Pacific Manuscripts Bureau Newsletter

Coombs Building
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200 Australia
Telephone: 612 6249 2521 Fax: 612 6249 0198 E-mail: pambu@coombs.anu.edu.au

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News from Canberra

Yale University has now joined the consortium of Pacific research libraries which guide the Bureau and fund its operations. The current Library members of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau are as follows:

Australia:
• The Mitchell Library, Sydney
• National Library of Australia, Canberra
• The Australian National University Library, Canberra

New Zealand:
• National Library of New Zealand, Wellington
• The University of Auckland Library

United States:
• Library of the University of California, San Diego
• Yale University Library, New Haven

Yale membership brings new interests and expertise to the Bureau and ensures a period of financial stability.

Over the last few years the Bureau has been holding regular international meetings of its Management Committee to enable representatives of the member libraries outside Australia to participate directly in its decision making processes. In 1998 the Management Committee met in Honiara, in association with the Pacific History Conference in June, and met again in Honolulu, in association with the
Center for Pacific Islands Studies’ Pacific Collections Conference, in November.

**PMB staffing.** There were some staffing changes in the Bureau in the last half of 1998. Monica Wehner resigned from the Bureau in July and was replaced, on a casual basis, by Mr Greg Rawlings, a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology, RSPAS. Greg has a wide knowledge of the Pacific Islands and a particular interest in Vanuatu where he has spent 2 years on field work. He has already dealt with many reference inquiries and has learnt to operate the microfilm camera.

Monica read a paper on Pacific archives, jointly prepared by her and Ewan Maidment, at the Pacific Representations Conference held at the University of Canberra in October last year.

Dr Peter Elder, the PMB’s Visitor, suspended his work for 4 months from May to carry out research at the Northern Territory Research Unit and the Queensland Museum. Peter returned to the Bureau in September and is continuing his arrangement and description of the Ward papers. He gave a paper comparing early land administration in Papua and the Northern Territory at the Pacific History Workshop at the ANU in December.

Ewan Maidment, the PMB’s Executive Officer, took long service leave at the end of last year (hence the delay in publishing this newsletter) but is now back.

**PMB Projects.** The Bureau has been making progress on new projects, as follows:

- Following an initial expression of concern about possible loss of control of confidential documents of the Samoan Land and Titles Court, Ulrike Hertel Akuino, the Samoan Museum/Archives Officer, has written to inform the Bureau that the Court Registrar is assured that release of the microfilm, under restricted access, is in order. Ms Akuino has also welcomed the Bureau’s proposal to work in Samoa in 1999 and has offered to help facilitate this work.
- In November discussions were held with Lady Allan in Auckland on the disposition of the papers of Sir Colin Allan who had a distinguished career in the Western Pacific Civil Service. He was a District Officer in Malaita at the time of the Marching Rule and conducted an important Commission on land matters in the Solomons in 1953-54. He became British Resident Commissioner in the New Hebrides and was Governor of the Solomon Islands and, later, the Seychelles at the time of their independence. Several members of Lady Allan’s family and Stephen Innes, Head of the NZ and Pacific Collection at the University of Auckland, were involved in the discussions. The Bureau also surveyed and made a preliminary list of Sir Colin’s papers.
- Mr Willie Toa, the Vanuatu National Archivist, has given permission for the Bureau to commence microfilming the New Hebrides British Service archives which are held in the UK with the Western Pacific Archives by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- The Bureau has accepted Keith Woodward’s offer to film his paper on the constitutional development in the Condominium, written in 1978, and is making arrangements to film his reminiscences when they are ready.
- Ms Rita Naviti, the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Vanuatu, has given in principle approval for the Bureau to microfilm decisions of the Vanuatu Supreme Court and its predecessors The Bureau has been working with Professor Don Paterson, Head of the USP Law School, to make arrangements for the identification and listing of these records.
- Mr Peter Morris of Traralgon in Victoria sent the Bureau published translations of the Scriptures into Pacific Islands languages which were originally held in the basement of Bible House in Melbourne. A set was transferred to the National Library of Australia where they complement earlier translations held in the Ferguson Collection. Another set is available in the PMB office if any organisation is interested in having it. Excess copies have been shipped to the Pacific Theological College Library in Suva. The Bureau has compiled a
chronological catalogue of the Scriptures which includes photocopies of historical notes on the translations by the Bible Society. Copies of the catalogue are available from the Bureau for the cost of copying and postage. The following article by Mr Peter Morris discusses these Scriptures in more detail.

**Salvaging Pacific Language Scriptures**

By Peter Morris

The first book printed for Vanuatu was never issued. Samoan teachers, who landed on Futuna in 1841, gathered information for a primer; but were killed before it could be distributed.

In the same year our family came to Melbourne from Ireland. The British and Foreign Bible Society had provided subsidised copies of Gaelic Scriptures for people like them. While we believe they were people of faith, our people were illiterate.

In 1840 an Auxiliary of the then British and Foreign Bible Society was formed in Melbourne, while it was still a village of four or five thousand people. Their aim was to provide Scripture in a language people could understand, at a price they can afford to pay. They raised money to support Scripture translation and distribution in the Pacific. Some smaller texts were published in the Pacific and Melbourne, though most were sent to London for checking and printing.

My introduction to the Futunese and the Bible Society was in worshipping at the Futuna-Seaside Presbyterian Church in Vila, in 1975. The young man who led the service read from an English Bible and made a spontaneous translation into Futunese. I congratulated him after the service and was told of Futunese Scriptures that were out of print.

Over the next five years, I helped in finding texts and raising money for the reprinting of the Futunese Scriptures. During that time the Futunese Elders offered to pray for a wife for me. The Bible Society supervised the reprinting, and my new wife and I arrived in Vila for our honeymoon on Independence Day 1980, as the Futunese Scriptures were being distributed. We have a continuing interest in the Bible Society and the people of Futuna.

The Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) has been working in Vanuatu for about twenty years. They train and facilitate local people in making Scripture translations in their own languages. I had asked Greg and Beth Ann Carlson, who work on Tanna, whether copies of Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century Tannese Scriptures would be helpful to them. They said they would love to have some; but they were as rare as hen's teeth.

Years before I had seen cartons of language Bibles in the basement of Bible House in Melbourne. They had been kept for display and as mementoes of the projects they had supported. I approached their State Director of the Bible Society and made a strong case for lending them to the SIL in Vanuatu. "I know they're very special; but wouldn't it be better to see them used rather than stored in cartons." Imagine my surprise when told that because of lack of space and staff to sort them, the language Bibles were to go into the waste paper. "Would it be all right if I took some Vanuatu texts?" Yes, I could take what ever I liked, as long as they were removed by the end of the week.

There was only time for one trip to Melbourne, so I spent a day sorting through the pile of books. Saving what I could, I filled our living room cartons. My family didn't actually become violent; but strongly suggested that I quickly find homes for the texts.

The SIL in Vanuatu was given first pick of the Vanuatu material as they are working in these languages. Other Vanuatu material was placed with the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in Vila. Aboriginal friends distributed some of the Aboriginal material, and the remainder will be sent to SIL in Darwin.

The remaining Pacific material (Mainly PNG and Solomon Islands) were divided between: the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, the National Library of Australia, the Pacific Theological College, Suva and the SIL Base Library, Kangaroo Ground, Victoria.
I’ve been touched by the importance of their language Bible to the people of Futuna. They were certainly important to the Bible translators of the past, who often risked their lives and spent years in language learning and translation. Some seem to be literal translations that sat uneasily with the local language, while most seem to have a good grasp of the colloquial language. By the norms of their day they were generally of a high standard, leaving us a record of Pacific languages and a witness of their faith.

Papuan Patrol Reports of Alwyn Watkins

By Peter Watkins

Alwyn Edward WATKINS (whose nickname was “Bud”) was born at Plattsburg near Newcastle in New South Wales on 8 July 1908 and died at Nerang on the Gold Coast in Queensland on 11 March 1988. The youngest of eight children of David Watkins MP, one of the longest serving members of the Parliaments of New South Wales and, after federation, Australia, Bud went to Papua to serve as a Patrol Officer under the Lieutenant Governorship of Sir Hubert Murray at the age of 21, in 1929. Initially, he was sent to work in and around the district and islands of the eastern end of the Territory. Later, he served for some time with Ronald Gordon Speedie and assisted in the opening up of the Goilala district, north west of Port Moresby. With Speedie, he made the first European ascent of Mount Yule in May of 1935.

On various furloughs to Australia, Bud attended Sydney University and studied law, tropical medicine and, under Professor A. P. Elkin, anthropology. On one furlough, he married Nancy Beryl Morgan in Newcastle on 11 August 1934 and his wife returned with him to the Territory. From late 1936 until late 1940, Bud was District Officer successively at Rigo, Abau Island, Samarai Island and Buna before returning to Port Moresby as a Magistrate. During several of his patrols as a District Officer, Bud also escorted a number of visiting anthropologists and medical figures who were in the Territory, studying its indigenous people and conditions. Among that number, he listed luminaries such as Dr. Margaret Mead and Dr. Frederick Clements.

As World War II closed in on Papua, Bud, along with most other men in Port Moresby, joined the Army, serving in his administrative post each morning and training as a soldier each afternoon. However, he took seriously ill and was shipped south to Australia early in 1942. After about eighteen months of recuperation, Bud served with the Department of External Territories in Canberra until October 1945, when he returned to Port Moresby and took up the post of senior District Magistrate until he retired through ill health in 1948.

Immediately post-war and because of his first hand knowledge of so much of the Territory, he was asked to assist the RAAF with its efforts to locate aircraft which had crashed or which had been shot down during the hostilities. He not only often flew as an observer in RAAF Catalinas, he also successfully identified many crash sites by relating contemporary eye witness reports to maps of the areas in which the downed planes were subsequently found. One such site was that of a fighter aircraft which he indicated as being located in swamps outside Buna and which contained the body of his own cousin. After leaving Papua, Bud returned to Newcastle where he lived until 1964. In that year, he moved to the Gold Coast in Queensland. He retired from his then current employment in 1974.

- Patrol Report No.12 of 1933/34: Report of patrol by A. E. Watkins to Normanby Island and Sanaroa Island, 14 Dec 1933-26 Jan 1934
- Patrol Report No.6 of 1934/35: Report of patrol by A E Watkins to the Mount Yule District, 13-28 Dec 1934. Cont. over...
Notes from recent PMB field trips

By Ewan Maidment

Field trip to PNG and the Solomon Islands, 9 June-6 July 1998

This trip was centred on a meeting of the PMB Management Committee which was held in conjunction with the Pacific History Association conference in Honiara, 22-26 June. Valuable contacts with many Pacific researchers were made at the PHA conference where I gave a paper.

PMB projects were pursued either side of the conference. A further round of filming of PNG National Fisheries Authority research archives was undertaken, in collaboration with Dr Patricia Kailola. This work was supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Microfilming of records of Levers Pacific Plantations Pty Ltd at Yandina in the Solomons was completed. A new microfilming project at the PNG Coffee Industry Corporation was initiated with the assistance of Scott MacWilliam whom I accompanied on a visit to Goroka.

Completed microfilms were delivered to the PNG Trade Union Congress and the Catholic Archdiocese of Honiara. I met Lady Kiki to discuss progress on the filming of the papers of Sir Albert Maori Kiki and investigated the storage conditions for audio-visual and paper archives at the Institute of PNG Studies. Institutional working relationships with the PNG National Archives, the UPNG Library and the Solomon Islands National Archives were maintained and developed. Mr Michael Gray, History Master at Muswellbrook High School, travelled with me for part of the trip, and attended the PHA Conference. During the trip 18 rolls of microfilm were exposed recording the following:

- PMB 1116 PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, Kanudi Research Station Library: PNG Collection - records of fisheries research, surveys and management, P361-P778. Reels 12-23. (Restricted.)
- PMB 1118 PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, Research Branch: miscellaneous archives, 1948-1978. Reels 4-6. (Restricted.)

National Fisheries Authority, Kanudi and Port Moresby The following records were added to PMB 1118:

Selected documents from Joseph Glucksman’s freshwater files, 1950-1981, including his monthly and annual reports, 1969-1974. This microfilming only skims the surface of the archive. It is most important that the value of the original records is recognised, that they are arranged and listed in good order and transferred to the PNG National Archives for permanent retention.

At the point of departure the NFA archives were mainly centralised at the Kanudi Research Station in two lockable rooms which are sometimes occupied by security personnel. The records are arranged in labelled series on shelving, in filing cabinets and in stacks on the floor. Although series have been identified, further arrangement and listing of the items in many of the series is required. The records needed to be properly boxed and box listed, retaining the series arrangement, then transported to the National Archives. In the meantime the archive is in continual serious peril of being vandalised by raskols.

**PNG Trade Union Congress, Korobosea and Boroko** The microfilms of the PNGTUC archives (PMB 1117) and documentation were handed over to the PNGTUC President, Reg McAlister, on 2 July. The caretaker at the TUC office, confirmed that the TUC archives had been transferred from the old TUC office to the new one. He showed me a cupboard stacked full of files in the Industrial Officer’s room which included files on affiliates. It looked like a culled collection of the PNG TUC archives and would need to be boxed and re-listed. Joe Naguwean said that the UPNG New Guinea Collection did not have the space to accept the TUC archives, though he emphasized the Library’s on-going interest in the TUC archives.

**PNG Maritime Workers Union, Port Moresby Wharves** At a brief meeting the General Secretary, Reg McAlister, confirmed that he approved of the PMB microfilming certain recent executive records which had been lent to the Bureau by Dr Michael Hess.

Lady Elizabeth Kiki, Boroko Lady Kiki has 5 bound volumes of press cuttings, embossed: “Collections of the writings of Major Donald Barrett E.D.”, which she brought into her Kwila Insurance Co office for inspection. The volumes had been presented to Lady Kiki by Major Barrett’s widow. Lady Kiki asked the Bureau to contact Major Barrett’s daughter, who may be living in Sydney, to ask her wishes on the disposition of the volumes. The press cuttings are mainly of articles by Major Barrett in the *South Pacific Post* and *Post Courier*, as follows:

- Vol.2 *South Pacific Post*, 29 Mar-15 Apr 1968
- Vol.3 *South Pacific Post*, 3 Jan-23 Dec 1969 (includes cuttings from *La France Australe*)

Lady Kiki commented on the importance of certain young women, Christine Stewart, Jenika Klein and others in the formation of the Pangu Pati.

**Institute of PNG Studies, Boroko** Professor Denoon had asked me to contact the Institute to investigate storage conditions for its holdings of films, video tapes and sound recordings. There I met Mr Chris Owens, a film maker with the Institute, and Ms Geam Warakai, who is the Institute’s Editor and is in charge of the Library.

Mr Owens said that the Institute initially had been constituted as an autonomous body, but later was made a division of the National Research Institute and then transferred to the National Cultural Commission where it regained its semi-autonomous status. However, the legislation for the transfer had not been enacted, so that the property of the Institute still vested in the NRI.

Storage facilities at the Institute are inadequate and very little support has been forthcoming from the Cultural Commission to address the problem. Materials at the Institute are held in two containers.

One container holds film and video recordings. It is adjacent to the Institute building, under cover of a very flat extension of the roof.
Water flows back under the iron extension on to the container and leaks into it. An air conditioner is attached to the container and is now functioning, although it had not been working for some time. A dehumidifier is also operating. Both machines are subject to daily power cuts of up to 6 hours. This causes fluctuations in the environmental conditions in the container. The containers are badly rusted in parts. mould is in the video tapes, up to half of which have been destroyed. Less damage has been done to the film, but Mr Owen says that the damage is likely to be extensive. Mr Owen showed me rolls of film in canisters which looked like they had been melted and gave off a powerful vinegary smell.

The other container holds sound recordings. It is protected from the weather by the main roof of the building. We did not enter this container to inspect its contents. Mr Owen said that the air conditioner for this container had not been operating for 12 months.

Video editing equipment, worth K750,000, donated by the Japanese government, is held in a leaky room.

The Library, which I surveyed with Geam Warakai, has no airconditioning, the roof leaks badly and the shelves are covered with plastic sheets to protect the materials. Some of the material held in the library includes:

- records of a folk tale project amounting to over 3,000 files well indexed and in good order;
- theses;
- collection of publications of the Institute;
- other collections of original material on paper;
- films produced by the PNG Information Service repatriated from Australia (more than 300 cartons, unlisted).

Further Institute paper materials are held in trust at the National Library of PNG.

A store room which I inspected with Ms Warakai holds 5 or 6 cartons of papers, plus two stacks of files on shelves, including:

- administrative files of John Kolia and Andrew Strathern, both previous Directors of the Institute;
- original Ts and Ms notes for issues of Oral History and related correspondence;
- literature competition Mss;
- copies of Literature Board minutes, 1985+.

Mr Owen said that the Institute needed about AU$45,000 for (i) a new container and fit out, and (ii) generators to maintain power during black outs. Ms Warakai also felt very despondent about the future of the Institute and would have to look elsewhere for productive employment if it continued to stagnate. Ms Warakai said that she would personally welcome assistance on archival matters and with the development of a data base catalogue of the Institute’s holdings.

Pacific History Association Conference, Honiara, 22-26 June Opening the conference, the Solomon's Prime Minister, Bart Ulufa'ulu, said that it was the first time that the Solomon Islands had hosted a gathering of academics and that it was appropriate on the 20th anniversary of independence to host a history conference.

Many papers referred to fresh documentary sources; some directly addressed documentation issues, such as Sam Kaima’s work on PNG archival institutions; others illustrated public uses of archives, particularly in land disputes. I gave a paper considering both a revision of Harry Maude’s “Documentary Basis for Pacific Studies” and the repatriation of the Western Pacific Archives.

Solomon Islands National Archives, Honiara Esther Karibongi, the National Archivist, reported that the Archives staff had been reduced to three, from an establishment of seven. Ms Karibongi had made a submission to cabinet pleading for an exemption from the current freeze on public service vacancies in order to fill some of the positions.

Russell Islands Plantations Estates Ltd, Yandina This was the second visit to Yandina to microfilm records of Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd. The completed PMB microfilms of the Levers archives were handed over to Mr Fekau, the Managing Director of RIPEL, who said that he would consider transferring them to the National Archives.
The archives repository was in the same state as it had been in March 1997. The repository mainly holds low level accounting records, legal files on land matters, some Managing Director’s board meeting files, estimates and other financial reports, planning files and files on industrial matters. Some of the higher level records, such as London correspondence, monthly and annual reports, handover reports are held in the Managing Director’s room, but the majority of the higher level records have been previously transferred to Unilever in the UK.

The records in the repository are in good physical condition, though dusty and feeding plenty of silver fish. However they are over crowded and in no particular order. The disorder has been partially rectified, but no thorough re-arrangement is possible without destroying low level material to create space. Mr Fekau is reluctant to do so in case it causes concern amongst the staff and employees.


Mr Fekau and his family, not only provided comfortable accommodation and warm hospitality, but also gave me a seat on a Company canoe for a wonderful return trip in the early morning through the Russell Islands and across Iron Bottom Sound to Tambea on Guadalcanal, after the ferry Yuminao changed its schedule and failed to call into Yandina.

Field Trip: Sydney, 10-13 August 1998

Papers of Joseph Meek, Lever Rexona Library, North Rocks. Joseph Meek had been Chairman of Lever Bros Australia Ltd and Managing Director of Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd, 1903-1924. His papers had been purchased by Lever Rexona, Sydney, from his estate. Part of the records had been transferred to the Unilever Archives in the UK and the remainder, which the PMB filmed, are now held in the Lever Rexona Library. Four rolls of microfilm were exposed:

PMB 1139 Meek, Joseph: papers relating to Lever’s Pacific Plantations Ltd and other companies, 1894-1928. (Available for access.)

The microfilm consists of the following material (a detailed reel list is available from the Bureau):

- Meek’s correspondence and related papers, 1904-1926
- Reports on Island Properties and Trading Stations, 1902-1926
- LPPL incorporation documents, 1902 and 1924
- Lever Bros Ltd, Sydney and London, financial records, 1923-1927
- LPPL Solomon Island Estate statistics and maps, 1906, 1914-1925
- Indentures, agreements and other legal documents, 1905-1924
- Publications including, Burns Philp & Co Ltd, Land Settlement in the New Hebrides, n.d. (16pp.)
- Photographs and illuminated addresses

Searching for the records of W. R. Carpenter & Co Ltd at Claude Neon, Rosebery This search was unsuccessful. After consulting with André Byron, a postgraduate student in the History Department at the University of NSW, who has been collaborating on this project, I contacted Claude Neon at Rosebery. Mr Todd Campbell, Claude Neon’s administration manager, who had previously told André and me that there may be WRC archives in the company’s possession, had moved on and was no longer traceable.

Glen McLachlan, Financial Controller for Claude Neon, and I surveyed the Company’s archives in the basement. The only historical records were minute books and some other
papers of Neon Lights Pty Ltd and successor companies from the 1930s. There were no records of any other companies. Mr McLachlan said that he had arranged a clean-out in recent times but did not think that any obviously historical records would have been discarded.

Mr Harish Munasingha, an accountant with Deveraux Holdings Pty Ltd, who had worked with WRC in Suva, put me on to Mr Ken Harrison at the Deveraux office in Botany who had been with WRC for at least 35 years and had been responsible, with Norman Fong, for the consolidation of the group following Deveraux's takeover of parts of WRC. Neither Mr Munasingha nor Mr Harrison knew the location of the WRC archives. Mr Harrison said that the Chief Executive of WRC's island business was located in Suva and that Branch Managers were responsible to him. (i.e. that Island records of WRC, at least since the War, may have been accumulated in Suva.) It was suggested that Morris Hedstrom in Suva may have inherited the WRC archives following the amalgamation of the two firms.

Mr Harrison also suggested that Mrs W. G. Johnson, the widow of Tui Johnson, who had retired to the Gold Coast, may be a good contact. Mr Harrison also noted that he has access to a video version of a film made by WRC on its airline service between PNG and Sydney. Mr Munasingha remembered that there were some historical records in a glass case in the Denis Carter's office at WRC in Suva. He also suggested that Mohammed Aktar, an accountant in Suva, may have some idea about the whereabouts of the WRC archives.

Survey of records of the late Doreen Langley, North Sydney Ms Judith Wilson, who has retired from the Anthropology Department in RSPAS, had introduced the Bureau to Mrs Beaumont who had custody of the Langley papers. Doreen Langley, 1920-1998, was a Science Graduate from the University of Melbourne, who carried out a nutrition survey in PNG in 1947, probably the first woman to undertake such work. She was subsequently sent to Gambia and later joined the South Pacific Health Service where she undertook nutrition surveys in Fiji, 1951-1953, Tonga, 1952, and Niue, 1953. Later Ms Langley became Principal of the Women's College at the University of Sydney.

Mrs Beaumont passed the papers over to the Bureau for microfilming. A preliminary listing of the papers is available.

Pacific Collections Conference, University of Hawaii, 5-7 Nov 1998

By Ewan Maidment

The conference, "Pacific Collections: developing libraries for the twenty first century", may have been the first conference of representatives of the major Pacific research libraries to be held since the UNESCO conference, "Source Materials Related to Research in the Pacific Area", held in Canberra in 1971.

Participants included representatives of the Nelson Memorial Library in Apia, the National University of Samoa, the USP Library, the library of the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education, the University of Papua New Guinea Library, the National Library of PNG, the National Library of Australia, the University of Auckland Library, Macmillan Brown Library at Canterbury University, the Library of the University of California at San Diego, the University of Oregan Library, the College of the Marshall Islands Library, the University of Guam Library, the Palau Community College Library, the Library of the University of Hawaii, the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum and a number of other institutions in Hawaii.

The conference was organised by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies to strengthen networking and partnerships between Pacific research libraries. Archives, including manuscript material and artificial collections, emerged a surprisingly strong theme in the conference proceedings, given that the government archival repositories were not represented.

Paula Mochida, speaking on behalf of the University of Hawaii Librarian, reported that there would be an extension to the Hamilton
Library to house additions to the Hawaiian and Pacific collections.

David Hanlon, the keynote speaker, attacked the "chill of the archives" and archival institutions as protectors of western historicism. He pointed to the dangers of historical expression based on cold detached research on archival materials, arguing that Pacific museums, archives and libraries are products of imperial practices, made possible by intrusion and displacement. He called on archivists to both open their doors to indigenous users and to broaden their holdings to include indigenous discourses.

Kanalu Terry Young urged keepers of records to share the vision of the native Hawaiian people, realise the value of records for Pacific Islanders and guide researchers to them.

Reports from the institutions represented at the conference described their collections, listed current projects and outlined funding and other constraints. Some significant current projects and institutional developments reported include:

- The University of PNG is continuing to facilitate an oral history program.
- The Solomon Island College of Higher Education now has a new library building.
- The National University of Samoa Library and the Samoan Teachers College Library merged (in 1995).
- The Nelson Memorial Library has constructed a database of items in its Pacific Collection.
- The Pacific Information Centre at the USP Library is coordinating ongoing projects, including, the South Pacific Bibliography, PIMRIS, Pacific Population Information Network, Pacific Regional Agricultural Bibliographical Project, Oceanic Sport Information Centre.
- The University of Guam Library has gathered a Micronesian Development Resource File, a Spanish collection and collated a union list of serials for the Micronesian area.
- The Naitahu Research Centre is to be established at the University of Canterbury, based on the Naitahu Archive (50m) in the Macmillan Brown Library. The Library now occupies a new building, employs a full time archivist and has recently received a transfer of Pacific Leprosy Foundation archives (20m).
- The University of Auckland Library has completed the Maori Land Court Indexing Project and NZ Literature File (website) and developed a South Pacific Official Publications Database.
- The Melanesian Research Centre at the UCSD has received the papers of Roger Keesing, mainly relating to Kwaio people in Malaita.
- The Bishop Museum, which is under heavy funding restrictions, merged its library and archives in May 1998. A native Hawaiian community group is making a strong claim not only for the return of bones held by the Museum, but also for photographs of the bones.
- The Hamilton Library in the University of Hawaii has received a donation of papers of Dr Sol Rosenberg and has arranged and described the Hawaiian sugar plantation archives. It is digitising some of the Trust Territory photographic collection and microfilming the Ray Papers (for the Micronesian Area Research Center), the Fiji Times, various Hawaiian and some Melanesian newspapers. The Library is producing the Hawaiian Pacific Journal Index and its quarterly acquisitions list is available on free subscription. Several Pacific Librarians had recently visited the Library, including Nancy Kwala of the Forum Fisheries Agency, and Sam Kaima and Florence Griffin from the UPNG.

The conference agreed to hold a further meeting, possibly in conjunction with the Fiji Library Association annual meeting in November 1999. Eric Nandom, from the National Library of PNG, noted that the conference had focused on university research libraries and indicated that UNESCO funding for the participation of Pacific Island national libraries would be available for future meetings. Robin Paynter of the University of Oregon volunteered to set up an email discussion list for reference matters and bibliographic exchange.
Obituary: Dr William Coppell

Readers, who were not already aware, will be saddened to hear of the death of Bill Coppell on 6 November.

Bill was a distinguished teacher, educational administrator, author, bibliographer and indexer. Having practiced as a teacher and headmaster in New Zealand after the War, Bill became heavily involved in education in the Pacific. In 1961-62 he was Vice Principal and Acting Principal at Yasinu Teachers' College in Fiji. From 1962 till 1967 he was Deputy Director, and then Acting Director, of Education in the Cook Islands. He lectured in Education at Macquarie University, 1969-1988, also serving during that period on the NSW Department of Education Aboriginal Studies Secondary Curriculum Committee.

Bill compiled many bibliographies of Pacific Islands theses and a general bibliography of the Kermadec Islands, Niue, Swains Island and Tokelau. His Cook Islands bibliography remains unpublished to date.

Bill was a Visitor at the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in 1993 during which time he and his wife, Merle, visited the Cook Islands to undertake the microfilming of the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Rarotonga and Niue and related papers.

Bill will be remembered fondly and his work will be used and respected for many years to come.
(Thanks to Lynn Farkas, Aust. Soc. of Indexers Newsletter, for part of the above text.)

Free Publication

The Division of Pacific & Asian History, RSPAS, ANU, has some excess copies of a 1986 publication and would like to donate them to any interested libraries.

The publication is:

The Southwest Pacific: an annotated guide to bibliographies, indexes and collections in Australian libraries, compiled and edited by


Contact:
Jude Shanahan
Pacific & Asian History
Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200 AUSTRALIA
Tel: 61 2 6249 3106 Fax: 61 2 6249 5525
Email: shanahan@coombs.anu.edu.au

PMB Management Committee, 1999

Chair: Professor Brij Lal, Div. of Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, ANU
Treasurer: Ms Peggy Daroessman, Business Manager, RSPAS, ANU
Pacific scholars: Professor Donald Denoon, Division of Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, ANU
Dr Darrell Tryon, Department of Linguistics, Division of Society and the Environment, RSPAS, ANU
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Ms Mechtil Guha, Australian National University Library
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Ms Kathy Creely, Melanesian Studies Research Centre, Central University Library, University of California
Mr Paul Stuehrenberg, Divinity Library, Yale University Library
Representative of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives:
Ms Kathryn Dan, National Archives of Australia
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