

PACIFIC MANUSCRIPTS BUREAU
Pros and cons of its continuance
after 15 April 1986

An assessment by Robert Langdon, Executive Officer.

On 17 July 1985, I formally notified Dr A. J. S. Reid, head, department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, that I intended to resign from the university staff as of the close of business on 15 April 1986. This will be exactly 18 years after I assumed duty as executive officer of the Pacific, Manuscripts Bureau in what was then the Department of Pacific History. For two of those 18 years – from 14 February 1977 to 27 March 1979 – I was on leave of absence from the Bureau as a research fellow in the, Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History, although I continued to direct the Bureau's affairs in a supervisory capacity. As I am the only permanent and full-time member of the Bureau's staff, the Bureau itself cannot continue to exist after my departure unless :

- a) the ANU and other sponsoring institutions agree that this is desirable;
- b) the cost of continuing it is one that all sponsoring institutions and/or others can afford;
- c) a suitable replacement for me as executive officer can be found..

The purpose of this document is to set out as objectively as possible all the issues involved in reaching a decision on whether an attempt should be made to continue the Bureau or not. Initially, the relevant information is set out chronologically, beginning with an account of how the Bureau came into being.

History

The genesis of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau dates back to December 1962 when Mr H. E. Maude, then professorial fellow in the Department of Pacific History, discussed the desirability of interlibrary co-operation in the photocopying of documents of interest to Pacific scholars with Dr Floyd Cammack, a senior librarian at the University of Hawaii. Dr Cammack later proposed an association of Pacific research libraries and approached all those likely to be interested, suggesting that a conference on the subject be held in Honolulu. The then Mitchell Librarian, Mr G. D. Richardson, warmly supported the proposal, saying: 'Undoubtedly the main point of interest for us is the possibility that such an association may be able to undertake the central organisation and control of a joint copying project for research materials for the Pacific region.' However, before Dr Cammack's suggested conference could be held, he himself left Hawaii and nothing further was done about his proposed libraries association until November 1966 when Mr Richardson discussed the matter in Sydney with Dr Ralph Shaw, Dean of Library Services at the University of Hawaii. Later, Mr Richardson sought the advice of Mr Maude on how libraries

interested in Pacific research could club together for their joint benefit. In response, Mr Maude prepared a paper of 66 quarto pages entitled The Documentary Basis for Pacific Studies. In this, he discussed the pros (but no cons) of setting up what he called a Pacific Islands Manuscripts Clearing Centre, to be sponsored by the Pacific research libraries. The centre's purpose would be to seek out and obtain microfilm copies of unpublished documents on the Pacific Islands for the sponsoring libraries. Mr Maude's chief contribution to previous thoughts on this subject was that the Centre should be established at the Australian National University as that was the only university in the world with a Department of Pacific History. It could therefore offer more expertise on Pacific documentation than any other body.

Mr Maude's paper was completed in March 1967 and was enthusiastically received by both Mr Richardson and Dr Shaw. The ANU authorities later agreed that the Department of Pacific History could undertake the role that Mr Maude had suggested. Thereafter, the National Library of Australia and the National Library of New Zealand were invited to join the ANU, the Mitchell Library and the University of Hawaii in sponsoring the proposed Centre. An agreement setting up the Centre, effective from 1 January 1968, was signed by representatives of the five institutions in February 1968. (See Appendix A.)

Meanwhile, Mr Maude had approached me privately to ask if I would be interested in managing the proposed Centre. I was then assistant editor of the Pacific Islands Monthly, the author of a popular history of Tahiti that was about to go into its third edition in nine years; and a frequent writer on Pacific history subjects in PIM and elsewhere, including the ANU's recently-founded Journal of Pacific History. I had also organised the compilation of a 15-year cumulative index to the Pacific Islands Monthly and had edited it for publication. When I responded affirmatively to Mr Maude's proposal; he persuaded the university authorities not to advertise the proposed new post because, he said, I would be the obvious choice over all other applicants if i were advertised. I was later officially invited to take up the post, which I did on 16 April 1968. On 1 July of that year, the Pacific Islands Manuscripts Clearing Centre was declared to be fully operational under the name Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. Rules for its operation, the accounting for its finances and the admission of new members were drawn up in a document entitled 'Operating Instructions for the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.' These rules were agreed to by all the founder members. The State Library of Victoria became an additional sponsor in July 1970. That library and the five founder institutions have continued their sponsorship ever since.

The Bureau's Goals

The agreement of 1 January 1968 setting up the Bureau stated that one of the principal objectives of the parties was to 'facilitate the acquisition by each of them of the maximum retrieval possible of manuscript and other unpublished documentary material of scientific, historical, literary or other scholarly significance relating to the Pacific Islands, whether in original or in copy form. It was further stated that the Bureau would have a minimum staff of a secretary-manager (later called executive officer) and a part-time typist and clerical assistant. Each party other than the ANU was to pay a 'subsidy' of \$1,000 yearly 'to assist in defraying part of the cost of the salaries and other expenditure involved in operating the Centre.' In return, the ANU would establish and maintain a 'non-mobile search, cataloguing, reporting and copying centre', situated in Canberra and would meet 'all expenses incidental to the undertaking' other than the cost of document-copying. The cost of carrying out surveys 'in particular countries, areas, libraries or archives' would be defrayed by the parties 'in such manner and proportion as might be mutually agreed in each case.'

The 'Operating Instructions for the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau' laid down precisely how the Bureau was to function. One of its main points was that the Bureau was to be regarded as an integral

section of the Department of Pacific History and the executive officer would be a member of the departmental staff. The principal duties of the executive officer would be :

1. To search for manuscripts and other unpublished material of value relating to the Pacific Islands and to arrange for it to be copied by the most practicable means. (In practice, this almost invariably meant microfilming the material.)
2. To search for and arrange for the copying of published items, particularly serials, which, owing to their rarity, could be classed as manuscripts.
3. To provide copies of manuscript and other material to member libraries at cost price together with 'catalogue entries' (i.e. inventories) describing the material.
4. To provide (i.e. sell) copies of manuscript and other material to non-members on request. (Guidelines for fixing the prices were also laid down).
5. To prepare and publish catalogues and guides to Pacific Islands manuscripts.
6. To prepare detailed and costed projects for the cataloguing of manuscripts in particular countries, areas, libraries or archives for the consideration of members.
7. To prepare similar projects for the recording of oral information.

Although it was not laid down in the operating instructions, it was quickly recognised that a scale of priorities should be observed in the search for and copying of manuscripts and rare printed material. The first priority – because of the ravages of silverfish, white ants, mildew, floods, hurricanes, and other paper-destroying agents in the tropics – was to locate and copy documents in the Pacific Islands themselves. Of almost equal urgency was the location and copying of documents in private hands outside the islands. Next was the copying of documents in repositories most distant from the Bureau's member libraries, followed by the same plan for the closer ones. Finally, it was envisaged that when – if ever – the reservoir of documents in private hands and non-member institutions dried up, the Bureau would arrange for the interchange of copies of documents held by the member libraries themselves.

General guidelines on the material to look for and where to look for it were laid down in Mr Maude's paper, 'The Documentary Basis for Pacific Studies.' The material was divided into 12 main categories: (1) government records, (2) records of discovery and exploration, (3) travellers' accounts and impressions, (4) diaries and correspondence of European residents in the Islands, (5) mission records, (6) trading and shipping records, (7) logbooks, journals and other records of whalers, (8) labour trade records, (9) planters' records, (10) political polemics, (11) vernacular material, (12) unpublished research material. Mr Maude said that apart from material in the Pacific Islands themselves, records relating to them were mainly to be found in the nine metropolitan countries that were or had been colonial powers in the Pacific, namely Australia, Chile, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom and United States. Substantial records were also to be found in Italy, headquarters of several mission societies, and in Russia. The Russian records mainly related to the activities of 19th century explorers and to the Russian-American Company in Hawaii.

The Bureau's Budget

As noted in the first part of the preceding section, the original agreement between the ANU and the member libraries stated that each party other than the ANU was to pay a 'subsidy' of \$1000 yearly to 'assist in defraying part of the cost of the salaries and other expenses' involved in the Bureau's operation. The ANU was to meet all other expenses other than the cost of document copying. The 'Operating Instructions' that were subsequently drawn up spelled out the

question of the Bureau's finances more precisely. Besides the annual 'subsidy' of \$1000 each for salaries, each member library was to contribute a second \$1000 to cover likely operating expenses. However, unlike the subsidy for salaries, the amount for operating expenses could be varied from time to time as the need arose. In fact, the libraries' annual contributions for operating expenses were later increased to \$1250 each and then to \$1500. But in the early years they were only required to restore their balances to \$1000 each at the end of each year, and this meant that for several years they paid much less than \$1000. It should also be noted that although, originally, the ANU contributed directly towards operating expenses, this practice lapsed during my' two years leave of absence in 1977-79, and it has not been resumed. Also, in recent years, the ANU has not covered 'all expenses incidental to the undertaking' other than document-copying, as called for in the original agreement. Such expenses as printing and postage have been paid for from the Bureau's own funds. It should further be noted that, except for a brief period in the early years, the ANU did not provide the Bureau with the 'part time typist and clerical assistant' mentioned in the original agreement. Until my two years leave of absence began in 1977, the Bureau's supporting staff were paid for from its own self-created funds, i.e. profits made from the sales of microfilm to non-member libraries. However, from that time onwards, the \$1000 each that the libraries contribute towards salaries have been earmarked to pay the salaries of supporting staff, and my salary has' been entirely paid by the ANU. The ANU has therefore paid all but \$42,500 of my salary since the beginning. During this time, my salary has increased from \$5885 initially to about \$40,000 now.

The following table shows how much the sponsoring institutions have contributed to the general operation of the Bureau from 1 July 1968 to 31 December 1984, excluding contributions towards my salary. Also shown in the table is income from the sale of microfilms and other publications to non-member libraries, exclusive of production costs:

		<u>Contributions to Operating Costs</u>		<u>Sales of</u>
		From libraries:	From A.N.U. :	<u>Microfilms and</u>
				<u>Publications</u>
1968/69	(four libraries)	\$ 3,982.38	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 392.95
1969/70	(four libraries)	4,017.62	1,000.00	3,870.77
1970/71	(five libraries)	3,250.00	650.00	3,827.03
1971/72	(five libraries)	4,500.00	900.00	4,303.16
Jy/Dc72	(five libraries)	4,995.16	1,000.00	2,026.10
1973	(five libraries)	2,500.00	500.00	13,209.67
1974	(five libraries)	4,991.87	1,500.00	14,794.72
1975	(five libraries)	5,000.00	500.00	8,092.88
1976	(five libraries)	6,500.00	3,250.00	10,187.51
1977	(five libraries)	5,000.00	2,000.00	3,851.38
1978	(five libraries)	5,000.00	—	5,211.99
1979	(five libraries)	6,250.00	—	13,423.17
1980	(five libraries)	6,250.00	—	10,717.40
1981	(five libraries)	6,250.00	—	7,353.36
1982	(five libraries)	7,500.00	—	5,352.18
1983	(five libraries)	7,500.00	—	6,703.84
1984	(five libraries)	7,500.00	—	21,637.39
		\$97,987.03	\$12,300.00	\$134,955.50

It will be seen from the table that contributions towards the Bureau's operating costs from the member libraries and the ANU over a period of 16^{1/2} years totalled \$110,287.03. This was nearly \$22,700 less than the income derived from the sale of microfilms and other publications to non-member libraries in the same period. In addition, the libraries contributed \$1000 each yearly, or a total of \$80,500, towards salaries in that period.

Besides obtaining income from the foregoing sources, several of the Bureau's activities over the years were financed separately. These activities were all supported financially by the Bureau's member libraries but, in the main, not by the ANU as such. The activities were :

- New England Microfilming Project, 1970-72. This was supported by 12 libraries, including the ANU Library, which contributed a total of \$25,777.46, or roughly \$2150 each.
- Papua New Guinea Records Project, 1973-76. This was supported by 20 libraries, including the ANU Library. They contributed a total of \$40,897.77 or just over \$2,000 each. In addition, the Australian Government provided a subsidy of \$8,000.
- New England Microfilming Project, 1976-79. This was supported by 10 libraries, including the ANU Library, which contributed a total of \$40,733.86, or just over \$4000 each.
- Pacific Islands Monthly Cumulative Indexing Project, 1981-83. This project was supported by 17 libraries plus the Research School of Pacific Studies. The Bureau's member libraries contributed \$890 each; and the other libraries about \$590 each. RSPacS contributed \$490. Total contributions were \$11933.78.
- Oceania Marist Province Archives Project. This project began in 1984 and is still in progress. Seven libraries, including the ANU library, have supported it so far and others may be forthcoming. The seven present sponsors have already contributed \$4,000 each of a promised \$8,000 each.

If the monies raised for the above five projects are added to the normal contributions to the Bureau's operations plus monies raised from the sale of microfilms, etc., the Bureau's total income for the 16^{1/2} years from 1 July 1968 to 31 December 1984 may be arrived at:

Contributions to operating costs	\$110,287.03
Sales of microfilms, publications	134,955.50
New England Project, 1970-72	25,777.46
PNG Records Project, 1973-76	48,897.77
New England Project, 1976-79	40,733.86
PIM Indexing Project, 1981-83	11,933.78
OMPA Project, 1984-	28,000.00
	\$400,585.40

I do not have to hand details of my own salary for all 16^{1/2} years from 1 July 1968 to 31 December 1984. But the total sum may be worked out approximately by taking the initial annual figure (\$5,885), adding it to that as at 31 December 1984 (\$38,796) and multiplying the sum (\$44,681) by 8 1/4. This gives a total of \$368,618.25, from which about \$40,000 must be deducted for the two years of my leave or absence in 1977-79. This leaves \$328,618.25, of which the sponsoring libraries contributed a total of \$42,500. The ANU's contribution was therefore about \$286,118.25. The final breakdown of contributions to the Bureau's existence and operation over 16^{1/2} years may thus be stated as being approximately:

Contributions' from libraries:		
To operating costs		97,987.03
To salaries (mine & others')		<u>80,500.00</u>
		178,487.03
Contributions from A.N.U.:		
To operating costs		12,300.00
To salaries (mine only)		<u>286,118.25</u>
		298,418.25
Income from special projects		155,342.87
		\$631,248.15

The ANU contribution works out at about 47.3% of the total.

What has been achieved

To the end of 1984, the Bureau had produced microfilm copies of 998 separate items in its PMB (manuscripts) series and 389 items in its PMB Doc (scarce printed material) series.

However, as many of these items run to more than one reel, these figures substantially understate the number of reels produced. The 'corrected' figures are: PMB series, 1141 reels; PMB Doc series, 518 reels, making a total of 1,659. If it is assumed that this total represents 1,500 full (30-metre) reels, then the Bureau's films stretch over 45 km, or more than 25 miles. If it is further assumed that each full reel of film contains an average of 1,200 A-4 sheets, the the number of sheets microfilmed is about 1.8 million. These sheets, if laid end to end, would make a path 600 km long - a considerably greater distance than from Canberra to Sydney and back! In addition, the Bureau is distributing about 360 reels of film from the Oceania Marist Province Archives Project, containing copies of the records of the Catholic Church in the Western Pacific.

The nature of the material microfilmed by (or for) the Bureau in its PMB and PMB Doc series may be gleaned from the accompanying short titles lists of and indexes to the two series. A large proportion of the items in the PMB Doc series cover the Pacific Islands generally. This applies to the PMB series also, as 573 reels out of 1141 reels are in that category. Of the others, 155 relate specifically to Papua New Guinea, 78 to the Solomon Islands, 73 to Fiji, 68 to Tonga, 42 to Samoa, 42 to Vanuatu and 30 to New Caledonia — to mention only the best-represented countries. The proportion of reels per country on a population basis is reasonably even, considering the history of each country and the disposition of non-government records relating to each. Fiji, for example, is somewhat under-represented because the records of the Methodist Church, its largest Christian mission, are deposited in the Mitchell Library and Fiji National Archives, and the microfilming of them is therefore of low priority.

A complete breakdown of the films in the PMB series, with each reel being assigned to one of the categories of manuscripts listed in Maude's 'The Documentary Basis for Pacific Studies', is given as Appendix B to this report. It will be seen from this that whaling and mission records account for

well over half of the Bureau's total output of films in this series.

Much of the material in the two series, but especially in the manuscript series, was obtained on film as a result of expeditions that I, myself, made to Vanuatu (twice), Tahiti, Norfolk Island, Fiji, Niue, Western Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Tonga; as a result of expeditions that others made to Papua New Guinea, Wallis Island and New England, USA; and as a result of arrangements made either personally or through intermediaries in New Zealand, Great Britain, France, Italy, Denmark and Germany. Needless to say, a lot of material was also microfilmed in Australia.

In addition to producing the films themselves, the Bureau produced a number of finding aids to them over the years. The lesser of these were published in Pambu, the Bureau's newsletter, which appeared from August 1968 to October/December 1976 and from the first quarter of 1980 to the 2nd quarter of 1981. The more substantial finding aids were published in book form, these being:

- American Whalers and Traders in the Pacific: A guide to records on microfilm (Robert Langdon, ed.), Canberra, 1978.
- Thar She Went: An interim index to the Pacific ports and islands visited by American whalers and traders in the 19th century, being a supplement to 'American Whalers and Traders in the Pacific: A Guide to Records on Microfilm' (Robert Langdon, ed.), Canberra, 1979.
- Where the Whalers Went: An index to the Pacific ports and islands visited by American whalers (and some other ships) in the 19th century (Robert Langdon, ed.), Canberra, 1984. (This volume supersedes Thar She Went in that it greatly augments and occasionally corrects it.)

Another substantial volume published by the Bureau is: Cumulative Index to the Pacific Islands Monthly, volumes 16 to 25, August 1945 to July 1955 (Margaret Woodhouse and Gaye Tryon, compilers; Robert Langdon, ed.), Canberra, 1984.

A large number of reels of oral material from the Solomon Islands, gathered by the Rev. George G. Carter, a former missionary there, has also been obtained for replication and distribution to the Bureau's member libraries. This is the only oral material collected by the Bureau. Experience showed: (a) that it was generally not practicable for the Bureau to organise projects for the gathering of oral material, and (b) such projects were, in fact, already being carried out in most Islands countries as local initiatives.

What might yet be done

As history is created in the Pacific Islands every day, and as more and more people (with increasing populations) take part in the creation and recording of it, new caches of documents of potential value to future Pacific historians and other scholars are constantly coming into existence. It might therefore be argued that, so long as the Bureau's sponsoring institutions regard the Islands as a special area of interest, there will always be work that the Bureau, or a similar organisation, can usefully do on their behalf — and much more cheaply than any of them could do individually. On the other hand, with the coming of independence to most of the Islands countries, the need for the Bureau is not as great as it was in 1968 because national libraries and national archives have come into being to do precisely the job that the Bureau was established to do. Being on the spot, the new national organisations are, of course, much better placed to do the kind of work that the Bureau once did almost single-handed in the Islands. However, they are, in general, poorly placed to organise regional rather than local microfilming projects and to distribute inventories and multiple copies of the films produced.

The two largest bodies of non-government records in the Islands that have not yet been microfilmed, and which are virtually crying out to be done, are those of the South Pacific Commission in Noumea and the Catholic Church in Eastern Polynesia, i.e. the Cook Islands and French Polynesia. The SPC librarian, Mrs Bess Flores, has been trying for the past two years or so to get the records in her care microfilmed, and has called on me for advice (see Appendix C) several times. The Bureau might, perhaps, have become much more actively involved in the SPC proposal had it not been for the serious illness and death of my wife and my decision to retire after taking long service leave and clearing up all outstanding commitments. The microfilming of the principal SPC records would probably take a couple of people at least two years, and if it were to be done on behalf of a consortium of libraries and other interested institutions – which seems the only way of funding it – then a good deal of fund-raising 'know-how' and other organisational expertise would be called for. The filming of Catholic records in Eastern Polynesia is probably a task of lesser magnitude. It would perhaps keep one person busy for about a year. The present archivist of the Oceania Marist Province Archives in Suva, Father Theo B. Cook, once told me that he hoped to film the Eastern Polynesian records-himself after completing the filming of Catholic records in the Western Pacific. However, Father Cook has since been appointed archivist of the Marist Archives in Rome, and there now seems no immediate prospect that his hope will come to pass.

There are many other collections of documents both in Australia and overseas that an ongoing Pacific Manuscripts Bureau might microfilm or arrange to be microfilmed. Maude's 'The Documentary Basis for Pacific Studies' lists a number that might be mentioned. Others keep coming to light – such as the Tippett Collection in St Mark's Library, Canberra – see copy of letter attached as Appendix D.

Problems to be resolved

If it is decided, in principle, at least, that the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau should continue to exist after my departure, the principal problem, I believe, will not be to find the money to keep it going but to find a suitable person to run it. I believe that all of the present sponsoring libraries would be prepared to pay higher contributions to the Bureau's maintenance than they have in the past and that other sponsors could probably be found — if a suitable successor to myself were forthcoming. I have no suggestions as to a possible successor myself; and I think it is highly unlikely that anyone with a good all-round knowledge of the Pacific, who is also equipped to carry out all the duties set out on p.3, will be found. However, if my job were advertised – and a knowledge of the Pacific was not specified as a prerequisite – it might well be that a number of potentially good executive officers for the Bureau might come forward.

If it is decided that the Bureau should be closed down, then the problem will arise as to what to do with its assets. These assets consist of the original negatives of the 1,600-odd microfilms so far produced plus unsold copies of those microfilms and publications such as Where the Whalers Went. Most of the original negatives are currently held on the premises of W. & F. Pascoe Pty. Ltd., Sydney, who have replicated the Bureau's microfilms since its inception. The negatives represent a large part of the investment that all of the sponsoring institutions have put into the Bureau. I do not know what their legal status is — whether they belong to the ANU because the Bureau is an 'integral section' of the Department of Pacific & SE Asian History, or whether they belong equally to all sponsoring institutions of the Bureau. Certainly, all sponsoring institutions have always benefitted from the profits made from the sale of copies of the original microfilms. So it could undoubtedly be argued that the negatives belong to all sponsors jointly. Perhaps a legal opinion is needed to ascertain their status. However, whatever the legal status of the negatives-might be several decisions will have to be made as to their future if the Bureau is closed down. These are: (1)

who will take charge of the negative?, (2) where will they be kept?, (3) will individuals and institutions be able to obtain copies of them, as they have in the past?, (4) who will benefit if the answer to (3) is 'yes'? As all of these questions are hypothetical at present, I do not have any positive answers to them. However, I can say from past experience that if the Bureau is closed down, several years are likely to elapse before the flow of requests for copies of them dries up. This can probably also be said about the requests for information on Pacific manuscripts that the Bureau constantly receives. The Bureau, in short, is not like the ANU Archives of Business- and Labour, which recently began publishing a newsletter because its works were insufficiently known and its records too little used, The Bureau's problem has always tended to be the reverse.

I believe that the only other point that needs to be mentioned is this. As the initiative to set up the Bureau came from within the ANU, as the Bureau can, I think, be described as a success, and as Appendices -B and C demonstrate that there is a good deal of useful work that it could still do, the ANU should not take the initiative to close the Bureau down. Any decision on the Bureau's future, one way-or another, should only be taken after the sponsoring libraries, that have supported it, have been presented with the facts and have had an opportunity to express their views. It is conceivable, for example, that the Bureau could be continued as a section of one of the libraries if the ANU wished to withdraw its support or play a lesser role than in the past.

*

*

*

APPENDIX A.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MANUSCRIPTS CLEARING CENTRE

AN AGREEMENT between the Australian National University and the other institutions on whose behalf this agreement has been executed for the establishment and maintenance of a Pacific Islands Manuscripts Clearing Centre.

1. The object of the parties to this Agreement is to facilitate the acquisition by each of them of the maximum retrieval possible of manuscript and other unpublished documentary material of scientific, historical, literary or other scholarly significance relating to the-Pacific Islands, whether in original or in copy.

2. For the purposes of achieving this object, a Pacific Islands Manuscripts Clearing Centre shall be maintained and operated on behalf of the parties to this Agreement by the Australian National University in its Research School of Pacific Studies.

3. The Pacific Islands Manuscripts Clearing Centre shall:

- (a) search for all such manuscripts and other unpublished material by examining catalogues, guides, bibliographies, indexes, etc., as well as by correspondence with possible informants;
- (b) catalogue in a form approved by the parties the series and items reported or discovered;
- (c) forward copies of all catalogue entries to each party;
- (d) arrange for the copying by the most practicable means of such manuscripts and their forwarding to each party in the form desired;
- (e) prepare and publish catalogues and guides to manuscripts as approved by the parties;
- (f) prepare detailed and costed projects for the cataloguing and copying of manuscripts in particular countries, areas, libraries or archives for the consideration of the parties;
- (g) prepare similar projects for the recording of oral information.

4. In order to undertake the above duties the Centre will maintain as a minimum, the following staff:-

- (a) a part-time Consultant, who shall be a member of the academic staff of the Research School of Pacific Studies with a specialized knowledge of the Pacific Islands and their manuscript resources;
- (b) A Secretary-Manager, with a specialized knowledge of bibliography;
and
- (c) a part-time typist and clerical assistant.

5. To assist in defraying part of the cost-of-the salaries and other expenditure involved in operating the Centre the parties to this Agreement other than the Australian National University shall contribute an annual payment to the Australian National University at the following rates:-

(a) in the event of there being two other parties each such party shall pay to the Australian National University in Canberra a subsidy of \$1,500 on 1 January in each year or on such other date as may be arranged with the University;

(b) in the event of there being three or more other parties each such party shall pay to the Australian National University in Canberra a subsidy of \$1,000 on 1 January in each year or

D.R.
INW

on such other date as may be arranged with the University.

6. In return for the above subsidy the Australian National University through its Research School of Pacific Studies shall organize and maintain a non-mobile search, cataloguing, reporting and copying centre situated at Canberra, A.C.T., Australia, and shall meet all expenses incidental to the undertaking, other than the cost of document copying which shall be chargeable at cost price to the party ordering the copy. The cost of maintaining field searchers and recorders to complete surveys of particular countries, areas, libraries or archives, or to undertake projects for the recording of oral histories and other oral information, shall be defrayed by the parties in such manner and proportion as may be mutually agreed to by the parties in each particular case.

7. In this Agreement:-

- (1) 'Pacific Islands' shall include the whole of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia, together with the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, but shall exclude the State of Hawaii and West Irian;
- (2) 'Manuscript' shall include tape recordings.
- (3) 'Copy' shall include a negative photocopy, when requested.
- (4) All monetary amounts are stated in Australian currency.

This Agreement shall come into effect on 1 January 1968. Any of the parties to the agreement may withdraw on six months' written notice.

Signed on behalf of:

The Australian National University by

The University of Hawaii by

The Public Library of New South Wales by

The National Library of Australia by

The National Library of New Zealand by

J. J. J. J.
Registrar

P. J. J. J.
Dean of Library Activities

A. D. J. J.

Principal Librarian and Secretary

M. J. J.
National Librarian

H. J. J.

APPENDIX B.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PMB SERIES BY CATEGORY

	Govt records	Exploration	Travel /ethnography	Diaries, letters	Mission records	Trading / shipping	Whaling records	Labour trade	Planters records	Miscellaneous	Political polemics	Vernacular	Unpublished research	Totals
GENERAL		10	13	8	53		430	1		20			6	573
COOK ISLANDS			1	2	1					1		1	1	7
EASTER ISLAND			10											10
FIJI			2	4	40	10			1	3		1	2	63
FRENCH POLYNESIA			1	4	2					4				11
HAWAII				4						6		1		11
KIRIBATI			1		2					1				4
MICRONESIA			1		2									3
NAURU			1		2									3
NEW CALEDONIA -			1		23							6		30
NIUE	1				13							3		17
NORFOLK ISLAND				1	4					4				9
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	10	3	13	21	25	11			1	51		20		155
SAMOA	7		1	6	21	1				8				42
SOLOMON ISLANDS			1	15	53	2				2		4	1	78
TONGA	16		2	2	47								1	68
TUVALU					1							1		2
VANUATU	5			3	26			1	3			4		42
WALLIS & FUTUNA					9							4		13
TOTALS	39	13	47	71	322	56	430	2	5	100		45	11	1141

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

POST BOX D 5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

SOITE POSTALE D 5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALEDONIE

In reply, please quote

PLEASE ADDRESS ^{PUB 2/1/3} REPLY TO

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

30 April 1985

Mr R. Langdon
Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
Research School of Pacific Studies
PO Box 4, ANU
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Australia

I

Dear Bob

We are continuing our efforts to have our microfilm-microfiche project implemented in the near future. We hope to co-operate with the Pacific Information Centre for microfiching technical documents but have to find funding for filming and distribution of 'archival' material.

The underlying idea for funding of this aspect of the project is that interested SPC libraries in our major contributing member countries (ie in Australia, France, New Zealand, UK and USA) share the total basic cost estimated at 16 600 000 CFP (exchange rate approximately 120 CFP = A\$1.00). Interested SPC island member country libraries would, on the other hand, pay only the estimated replication cost (eg 200 000 CFP) for a complete set.

Given the large number of potentially interested libraries in our major contributing countries, and the aid aspects of their participation in the project, I hope that participation will be sufficient to reduce the shared basic cost to a reasonable level. It will, however, require a great deal of correspondence and other organisation.

I will be very pleased to have your views on the attached draft project documents. I look forward to an early reply because as you can well understand, I would like to get this project underway as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Bess Flores
Librarian

BF/WJS

Collegiate Library
Institute of Theology

Warden:
The Revd Dr R S M Withycombe BA.,
BD., Th.L., Ph.D.



ST.
MARK'S

Blackall St..Barton

P O Box E.67
Queen Victoria Terrace.
CANBERRA. A.O T. 2600.
Telephone: (062) 73 1573

26 April 1985

Mr Robert Langdon
Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
Research School of Pacific Studies
Australian National University
PO Box 4
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Langdon

I would be pleased if you would make time available to me so that I may be able to discuss with you the possibility, at some future stage, of putting onto microfilm some of the manuscript material now held in the Tippett Collection, St Mark's Library.

Since we last discussed this matter the care and management of the Tippett Collection is in the hands of St Mark's Council. The speed with which we shall be able to put this, often unique, material on microfilm for preservation and ease of use by others is also a financial one. I would be pleased to discuss the general principles of such programme with you.

Another alternative might be for you yourself to visit the collection (if you have not already done so) to form some estimate of the value of the material that it contains.

Yours sincerely

The Reverend Dr Robert Withycombe
Warden, St Mark's Library

Applications are invited for appointment to the position of Executive Officer, Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, located in the Research School of Pacific Studies. The successful applicant will be primarily required to locate and arrange the microfilming of unpublished and other documentary material on the Pacific Islands of historical, scientific, literary and other scholarly significance on behalf of a consortium of libraries in Australia and overseas. Other duties will include the description of material microfilmed and the despatch of copies of microfilms to the sponsoring libraries. The Bureau's area of interest comprises the islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Occasional travel to these areas will be required.

The successful applicant will be a person of wide interests and a broad general knowledge of the Pacific Islands and their history. A knowledge of French is desirable. Applicants will be expected to have proven ability in organisation and administration. It is essential that applicants be self-motivated, and be able to work confidently with a minimum of direction. Other essential requirements are: ability to write clear, concise English; sound business sense; a knowledge of bookkeeping and photography. A part-time secretary will provide secretarial services to the Bureau.

The Bureau's functions (and staff) may later be expanded to deal with the acquisition of printed materials on the Pacific Islands for the sponsoring libraries. The appointment will be for three years in the first instance and continuation of the Bureau will be largely dependent on the appointee's performance.

Preference will be given to graduates who have studied Pacific History. However in view of the uniqueness of the appointment non-graduates with relevant experience and knowledge of Pacific Islands will be considered.

The initial salary will be within the range of \$21,000/\$27,000. Reasonable removal expenses will be provided.