le plus souvent, quelques "fonds" très modestes ont été conservés à Nouméa, mais plus nombreux en réalité sont ceux que le climat et les insectes ont définitivement rendu muets.

Au fur et à mesure que l'on avance dans le temps, et notamment lorsqu'on s'intéresse à la période de l'après-guerre, la documentation devient plus fournie, et ce jusqu'à la deuxième guerre mondiale environ, date à partir de laquelle les fonds sont très honorablement conservés.

Hélas, il faut avertir les éventuels chercheurs que les Archives territoriales sont un organisme trop jeune encore pour proposer des instruments de recherche dignes de ce nom et il faudra encore de longues années d'efforts pour venir à bout du retard accumulé en matière de classement.
LES ARCHIVES COMMUNALES

Contrairement à la pratique observée pour la colonie, les communes de la Nouvelle-Calédonie ont toujours conservé leurs archives. On trouve là une documentation très originale qui devrait offrir un regard nouveau et différent de celui que proposent les archives coloniales conservées aux Archives territoriales. Sur les trente-deux communes de Nouvelle-Calédonie, seule Nouméa possède, comme il a été dit plus haut, un véritable Service d'archives. Pour les autres c'est au Service Territorial des Archives que revient la tâche d'entreprendre les travaux d'inventaire qui permettront de rendre ces fonds accessibles.

LES AUTRES ARCHIVES

Si les archives publiques sont l'objet de préoccupations nouvelles, le domaine des archives privées reste pratiquement insondé, à l'exception des archives de l'Église Catholique dont un inventaire a été dressé en 1986, archives qui ont d'ailleurs été microfilmées. Mais les archives économiques elles ne sont pas bien connues. Il existe pourtant en Nouvelle-Calédonie des entreprises anciennes et importantes comme la Société le Nickel, dont les fonds mériteraient sans aucun doute qu'on s'y arrête.

ARCHIVES ET MICROFILMS EN NOUVELLE CALEDONIE

Puisqu'il nous est donné de décrire les archives de Nouvelle-Calédonie dans une revue principalement intéressée par la sauvegarde du patrimoine sous forme de microfilms, voyons quelles sont en la matière, les initiatives locales.

Le Service Territorial des Archives consacre ses moyens et son énergie à la reconnaissance des fonds. Leur état de classement ne permet généralement pas d'envisager le microfilmage qui paierait leur coût onéreux. Aussi n'est-ce pas le microfilm de sécurité mais le microfilm de complément qui nous intéresse. Moins onéreux, il est vrai qu'il ne permet pas d'atteindre les mêmes objectifs, il est pourtant un complément indispensable à nos propres fonds et peuvent donc permettre dans un premier temps le développement de la recherche historique sur la Nouvelle-Calédonie en Nouvelle-Calédonie.

De manière plus générale, on constate sur le Territoire de nombreuses initiatives de microfilmage d'archives, la plupart concernant de grosses "entreprises", et notamment l'Administration. Le plus souvent il est fait appel à une société privée spécialisée. Mais à vrai dire, toutes ces initiatives restent isolées et on déploie une trop grande dispersion des énergies consacrées, une qualité parfois insuffisante et l'absence de coordination : des difficultés bien naturelles lorsqu'il faut aborder de nouvelles techniques.

En guise de conclusion, faisons le pari que le développement des Archives en Nouvelle-Calédonie contribue au développement de la recherche historique et à la mise en œuvre d'une meilleure politique d'échange, de diffusion et de confrontation des informations dont nous disposons localement.
LA S.E.H. EN 1988
"par Bernard Brou"

La Société d'Études Historiques de la Nouvelle-Calédonie fêtera bientôt ses vingt ans.

C'est un groupement privé de gens qui ont en commun l'amour du passé calédonien, éprouvent le besoin de connaître davantage l'histoire du Pacifique et des navigations, et s'intéressent aux populations d'origine des îles de l'Océanie en général, de la Nouvelle-Calédonie en particulier.

Pour cela, elle est en relations constantes avec les Universités du Pacifique, celles de l'Australie et de la Nouvelle-Zélande, celles de la côte ouest des U.S.A. et d'Hawaï et également celles du Japon.

Elle est surtout en relation avec les bibliothèques et les musées de tous ces pays, avec lesquels elle entretient une dense correspondance et effectue des échanges.

Elle est enfin en relation étroite avec les Organismes comme le PAMBU de Canberra, qui centralise une très grande quantité d'informations et détient un réseau très dense de la connaissance par les moyens les plus modernes : les microfilms et les microfiches.

A un échelon beaucoup plus restreint, dans un pays beaucoup plus petit et peu peuplé, mais riche en histoire, la S.E.H.N.C. continue avec persévérance à recueillir les traditions orales mélanésiennes, les contes et mythes de la Nouvelle-Calédonie pré-européenne, aussi bien qu'elle note les contes des premiers européens (libres et bagnards), des premiers immigrants (bouronnais, vietnamiens, javanais, etc...).

Ainsi, elle contribue au stockage des données, elle évite les pertes de culture, elle emmagasine des textes et des notes. Elle recherche les moyens modernes qui permettraient de "conservar" réellement ces richesses, et de les mettre à la disposition des spécialistes, des étudiants, des amateurs et des chercheurs.

LES ARCHIVES ET STOCKS DE LA S.E.H.

Au bout de près de 20 ans de production continue, et compte-tenu de la nécessité de ne pas tomber en rupture de stock, la Société d'Études Historiques accumule des réserves suffisantes pour que chaque ouvrage puisse être garanti à celui qui désire s'en servir ou s'instruire.

1 - Les 39 publications et les plaquettes et brochures annexes comptent, pour chacune d'elles, un stock compris entre 10 et 1.000 unités. L'inventaire annuel en comptabilise plus de 15.000 volumes.
2 - Les bulletins trimestriels disposent, pour chaque numéro, d'une réserve comprise entre 100 et 200 unités : le dernier bilan annuel se monte à plus de 5,000 brochures.

3 - Les propres archives de la S.E.H. renferment aussi bien les dons d'anciens membres, ou de simples calédoniens, que des manuscrits de textes publiés ou inédits, ainsi que des collections de brochures et revues diverses, photos, objets, restes d'expositions, microfilms, etc...

LES RESPONSABLES DE LA S.E.H. EN 1988

A la suite de l'Assemblée Générale du 26 novembre 1987, les organes directeurs de la S.E.H. ont été désignés ainsi :

- Président : Bernard BROU
- Vice-Présidents : Marie-Thérèse FAURE et Armand WENEGUEI
- Trésorier : Daniel MIROUX - Adjoint : Eric BARBIE
- Secrétaire : Frédéric ANGLEVIEL - Adjoint : Maurice DROIN
- Membres : Mme Suzanne JORDA, MM. Henri DALY, Paul GRISCELLI, Jacques MORET, Jacques CHEVAL.

Les groupes de travail constitués le sont ainsi :

- Commission des sites : MM. BROU, DALY, ROLLAND, MILLOT, FUNEL.
- Commission de lecture : MM. WENEGUEI, GRISCELLI, ANGLEVIEL, BROU, BARBIE, Mme FAURE.
- Archiviste : M. J. MORET.
- Directeur du Bulletin : M. B. BROU.

Ecrire à/write to

La Société des Etudes Historiques
de la Nouvelle-Calédonie
BP 63
Nouméa
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**PMB Doc. 40**

**Doc. 50**
BULLETIN OFFICIEL DE LA NOUVELLE-CALEDONIE 1876-79
Doc.193 ANNALES DES SACRES-CŒURS, 1937-40 (Nos. 415-448)
Doc.198 ANNALES DES MISSIONS DE LA SOCIETE DE MARIE (retitled Annales des Missions de l’Océanie from 1886) - issues missing from PMB Doc.194 and 197 - vol.VI, No.1(1886); vol.XIII, No.2(1912) and vol. XIII, No.3(1913)
Doc.204 AI TUKUTUKU VAKALOTU, June-December 1935
Doc.207 (of the 4-reel set only reel 2 & 4 available) LETTRES AUX MISSIONAIRES, Marist newsletter, Nos 35-49 1931; Nos 63-68 1939-41
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Doc.336 PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY Aug. 1937 - July 1938, Vol. 8
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Doc.339 PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY Aug. 1940 - July 1941, Vol. 11
Doc.370 (of the 2-reel set only reel 2 available) COOK ISLANDS NEWS 7 Sep. - 30 Dec. 1960
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PMB Doc.392 "CONTACT: Fiji's Catholic Newspaper", 1974-1984
PMB Doc.370-382, 385 "COOK ISLAND NEWS", 1960-1972
PMB Doc.309 "PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEWSLETTER", 1967-1973
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**Series 2**

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