PAMBU NEWS

The past 12 months has been a sombre period for the Bureau as two of its stalwart supporters have died: Bob Langdon, the Bureau’s renowned founding Executive Officer, and Peter Grimshaw, former Business Manager of the Research School, long-term Treasurer of the Bureau and old-hand of the Pacific. My colleague, Jones George of the FSM Archives, also died earlier this year. They are all badly missed.

Reflecting on the passing of our colleagues, some of the Bureau’s activities during this period have focused on identification and preservation of Pacific Islands research records. Bob Langdon left a massive archive amounting to 136 archive boxes most of which have been transferred to the National Library of Australia.

Dorothy Crozier’s papers documenting her research work in Tonga and Fiji, as well as her administration of the Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific, have now been microfilmed by the Bureau. Crozier’s collection of Shirley and Beatrice Baker’s Tongan papers have also been arranged and microfilmed.

Sir Colin Allan’s papers on the Solomons and Vanuatu, largely also a research collection, have now been arranged and listed, and are being microfilmed at present.

The Bureau also worked on the arrangement, disposition and, in some cases, microfilming of the following Pacific research papers:

- Richard Thurnwald’s New Guinea and Solomons linguistic research materials,
- Don Laycock’s linguistic materials;
- Dorothy Shineberg’s papers;
- James Jupp’s papers on Vanuatu,
- Robert Norton’s papers and audio recordings on politics in Fiji in the 1960s-1970s;
- Rev. Neville Threlfall’s papers on the history of New Britain;
• Stan Wigley’s papers on tuberculosis in PNG;
• Documents collected by Jack Golson on the development of cultural policy in PNG;
• Ric Shand’s papers on rural economic development in PNG;
• Ian Hossack’s papers on education and training in PNG leading up to independence.

The Bureau has now finished microfilming an extensive series of correspondence files of the Pacific Phosphate Co Ltd and its predecessors, 1892-1919, on loan from the National Archives of Australia, amounting to 94 rolls of microfilm. (See report on p.10.)

Private papers of the family of J.T. Arundel, held by Mr Anthony Aris in London, were microfilmed for the Bureau earlier this year thanks to the help of Natalie Owen.

The archives of Greenpeace New Zealand were surveyed in Auckland and some rare Pacific scientific serials were located in the Mt Albert Research Library of Hort Research Ltd.

Further Pacific scientific serials were microfilmed at the CSIRO Black Mountain Library in Canberra.

Papers of the Indo-Fijian politician, Jai Ram Reddy, and two former PNG Patrol Officers, Gavin Carter and Norman Wilson, were transferred to the Bureau for microfilming.

George Clarke of Sydney kindly lent the Bureau his consultancy papers on the physical development of Funafuti, 1973-1993, for microfilming.

PMB microfilms of Grant McCall’s Rapanui press cuttings, 1972-2002, have been successfully digitised and are available on CD.

The PMB Management Committee held its first teleconference in Canberra in December 2003. An agreed increase in the annual subscription rate has improved the Bureau’s funding situation although sales of PMB microfilms, which supplement the Bureau’s operational costs, have been moderate. After some delay 95 rolls of microfilm made in 2003 have been finally despatched to the PMB members this month.

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VALE ROBERT ADRIAN LANGDON (1924-2003)

Bob Langdon died suddenly following a heart attack on 26 September, aged 79. He had an unusual combination of talents which he applied with boundless energy and enthusiasm as a traveller, adventurer, journalist, writer, archivist and scholar. He was a romantic spirit enthralled by literature, languages, strange lands and exotic people. Tall, with a straight back, sporting a trim moustache, neatly attired, Bob had the air of an amiable conquistador. One of his most significant quests was to find and preserve Pacific Islands archives and manuscripts.

Bob was brought up in Adelaide. He had Scottish/Cornish ancestry from his mother and his father was of German/Danish extraction. (His grandfather, Julius Meincke, changed his name by deed poll to Langdon in 1917 in response to anti-German sentiment in South Australia during World War I.) His first job in 1941 was in the South Australian Births, Marriages and Deaths Department, a Dickensian institution, dubbed by the staff as “Hatch, Match and Dispatch”, where the clerks used pen and ink to write out birth certificates. Bob recalled sitting on high wooden stools to consult musty leather-bound ledgers stored in a dungeon, the oldest dating back to 1842. The fluid wartime situation hastened Bob’s promotion from office junior to registrar.

Bob enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy at 18. He had no intention of returning to the registry but the record keeping was useful in his later archival pursuits. Already determined to become a writer, Bob read English classics and continued his voracious reading during his naval postings by frequenting the School of Arts Library in Cairns and the NSW Public Library in Sydney. He developed an interest in languages, learning to speak Spanish fluently, and became familiar with a number of romance languages.

When Bob was discharged from the Navy in 1946 he determined to travel to South America but could not find a berth. Focusing on writing instead, he moved between Sydney where he worked in the Public Library and Canberra where he was the sole reader at the National Library, and published his first article, on a 19th century escapade in Bolivian politics. He
then retreated to Bungendore to write and to work on a translation of a Spanish novel. However, he was driven out by the cold and gave up freelance journalism. Back in Sydney he was shanghaied as a non-union fireman on the Nymphe, a black-listed Panamanian registered freighter, bound for Liverpool. The ship took three months to reach Penang, via Lautoka, Labasa, Suva, Port Moresby and Singapore, where the crew struck and were paid-off. Sailing on to London as a paying passenger Bob eventually landed a job; this was as secretary to a tin-mine manager in Bolivia, where he spent three years, between 1948 and 1951. He travelled extensively in South America and Spain during 1951-52. His account of these adventures, in the manner of Peter Pinney’s *Dust on my Shoes*, was published in his autobiography, *Every Goose a Swan* (1995).

Working his way back in 1952 from Vancouver to Auckland as a watchman on the Union Steamship Company’s *Wairuna*, Bob experienced Tahiti’s magic spell. Back in Australia he worked as a reporter on *The Adelaide Advertiser*, including several sessions during 1954-55 in the Federal Parliamentary press gallery, and researched his history of Tahiti, *Island of Love*, first published in London in 1959, that had five editions. As a journalist with the *Pacific Islands Monthly* (*PIM*), 1962-67, he travelled extensively in the Islands on assignments producing investigative articles, many on obscure aspects of Pacific history using primary and secondary sources. Articles by Langdon and Stuart Inder, published in *PIM* and *New Guinea*, drew attention to the appalling history of the phosphate leases on Banaba (Ocean Island); these exposed sub-standard living conditions of Banabans exiled to Rabi Island after Banaba had been mined out. It was in the *PIM*, too, that Bob first published his account of the marooned Spanish sailors on Amanu in the Tuamotu Islands. This discovery became the basis of his studies of European castaways in the Pacific Islands, prior to Captain Cook, which appeared in his two books, *The Lost Caravel* (1975), and *The Lost Caravel Revisited* (1988).

Bob’s reputation as a Pacific specialist was well established when in 1968 he was appointed the foundation executive officer of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PMB) in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). The Research School was a unique undertaking, inaugurated after World War II to pioneer Pacific Islands research. Bob was recruited by Harry Maude who had been transferred to the Department of Pacific History from the South Pacific Commission where, as director of the social development section, he had carried out a preservation microfilming program in the late 1950s. The Department of Pacific History had already taken several archival initiatives. It had helped support Phyllis Mander-Jones’ survey of manuscripts in the United Kingdom relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Professor Jim Davidson, the Department’s head, had funded Dorothy Crozier’s initial survey of colonial administration archives in Suva and expedited her appointment as the first archivist of Fiji and the Western Pacific.

Maude regarded Bob Langdon as the only person in Australia who possessed wide knowledge of Pacific history and its documentary sources, as well as extensive contacts in the Islands and enough business sense to carry out the job. The Bureau is a joint copying project, modelled on the Australian Joint Copying Project, initially supported by the University of Hawaii Library, the Turnbull Library in Wellington, the National Library of Australia, the Mitchell Library, the State Library of Victoria, and the ANU. It tracks down and copies documentary sources in or relating to the Islands for the PMB member libraries. Although the general guideline for the Bureau’s activities was in Maude’s, “The Documentary Basis for Pacific Studies”, it was up to Bob to implement a program. He did so initially by drawing on materials he had accessed for his *PIM* articles. He also produced a newsletter, *Pambu*, which carried reports of his documentary discoveries, designed not only to inform sponsoring libraries but also to be reprinted by *PIM* and other publications in the hope of bringing in more manuscripts for copying. Bob purchased a portable microfilm camera and began a series of Island fieldtrips which continued throughout his time at the Bureau.

His first microfilming expedition, in April-May 1969, was to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) where he had established contacts during his visits for *PIM* in 1963 and 1966. On Tangoa Island, South Santo, he filmed records of the
Presbyterian Training Institute before it closed after 75 years of operation. He then flew in heavy weather to Aoba Island to visit Archdeacon Derek Rawcliffe of the Melanesian Mission at Lolowai. Bob’s account of the trip shows some of the hazards of this kind of archival work. The pilot of the New Hebrides Airways Aztec aircraft was Gary Ogg, an Australian of 22 or 23 years, renowned for flying in all weathers.

The rain was now coming down so heavily that I could hardly see out of the windows. Even so, we took off without difficulty and were soon flying over an ink-blue, white flecked sea. For 10 minutes, the going was quite bumpy. Then the sky cleared a little and the turbulence decreased until we sighted Devil’s Point, the westernmost tip of Aoba, and the sky again became an ominous black. Aoba, a huge, extinct volcano, was covered in dense vegetation from its summit to its iron-bound coast line. We flew along its southern side and then northeastwards as it changed direction. After spotting a hole in the ‘ceiling’, Ogg came down over the narrow grass strip of Longana, and as he turned to land, he said to everyone: ‘Are you ready?’ And down we came, seemingly flying crabwise.

A jeep was standing at the edge of the jungle beside the strip, and as we taxied towards it, I could see the Venerable Archdeacon Rawcliffe, a florid man in his late forties with a prominent, hawklike nose. He was standing in the rain in a beret, a raincoat and bare feet – not everyone’s image of the head of an Anglican diocese...

We drove on through a thick tangle of jungle, dodging coconuts and fallen trees, climbing and descending almost perpendicular slopes, and occasionally dragging down vines and leaves from low overhanging branches... Finally we reached the archdeacon’s house, a small four-room building overlooking a cove of evident volcanic origin. The rain was still dripping down. It continued so, or got much worse, during the whole of my stay at Lolowai.

They changed into dry clothes and the Archdeacon got out his archives. They were letters and papers about land matters dating back to the turn of the century, registers of baptisms, marriages and deaths, a brief history of Aoba by a former missionary and a great deal of linguistic material written by the archdeacon himself and his predecessors. Working into the night, Bob filmed these documents until the generator went off and resumed work in the morning until the camera jammed. He took the camera head for repair on a hair raising trip along the rim of a volcanic crater to a neighbour’s house.

Conditions were so oppressive when I resumed microfilming [at the archdeacon’s house] that I was soon awash again in my own perspiration. Then the rain began to fall in positive torrents accompanied by fearful flashes of lightning and rumbles of thunder which caused the lights to flicker erratically. The moths and mosquitoes suddenly became so numerous that canny timing was needed to avoid photographing an insect each time the lens shutter was released. Finally the wind-on mechanism jammed again and I decided that I had done enough microfilming at Lolowai and packed up. (From the unpublished section of Every Goose a Swan, Ch.60.)

The next morning the storm had abated a little when Bob was rowed out to the mission ship, Fauabu Twomey, for the voyage back to Santo, but the sea was still rough enough for a big wave to douse the camera case. The ship crossed the rough strait to Santo where Bob arrived in time to meet up with friends and survey the remains of an ancient stone wall, which he demonstrated to have been built by Spaniards, before moving on to the next stage of the microfilming program.

Bob Langdon made many similar expeditions for the Bureau. During his 17 years as PMB executive officer, the Bureau produced about 2,100 rolls of 35mm microfilm of Pacific Islands manuscripts, archives and rare printed material, together with associated documentation, including published and unpublished indexes. Following Bob’s retirement in 1984, the Bureau continued to build on the firm foundations he had established, eventually shifting attention to more contemporary Pacific Islands archives. While Bob continued to take a kindly, encouraging interest in the affairs of the Bureau, he gave his main attention to his personal research. As a visiting fellow in Pacific History at the ANU, a position which he retained until his death, he advocated his unorthodox views on the migration of the Pacific Islanders, supported by linguistic,
botanical and biological evidence. However, it is his contribution to the preservation of Pacific Islands archives which will be remembered by archivists. Langdon was the Indiana Jones of archivists.

Ewan Maidment
5 Nov 2003
(from Archives & Manuscripts, Nov 2003)

A NAVAL OFFICER IN THE PACIFIC: THE JOURNAL OF JAMES HAY

James Hay was 2nd lieutenant on HMS Emerald, one of the British warships of the Australian Station in 1880-82. At the beginning of the voyage he dutifully began keeping a log, which later became a detailed journal, with many delightful sketches. The manuscript, which will be a useful source on cross-cultural relations in the Pacific, has been bought by the Library from a London dealer. The most dramatic episode described in the journal was an expedition in December 1880 to the Solomon Islands to avenge the deaths some months previously of a British naval officer and four other men on Nogu Island. For a few weeks, the Emerald sailed between the islands while landing parties tried to locate the murderers and set fire to villages. In unfamiliar country, the British seamen moved slowly and they usually found the villages deserted. At the end of the expedition Hay reported that ‘the number of villages destroyed during this unpleasant cruise I suppose to be 33 at the lowest computation and upwards of 250 huts altogether’.

In the next twelve months the Emerald sailed over a large part of the western Pacific, visiting Norfolk Island, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa and the Gilbert, Ellice, Marshall and Caroline Islands. At each island group, Hay recorded meetings with chiefs and his impressions of the peoples, their villages and their customs. In Fiji, for instance, he noted that Suva was no more than one or two houses and a store and he could not understand why it, rather than Levuka, had been chosen as the capital. He showed a fair degree of sympathy for the indigenous peoples, often regretting the impact of smallpox and the influence of missionaries and traders. In his view Maori ‘troubles’ were an inevitable consequence of the annexation of their lands by British settlers.

The Australian passages in the journal are more cursory, as Melbourne or Hobart did not have the exotic interest of Funafuti or Ovalau. Hay was present at the opening of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne in 1880 and he noted that the ‘colonial forces except the Victorian Navy were not remarkable for much except small physique, bad marching and worse clothing’. In Sydney the Emerald was one of ten warships engaged in a sham fight, attacking Mrs Macquarie’s Chair. Once while on leave, Hay stayed on a station near Bungendore where he took part in a kangaroo hunt. The Southern Highlands and Tablelands were always a popular region for officers enjoying breaks from their naval duties.

The Library holds journals and letters of many British naval officers who visited Australia and the western Pacific, from Cook in 1770 until the closure of the Australian Station in 1913. The journal of James Hay is an important addition to this collection and is especially notable for his impressions, in the form of both writings and drawings, of the peoples of the western Pacific.

Graeme Powell
Manuscripts Librarian, NLA (from Gateways)
NEW PUBLICATION: TRAINING IN PRESERVATION MICROFILMING

In mid October 2003 the National Library of Australia launched its new training materials Training in Preservation Microfilming. The National Library of Australia, in collaboration with the State Library of South Australia and under the auspices of IFLA PAC, has produced a set of preservation microfilming training material consisting of 10 modules, 6 wall charts, a logbook, a learning guide, a glossary/index and a small kit of practical training aids. Training in Preservation Microfilming, is the result of an IFLA PAC survey on microfilming training needs in the South East Asia and Pacific region conducted in 2001 by Sarah Laws.

The National Library of Australia is distributing Training in Preservation Microfilming to National Libraries and Archives in the region, including those institutions and individuals who responded to the IFLA-PAC survey. The content of Training in Preservation Microfilming will continue to be available from the Library's website. However, the practical training aids are only available in limited quantities and the library hopes that you can make Training in Preservation Microfilming and the practical training aids available to those institutions and individuals in your region that may require it. A distribution list of institutions that hold the material will be available on the National Library's website.

Training in Preservation Microfilming was written by Heather Brown, Preservation Manager at the State Library of South Australia. It conforms to the accredited Australian preservation microfilming curriculum, and when delivered by an accredited agency, may be used for formal qualifications or to recognize current competencies. The resource could also be used as a guide to microfilming basics for those not wishing to undertake formal training.

Training in Preservation Microfilming was primarily developed for use in the Asia Pacific region and is in English. It is available in several formats, including PDF and CD. See the following URL for more details, http://www.nla.gov.au/preserve/trainmat.html

There are a limited number of additional printed copies available and priority will be given to those individuals and organizations with no or unreliable access to the internet. Please contact me on the address below with the details of your situation so that copies can be reserved for you.

Please contact me if you require further information about the training material.

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SPANIARDS, PORTUGUESE AND THE PACIFIC: SOURCES

Anita Katzinger

(Anita submitted her PhD thesis, “Túpac Inca Yupangqui’s Avichumbi and Ivichumbi: Spaniards, Portuguese and the Pacific”, at the Institute of Romance Languages, University of Vienna, earlier this year.)

Balboa’s crossing of the Cordillera de Darién in 1513 opened new horizons for Europe: the existence of another ocean. In 1512 Francisco Serrão stepped onto the Moluccas. A Portuguese, Serrão had never heard of the new sea.

One has to differentiate between two Iberian policies of expansion: a western and an eastern conception. Scholastically thinking Spaniards chose a brave way, they navigated along South American shores not known before in order to find a passage way to the actual spice islands. Real-geographically oriented Portuguese reached India through travels by Vasco da Gama; they reached Melaka through Diogo Lopes de Sequeira’s voyage; China through Jorge Alvares’ adventure; and the Pacific Ocean through Antonio de Abreu’s risk-taking.

Magellan, who knew South-East Asia, was convinced of Ternate being to the east of the Tordesillas line and therefore in Spanish
waters. Picking up the Columbian western conception, he left Sanlúcar de Barrameda with five ships and discovered the strait named after him. Seeing the new ocean so peacefully lying before him he baptized it “mar pacífico”. Getting involved in conflicts between two sultans of the newly discovered islands, he was killed at the Philippine island of Mactan. It was the Basque Elcano who completed the circumnavigation of the globe. Returning with two shiploads of cloves, he indirectly promoted the conflict between Spain and Portugal about the possession of the Moluccas. (They came to an agreement upon it in the Treaty of Zaragoza of 1529.) A nobleman named Pigafetta from the upper Italian town of Vicenza kept a diary of his participation in the journey which he undertook at his own expense.

Magellan’s standard expedition situation was to be repeated for almost 100 years. Between 1522 and 1609 the new ocean was crossed by the fleet of Gómez de Espinosa, the remaining ships of Garcia Jofre de Loaisa’s expedition, the armadas of Alvaro de Saavedra Cerón, Hernando de Grijalva, Ruy López de Villalobos, Miguel López de Legazpi, Alvaro de Mendaña and Pedro Fernández de Quirós. They opened up a new world of islands which we know today within confederations such as the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. Pilots, priests and admirals recorded their participation in the voyages. Most of their logs have come down to us. Conflicts seem to be a precondition of the encounters between Europeans and Pacific Islanders. Attempted colonisations (except of the Philippines) failed because of the Spanish inability to communicate. Scholastic conceptions destroyed the efforts of the best interpreters.

Ignoring the facts of the encounters and looking for new perspectives triggered off new travels. The Spaniards pressed ahead with European utopian conceptions of the Columbian legacy. Conceptions comprising, for example: Hiram’s biennial trip to the Solomonic gold fields; Cicero’s legendary terra australis; ancient Greek islands, such as Chryse and Argyre, which the resourceful Sarmiento de Gamboa catapulted into the Pacific Ocean; and a Peruvian tradition, which became manifest in the Manila fleet, of ancient Incas who used to go to gold and silver islands.

After Quirós’ death Spanish interest (Portuguese never went further than Japan) in exploratory voyages to legendary lands stopped. Subsequent European seafaring nations directly or indirectly benefited from the excellent nautical know-how gained by the Spaniards. Was the Pacific just a training area for Spanish navigators?

The primary sources used in my thesis are:

**Ancient Greek and Latin texts which describe the antipodes, Indian and paradisiacal conceptions:**
- Apollodorus: *Library*, II
- Cicero: *De re publica. Somnium Scipionis*.
- Euripides: *Hercules*
- Flavius Arrianus: *Indikê*
- Flavius Arrianus: *The Anabasis of Alexander*
- Flavius Josephus: *The Antiquities of the Jews*, VIII
- Hesiod: *The Theogony*
- Homer: *Iliad*, VIII
- Homer: *Odyssey*, V-XV, XXIV
- Ovidius: *Metamorphoses*, XIV
- Pindar: *Olympian Odes*
- Plato: *Critias*
- Plato: *Timaeus*
- Pliny: *Naturalis Historiae*, VI
- Plutarch: *Plutarchi Moralia*, V
- Pomponius Mela: *De Chorographia Libri Tres*
- Seneca: *Medea*

**Medieval conceptions:**
- Behaim, Martin: *Der Behaim-Globus zu Nürnberg*, Bonn-Berlin 1943 (Austrian National Library)
- Polo, Marco: *Il Milione*

**Spanish texts of the Conquista:**
• Cortés, Hernán: Cartas de Relación, México 1993 ("Sepan cuantos …") 7
• Laso de la Vega, García, el Inca: Comentarios reales de los Incas (Ed. A. Miro Quesada), I-2, Venezuela, Biblioteca Ayacucho 1976
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• Jacobs, Hubert (Ed.): Documenta Malucensia, I-n, Rome 1974 (Monumenta Missionum Societatis Iesu, Volumen 109) (National Library of Australia)

Texts of Magellan’s journey:
• Pigafetta, Antonio: Primer viaje en torno del Globo, Madrid 1963
• Albo, Francisco: Diario ó derrotero del viaje, in: Navarrete, Martin Fernandez de: Colección de los viajes y descubrimientos que hicieron por mar los españoles desde fines del siglo XV, con varios documentos inéditos concernientes a la historia marina castellana y los establecimientos españoles en Indias, Madrid 1825-1837, 4 (Austrian National Library)
• Gonzalo Gómez de Espinosa and the Trinidad: Declaraciones que dieron en Valladolid Gonzalo Gomez de Espinosa, Ginés de Mafra, and Leon Pancaldo, sobre los acontecimientos de la nao Trinidad en las Malucas, in: Navarrete, 4
• Antonio Brito: Carta de Antonio Brito al Rey de Portugal sobre algunos sucesos en la India y los del viaje de Magallanes, in: Navarrete, 4

Texts of Loaisa’s voyage:
• Testamento de Elcano, in: Prieto, Carlos: El Océano Pacifico, Madrid 1975 (Instituto Cervantes, Vienna)
• Relaciones de Andrés de Urdaneta in: Navarrete, 5
• Hernando de la Torre: Relacion de Hernando de la Torre de lo ocurrido en las Molucas contra los portugueses de Terrenate, Navarrete, 5
• Juan de Arizaga and his “Relacion…de la nao Santiago”, Navarrete, 5
• Francisco Dávila and his “Relacion…de la nao S. Gabriel”, Navarrete, 5

Texts of the journey of Alvaro de Saavedra and Cerón:
• Vicente de Nápoles: Relacion que presentó en Madrid el año 1534 […] in: Navarrete, 5
• Francisco Granado: Relacion del viaje que hizo Alvaro de Saavedra, in: Navarrete, 5

Hernando de Grijalva:
• Jacobs Th. Th. M., Hubert: A treatise on the Molucas. Probably the preliminary version of António de Galvão’s lost História das Molucas, Rome-St. Louis 1971

Ruy Lopez de Villalobos:
• Pedro de Alvarado: Carta del Adelantado Don Pedro de Alvarado, in: Navarrete, 2,

Miguel Lopez de Legazpi:
• Relaciones de Esteban Rodríguez, Rodrigo de Espinosa, Alfonso de Arellano and Juan de la Isla in: Navarrete, 2, 3

Alvaro de Mendaña:
• Landín Carrasco, Amancio: Vida y viajes de Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa, Madrid 1945
• Relaciones de Alvaro de Mendaña, Gómez Hernández Catoira, Hernán de Gallego, Isabel Barreto, Sarmiento de Gamboa, in: Kelly, Celsus: Australia Franciscana, Madrid 1963, 2-6 (The Australian National University Library)

Pedro Fernández de Quirós:
• Fernández de Quirós, Pedro: Historia del descubrimiento de las regiones Australes, Madrid 1876 (Austrian National Library)
• Fernández de Quirós, Pedro: Memoriales de las Indias Australes (Ed. Oscar Pinochet), Madrid 1990 (Instituto de Cervantes, Vienna)
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• Hilder, Brett: El viaje de Torres de Veracruz a Manila. Descubrimiento de la costa meridional de Nueva Guinea y del estrecho de Torres y
Pambu, June 2004

Documentos de la época de la travesía, Madrid 1990 (The Australian National University Library)

- Sanz, Carlos (Ed.): Descubrimiento de Australia. Memorial Nr. 8. Texto original (impreso en Madrid c. 1609) y presentado al Rey Felipe III por el Capitán Pedro Fernández de Quiroés, no year (State Library of New South Wales)
- Hargrave, Lawrence: Lope de Vega, Sydney 1909 (State Library of New South Wales)
- Prado y Tovar, Diego de: Relación sumaria. The discovery of Australia [computer file], Sydney 1998 (University of Sydney Library)
- Sanvitores, Diego Luis de: Memorial de […] Sanvitores: […] Rector de la Islas Marianas, Mexico 1669 (State Library of New South Wales)


The 10th biennial conference of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives was organised by Archives New Zealand with the assistance of the Turnbull Library and a troop of local archivists. It was attended by government archivists from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and most Pacific Islands nations, except the Solomon Islands, Nauru, East Timor, the Marshall Islands and Tokelau. A number of other NZ university libraries and local government archives participated, including the University of Auckland Library, the Macmillan Brown Library at Canterbury University and the Wellington Public Library. Other institutional participants were the Reserve Bank of Fiji, the University of Guam, the University of PNG, the National University of Samoa, the International Records Management Trust (UK), the International Council on Archives and the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.

The opening sessions, a round-up of reports from the participants and a panel on latest archival developments, were very informative.

- The Micronesia Area Research Center might be disbanded. Its manuscripts and Spanish documents collections are being transferred to the University of Guam Library.
- Acute accommodation problems were reported by a number of government archives, most urgently in Niue and Guam, but also in the FSM (Pohnpei), Samoa and Fiji. The UPNG Library is considering using containers to hold additional archives. Funding for new government archives repositories is being sought in Vanuatu and Fiji. In the Cook Islands some funding has been allocated toward completing the new government repository.
- Public service reforms have cut staff in the National Archives of Vanuatu to one full-time position. UPNG reported difficulty in finding trained staff. Negotiations with the USP for the establishment of a course on records management and archives administration appear to have bogged down over funding. However the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand has just established an attractive and accessible course.
- Land records and periodicals are being digitised in the Territorial Archives in French Polynesia. The challenge of digitisation is important at UPNG, where the University’s stated mission is to externalise its programs, and in Kiribati where the National Archives would like to digitise all land registers and Land Court minutes.
- There is a trend toward university libraries taking responsibility for the administration of government archives. The University of Auckland Library has taken over the Western Pacific Archives. The College of the Northern Marianas administers the Northern Marianas government archives and holds a set of the Trust Territory microfilms. The College of Micronesia in Pohnpei is the joint administrator of the FSM central government archives. Negotiations are taking place for Samoan government archives to be accommodated and administered by the National University of Samoa.
- The principles of records continuum, linked with accountability in record keeping, which have won favour in government archives in the UK, NZ and Australia, are being extended to records production throughout the public administrations of those countries through concerted publicity campaigns and/or
regulations. The World Bank, Public Sector Reform Division, and the Records Management Trust have produced a video on accountability and good record keeping in public administration, “Evidenced Based Government in the Electronic Age”. The video, which includes interviews with several Pacific archivists, was shown at the conference.

PARBICA General Meeting, 25 July. Among other resolutions, the general meeting urged all parties in the Solomon Islands to recognise the value of the National Archives of the Solomon Islands (NASI) and to take steps to safeguard its holdings. This resolution reflected general concern about the security of the NASI holdings and its staff. As custodian of other parts of the Western Pacific Archives, Stephen Innes, among others, expressed concern about the condition of the BSIP archives in Honiara. The Director-General of the National Archives of Australia asked me to report on the NASI situation. I compiled the report upon return to Canberra. (Copies are available from the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.)

Ewan Maidment (from Archives & Manuscripts, Nov 2003)

PACIFIC PHOSPHATE RECORDS ON MICROFILM

John T Arundel, son of a LMS official, was born in England in 1841. His early work for a London firm with interests in guano, or phosphate, took him into the Pacific. By 1892 Arundel had formed his own company, J.T. Arundel & Co, which had acquired concessions over a number of islands in what is now Kiribati – Kanton, Enderbury, Gardner, Hull, Flint and Manra (Sydney) – to plant coconuts, make copra and mine phosphate. The Pacific Islands Company Limited (PIC) was formed in May 1897 and, in 1898, took over plantations and trade stores of Henderson & McFarlane Ltd in the mid-Pacific. Lord Stanmore, formerly Sir Arthur Gordon, the first Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, was Chairman of the PIC. Arundel became its vice-chairman. PIC business interests stretched from Mexico to Fiji, with ready markets for copra and phosphate in New Zealand, Australia, the USA, Japan and the UK.

In 1900 Albert Ellis (1869-1951), a company employee, travelled to Banaba (Ocean Island) and confirmed that the island contained huge deposits of phosphate. Ellis secured mining rights from island leaders while the PIC was granted an imperial mining license, completed by British annexation of Banaba. The company secured exclusive mining rights for 999 years in return for an annual payment of £50 to the Banaban people. Within a few years the company was making up to £125,000 per annum. This provoked a scandal, and the license was modified to provide for a trust fund and compensation for environmental damage; the later commitment was never fulfilled. So profitable was Banaban mining that the PIC sold all of its other non-phosphate interests in the Pacific.

In 1902 the PIC reached an agreement with the Jaluit Gesellschaft of Hamburg, giving it mining rights on German Nauru, and reconfigured itself, forming the Pacific Phosphate Company Limited (PPC). This new company was granted exclusive rights to mine phosphate on Banaba and Nauru. Phosphate mining ushered in an era of ruthless colonial resource exploitation that effectively dispossessed the indigenous peoples of these islands who were paid minimum annual royalties while the company made millions of pounds in profit. This correspondence documents the early corporate history that eventually led to the environmental devastation of both islands, the diaspora of Banabans to Rabi in Fiji and elsewhere, and the near-bankruptcy of Nauru.

Following World War I the PPC was replaced by the British Phosphate Commissioners (BPC) with many of the company’s former executives, including Ellis, rolling over their managerial positions to become the new commissioners. The BPC was not dissolved until 1981 by which time Ocean Island had been mined out and almost completely depopulated while Nauru, independent since 1968, had assumed direct responsibility for phosphate mining.

The origins of many of these developments can be traced to the PIC and PPC whose correspondence is available in the following 94 rolls of microfilm.
Presscopy letter-books of outward letters from George C. Ellis, A.F. Ellis, H.E. Denson and J.T. Arundel of the Australian Office of J.T. Arundel & Co and the Pacific Islands Co Ltd to business associates mainly in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Some indexed by subject and/or addressee. All arranged chronologically.


- PIC/PPC, Sydney, letter books (letters-out), Gen. 1-12, 1898-1906;
- J.T. Arundel (Sydney) letter books, Pvt. 1-4, 1899-1905;
- Letter books, Islands 1-3, 1898-1902;
- Letter books, JM & Co, 1896-1903;
- Letter books, PIC General 2 & 3, 1898-1905;
- Letter books, PIC Agency 1, 1903-1905.
- J.T. Arundel (Sydney) letter books, Pvt. 1-4, 1899-1905;
- Letter books, Islands 1-3, 1898-1902;
- Letter books, JM & Co, 1896-1903;
- Letter books, PIC General 2 & 3, 1898-1905;
- Letter books, PIC Agency 1, 1903-1905.
- J.T. Arundel (Sydney) letter books, Pvt. 1-4, 1899-1905;
- Letter books, Islands 1-3, 1898-1902;
- Letter books, JM & Co, 1896-1903;
- Letter books, PIC General 2 & 3, 1898-1905;
- Letter book, Ocean Is. 1, 1904-1906;
- Letter book/journal, Arthur C. Bell, Supercargo, Emu, Jul-Sep 1900;
- Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd (inclu. Henderson & Macfarlane, Flint Island, etc.) reference file, 1897-1903;
- Copy Suwarrow Island diary, May-Jul 1902.

PMB 1205  PACIFIC ISLANDS Co Ltd: legal papers, agreements, reports, notes and press cuttings on islands, 1840-1914. Reels 1-5.
PIC, Sydney, correspondence with London, 1897-1898; deeds, leases, accounts & other documents, 1877-1902; PIC articles of association, 1897 & 1902; notes on islands, 1840-1915; PIC prospectus, 1893-1896; Solomon Islands concession, 1903-04; Ocean Island Crown Lease, 1901; PIC agreement with Jaluit Gesellschaft, 1901; PIC Reports to Directors, 1899-1904; Copra Co Ltd estimates, 1893; PIC notice of purchase of Henderson & Macfarlane, 1989; Jaluit Gesellschaft Nauru concession, 1888; PIC press cuttings, 1886-99; PIC contracts, 1898-1902; Capt. Langdale, Account of Rob Roy expedition to the Solomon Islands, 1900.

PIC Sydney/PPC Melbourne, Letters and enclosures to & from Ocean Island, Letterbooks Nos.1-18, 1900-1920;
PPC Melbourne, general letters and accounts re Nauru to & from PPC London, Letterbooks Nos.1-7, 1906-1921, including correspondence with J.T. Arundel and A.F. Ellis;
PPC Melbourne, General letters to & from Nauru, Letterbook Nos.5-16, 1911-1920.

PPC Sydney, Letters between J.T. Arundel and A.H. Gaze, 1902-1906;
PPC Sydney & Melbourne, Correspondence-out to London, 1904-1909;
PPC Sydney & Melbourne, Correspondence-in from London, 1904-1909;
PPC Melbourne, Correspondence-in from London, 1909-1923.

See also: PMB 1227  ARUNDEL FAMILY PAPERS, 1803-1935, Reels 1-2; and
PMB 480-495, 497-498, for diaries, correspondence & further papers of J.T. Arundel & A.F. Ellis.

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| PMB 1233 | GLOVER, John Corbett (1909-1948): “The Flying Priest”. Fr Glover’s account of flying experiences in New Guinea, mainly during the Pacific War, including the evacuation to Kainantu and his attempted flight to Thursday Island, 1936-1942. 1 reel. (Available for reference.) |
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