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EDITORIAL APOLOGY

This is the first issue of Pambu in over twelve months. The delay between issues has been such that I would not blame some readers for wondering if the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau still existed. You deserve both an explanation of the delay and an update on what is happening with the Bureau.

With the resignation of the previous Executive Officer, Gillian Scott, last September, the Bureau found itself at a crossroads in its history. Gillian's resignation brought to a head the issue of the precarious nature of the Bureau's funding. Clearly, the matter needed to be resolved before a permanent replacement could be appointed. The member libraries argued that the Bureau needed to increase its funding base, not only so that it could attract a suitably qualified Executive Officer but also to increase the amount of filming and surveying work targeting at risk manuscript material in the islands.

The ANU Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, in consultation with representatives of the member libraries, decided to reconstitute the Bureau's Management Committee. This involved the creation of an Interim Management Committee to oversee the work of the Bureau for twelve months, during which time strenuous efforts would be made to expand the Bureau's funding base. The
National Library of Australia offered the Committee my services on part time secondment for one year. This offer was accepted and I commenced working for the Bureau three days a week in January.

My instructions are to manage the day to day operations of the Bureau, fulfil existing microfilming commitments and investigate and pursue possible sources of additional funding for the Bureau. After familiarising myself with the workings of the Bureau and catching up with the backlog of work that had accumulated in the three months the position was vacant, my first job was to draft a four year advance Work Plan which could be used in support of any application for funds. Once this Work Plan, which took as a starting point the Bureau’s 1993 Strategic Plan, had been approved I commenced the task of fundraising. It was decided that the most likely means of securing increased funding was to find new member libraries to join the PMB consortium. At present the Bureau receives most of its funds through annual subscriptions paid by its six member libraries - The Australian National University Library, The National Library of Australia, The State Library of New South Wales, The National Library of New Zealand, The University of Hawaii Library and the University of California (San Diego) Library. We set as our aim the recruitment of at least two new member libraries. To this end formal invitations to join the Bureau were sent to almost fifty selected research libraries around the world. In tandem with this we decided to investigate the possibility of securing government aid funding to support the payment of PMB membership subscriptions by underfunded libraries in the Pacific islands.

The result of this membership drive has so far been disappointing. At the time of writing we have not managed to secure a single new member library. While we are continuing to pursue some possibilities, it is fair to say that the future of the Bureau seems no closer to resolution now than it was twelve months ago. I hope that I (or my permanent replacement) will have some more positive news in time for the next issue of Pambu.

Because of the part time nature of my employment and because my highest priority has been fundraising, some aspects of the Bureau's work, notably the production of Pambu, have been somewhat neglected. Nevertheless, as the following pages of this newsletter testify, work on the production of microfilms has been proceeding steadily. Concurrent with the issue of this newsletter, I am pleased to announce the release of 90 new reels of microfilm titles, with the expectation of another 80 reels being released before Christmas. In announcing this encouragingly high level of output, I must thank my predecessor, Gillian Scott, who initiated the negotiations for most of these filming projects.

I should also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr Niel Gunson, who for many years before his retirement last December was the Chairman of the Bureau's Management Committee. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau benefited enormously from the involvement of Dr Gunson, who devoted countless hours over many years to the Bureau's cause. His wide knowledge of source materials kept the Bureau supplied with a constant stream of filming suggestions and proposals. Dr Gunson's replacement as PMB Chairman is Dr Brij Lal, whose
knowledge, contacts, energy and support have been invaluable to me throughout the year.

I will be running the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau until the end of 1994. I work three days a week (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) and can be reached on 06/2492521 (phone), 06/2490198 (fax) and by mail through the ANU Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Canberra, ACT, 0200. Throughout this year the Pambu office has been located in the ANU Coombs Building (room 7004). I am told, however, that the office may be moved yet again, this time to Acton House. I will have more details on this in the next issue. For the time being my email address is pambu@coombs.anu.edu.au. If the office moves, however, I expect that this email address will change. In January I will return to my normal job, which is as a librarian in the Manuscripts Section of the National Library of Australia.

Adrian Cunningham
Acting Executive Officer

PACIFIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SUVA) MICROFILMING PROJECT

During August I spent three weeks in Suva where I microfilmed the manuscript holdings of the Pacific Theological College George Knight Library. With the kind cooperation of the PTC Librarian, Jeanette Little, I produced 16 reels of microfilm consisting of the papers of Rev. George Herbert Eastman, 1913-69 (11 reels); the papers of Setareki Tuilovoni, 1946-87 (3 reels); the papers of Hilda Steadman, 1913-75 (1 reel); and a collection of rare pamphlets relating to Methodism in Fiji, 1878-1970 (1 reel).

These microfilms are now available for purchase from the Bureau under the following PMB numbers:

PMB 1072 - Tuilovoni Papers
Setareki Tuilovoni (1916-1983) was arguably the most significant Fijian Methodist leader of the post-war era. Born on the island of Matuku in the Lau group, Tuilovoni trained as a teacher in Suva in the 1930s. After teaching at the Methodist Primary School on Bau, he decided to become a Methodist minister. From 1947 to 1950 he studied at Drew Theological Seminary in New Jersey where he gained a Bachelor of Divinity. On his return to Fiji he became Principal of the Bible School at Davuilevu and Director of the Young People's Department of the Methodist Church, a position he held until 1967. Between 1961 and 1963 he studied for a Master of Sacred Theology at the Union Theological Seminary in New York and in 1964 he was appointed first President of the newly created Fiji Methodist Conference. Upon the completion of his Presidential term in 1967 he became Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, a position he held until 1972 when he was reappointed as President of the Methodist Conference. In 1978 he moved to Sydney to serve as Associate State Secretary for the Board of Missions in the New South Wales Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia. He ended his career doing parish work in Wellington, New South Wales, and died in Sydney in 1983.
The Tuilovoni papers, which are written in a mixture of English and Fijian, consist of correspondence, sermons, roneoed and printed writings, notebooks, diaries, church music and hymns and other papers. In particular, the papers document Tuilovoni's support for church unity in the Pacific (including his 1962 Masters thesis on this topic), his interest in ecumenism and his work for the Methodist Young People's Department.

**PMB 1073 - Eastman Papers**

The eleven reels in this collection constitute a very exciting body of source material on Kiribati and the work of the London Missionary Society in the Pacific. English born George Herbert Eastman (1881-1974) and his wife Winifred ran the LMS Mission in Rarotonga from 1913 to 1918. During this time he learnt the Rarotongan language and compiled a Rarotongan-English Dictionary which was filmed by the PMB some years ago (PMB 478). Between 1918 and 1947 he ran the LMS Gilbert Islands Mission which was based at Rongorongo on the island of Beru. His mission district included the Ellice Islands, Nauru, Ocean Island (Banaba) and the Phoenix Islands. The Mission, which initially relied on Samoan missionaries, later trained its own I-Kiribati pastors and teachers at a Training Centre established at Rongorongo. In 1920 the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions handed over its mission in the northern Gilberts (Abaiang, etc) to the LMS. Under Eastman's guidance the LMS Mission flourished in the south, but struggled in the northern Gilberts in the face of competition from the French-influenced Catholic missionaries.

The Eastman papers include a very rich collection of correspondence, 1914-60; a manuscript entitled "Notes on Rarotongan Grammar", 1913; Gilbert Islands Mission Reports and Newsletters, 1918-47; administrative and financial papers of the Gilbert Islands Mission, 1918-50; papers on education, 1922-48; sermons in English and Gilbertese, 1917-47; miscellaneous research material on the Gilbert Islands; drafts of Eastman's English/Gilbertese vocabulary, 1922-48; and some 170 photographs taken in the Cook Islands and the Gilbert Islands.

The Eastman microfilms also include a collection of 48 books and pamphlets printed in Samoa and the Gilbert Islands, 1892-1978. Most of these books are in Gilbertese and were printed in the LMS Printing Press at Rongorongo. They include school primers on English, nature study and religion; hymn books, catechisms; first aid and hygiene books; translations of children's stories; books on child care; bible studies and books on theology; and Eastman's English/Gilbertese vocabulary. Many of these books were either written or translated by Eastman or his wife Winifred.

One curious episode which is documented in the papers concerns one of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau's founder associates, Harry Maude, who was the English District Officer on Beru during the 1930s. In 1930 the LMS pastor on the southern atoll of Onotoa fell into a dispute with the local Magistrate and Tax Collector, who happened to be a Catholic. The pastor proclaimed himself a prophet and set a date for the millennium. Protestants fell into trances, saw visions and communed in the cemetery at night. Two armies were formed, a women's army called The Sheep and a men's army called The Swords of
Gabriel. When the millennium failed to eventuate, the Protestants blamed the Catholics and the armies went on the attack, killing two Catholics. Eastman and Maude defused the situation, with Maude sentencing the murderers to two years' hard labour. Maude rejected the explanation of the guilty that they had acted as agents of God, ruling that, as God was not subject to the Court's jurisdiction, anyone claiming to be his agent had to be treated as personally responsible for their actions.

In 1942 the Eastmans were evacuated from Beru in the face of the Japanese military advance. When they returned in 1944 they were faced with the challenge of rebuilding the Mission. They were also to learn of the loss of one of their English Missionaries, Alfred Sadd, who had ignored the evacuation order and had been captured and executed by the Japanese. Having rebuilt the Mission, Eastman was awarded an OBE in 1946 and retired to England in 1949. He continued to keep in contact with the Beru Mission and his papers contain correspondence and other material documenting the Mission's work throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

One of Eastman's staff at the Gilbert Islands Mission was the talented teacher and recorder of Gilbertese customs, Emily May Pateman. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau has microfilmed some of Pateman's papers on Gilbertese traditions and these are available on PMB 1032. Readers wanting further information on Eastman's work are referred to Norman Goodall's *A History of the London Missionary Society, 1895-1945* (OUP, 1954) and John Garrett's "Ways across the ocean" in Bernard Thorogood (ed.), *Gales of Change: responding to a shifting missionary context: the story of the London Missionary Society, 1945-77* (Geneva, 1994), pp.188-190.

**PMB 1074 - Steadman Papers**

Hilda Steadman was the wife of Rev. W. Rex Steadman, who worked as a Methodist minister in Fiji between 1912 and 1940. During their time in Fiji the Steadmans devoted themselves to working with the Fijian Indian community at Navua, Suva, Lautoka and Rewa. The Steadman papers are of unusual interest, not only because they provide a woman's perspective on missionary work, but also because they document the process of Christianisation of a predominantly Hindu/Moslem community. As such, they provide a rare insight into the life of the Indo-Fijian community in the last years of the indenture period and in the immediate post-girmit decades. The papers include correspondence, newspaper clippings, manuscript and typescript drafts of Hilda's writings and over 200 (mostly identified) photographs.

**PMB Doc. 408 - Gribble Pamphlets**

This collection of 17 rare pamphlets by various authors, 1878-1970, was donated to the PTC Library by Rev. Cecil Gribble. They relate to the work of the Methodist Church in Fiji. 13 of the pamphlets were published between 1900 and 1909, many of these relating to the controversial issue of lay representation in the Fiji District Synod of the Methodist Conference of Australasia. A detailed inventory of the pamphlets, together with summary notes prepared by Dr John Garrett is available from the PMB.
Pacific Theological College Theses Collection
In addition to the above listed microfilms that I took in August, the Bureau has contracted a Suva micrographics agency to microfilm the PTC Library's collection of over 250 Bachelor of Divinity and Masters of Theology theses, 1968-93. This filming should produce approximately twenty reels of film and should become available by Christmas this year. Quite apart from their academic merit and research value, the PTC theses provide an interesting insight into the views, attitudes and preoccupations of trainee Pacific island teachers and ministers. More details of this filming project will be announced in the next issue of Pambu.

COOK ISLANDS MICROFILMING PROJECT

Readers may recall that last year Dr Bill Coppell spent some months in Rarotonga carrying out microfilming on the Bureau's behalf. As a result of this Project we now have available 60 reels of microfilm consisting of the following:

PMB 1064 (53 reels) - Archives of the Catholic Church Diocese of Rarotonga and Niue
This substantial collection represents an almost complete microfilm copy of the Catholic Diocesan Archives, 1891-1993. Since the 1970s the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau has made available OMPA (Oceania Marist Province Archives) series of microfilms which documents the work of the Catholic Church in the Western Pacific. In order to complement this series, the Bureau intends to film the records of the Catholic Church in the Eastern Pacific. The Cook Islands Diocesan filming project is the first step in this process. During the next two years the Bureau intends to undertake a similar project in Tahiti, with the possibility of supplementary filming at the Marist Archives in Rome.

PMB 1064 consists chiefly of correspondence, financial records and reports, documenting the full range of the Church's activities in the Cook Islands. The records are predominantly written in French, Dutch, English, Rarotongan and Latin. The Diocesan Archives has been described in a 120 page inventory and index compiled by Father Amerigo Cools. This inventory, together with a microfilm reel inventory for PMB 1064, is available from the Bureau.

Although the London Missionary Society and its successor Church has provided the major Christian presence in the Cook Islands, the Catholic presence has been a substantial one ever since sisters arrived from Tahiti in 1894 to establish schools. Between 1894 and World War II the Diocese was run by French speaking priests. Because the Vichy collaboration made the French persona non grata with the New Zealand authorities, Diocesan affairs were taken over by the Dutch Picoeus Fathers in the early 1940s. The Dutch influence remained paramount until the late 1960s, after which the Church was localised under the influence of the New Zealand Archdiocese. Hitherto, the work of the Catholic Church in the group has been all but ignored by historians. Bill Coppell has, however, informed me that the Diocese is about to publish an official history to coincide with the centenary of the arrival of the sisters from Tahiti. The
availability of this archive on microfilm should further enable researchers to fill a substantial gap in the historical literature.

In addition to the official Diocesan records, PMB 1064 includes parish registers of baptisms, marriages, deaths, confirmations and school enrolments, 1894-1993 and the diaries of Monseigneur Bernadine Castanie, 1921-39 (in French) and Bishop Ubald Lehman, 1939-49 (in Dutch).

PMB 1065-1070 (6 reels) - Manuscripts from the collection of the Cook Islands Library and Museum Society
These six reels contain an exciting variety of historical source material relating to the Cook Islands dating back to 1847. They include inter alia shipping notes and registers, 1949-70; the Laws of Aitutaki, 1847; the "Blue Laws" of Rarotonga, 1879; Acts of the Rarotonga Council, 1893 and 1895; folklore tales collected by William McBurney; diaries of trader Charles Banks, 1892-1904; a variety of vernacular manuscripts relating to the work of the London Missionary Society, 1895-1973; and the diaries of Robert Wigmore, a Titikaveka planter, 1918-26.

PMB 1071 - Cook Islands Collector of Customs Records of Arrivals and Departures, 1920-1993
Records shipping and aircraft movements into and out of the Cook Islands.

PMB 1056 - OTTO DEMPWOLFF PAPERS ON PACIFIC LINGUISTICS

Otto Dempwolff (1871-1938) was a highly regarded German linguist who researched and published extensively on the languages of Africa, South East Asia and Oceania. During the years 1909-14 Dempwolff conducted field research in German New Guinea. The three reels in PMB 1056 span the years 1897 to 1938 and are copies of the original papers which are held by the University of Hamburg. They consist chiefly of handwritten and typescript notes and drafts, mostly in German, on the languages of New Guinea and Tahiti, with some comparative material drawing on the languages of South East Asia (eg. Tagalog and Malay) and New Caledonia. The microfilms also include some correspondence. The New Guinea languages covered include Tuna (New Britain), Graged, Sia, Jabem, Adzera and Sepa. A detailed inventory of the papers is available. Researchers seeking further information on Dempwolff should consult Robert Blust, "Dempwolff's contributions to Austronesian linguistics", Afrika und Übersee, vol. 71, no. 2, 1988, pp. 167-76.

PMB 1058 - PAPERS OF TUPOU POSESI FANUA

Born of Tongan chiefly line in 1913, Tupou Posesi trained first as a nurse and, later, as a lawyer. In 1959 she was seconded by Queen Salote to work for the Tonga Traditions Committee. Until 1986 she travelled extensively in Tonga researching traditions. She has published two volumes of her collected Tongan legends, Po Fananga (1975) and Po Tatala (1982). Since 1982 she has had a variety of short stories and poems published in the journal Faikava.
The two reels of microfilm in PMB 1058 span the years 1959-92 and include papers relating to the Tonga Traditions Committee, 1959-78, including weekly reports, 1962-75 and interview transcripts. Also included is correspondence, 1960-92; papers on Tongan kinship, genealogies, history and culture; drafts and manuscripts of Tupou's traditional stories, verse texts and other writings; papers on pandanus weaving and tapa cloth; interview transcripts, drafts and other papers relating to Queen Salote; and miscellaneous Tongan pamphlets and other publications.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPUA NEW GUINEA MANUSCRIPTS

PMB 1055 - Secret Report by Lieutenant K.C. Douglas
This fascinating report by Douglas on his coastwatching activities, New Britain, and his experiences on evacuating to the New Guinea mainland was written in 1943. It describes conditions and events in New Britain immediately prior to the Japanese invasion on the island; the evacuation of European civilian and military personnel from the island in early 1942; the arrival of the Japanese troops; Japanese bombing activities; attitudes of the indigenous inhabitants to the invading forces and of the departing Europeans; his appointment to the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Regiment in July 1942; his evacuation to Sio on the New Guinea mainland; the situation on the Rai Coast, the Vitiaz Straits and around Madang in late 1942, his early 1943 traversal of the Finisterre Mountains via Matoko and Gusap in retreat from the advancing Japanese forces; and his arrival, in February 1943, at Bena from where he was flown to Port Moresby.

Also included on PMB 1055 is a short manuscript written by father James Noss entitled "Womanhood in Papua New Guinea" which includes descriptions and comments on the daily life of people in the Mount Hagen area during the 1970s.

PMB 1059 - James C. Ross Papers relating to Papua, 1941-45
Jim Ross was an ANGAU officer during World War II. Based initially at Samarai/Milne Bay, in July 1943 he was transferred to Kikori in the Purari District of Western Papua. In July 1944 he was again transferred, this time to Yule Island in the Gulf of Papua. The Ross Papers include diaries, 1942-45; letters and memoranda relating to Ross' ANGAU work, 1941-45; drafts of patrol reports, 1942-44; newspaper clippings; and a photograph album.

PMB 1060 - D.R. Goodger patrol reports and related correspondence, 1954-63
Goodger was an Australian District Officer in Papua New Guinea between 1953 and 1963. Initially he was based in the Central District of Papua and was later transferred to New Britain. These papers consist of patrol reports and related correspondence for Kairuku and Sogeri (Papua), 1954-5; Talasea (New Britain), 1955-59; and Gasmata/Kandrian (New Britain), 1961-63. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Peter Cahill of the University of Queensland who made the Ross and Goodger manuscripts available to the Bureau for filming and who acted as go-between for the Bureau in our dealing with Jim Ross and with the Goodger Family.
PMB 1061 - Len Odgers diary and transcript, 1942
In early 1942 Len Odgers was working as a clerk for the New Guinea Administration in Wewak. His handwritten diary initially describes events in Wewak and Angoram in early 1942 at the time of the approach of the Japanese military forces. Unwilling to risk a maritime evacuation, Odgers and seven other European men undertook an overland escape to the Papuan coast. The party, under the leadership of Jack Thurston, departed Timbunki on the Sepik River on 14 April, proceeding up the Sepik and May rivers by boat and canoe. On 8 May the party commenced walking and arrived in the Telefomin Valley on 25 May. In late July they arrived at the Fly River where they built canoes and floated down to the Papuan coast. On 24 September, almost six months after their departure from Angoram, they arrived at Daru. The diary, which includes detailed descriptions of the daily progress of the party and the difficulties and personality clashes it experienced, concludes in October 1942. Accompanying the original diary on the microfilm is a typescript transcript, complete with an introduction, prepared by Odgers in 1943.

PMB 1075 - WITTS FAMILY PAPERS

People sometimes ask me what is PMB 1? The very first manuscript filmed by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in 1968 is the 1905 diary of Maurice Witts, who was an Australian planter on Espiritu Santo. Witts' 1908 diary can also be found on PMB 8. I was delighted some months ago when I was approached by a descendant of Witts who informed me that he had possession of a variety of other family papers documenting the Witts' presence in the New Hebrides. These papers have now been microfilmed by the PMB. PMB 1075, in a sense, represents a continuation of the Bureau's very first filming project. The Witts Family Papers span the years 1883 to 1968, with the bulk of the papers dating from the period 1900 to 1913. Maurice Witts was born in Bombala, New South Wales in 1877. During 1899-1900 he worked for the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in Fiji. After service in the Boer War he moved to Espiritu Santo in 1904 where he established a coconut plantation at Hog Harbour. In that year he married Mabel Herring on Santo. In all, the Witts spent ten years on Santo, during which time Maurice was appointed as a police constable.

The Family papers include Mabel Witts' diary, 1909, which details daily life at Hog Harbour, including the birth of her daughter Betty in October. The papers also include family correspondence, business correspondence and other documents, photographs, an annotated map of Santo, printed material and official letters concerning Witt's work as a policeman. The papers give an interesting glimpse of New Hebrides plantation life, in particular the labour recruiting practices of the expatriate planters of the era.
PMB 1062-1063 - METHODIST CHURCH OVERSEAS MISSION RECORDS

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau has entered into an agreement with the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney to make available microfilm of selected volumes from its enormous holdings of Methodist Overseas Mission records. The first stage of this filming project, which should be completed in November, will make available microfilm of 76 volumes on 58 reels of film. Included in the project will be Executive Committee minutes, 1898-1939; Mission District Minutes, 1855-1943; and Mission Board Minutes, 1865-1934. This film should be available for distribution by the Bureau before Christmas.

PMB WORK PROGRAM, 1995-1997

In my editorial I mentioned a work program which maps out, in general terms, what the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau hopes to achieve (funds permitting) between now and 1997. To summarise this program, it is our intention that the Bureau engage in approximately six weeks field work each year. Each year we will concentrate on a particular island group, with a major three to four week field trip to that group being supplemented by necessary follow-up trips and smaller field visits to other parts of the Pacific. The purpose of the field trips will be to survey and locate vulnerable and significant manuscript material in both institutional and private custody; to liaise with local archivists, librarians, historians and administrators; to publicise the work of the Bureau; to negotiate agreements for the filming of material; and to make arrangements for filming to take place and/or to carry out microfilming using the Bureau’s portable microfilm camera.

At present the plan is to target French Polynesia in 1995, the Solomon Islands in 1996 and Vanuatu in 1997.

In addition to these field trips it is planned that the Bureau can engage in some ongoing filming projects. We hope that these will include some filming of British colonial records relating to the South Pacific which are held by the Public Record Office in London. Most of the pre-1940 records in this category have already been filmed by the now defunct Australian Joint Copying Project. We hope to be able to continue on where the AJCP left off. We are also investigating the possibility of filming the records of the Western Pacific High Commission Secretariat, 1928-., and the records of the New Hebrides British Service, the originals of which are all in England. The earlier WPHC records were filmed by the now defunct Western Pacific Archives which operated in Suva until the mid-1970s.

The Bureau hopes to be able to microfilm a variety of trade union records which are in the custody of the relevant unions across the islands. Mr Ewan Maidment of the ANU Noel Butlin Archives has been surveying the extent and existence of these records and has been keeping the Bureau informed of particular record groups for which microfilming would be a desirable preservation strategy. It is hoped that the Bureau will instigate negotiations for the filming of many of these records over the next three years or more.
Finally, various Australian-based filming projects will continue to be pursued. These may include, for example, the filming of material relating to the 1987 Fiji coups held in a variety of private hands and the filming of privately held material on the Bougainville crisis. With regard to the Fiji coups, we have identified two collections of rare documentary material in Australia and one privately held collection in Suva. In addition, Brij Lal has offered to make available his own substantial private collection of material related to the coups. Once microfilmed, this body of records should constitute an unrivalled research source on this controversial contemporary event. Watch this space!

Naturally, the Bureau intends to continue to respond flexibly to microfilming opportunities as and when they present themselves. We are always interested to receive filming suggestions from Pambu readers. In particular, if readers are aware of significant and vulnerable material in the islands we would like to hear about it. We keep a record of all our suggestions, many of which will be pursued or investigated on our field trips.

CLIVE MOORE PACIFIC HISTORY JOURNAL BIBLIOGRAPHY NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Many readers will be aware that two years ago the Bureau published Clive Moore's extensive bibliography of journal articles on Pacific history, 1892-1990. I am pleased to announce that this bibliography has been mounted as a database in the ANU cluster of Pacific interest databases (a cluster which also includes the full-text Pambu Complete Annotated Catalogue of Microfilms Database). These databases can be searched via the Internet. To gain access to the Moore database, enter "gopher cheops" after signing on to telnet. Select the COOMBSWAIS option from the menu and you will be given a second menu of databases. Scroll the selection of databases until you find the Pacific interest databases (of which there are currently seven). The Moore Bibliography database is called "ANU-Pacific-History". Single keyword searches on the database will pull up individual citations either by finding the keyword in the title of the article or in the list of subject terms which Moore has allocated to each citation. The database will be updated regularly with corrections and new references.

PRESERVATION MICROFILMING: DOES IT HAVE A FUTURE?

Perhaps the question I have been asked most frequently this year is: does microfilming have a future given the emergence of digital data and optical storage technologies? As it happens, I attended a very interesting conference on this topic in May. Organised by Australia's National Preservation Office, the conference brought together conservators, archivists, librarians and representatives of the micrographics industry. While the technology is developing rapidly, the short answer to the question is that, at present, microfilming most definitely does have a role to play, especially with regard to the copying and preservation of manuscript materials. While the technology
exists to capture in digital form images of manuscript material (the Mitchell Library, for example, is currently engaged in a project to publish its Joseph Banks Papers on CD-ROM), optical character recognition is not feasible with handwritten material. This means that to allow online access to the content of digitally stored images of manuscripts, frame by frame indexing or transcription is necessary. Needless to say, this is an expensive and labour intensive exercise that can only be carried out for a small minority of highly significant manuscripts.

Moreover, at present, because direct scanning of fragile manuscript material is not recommended for preservation reasons, it is still necessary to microfilm manuscripts before digital conversion can take place. Microform to digital conversion technology is developing rapidly and has become the preferred means of transferring images of manuscripts to digital form. So, an investment in microfilm should not prove to be a waste of money should digital storage formats become the preferred storage medium at some time in the future. Having copied a document to microfilm, half the digital conversion process is complete. Compared to the difficulties of capturing images of fragile and heterogeneous original documents, the process of microfilm to digital conversion is a relatively simple one.

From a preservation viewpoint microfilm is still the preferred storage medium. When properly stored, microfilm is a highly stable storage medium, with a lifespan estimated at many hundreds of years. By comparison, digital storage formats are highly unstable. Unless major improvements are made in the archival stability of digital formats, they will continue to be shunned as a preservation storage format. This, of course, is not to deny the very real advantages that digital formats offer by way of access. In terms of access and ease of use, digital formats are infinitely superior to microfilm.

In summary, therefore, the microfilming of manuscript material will continue amidst the spread of digital technology, at least for the time being. It is more cost effective to produce and more archivally stable. In any case, even when digitising occurs, microfilming is an integral part of the process of image capture and transfer.