News from Canberra

In this issue of Pambu Stephen Innes reports that the Western Pacific Archives are to be transferred from London to the University of Auckland Library. The transfer is a significant event in the world of Pacific archives and one which adds to New Zealand's importance in Pacific islands affairs.

The late Dorothy Crozier (1918-2001), a Pacific historian of some repute, carried out the initial survey and listing of the Western Pacific Archives (WPA) in 1952 and was appointed the first Archivist at the Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission, 1954-1958. Her papers have been transferred to the Bureau for arrangement, description and selective microfilming. The Crozier Papers include administrative files and reports on the establishment of the WPA, early surveys of Tongan archives, and calendars and extensive transcripts of key WPA series. There are also copies of Ms Crozier's unpublished works, including her edition of Mariner's Tonga, and records of Rev. Shirley Baker, Premier of Tonga in the 1880s, which were given to Ms Crozier in the 1950s by his daughter, Beatrice Baker.

The Bureau has also been lent papers of a Special Committee on Provincial Government in the Solomon Islands, 1978, which Dr Jo Herlihy, an ANU PhD scholar at the time, had collected as consultant to the Committee. Given current moves towards regional autonomy in the Solomons, these records are topical and have been given priority for microfilming. They include resource studies on all Solomons Provinces, submissions, background papers, resolutions of the Committee, and its draft and final reports.

Since the last newsletter was issued in May, the Bureau has been working on preservation microfilming projects in PNG, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands and Yap. In Madang work was continued on papers of Fr John Tschauder in the Noser Archives at the Divine Word University where construction of a new University Library is well underway. The new building will include a new repository for the Noser Library and Archives and there are plans...
to extend the collecting programs of the Archives. In Port Moresby the Bureau continued microfilming the papers of W. C. Groves in the New Guinea Collection at the UPNG Library. The surviving papers of the Solomon Islands National Union of Workers were cleaned up, arranged, boxed and shelved in the SINUW Office in Honiara. Selected parts of the Union’s papers were microfilmed, including correspondence of Bartholomew Ulufa’alu, the Union’s first Secretary. Filming of Giff Johnson’s Marshall Islands Resource Materials was completed in the College of the Marshall Islands Library in Majuro. A good series of Yap State Legislature Journals, 1983-1997, were located and microfilmed at the Yap State Legislature in Colonia. Further fieldwork in Rarotonga and Auckland has been arranged for later this year.

The PMB’s web accessible database has been extended to include detailed reel lists of several hundred recent microfilm titles. The reel lists have been attached to the database as .pdf and .rtf files which are individually searchable. It is planned to retrospectively work through the remainder of the PMB titles, scanning the hardcopy reel lists (where they exist) and adding those documents to the database.

There have been 15 visitors recorded in the Bureau’s visitors’ book since June. Christiane Brosius from the Institute of Theatre Studies at Gutenberg University, Switzerland, Patrick Ferry of Sydney University and John Spurway, who has just completed his PhD at ANU, spent extensive periods, up to a week, working on records in the custody of the Bureau.

In response to a request from the Kunei Etekiera, the Kiribati National Archivist, Tony Wheeler of W & F Pascoe Pty Ltd, the microfilm studio in Sydney, recently found a portable developing tank which holds a full 130 feet roll of 35mm microfilm negative. It is an old but robust Soviet made UPB1. AusAid Kiribati Program Officer, Janet Garcia, who is visiting Tarawa in November, kindly agreed to deliver the tank to Mr Etekiera. Thanks to Mr Wheeler for obtaining the developing tank and to Craig Gallagher, the ex-Kiribati AusAid Officer, for organising the delivery.

Peter Murgatroyd, the USP Law Librarian in Port Vila, has asked for information on what types of microfilm reader-printer are suitable for Pacific islands distant from specialist service centres. The USP Law Library has run into a frustrating series of difficulties unsuccessfully trying to keep their reader-printer operating. Diamond Tauvevihi, the Niue National Librarian/Archivist, is looking for a simple light-ish 35mm microfilm reader (not reader-printer) for use in the Niue National Archives. Would any reader who can help with advice on reliable reader-printers or help locate a reader for donation to Niue please contact the Bureau?

One answer is to scan the microfilm images to electronic image files. The Bureau has sent Fr André Glantenet, Catholic Military Chaplain in New Caledonia and Wallis-Futuna, about 1,800 .jpg images on a CD scanned by Pascoes from 4 rolls of PMB microfilm of Fr Henquel’s genealogies of Wallisian and Futunian families (PMB 966, 972-4). Fr Glantenet will index the images. If the experiment is successful the project may be extended to include the microfilms made by the late Fr Theo Kok of the archives of the Diocese of Wallis and Futuna (OMPA 101-126) and the Diocese of Noumea (OMPA 179-360). However the cost of scanning is quite high.

One last piece of good news. The Noel Butlin Archives Centre, the Bureau’s sister institution at the Australian National University, which had been under attack since December 1997, has at last obtained stable recurrent funding from the University. It has been brought under the direction of the University Archivist and all existing Archivist positions have been confirmed. The battle is not over yet as there are still moves to convert its repository to a car park. However the NBAC, which holds Australian industrial archives, has been recognised by the University as a major national institution and its holdings, including major Pacific collections, such as archives of CSR Ltd and Burns Philp & Co Ltd, continue to be protected.

Ewan Maidment,
PMB Executive Officer

ARCHIVES OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION TRANSFER TO UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND LIBRARY

Stephen Innes

The longstanding issue of a permanent home for the archives of the Western Pacific High Commission will finally be solved with their transfer to the University of Auckland Library early next year. Currently held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at Milton Keynes near London, the archives have been a source of frustration for researchers since their removal from Suva, Fiji in 1978, as most interest in them resides in the Pacific area. Access to the archives is also quite difficult. Negotiations with the F&CO began two years ago when Stephen Innes, New Zealand and Pacific Librarian at the
University Library, learnt of the British Government's likely interest in moving the archives to Auckland, a relatively central location for both Pacific Island researchers and those in Australia and New Zealand. Since then there have been a variety of discussions, and a visit by Mrs Heather Yasamee and Mr Ken Clare of the F&CO in January this year helped to finalise the details.

The Western Pacific High Commission was established in 1877 to extend British authority over British subjects in the islands of the southwest Pacific, then outside any formal colonial control. Its jurisdiction originally included British New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), Tonga, Samoa, Pitcairn, and the various island groups now comprising Kiribati. British New Guinea was removed from the Commission's authority in 1888, and likewise Samoa by the end of the century. Fiji and Pitcairn were transferred from its jurisdiction in 1952, and the following year Commission headquarters were transferred from Suva, Fiji, to Honiara in the British Solomon Islands protectorate. As the largest island nations gained independence in the 1970s, the Commission became redundant, and was disbanded in 1974, with the High Commissioner becoming the governor of the Solomon Islands.

Intended initially to control the more unruly and illegal activities of European traders and settlers (especially the labour traffic), the Commission over time became a vehicle for British imperial expansion in the region generally, taking on general administrative functions in the New Hebrides, Gilberts and Solomons including health, taxation, communications, land policy, and public works.

The material transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1978 consists of the records of the Western Pacific High Commission, together with the territorial records of the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), Tonga and Pitcairn. Legally, the Commission's archives are British public records, whereas the local administrative records belong to the successor governments in the region. This now only applies to Tonga and Vanuatu, as the other territorial records were returned to the relevant governments in 1978, and both these countries have consented to the transfer. Notwithstanding its legal rights, the F&CO has also been careful to include all of the interested governments in its deliberations over the Commission's records proper. To date all but one of the successor island governments have given the transfer their blessing. However, given the lack of any suitable repository in the islands and the advantage of placing the archives in a central Pacific location, the F&CO plans to transfer the material to the University Library in 2002.

The transfer of materials with such importance to the development of British colonial policy in the Pacific, and to the modern development of Pacific peoples, will strengthen the University's research infrastructure for Pacific Island studies. It will also greatly facilitate access to these important materials which has been a bone of contention for many researchers over the years. Access to the archives will be provided in the Special Collections reading room of the General Library which is currently under construction as part of a major library refurbishment.

Stephen Innes
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University of Auckland Library
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YOUR MEMORIES, OUR HISTORY – PERSONAL RECORDS AT SCREENSOUND AUSTRALIA

Stephanie Boyle

ScreenSound Australia (formerly known as the National Film and Sound Archive) collects and preserves examples of Australia's audiovisual history. Many people understand this role as being closely linked to the film and broadcast industries. However, a very important part of our work is to acquire examples of personal records, more usually known as “home movies”.

ScreenSound aims to document the lifestyles, cultures and traditions of all Australians by collecting a representative sample of domestic and amateur film and video. We collect amateur films of events that are important, either to Australia's history, or, the people who shot the film. This can mean anything from Olympic runners to school races; parades, rallies, natural disasters, ceremonies and celebrations of all kinds.

A home movie is not a feature film, or a documentary; it's not a news story, and it's not "reality TV", but it can be as valuable to the Archive as any of these. Why? Because it is an unbiased snapshot of place, of the people involved and the era in which they live. Home movies can be significant documents for social, historical and even genealogical research, but
only if they are responsibly preserved against the pitfalls that can befall any valuable record - damage, deterioration, loss or plain forgetfulness.

Many people don't realise that ScreenSound Australia also collects contemporary material - we're not just interested in the "old" films. The Archive hopes to encourage people to donate their films and videos before they become "old". This is vital for three reasons:

- Audiovisual records, particularly in the case of video formats, are vulnerable to decay, but ScreenSound Australia can preserve these records for future generations.

- At the time of donation, donors can describe the footage, giving us important contextual information about dates, locations and names. Too often home movie collections make their way to us long after the cinematographer has died, and much essential information about the circumstances of their production has been lost.

- Only in the relatively recent past has it been possible for Australians of multicultural background to start telling their own stories – using video as their medium – as opposed to the largely Anglo-Celtic home movies, dating from the 1910s onwards, which currently form the bulk of ScreenSound Australia's home movie collections.

At present, the representation of Pacific peoples in ScreenSound Australia’s collection reside mainly in anthropological films and recordings. Do you belong to, or are you in contact with, Pacific or Micronesian based groups, societies or communities? Do you know any amateur film makers of Pacific island descent living in Australia? If so, please let them know that ScreenSound Australia would like to hear from them. Help us build a National Collection of Screen and Sound that represents the Pacific & Micronesian communities as strongly as any other.

Home movies/videos can be donated to the National Collection at ScreenSound Australia, or videos lent for copying, if donors do not wish to part with precious memories. We can also assist with postage charges. Queries should be directed to:

Stephanie Boyle, Home Movie & Video Project, ScreenSound Australia
McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601
(GPO Box 2002 Canberra 2601)
shelves but a poor selection of anything else'. However, there were interesting manuscripts to file and she had a relatively free hand pending the appointment of a 'master librarian'.

Ever observant of the quirky or bizarre, Jessie March seemed rather startled at the fashion amongst the American women for wearing wigs, virtually undetectable except where 'pure gold'. She was surprised too, to come across a missionary trio known as 'the aunties' who obliged their village congregation to change into spotless garb to attend service, returning the garments straight afterwards.

At the end of March 1972 Jessie March flew to Kieota, Bougainville, for a Billy Graham crusade conducted by a black Canadian evangelist, Ralph Bell. She noted the narrow Buka Straight through which the 'Maraina' had taken her home over thirty years before. She was impressed with the crusade, which attracted some four thousand people, and 'thrilled' to the singing of a Catholic school choir. The experience was marred however by the news that the SIL plane in which she had flown had crashed with the loss of seven lives. After the crusade Jessie March stayed with an American Mennonite missionary family at Tsisiko. When local flooding made the airstrips inaccessible she resorted to travelling by tractor and trailer, then copra boat, to reach Buka and fly out from there.

Back at Ukarumpa, where she was sure not to miss Alf Gard calling the Adelaide Cup over the radio, Jessie March changed jobs helping to produce the monthly newspaper before moving out to the village of Kosena, typically sited 'on a ridge flanked by steep gullies'. There, as companion to longtime Bible translator, Doreen Marks, who had started a morning school, Jessie assisted with teaching literacy skills. The two were accommodated in a comfortable house built largely of native materials.

While before the war Jessie March's views might have been considered advanced on the mission, in the 1970s she took a conservative line on the prospect of Papua New Guinea's independence; she was apprehensive that Japan would step in to fill a perceived vacuum on Australia's departure.

When her term expired in October 1972 Jessie March elected to return to South Australia and settle in her own home in Victor Harbor, later moving to Adelaide. She maintained her involvement in the Church and took singular pleasure in attending a world wide conference of Methodists in Jerusalem in 1974. She enjoyed a further twenty years in retirement before she died at the advanced age of ninety three in 1994.

Sources


March Papers. Mortlock Library of South Australian PRG 1140.

Information communicated by Heather Graham, niece of Jessie March and donor of the March papers.

CORRECTION

Introducing my article *Jessie March in Pre-War New Britain* (Pambu December 2000) I stated that Jessie March was born at "Point Pass on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula..." Point Pass is in fact in South Australia's mid north.

Roger Andre
THE SPD AVONDALE COLLEGE
HERITAGE ROOM

Rose-lee Power

The SPD (South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church) Avondale College Heritage Room collection, established in 1974 by Mr. Keith Clouten, a former head librarian, is a relatively small but significant collection of books, serials, documents, and audio-visual items. It is still administered by, and located within, the Avondale College Library in rural Cooranbong, NSW.

The collection was established with the aim of recording the origins and progress of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific Islands. It continues to owe its growth to material generously donated by individuals and institutions across the South Pacific region.

Items relating to the South Pacific region include: Films, photographs, videos, audio recordings, books, serials, and tracts about the work in those regions or for use by those living in specific areas. There are also personal and family documents reflecting individual work in the area, plus records of various church organizations, such as church record books, minutes, correspondence and other materials of interest. While by no means a complete reflection of the church's work in the area, it is a valuable collection of historical significance.

With the advent of a new journal titled 'The Journal of Pacific Adventist History' edited and published by David Hay, and increased interest in the past activities of the church and its members, usage has increased greatly in the last few years.

The Supervisor, along with student assistants, is currently undertaking the task of entering this richly diverse collection onto a new database, a daunting challenge to say the least. With over 700 document boxes alone to index, it will take considerable time to complete the task. In the process new discoveries of valuable items have been made, which will assist future researchers.

The SPD Avondale College Heritage Room collection can be found on the Avondale College campus, Freemans Drive, Cooranbong, NSW. It is accessible by appointment only. Individuals needing information are advised to contact us by letter, telephone, fax, or email before visiting.

Contact details:
Rose-lee Power, Supervisor

SPD Avondale College Heritage Room
PO Box 19, Cooranbong
NSW 2265 Australia
Phone - 02 4980 2133; Fax - 02 4980 2137
Email - rose.power@avondale.edu.au  Home page -http://www.avondale.edu.au/heritage.html

Rose-lee Power (left), Supervisor, SPD Avondale College Heritage Room and Beryl Doney (right), visitor to the college, surveying photographs from the Solomon Islands. One of the many resources available in the SPD Avondale College Heritage Room.

The South Sea Islands Museum

Indirectly related, and located within the same rural township, is the South Sea Islands Museum. This museum was established by the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Church, in November 1966. Since then over 1000 exhibits have been presented for display.

This collection consists mainly of artefacts and records showing in a dramatic way the progress of Christianity and the church in such places as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Fiji. The first Seventh-day Adventist Missionaries from Australia and New Zealand to the South Pacific islands, appointed to Raratonga, Cook Islands in August 1900, were Albert and Hester Piper.

The collection includes a 16-metre canoe, weapons of war, utensils used for making human sacrifices, island craft and artefacts, and much more dating from the 19th century. Researchers recognize it as the best, private permanent display of South Sea artefacts and crafts in the Southern Hemisphere, if not in the world. The museum is open to the public and popular with bus groups. For those who may be interested, next door is ‘Sunnyside’. This historic home of Ellen G White was built in 1895.
The South Sea Island Museum is located at 27 Avondale Road, Cooranbong, NSW. It is open to the public 2–4pm Saturdays - Wednesdays, or otherwise by special arrangement. The custodians, Mr & Mrs Keith Frauenfelder can be contacted on 02 4977 2501.

* * *

Databases online: PAMBU catalogues and finding-aids in the domain of the internet

Greg Rawlings

In June 2000 the Bureau launched a searchable database or online catalogue. It is located on the world wide web at:
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/pambu finals/searchLon g.php3
or through the PMB's homepage at:
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/pambu

This has been made possible with the support of RSPAS IT services and the outstanding assistance of their web support officer, Dr Peter Raftos.

The PMB's online catalogue provides references for all of the Bureau’s manuscript and printed document series titles in microfilm. What was previously only available on Complete annotated catalogue: PMB manuscript series microfilms PMB 1-1030 (1991) and Complete annotated catalogue: PMB printed document series microfilm Doc.1-400 and their short title versions (1997) are now online, with new titles added since these hardcopy catalogues were published.

Researchers can search both the manuscript and printed document series, either separately or together. Search fields include author, title, PMB number, notes and an all-records category which allows for comprehensive searching. Additionally all of the Bureau’s holdings, currently numbering 1608 titles for both manuscripts and documents, can be browsed all at once. Whether browsing records altogether or under specific fields, the results have been set to display standard bibliographical details including author, title, dates, the location of the original records, access provisions (open or restricted) and information notes. The Quick Search option provides a series of express features that are excellent for researchers already familiar with the PMB's microfilms and just want a summary of the Bureau’s titles.

For the last seven years, from PMB manuscript numbers 1080 through to 1167, the Bureau has been releasing reel lists to accompany its information sheets. In some cases microfilm contents have been included in information sheets, but for the majority of recent releases it has been necessary to provide more comprehensive calendars, or reel lists. The Bureau has now made virtually all of its reel lists, numbering over some 100 calendars, available on the PMB's online catalogue. These reel lists can be downloaded in .pdf using Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or in rich text format, .rtf, which is part of most PC packages. Adobe .pdf provides very good graphics resolution, printing at high quality. Free copies of Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 can be downloaded from http://www.adobe.com

The Bureau plans to scan and covert earlier reel lists, where produced, to Adobe .pdf and make these available on the web as part of our ongoing digital enhancement program. The online availability of PMB reel lists marks an important step in the Bureau's commitment to expanding its range of web-based finding-aids and research services.

Greg Rawlings
PMB Executive Assistant
November 2001

Rhys Richards, 
Honolulu: Centre of Trans-Pacific Trade. 
Shipping Arrivals and Departures 1820-1840, 
Published jointly by the Hawaiian Historical Society and the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. 
Copies are available from the Bureau for AU$30.00, plus postage.
RECENT PAMBU MICROFILM TITLES: MANUSCRIPTS & PRINTED DOCUMENT SERIES

| PMB 1178 | SEPIK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, Papua New Guinea: monthly and quarterly reports and related papers, 1939-1962. 1 reel. (Available for reference.) |
| PMB 1180 | HILDER, Captain Brett (1911-1981): a research tribute by the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea. 1 reel. (Available for reference.) |
| PMB 1181 | MELROSE, Robert (1890-1959): diary of escape from Salamaua, Territory of New Guinea, 22 Jan-19 Feb 1942. 1 reel. (Available for reference.) |
| PMB 1185 | JAGGAR, Rev. Thomas James: Fiji journals and letters (Wesleyan Mission in Fiji), 1838-1846. 1 reel. (Available for reference.) |

Unrestricted titles are available for purchase from the Bureau. Microfilm prices are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australia:</td>
<td>Silver Halide AU$75.00/ reel (includes GST), plus freight; Vesicular AU$70.00/reel (includes GST), plus freight</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA &amp; Canada (excluding Hawaii and US Pacific Territories)</td>
<td>Silver Halide US$70.00/reel, plus freight; Vesicular US$65.00/reel, plus freight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other overseas countries</td>
<td>Silver Halide AU$70.00/reel; Vesicular AU$65.00/reel; less 20% for independent Pacific island nations, plus freight.</td>
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