

THE DOCUMENTARY BASIS FOR PACIFIC STUDIESA report on progress and desiderata

Forty years ago, when I first became interested in Pacific studies, the subject, as a University specialization, scarcely existed.<sup>1</sup> There was a course in the anthropology of the Pacific Islands, which two of us attended, but the importance, or even the desirability, of organized research into regional problems was quite unrecognized, if we except Haddon, Malinowski and a few other pioneers (all of them anthropologists). In the late 20s, when I first went to live in the islands, the essentially pragmatic administrations were antipathetic to research and I was warned to discontinue my personal investigations on pain of incurring official sanctions.

The position today could hardly be a greater contrast. One could name a hundred Universities at which Pacific studies, in some shape or form, are either being taught at the undergraduate level or studied at the postgraduate; the latest edition of Pacific

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1 For the purposes of this Report, Pacific studies are defined as studies concerned with the whole or any part of the Pacific Islands, including the Australian administered Territory of Papua and New Guinea, regardless of the particular disciplines involved. The former Pacific territory of Netherlands New Guinea (now West Irian) is excluded from the scope of the survey, since research connected with it will in future be conducted mainly by Indonesian and other specialists on the Far East. Hawaii, although included in the statistics of area and population, is only mentioned incidentally, as its documentation problems are being adequately dealt with by a number of competent local specialists.

Anthropologists lists 604 names of active postgraduate research workers,<sup>2</sup> while the actual total would now certainly be over 1,000, and the addition of natural scientists would probably triple that figure; a revised but not yet complete list of theses (mainly doctoral) on the Pacific Islands totals 637, almost all prepared within the past decade;<sup>3</sup> while for the first time regionally-oriented institutions have been founded in the United States, Australia and New Zealand, and funds made available in these and other countries, including many of the island territories, for the furtherance of both basic and applied research.

One may legitimately ask why so much importance should now be given to a region which, including Hawaii, contains a land area of only 44,000 square miles and a population of a little over 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> millions; or if we include Papua and the Australian Trust Territory of New Guinea an area of 228,000 square miles and a population, in so far as they have yet been counted, of about 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> millions.

The answer lies not so much in the intrinsic romance of the South Seas, which has charmed visitors and the world at large ever since the narratives of the first explorers reached the outside world, nor even in its present strategic importance as the frontier

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2 Bowen and Kaeppler (comp.) 1964. The title of the work is a misnomer, since the compilers have included not merely anthropologists but all social scientists known to them.

3 Dickson (comp.) 1967.

zone between the civilizations of the West and East, but derives largely from the geographical fragmentation of the island world, which has resulted in the growth of a multiplicity of small societies.

The Pacific Ocean is by far the largest single geographical area on earth; so immense that if the entire land surface of the globe could be dropped in it there would still be room left over for the voyages of some future Cook.<sup>4</sup> Yet this ocean encloses no continent, but a myriad of far-flung islands, isolated to a varying degree by the vastly more extensive ocean surrounding them, and inhabited by peoples who have evolved over a thousand years or more of occupancy a diverse assemblage of social, economic, religious and political systems, of ideas and values, which makes the region in a sense the counterpart of the natural scientist's laboratory. True enough the experiments taking place there cannot be controlled by the observer, but their very variety facilitates the selection of particular interests, while the diminutive size of the communities aids in their isolation and study.<sup>5</sup>

The anthropologist has, of course, long known this and it would probably be true to say that no other region has contributed so much to the development of anthropological thought and theory. Only recently, however, has it become apparent that it possesses

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4 Maude 1954:viii.

5 Maude 1967:ii.

many of the same advantages for other social scientists, notably historians, archaeologists, geographers, students of linguistics and political scientists, as well as to those working in many of the natural sciences, where outstanding work has been done during the past few years in oceanography, ecology and meteorology, and in problems concerned with the dispersal of plants, animals and insects.

Published material: the two essentials

The point which should be emphasized here is that by far the greater part of the impressive, and rapidly increasing, volume of research being done in the Pacific region is based on documentation, whether published or in manuscript. The importance of field-work cannot be gainsaid but even the anthropologist, who used to be satisfied with studies based mainly or entirely on personal observation, is now concentrating his attention on problems, and notably those concerned with acculturation, which are dynamic instead of synchronic and therefore necessarily dependent on documentary evidence. The fact that since 1962 15 anthropologists have come from America and Europe to visit the Department of Pacific History for documentary briefing and that the weekly total of enquiries by correspondence is a severe tax on our time is an indication of this tendency, while the foundation of the Pacific Scientific Information Center in Honolulu is an attempt to deal with a corresponding trend in the natural sciences.

(a) Bibliographic control

Even forty years ago a diligent scholar could hope to know of, and indeed to digest, all the significant published literature on his particular field of interest within the general heading of Pacific studies. This is no longer the case today and the annual flood of books and, more particularly, of articles in periodicals necessitate increasing recourse to bibliographies.

These bibliographies, whether they cover specific areas, such as O'Reilly's well-known compilations on New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, and now Tahiti, Utinomi's Bibliography of Micronesia and Snow's work on Fiji, Tonga and Rotuma, or particular subjects, such as Taylor's misnamed Pacific Bibliography, Keesing's work on culture change, or Morrell's on botany, are performing an essential service and the need today is for their improvement and extension: there are still too many gaps and too many bibliographies requiring to be brought up-to-date for us to feel complacent with the progress made.

In 1949 I prepared, with Professor Douglas Oliver of Harvard University and Mr E.H. Bryan, Jr., of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, a project for the compilation of "A Bibliography of the Pacific Islands" on the lines of other national bibliographies. It was turned down on the grounds of expense and greater experience has inclined me to believe that the time has not yet come for such a gigantic work, if indeed it would ever be of sufficient utility to justify its

preparation. In my submission all that is necessary for the foreseeable future is more and better area and subject bibliographies, the filling of existing bibliographical lacunae, the preparation of periodical lists of new publications such as the annual Bibliographie de l'Océanie and the "Bibliography of Current Publications" in The Journal of Pacific History, and the completion of a revised and up-to-date edition of the Bibliography of Bibliographies of the South Pacific. There is, however, a special and particularly urgent need for a Catalogue of Serials published in or relating to the Pacific Islands (probably exclusive of Hawaii). This project was actually commenced in 1961 by Miss Joyce Wright of the Gregg M. Sinclair Library; it is urged that she should be released to complete the work or, should this not prove possible, that arrangements should be made for its completion by someone else.

(b) Comprehensive holdings

Apart from adequate bibliographical control, the second point which should be made on the use of published works in Pacific research is that the day is over when any but a few adequately-financed specialist libraries can serve the needs of a serious scholar who aims to prepare an original contribution to knowledge, as opposed to the author who is content to reproduce already known facts for popular consumption. And it is testimony to the dramatic change which has taken place of recent years in the location of Pacific research that all such libraries are now situated in or around the shores of the

Pacific Ocean itself.

The Library of Congress in Washington may be an exception - certainly they were able to produce anything that I needed when I worked there, but I did not have occasion to ask for anything very recondite - the British Museum Library is undoubtedly not, nor I believe is any library in Europe. In fact, speaking from some personal experience, I suggest that only four libraries in the world meet the requirements of the Pacific scholar: the Public Library of New South Wales in Sydney, the National Library of Australia in Canberra, the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington and the Gregg M. Sinclair Library in Honolulu, in each case including subsidiary collections housed in the same building, such as the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries in Sydney, or within easy access, such as the Bernice P. Bishop Museum Library in Honolulu.

Since probably 90% of serious research on the Pacific Islands is now done in Hawaii, the Pacific coast of the United States, Australia or New Zealand and virtually every scholar engaged in research of any consequence will at one time or another have to work in one of these four libraries it is essential that they should aim firstly at achieving absolute completeness in their holdings, either in original or photocopy, of all published works, including articles, monographs and pamphlets, relating to Oceania (excluding ephemeral material of no conceivable importance), and secondly at maintaining complete sets, again either in original or film, of all newspapers and other

serials published in or concerned with the region. This may sound like a difficult task, in my considered opinion it is not: the published items are all known or can be ascertained and with modern photographic processes the gaps can be filled in at a cost relatively small when compared with the prices involved in the acquisition of rarities which may add prestige to a library but little or nothing to the advancement of knowledge.

In any event it should be recognized by those concerned with Pacific research that these are the Pacific Research Libraries and, on the principle of building on strength, they should have the first call on government, institutional and private funds for augmenting their collections and developing their services.

#### Manuscripts: a general statement

##### (a) The present chaotic position

When one turns from published works to manuscripts the position is far less satisfactory, and yet one can assert that for research workers engaged in advancing knowledge the unpublished material concerned with the Pacific region is of considerably greater importance than the published, and this not only for the historian or other social scientist but also, as I have recently found, for such natural scientists as meteorologists and atoll ecologists.

Here even the resources available are not yet known except to a limited extent and, if we except the work of the Australian

Joint Copying Project in the United Kingdom, no really systematic attempt has been made to film them for use by researchers. Furthermore, little enough has so far been done to seek out manuscripts in private hands, except for a few known rarities, and when items happen to come on the market librarians may be seen competing against private collectors and even against other libraries, resulting in prices being paid which bear no resemblance to the value of the item to the ultimate user - the scholar - who would naturally prefer to be able to refer to photocopies of all the documentation which he needs instead of to a few only in original.

Instead of helping the specialized regional research libraries my experience has been that some, at least, of the smaller libraries, universities and museums have tended to add to the lack of rational planning and waste of funds by competing with them for manuscripts even though they may be ill-equipped for their preservation and possess no adequate system of archival control. Furthermore, individual scholars working on particular projects are sent to Europe and elsewhere to collect the documentation which they may require for their own work, the same process being repeated over and over again at unbelievable expense. Even when a thesis or research study results from this process only a percentage of the material collected at such unnecessary cost ever sees the light of day, while in the not unusual event of the study not being commenced, or more typically abandoned, the total expenditure is wasted.

The result of all this absence of co-ordination, of any rational planning on a co-operative basis, can be readily seen in the second-rate, and at times dangerously inaccurate, research theses and publications attributable to the lack of adequate source material, sometimes through lack of funds to procure it but more often because it is simply not known to exist. It is seen also in the glossing over of awkward gaps by academic authors also insufficiently acquainted with the sources available. And, as has been indicated above, it is the manuscript material and not the published that causes the trouble.

(b) Efforts at improvement

This unsatisfactory state of affairs was recognized readily enough by librarians with whom the writer had discussions during and since World War II and measures were taken from time to time to improve the situation, including the establishment of the Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission at Suva (as a result of reports made by librarians and archivists sent from the Turnbull Library in New Zealand, the National Library of Australia and the Australian National University);<sup>6</sup> the formation of the Pacific Islands Library Committee of the Gregg M. Sinclair Library of the University of Hawaii; the commencement of the highly successful Australian Joint Copying Service for locating and microfilming manuscripts in the United Kingdom by joint agreement between the

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6 Diamond 1966:204.

Mitchell and National Libraries in Australia and the Turnbull Library in New Zealand; the provision of funds for library extension work in the Pacific field to the University of Hawaii through the East-West Center; the promising but ultimately abortive proposals for the establishment of the Centre d'études polynésiennes in Tahiti with the primary aim of locating, cataloguing and copying manuscripts on Eastern Polynesia;<sup>7</sup> the successful establishment of the Centre Documentaire de l'Océanie in Paris which, as mentioned later, is interested in manuscripts relating to all parts of Oceania but more particularly with French material; the setting up of the Australian Bibliographical Centre, which is at least partly concerned with the Pacific Islands, by the National Library; and the institution of the Pacific Scientific Information Center, which in its concern with furthering research is, even if only indirectly, concerned with documentation.

In December 1962, during a visit to Honolulu, discussions were held with Floyd Cammack, Assistant Librarian at the Gregg M. Sinclair Library, as to the possibility of further inter-library co-operation in both the bibliographic and manuscript copying fields and the possibility of my loan to the University of Hawaii to develop the existing Pacific Islands collection into a research library second to none on the United States mainland and to establish library liaison

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7 Journal de la Société des Océanistes 1960:105.

with the main island groups. In 1964 Miss Janet Bell, in charge of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Section of the Library, paid a visit to Australia and New Zealand to test reactions to Cammack's proposals for calling a Conference to survey the whole problem of inter-library co-operation with a view to the formation of an Association of Pacific Research Libraries.

The reactions this side of the Pacific were in fact favourable to the proposal, G.D. Richardson, the Principal Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales and Mitchell Librarian, pointing out that the main interest of the Public Library and its affiliates was in "the possibility that such an Association may be able to undertake the central organization and control of a Joint Copying Project for research materials for the Pacific region", while the writer stressed the importance of the users of documentary sources (i.e. the research workers in Pacific studies) being represented in addition to professional librarians at such a Conference and any co-ordinating Committees which it might set up, and stated that the interests of such users lay mainly in the "location, copying and making available for research of manuscript material of all kinds relating to the Pacific Islands", the problems arising from published material being relatively easily surmounted by an experienced specialist in Pacific literature.

(c) The work of the Department of Pacific History

With the postponement of the proposals for a Conference and the Association which it was hoped that it would promote, and the

departure of Floyd Cammack from Hawaii, the Department of Pacific History, which forms part of the Research School of Pacific Studies in the Institute of Advanced Studies of the Australian National University, decided that it must perforce proceed on its own with a programme designed to locate, catalogue and copy manuscript material on the Pacific Islands, in addition to furthering all efforts, and particularly those involving inter-library co-operation, which might be made by other bodies.

In conformity with the programme approved by Professor J.W. Davidson, and subsequently incorporated in the University's Proposals for the Third Triennium, the Department:-

- (1) was one of the two original sponsors of Miss P. Mander-Jones' "Guide to Manuscripts in the British Isles relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands";<sup>8</sup>
- (2) has commenced the Pacific History Series and Pacific Monograph Series with the aim not only of publishing catalogues of manuscript and printed material on the islands but also properly annotated versions, with adequate introductions, of the best of the early sources on the Pacific area and its peoples;<sup>9</sup>
- (3) is publishing Philip Snow's "Bibliography of Fiji, Tonga

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8 See Enclosure I.

9 See notice in The Journal of Pacific History 1966:22.

and Rotuma" in the Pacific History Series later this year, after spending several thousand dollars on correcting and completing the author's entries;

(4) is engaged in completing "A preliminary inventory of manuscript material on the Pacific Islands in the United Kingdom and New Zealand (together with a world catalogue of theses on the Pacific Islands)" for publication in the Pacific Monograph Series; and

(5) in founding The Journal of Pacific History it has aimed to incorporate, in a regular Manuscripts Section, news of recent discoveries of Pacific manuscripts, together with check lists and critical notes on the older accessions.<sup>10</sup>

Perhaps more important from the standpoint of this report the Department has also arranged, as part of its Third Triennium Programme, to appoint a full-time bibliographer to compile a Master Catalogue of Manuscripts relating to the Pacific Islands, his duties being defined in the following terms:-

"As Compiler of the Manuscript Catalogue, the successful applicant will assist in conducting correspondence on the location of manuscript material relating to Pacific History throughout the world; to record the information

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<sup>10</sup> Maude (ed.) 1966.

in proper bibliographic form on author and subject cards, and to prepare bibliographic lists for publication and for forwarding to enquirers".<sup>11</sup>

#### Manuscripts: the present position

Having stressed the special importance of Pacific studies and its essential dependence on documentation, and outlined the special problems related to the collection of published material on the one hand and manuscript material on the other, together with some of the more recent steps which have been taken to overcome them, we may attempt a condensed and necessarily provisional survey of Pacific manuscripts by country of location, indicating the extent to which they have been copied and the work which still needs to be done.

##### A. A preliminary classification

In making a systematic collection of manuscripts relating to the Pacific Islands it has to be remembered that not a single document has been discovered which antedates the European discovery of the region, and that, by a series of partitions which began in 1840 and are only now beginning to be reversed, the islands came at various times to be political dependencies of one of eight powers:-

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11. Australian National University Secretariat Paper 1569/1964.

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|---------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) Australia | (5) New Zealand                 |
| (2) France    | (6) Spain                       |
| (3) Germany   | (7) United Kingdom              |
| (4) Japan     | (8) United States <sup>12</sup> |

In general the official records relating to the territories of each of these metropolitan powers will be found classified under the national equivalent of:-

- (1) Foreign Office (or Department of External Affairs)<sup>13</sup>
- (2) Colonial Office (or Department of Territories)
- (3) Admiralty (or Department of the Navy).

Occasional official records, particularly of a consular character, will of course be found in the archives of most countries, but by far the greatest concentrations will be found in those listed above, including the archives or secretariats of the nineteen territories which they possessed, or still possess, in the region.

However, except for political historians and a few others, the unofficial manuscript material is probably of considerably greater importance. This is an amorphous collection, often hard to locate and harder to classify but, largely for reasons connected with regional history, most of them fall into one or another of the following categories:-

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12 Chile should perhaps be properly included here as Easter Island falls within our area and indeed much research on subjects connected with the island has been done by Pacific Islands specialists; it is, however, mentioned in Section C of the locational survey.

13 Usually including consular records.

- (1) Discovery and exploration.
- (2) Travellers accounts and impressions.
- (3) Records of residents (including diaries and family letters).
- (4) Mission records.
- (5) Trading records (including shipping).
- (6) Whaling records (including logbooks and journals).
- (7) Records connected with the labour trade.
- (8) Planters records and material connected with expatriate agricultural production.
- (9) Political polemics.
- (10) Vernacular material of all kinds (including genealogies).
- (11) Unpublished research material.
- (12) Miscellaneous.

Handling some hundreds of manuscripts it is surprising how few have to be classed under Miscellaneous, most of them being modern documents connected with such subjects as industrial production, the South Pacific Games, or cookery recipes.

A final class comprises:-

- (13) Tape recordings of oral historical and other material.

These recordings are perhaps strictly speaking not manuscripts, but since they are of particular importance in the Pacific region and are normally preserved in libraries in the same manner as manuscripts or microfilms they are included in this survey.

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B. In Europe

(1) The United Kingdom. A preliminary survey made in 1962 and based largely on material collected by Miss M.D. Wainwright and Miss N. Matthews shows that manuscripts concerning the Pacific Islands are located in at least 55 separate depositories in the United Kingdom and Eire, with major concentrations in:-

The Public Record Office (official documentation)

The British Museum Library

The Admiralty Library (including the Hydrographic Department collection)

The National Maritime Museum

The London Missionary Society Library

The Methodist Missionary Society Library

Rhodes House, Oxford.<sup>14</sup>

A large portion (probably, on a footage basis, over half) of the manuscript material in the United Kingdom has been copied on microfilm by the Australian Joint Copying Project, an inter-library venture, and positives are already on file in the Mitchell, Turnbull,

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14 Wainwright and Matthews (comp.) 1965, first typescript only, as the Pacific Islands entries were subsequently removed and have been incorporated in the Pacific Monograph Series, Vol. I, 1967. A list of the 55 depositories forms Enclosure II. Miss P. Mander-Jones, for her major survey, estimates that about 350 depositories will have to be examined, but many of these will presumably contain items relating to Australia or New Zealand and not the Pacific Islands - see Enclosure I.

Sinclair and Australian National Libraries. Through this and other agencies we now have available the whole of the Foreign Office and Colonial Office correspondence, the earlier Board of Trade records, the despatches of the British Consulate, Honolulu, some Admiralty letters and logs, and the correspondence and other papers of the London Missionary Society, Methodist Missionary Society and Church Missionary Society.<sup>15</sup>

Other manuscript series have been copied by this Department as well as by other organizations, for example the important Stanmore Papers in the British Museum Library and the Lever Brothers Papers relating to the Pacific region. The recent change-over in the Public Record Office to the Library of Congress system by which all records will be systematically microfilmed, the negative kept by the P.R.O., and positives made available at a reasonable price should enable us to obtain all remaining items in their possession.

In 1962, furthermore, Dr R.A. Gollan, the Australian historian who was then working in England, and I discussed with Miss P. Mander-Jones, at that time the Australian Joint Copying Project Officer, the possibility of her undertaking a detailed survey of all manuscripts in the United Kingdom relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands on her impending retirement. The eventual result was the project for the compilation of a definitive catalogue

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<sup>15</sup> Australian Joint Copying Project n.d.; London Missionary Society n.d.; Arlington (comp.) 1957; Hitchings (comp.) 1959; Pacific Islands Library Committee, University of Hawaii, 1961.

on which she is now engaged. As will be seen from Enclosure I this is expected to take from three to five years (most probably five) and is being sponsored by a joint grant from the Australian National University and the National Library.<sup>16</sup>

The position in Great Britain is thus relatively satisfactory: no survey and cataloguing of material is required, but a list needs to be prepared of the documentation already copied and arrangements made for the distribution of positives to the research libraries, and a programme agreed upon for the copying of the remainder, using the Pacific Monograph Series Provisional List until the appearance of Miss Mander-Jones's Guide.

(2) France. Owing to its long-standing political, mission, trading and scientific associations with the Pacific, France possesses (after Great Britain) the largest collection of manuscripts relating to Oceania in Europe. Yet, so far as I am aware, virtually nothing has been done to list, and still less to copy, this important treasury of source material.

The main collections would appear to be:-

- (1) The manuscripts on French discovery and exploration:  
these have been partially copied for the Mitchell Library and the completion of the work is perhaps

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16 Mander-Jones 1967, reproduced as Enclosure I.

not of the first priority.<sup>17</sup>

- (2) The archives of the Ministère de la France d'Outre-Mer (now transferred to the National Archives), of which there exists a good listing of the series relating to the Central and Eastern Pacific.<sup>18</sup>
- (3) The archives of the Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, both the Mémoires et Documents: Correspondence Politique Series and the consular Correspondence Commerciale Series, the latter particularly for Honolulu (from 1837) and Sydney (from 1842). I have a note that the diplomatic correspondence to 1896 for all Pacific Islands other than French territories is contained in 7 volumes under the heading 'Mémoires et Documents: Océanie'.
- (4) The archives de la Marine, in its three main divisions relating to the Naval, Hydrographic and Merchant Marine services, for the most part now believed to be lodged in the National Archives.<sup>19</sup>

An examination of French works on Oceania will show that

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17 Mitchell Library 1947. More recently some valuable manuscripts, notably relating to the Baudin expedition (1800-1804), have been copied for the Public Library of South Australia.

18 Taillemite 1959.

19 A list of the main French official documentation on the Pacific Islands to 1842 will be found in Faivre 1953:505-8.

a large and important volume of manuscript material on the Pacific Islands exists, as in England, outside the official archives in large collections such as that in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, notably the Papiers Margry, or the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle; at the headquarters of the various (mainly Catholic) missionary societies, such as the Archiconfrérie de Notre-Dame du Sacré-Coeur at Issoudun; or scattered around the country in small holdings. It is to be hoped also that the correspondence of the major trading companies, and particularly the important Société Française de l'Océanie, is still extant.

Unfortunately we know too little about all this wealth, partly because there appears to have been no fixed rules governing the copying of series in the National Archives and similar official collections. Nevertheless those who have the necessary entrée can now consult and even copy without undue restriction. British historians have worked in the archives on occasion and, when refused permission to obtain material on the Peruvian labour trade of the 1860s, I merely engaged a Frenchman who was given every facility to consult and copy the documents.

The situation has in any case improved now, not only by a greater official understanding of the needs and motives of scholars but also by the establishment of the Centre Documentaire pour l'Océanie, with its headquarters at the Musée de l'Homme and its primary aim "to strive towards the establishment of a documentation of the Pacific". While

mainly interested in the processing of information of interest to anthropologists, the Centre "is hoping, on the part of the Institutions interested in the Pacific area, for a cooperation which it would like to be based on reciprocal help, rather than the payment of services" and it aims to "supply, in microfilm form, any documentation in its possession which might be useful to the scientific staff of the cooperating Institution or serve as a medium for locating and obtaining such documentation from other French sources".<sup>20</sup> The Centre has already supplied a valuable collection of documents on the French trading companies in the New Hebrides.

I suggest that the most important field project in Europe for the Pacific Research Libraries is to send a French speaking librarian or archivist (better still if a French citizen) to Paris armed with the requisite credentials, to make a survey of all manuscript series and items throughout the country relating to Oceania. Initial contacts would logically be through Professor Jean Guiart of the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, who is also the Director of the Centre Documentaire, and Father Patrick O'Reilly, the Secretary-General of the Société des Océanistes and France's foremost Pacific bibliographer. Names that occur to one as possibilities for conducting such a survey are Mr Brian Baldwin, of the South Australian archives, and Miss S. Mourot, of the

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20 Guiart n.d.

Mitchell Library, but Professor Guiart and Father O'Reilly, both of whom employ a staff of bibliographers, should be able to suggest suitable persons who are persona grata with the authorities of the National Archives.

While whoever completes the survey should report on the conditions governing the copying of documents it is envisaged that decisions on copying and negotiations for permission to copy may have to be made by the Librarians of the Pacific Research Libraries, through the Director of the proposed Manuscripts Clearing Centre, and in certain instances it may be necessary to work through diplomatic channels. I would hope, however, that with our existing personal contacts with the French Pacific specialists, the vast majority of negotiations would proceed smoothly, particularly if we can offer them copies of documents copied and any other material in the possession of the Research Libraries.

(3) Western Germany. The copying position as regards Western Germany is understood to be reasonably satisfactory, though nothing can of course repair the wholesale destruction of manuscripts during World War II. The official archival material relating to the former German territories in the Pacific (New Guinea and its islands, the Carolines, Marianas and Marshalls, Nauru and Western Samoa) was split into two sections at the end of the war, part of being lodged at Potsdam. The West German section seems now to have all been copied by United States

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and British instrumentalities and the University of California.<sup>21</sup>

There was relatively little mission work directed from Germany but the files of the main trading companies should be copied at an early date. It is believed that the archives of the Godeffroy Company have been destroyed during the last war, but those of its successor, the Société Commerciale de l'Océanie, operating in the Eastern Pacific, have been copied by the Sinclair Library.<sup>22</sup> In any case the lesser-known but still important German firms, such as the Jaluit Company and Messrs Hensheim, should be filmed if still existing. Probably few manuscripts are still left in private hands but it is suggested that Dr Gerd Koch, of the Museum für Völkerkunde in Berlin, the leading authority on the Pacific Islands in Germany, should be requested to report on the situation and the need for a more detailed survey.

(4) Eastern Germany. So far as is known the main manuscripts concerning Oceania in East Germany are the Foreign Office and Colonial Office files in the Zentralarchiv at Potsdam. A memorandum on the fruitless attempts to have this material copied in 1956 forms Enclosure III, together with a list of the series covering Samoa (but not the other German territories in the South Seas).

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21 And itemized in, e.g., British Admiralty 1959, and a similar list of German Foreign Ministry archives in the writer's possession.

22 Staatsarchiv de Hambourg 1961.

Since then the position has improved very materially: Dr Helen Hughes has had the material on Nauru copied recently and the National Library has, through a contact, obtained films of some New Guinea material. Miss Marjorie Jacobs, of the University of Sydney, is about to proceed to East Germany, in part financed by a grant from the Mitchell Library, and at a recent conference of a number of scholars interested in copying all manuscripts concerning the Pacific Islands and China she undertook to make a preliminary survey and to report on the scope and volume of the various series and the approximate cost of photocopying them in whole or part.

No other important collections are known to exist but it is recommended that the present position should be ascertained by correspondence with Professor Dr Walter Markov, the Director of the Institut für Allgemeine Geschulte at the Karl-Marx-Universität in Leipzig, who is particularly interested in Pacific studies and informs me that he has post-graduate students working on the history of both Samoa and German New Guinea.

(5) Spain. The manuscript material in Spain falls into three distinct categories:-

- (1) documents relating to the Spanish voyages of discovery to the South Seas;
- (2) the official archival series concerning the colonial territories of Spain (Guam, the Carolines and the Marianas); and
- (3) the Catholic mission records relating to the same islands.

Most of the material on the discoveries has been examined, and much of it already catalogued and filmed, in particular by Father Celsus Kelly, the acknowledged authority on the subject.<sup>23</sup>

Again the first step to be taken is to obtain advice on the present whereabouts, extent and accessibility of the items in Categories (2) and (3), and I suggest that this can best be done by inquiring from Dr F. Morales Padrón, of the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras at the University of Seville regarding (2) and Father Kelly on both (2) and (3). Dr Colin Jack-Hinton, who has recently been working in Lisbon on Portuguese sources relating to the Far East, informs me that there is little or no material there concerning the Pacific Islands.

(6) Russia. Manuscripts on the Pacific Islands in the U.S.S.R. are mainly confined to:-

- (1) the work of the Russian exploring expeditions and vessels connected with the Russian-American Company;
- (2) the relations of the Company with Hawaii; and
- (3) reports and correspondence of a few explorers.

There are several scholars in both Moscow and Leningrad engaged on Pacific studies and I have found them co-operative in procuring microfilms of anything required; my own liaison having been with Dr N.A. Boutinov, of the University of Leningrad.<sup>24</sup>

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23 Kelly 1965.

24 Toumarkine 1962.

(7) Italy. There is a rich cache of manuscript material relating to Pacific studies in the Vatican Library at Rome and the libraries and archives of the Catholic religious bodies concerned with the conversion of Oceania. Its importance is very great, but so are believed to be the difficulties in obtaining permission for it to be filmed.

Until a few years ago the Vatican and other Catholic archives were open to scholars and Professor Davidson was assured that no objection would be raised to documents being photocopied. Later a more or less complete ban was placed on both consultation and copying; while at the present time consultation is generally permitted but it is understood that copying is still generally prohibited.<sup>25</sup>

After the French official archives, this is the most important collection to be copied and no effort should be spared to obtain permission for systematic filming. It is suggested that preliminary feelers might be best made through Father Celsus Kelly, who is understood to be engaged in copying records in Rome relating to Australia from 1820-1866 for the Mitchell Library, or through Father Gregory Dening, S.J., who is being sent to Europe this year by Professor Douglas Oliver of Harvard University to search for manuscripts on the Marquesas Islands (many of them being in Catholic repositories in Rome).

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25 On the other hand the Marist Fathers' letters from Fiji, Solomons and Rotuma, 1840-1915, have been recently filmed in Rome.

C. In America and Asia

(1) The United States. The impression I have gained over the past 20 years is that more manuscripts of various kinds relating to Oceania are to be found in the United States today than in any other country. Quite apart from the close relationship between the States and Hawaii and the more recent political jurisdiction over American Samoa and most of Micronesia there is a long history of American sealing, whaling and other commercial activity throughout Oceania, which produced a mass of correspondence and papers of which a higher percentage has been preserved than in other countries.

The material is of such infinite variety that classification is difficult. Among the principal categories, however, may be mentioned:-

- (1) The consular records in the National Archives, of which the despatches are available on microfilm but the equally important post records have yet to be filmed.
- (2) The records of the Department of the Navy, now all available on microfilm.
- (3) The guano records in the National Archives, most being contained in five volumes marked "Guano Islands" but with others still scattered in the State Department Series and the papers of the Navy Department.<sup>26</sup>

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26 Nichols 1956:241-2.

- (4) The extensive records relating to the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, available on microfilm.
- (5) The whaling logbooks, journals and other records in depositories at Salem, Providence, New Bedford, Nantucket, Mystic and other New England ports, which still remain almost entirely uncopied.<sup>27</sup>
- (6) The logbooks, journals, account books and correspondence relating to the New England sealing, sandalwood, beche-de-mer and other commerce with the South Sea Islands, of which a portion has been copied for personal use but has, of course, been made available to other workers.<sup>28</sup>
- (7) The correspondence of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions covering Hawaii, Micronesia and the Marquesas, now on microfilm.
- (8) The records concerned with the extensive trade in miscellaneous cargoes between San Francisco and other west coast ports

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27 See, for example, the Nicholson Whaling Collection listed and described in Sherman 1965.

28 "The rich collections of manuscripts and artifacts at Salem and Harvard, supplemented by those in New Bedford, Providence, and New Haven, plus the many small but important deposits of material in various seaboard historical societies, comprise one of the world's greatest accumulations of documented material from the Pacific. They are an indispensable repository for the ethnologist, historian, and admirer of primitive art. As journals, correspondence, and reports are published, Pacific history will be further illuminated and we shall learn more about the culture of the South Sea Islanders." - Dodge, 1965:191.

and the Pacific Islands, which has not yet been examined. In addition, there are the collections of papers known, or suspected, to exist in a number of libraries throughout the country: the New York Public Library, the University of Delaware (George Handy Bates Samoan Papers), the Huntington Library, the Library of Congress, the Baker Library at Harvard University (business papers), and the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, to name only a few that come readily to mind through personal correspondence. There must be many other collections unknown to the writer and a far greater mass of material still in the hands of private owners. How often in the course of reading does one come across fascinating references to documents and family records apparently sighted by the author but uncopied for the benefit of others.<sup>29</sup>

In my view the first priority for any extension work to be undertaken as a co-operative venture by the Pacific research libraries is the preparation of a volume on the lines of Crick and Alman, or Miss Mander-Jones's forthcoming volume, cataloguing all manuscripts discoverable in the United States relating to the Pacific Islands.<sup>30</sup>

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29 A typical case, being investigated by a member of the Department at the moment, concerns the O'Keefe Papers, said to be locked in a trunk in Savannah, Florida - see Klingman and Green 1952:5. Efforts are also being made by a researcher in Chicago to trace documents relating to the blackbirder James T. Proctor.

30 Crick and Alman 1961.

The task is not one of insuperable magnitude, nor need it involve a large expenditure; and there is certainly no greater need in the whole field of Pacific studies.

(2) Peru and Chile. While there are scattered manuscripts concerning Oceania in most American countries (I have myself noted them in Canada, Guatemala, Panama and Uruguay) the only concentrations of importance are in Peru and Chile and concern:-

- (1) the early trade between the western ports of South America and Eastern Polynesia;
- (2) the so-called Peruvian labour trade of 1860-1864; and
- (3) political and other relations between Chile and Easter Island.

I have been for some time trying to get the documentation at (2) copied through the British Council in Lima; but it would be far more satisfactory if this work of collecting and copying could be undertaken by the Pacific Research Libraries for the benefit of all.

(3) Japan. It is understood that all discoverable Foreign Office, Admiralty and similar records were microfilmed after World War II and are readily available;<sup>31</sup> as relatively few scholars, however, read Japanese it would seem desirable to calendar at least the most important items in these series in English so that research workers may be in a

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31 Uyehara (comp.) 1954; Young (comp.) 1959.

position to make their own arrangements for the translation of any documents of particular relevance to their studies.

So far as I can ascertain, however, the records of the Japanese South Seas Government (Nanyo Cho) responsible from 1922 for the administration of the Carolines, Marshalls and Marianas have not yet been filmed, and<sup>as</sup> these are of considerably greater importance to most students working on the area it is recommended that negotiations should be commenced to have this work done and, in due course, to have the main items calendared.

#### D. In Australasia

(1) Australia. Here, as in the United States, there are a great number of manuscripts concerned with the islands, for the most part political, commercial or missionary. Probably the most important of those still extant are, however, now deposited in the libraries or archives in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne (more particularly, in the Mitchell and National Libraries) and the main need, once again, is for the compilation of a Master Catalogue.

Admittedly the Catalogue of Manuscripts relating to Australia now being compiled by the National Library includes items concerned with the Pacific Islands, but it appears to be mainly a listing of collections rather than individual documents and its completion, at the present rate of progress, would seem to be a matter of decades, whereas a competent bibliographer could isolate and catalogue the manuscripts relating to Oceania in a few

months.<sup>32</sup> It had, in fact been arranged that Miss Ida Leeson, former Mitchell Librarian, should undertake this work but unfortunately she died before it could be commenced. Since then it has been proposed as the first field project of the Research Assistant in charge of the Manuscripts Clearing Centre of the Department of Pacific History at the Australian National University.

(2) New Zealand. The position here is reasonably satisfactory since the Pacific Islands manuscripts holdings in the Dominion were examined and catalogued on cards by the late R.P. Gilson in 1960 and it is proposed to publish them as a preliminary guide later this year.<sup>33</sup>

The photocopying of documents and progressive amendment and bringing up-to-date of the manuscript catalogue should present no difficulty to the staff of any Reporting and Clearing Centre which may be established.

#### E. In the Pacific Islands

The greatest concentration of manuscripts on the region is somewhat naturally still to be found in the islands themselves, despite the ravages of silver-fish, white ants and other paper destroying pests. These may be classified, for practical purposes, into four main categories:-

(1) Territorial and local government records. These vary greatly in

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32 National Library of Australia 1965.

33 Pacific Monograph Series, Vol. I, 1967.

the extent to which they have been preserved and their present condition. For Hawaii, Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission administrations the position is now satisfactory, though much of the earlier correspondence is now lost and some of the later destroyed in World War II; these records are properly preserved in air-conditioned archives, with adequate facilities for research and photocopying. In other territories the records have been almost wholly destroyed, either through enemy action (the United States Trust Territory, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony) though copies of despatches may of course still be extant in the files of the metropolitan or other supervising authority; by government decision (the Kingdom of Tonga); or through sheer neglect. A few records (German documentation in Western Samoa, British and United States consular correspondence) have been removed to archives outside the area, while it is understood that the French territorial records in New Caledonia, the New Hebrides and Tahiti are in an unsatisfactory condition, not properly classified and unavailable for research.

(2) Mission records. So far as can be ascertained all local mission correspondence and other documentations are still (where not destroyed) being kept in the islands, though much of the material is unsorted and in a bad state of preservation. The earlier records, e.g. the Catholic archival material recently located at Noumea, is often of the greatest interest and importance and every effort should be made to persuade the mission bodies to sanction their preservation in proper archives and to allow them to be sorted, classified and copied. Where, as in

the case of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Latter-day Saints, access is strictly forbidden by the metropolitan church authorities, it should still be possible to arrange for removal to their own headquarters archives; with the other religious bodies inertia and lack of funds are likely to prove the main obstacles.

(3) Trading and plantation material. It is particularly difficult to persuade business firms (including planters) to permit their books and correspondence to be preserved in archives, or even to preserve them in their own custody. This is due partly to a fear that they may prove of value to some rival firm, or at least be used to injure the company's good name, and partly through an inability to believe that the records could be of the slightest value to posterity.<sup>34</sup>

To quote an example, a few years ago I was asked by a member of the Hedstrom family of Fiji to arrange for the deposit of the records of the well-known island trading firm of Morris, Hedstrom and Company (then in process of being taken over by W.R. Carpenter and Company) but even though the General Manager was an old personal friend he categorically refused to consider the suggestion and assured me that, on the contrary, he was at the moment engaged in personally supervising the burning of every document bearing on the company's former operations. All records belonging to the historic firm of Henderson and Macfarlane

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34 The restrictions now placed on copying the Jardine, Matheson and Company records are understood to be due to their misuse by a researcher.

have not disappeared, though there is reason to believe that they still exist, and even where the papers of a business firm or plantation company are known to be still preserved, as is the case with at least a portion of the books and correspondence of Burns, Philp and Company, there is a danger that it may not be for long.

The political history of the Pacific Islands has largely been written, and adequate documentation exists for filling in most of the gaps; if the commercial history of the area is also to be written an urgent and concerted attempt will have to be made by the Pacific Research Libraries to obtain and preserve every scrap of source material that still remains undestroyed. That it is not yet too late is shown by the report on the Hennings Papers given in Enclosure IV, which arrived a few days ago. These papers, now preserved in the Fiji Archives, are of exceptional importance, but I have no doubt that other old island families, formerly or still engaged in business or planting, possess bundles of correspondence and books in attics and cellars which they would be willing to part with, or at least to have copied, if tactfully approached.<sup>35</sup>

(4) Private manuscripts. This is the most voluminous and important category of all, consisting in the main of:-

- (1) scientific notes on the local flora and fauna, etc.;

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35 As this is being written a report has been received of a further find of old plantation records on Munia Island, in the Lau Group, which are considered likely to disappear or disintegrate unless early action can be taken to preserve them.

ethnographic observations on native psychology, behaviour and customs; grammars, dictionaries and vocabularies; meteorological observations; and similar material of a direct research relevance;

- (ii) letters, diaries and family records of expatriate residents;
- (iii) vernacular correspondence of all kinds; genealogies and family histories; accounts of local traditions; notes on customs; in fact everything written by the islanders bearing on their history, psychology, technical processes and way of life; and
- (iv) tape recordings of oral information and narratives of all kinds, but mainly concerned with local history, custom or technology.

There are a surprising number of manuscripts belonging to Category (i) in existence: many have recently been recovered, such as Sir Arthur Grimble's anthropological notes, the ecological diaries kept by a resident in the Marquesas Islands, the meteorological observations and plantation diary of a former manager on Fanning Island, and the notes made by the manager of the guano company on Malden; others, such as the important Maxwell Papers concerning Fiji, have been sighted but cannot be obtained from the family; while still others, such as the magnificent Goward Collection of material on Gilbertese ethnography, and the Allardyce Papers, have been deliberately destroyed by the descendants of the authors. What can be done with but little effort

is shown by the Project for the Preservation of Manuscripts on Island Languages of the South Pacific Commission, which in a short space of time collected and microfilmed nearly a hundred priceless manuscript grammars and dictionaries in as many languages or dialects as well as other texts of scientific importance.<sup>36</sup>

A few items in Category (ii), such as the Turpin Diary, the Swanston Papers, the John T. Arundel Diaries and Papers, and the Hadfield Diaries, are being collected and deposited in libraries and archives each year but what is needed is a concerted drive by the Pacific Research Libraries, using radio talks, advertisements and personal contacts, to persuade the older European and other expatriate families to deposit their records in institutions where they can be properly cared for, copied and studied by research workers. Whenever desired restrictions against immediate use, or use without family permission, can be made by the donors and, in cases where the family wishes to retain possession of the original material, experience shows that it is usually possible to obtain permission to photocopy it.

Most of the observations made in the preceding paragraph apply to the vernacular material in Category (iii) which is, however,

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36 See the S.P.C. Quarterly Bulletin 1951 I(2):16, and the Manuscript Deposit Notices in succeeding issues; also the article "Preservation of Pacific Islands Manuscripts" in ibid. 1954 IV(3):31. The project has now been taken over by the National Library of Australia, which has issued a list of microfilmed documents to 1957 - National Library of Australia n.d.

far greater in quantity and at the same time more liable to deterioration, being usually found stored in wooden boxes in village houses and inadequately protected from damage by hurricanes, humidity and insects. Its value is being increasingly recognized as representing the sole means by which historians may counteract the ethnocentric effect of the vast mass of European literature on Oceania and attempt, for the first time, the writing of a racially neutral and objective history. To the anthropologist, furthermore, the study of family records and correspondence enables the time element to be introduced, using source material written by the ancestors of the very people available for interrogation by direct field research today.

That the material exists and can be collected has been conclusively demonstrated by the experimental project undertaken by R.G. and Marjorie Crocombe in the Cook Islands on behalf of the Department of Pacific History. Here, using portable microfilming equipment, a considerable amount of valuable vernacular documentation was copied in the islanders' own homes and immediately returned to them; and had time and finances permitted a truly magnificent collection could have been made which would, in my submission, have revolutionized our concepts of Cook Islands Maori life.

What has been attempted as a pilot project in the Cook Islands can be done equally effectively elsewhere, for the Pacific Islander has been and is an inveterate letter writer. On Tahiti in 1960 a questionnaire was circulated to discover "les personnes possédant des

documents anciens (papiers de famille, correspondance, généalogies, recueils folkloriques, photographies, etc.)", with a view to eventual acquisition or copying;<sup>37</sup> on the remote island of Raroia Bengt Danielsson found that family historical and demographic data had been kept in exercise books for decades; and in the Gilbert Islands I have seen letters written during the last century recording events and revealing patterns of thought, belief and practice which we are laboriously endeavouring to reconstruct today from mainly European sources, in ignorance that the primary evidence which we believe to be lost for ever is in fact extant but uncollected.

There is an important caveat in this type of field-work, however: it can only be undertaken with success by someone who understands and is trusted by the islanders concerned, who speaks the vernacular, and is willing to work on lines approved by local opinion (the technical skill required for operating a portable microfilm camera can be learnt in a few hours). This is the reason why there have been more failures than successes in this specialized but very important type of manuscript collection. The justification for including the final category - oral recordings - among manuscripts has been already argued; in any case they can, and frequently are, converted into them by simple transcription. These recordings, sometimes termed oral history but in

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37 Journal de la Société des Océanistes 1960:105.

reality much wider in scope, are of particular importance in the Pacific region where both expatriates and natives in possession of information of value to researches in a number of disciplines, are often unwilling, and at times incapable, of reproducing it in writing but have no objection to imparting it orally. It has been proposed that the possibilities and difficulties of this technique should be tested in New Guinea by a pilot project to be undertaken jointly by the Library of the Institute of Advanced Studies and the New Guinea Research Unit of the Australian National University.

As in the case of the copying of vernacular manuscripts success will almost certainly be dependent on the local expertise of the field operator, who will need to be sufficiently conversant with the broad outlines of the subject matter of the recording to lead the informant. Fortunately such experts are obtainable for most island groups in the Pacific and it is predicted that the value of the material brought back by a trial project would be more than sufficient to ensure adequate finance for further work. The need for action, however, is particularly urgent owing to the greatly accelerated pace of acculturation throughout most of the region.

#### Pacific Islands Manuscripts Clearing Centre

This report will at least, I hope, have demonstrated that while there is a considerable amount of work still to be done before we can achieve our goal - the deposit in each Pacific Research Library of a

copy of every manuscript of importance to any branch of Pacific studies - the task is a perfectly feasible one. If it is to be completed within the next decade, however, the present inefficient competition between libraries should be superseded by a mutual agreement to establish a single Manuscripts Clearing Centre with the following assigned responsibilities:-

- (1) to search for all such manuscripts by scouring catalogues, guides, bibliographies, indexes, etc., as well as by correspondence with possible informants;
- (2) to catalogue in a form approved by the participating libraries the series and items reported or discovered;
- (3) to forward copies of all catalogue entries to each participating library;
- (4) to arrange for the copying by the most practicable means of such manuscripts and their forwarding to each library;
- (5) to prepare and publish catalogues and guides to manuscripts as approved by the participating libraries;
- (6) to prepare detailed and costed projects for the cataloguing and copying of manuscripts in particular countries, areas, libraries or archives for the consideration of the participating libraries; and
- (7) to prepare similar projects for the recording of oral material.

It will be seen that the Clearing Centre as envisaged would

consist of two divisions:-

- (1) a non-mobile search, cataloguing, reporting and copying centre; and
- (2) one or more field searchers and recorders to survey particular areas as approved by the participating libraries.

Within limits the larger the Clearing Centre and the greater the number of survey workers the quicker the work will be completed. My personal preference, however, is for a relatively small organization, to consist of, say:-

- (1) a part-time Director, who could be a librarian, archivist or area specialist, the only essential qualification being that he should have an expert knowledge of the Pacific Islands and their manuscript resources;
- (2) a full-time professional bibliographer; and
- (3) a secretary-typist.

With regard to field-work I would recommend as first priority:-

- (1) a survey of regional manuscripts in the United States, to be undertaken by one or more field-workers employed and directed by the Sinclair Library of the University of Hawaii; and
- (2) a similar survey of material in Australia to be undertaken by a searcher employed by the Mitchell or National Libraries.

At the same time negotiations could be conducted with the Centre

Documentaire de l'Océanie, Father O'Reilly and others for a survey of manuscripts in France, and with suitable go-betweens for one of Catholic manuscripts in Rome and elsewhere in Europe, to take place at the conclusion of the above projects. The conduct of programmes for search, copying (and oral recording) in the various Pacific Islands groups is, in my opinion, necessarily dependent on the availability of suitable personnel with local knowledge and contacts and the Director of the Centre would have to keep a constant watch out for such persons and submit proposals for surveys as and when they can be found. Surveys in other countries have not the priority of the above and can be done when funds and personnel permit.

### Conclusion

In the foregoing pages I have indicated the need for the formation of an Association of Pacific Research Libraries to complete library holdings and improve bibliographic control in the case of printed works, and to promote the location, cataloguing and copying of manuscripts relating to the Pacific by the establishment of a jointly-operated Manuscripts Clearing Centre. Perhaps I should explain here that my personal qualifications for making these submissions are a rather wider interest in Pacific literature than is usual in the case of regional specialists, since my own publications lie as much in the fields of anthropology, geography and administration as

of history and my personal acquaintance with the region extends over a quarter of a century and some 75 islands, from Hawaii to Pitcairn and Micronesia to New Caledonia.

Speaking for Professor Davidson and the Department of Pacific History, we see merit in any Association of Pacific Research Libraries taking advantage of our proposed Manuscripts Clearing Centre, since the collective staff of the Department possess a greater knowledge of the published and unpublished sources relating to Pacific studies as a whole (helped as they are by specialists in other Departments such as Anthropology, Geography, Demography, International Relations and Political Science) than that of any library or other institution and, at the same time, the Department is not interested in keeping manuscripts itself but rather in their location and procurement for preservation in libraries.

If the Association should decide to utilize our Clearing House the only overhead cost suggested would be a token subsidy of say \$750 per annum from each participating library to meet a small part of our own cost estimated at \$13,500 p.a. (which includes half the salary of the Director, a full-time bibliographer and a secretary-typist, with \$2,000 for other expenditure, including fees at our standard rates to free-lance searchers in other countries).<sup>38</sup>

The cost of the principal field surveys recommended (France,

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<sup>38</sup> All amounts are in terms of Australian currency.

Rome and the United States) for say one library assistant working for an average of a year in each country would, at Australian salaries and in Australian currency, amount to approximately \$24,000, which could be spread over a decade, if necessary. The costs of an Australian survey would be relatively small and could be met by this Department, if desired, with the co-operation of the Australian libraries; much of it has been done already.

Should the Association decide, however, to establish the Clearing House elsewhere the Department would be glad to support it by providing all the information on Pacific manuscripts which its members possess and by loaning the services of particular regional specialists, while at the same time abstaining from any attempt to duplicate the work being done. In any event we would hope that extensive use of the facilities offered by the Manuscripts and Publications Sections of The Journal of Pacific History might be made by the Association and Clearing Centre.

Supporters of proposals such as those made in this report are, of course, always open to the objection that it has not been done elsewhere. The need for a co-ordinated attack on the problem of documentation collection and provision is, however, particularly pressing and urgent in the case of the Pacific Islands while the prospects of such an attack proving successful are especially favourable. If we have the courage to be the vanguard, there is every reason to anticipate that within a few years the Pacific Research Libraries, with their

(as far as humanly possible) complete regional collections and their central reporting and copying agency for new discoveries, sustained by a policy of mutual co-operation in the interests of regional research and scholarship, will be leaders in the movement for the rationalisation of library resources; a movement which can predictably be expected to spread to other regions with perhaps greater problems, but also greater financial resources.

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23 March 1967

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A Guide to Manuscripts in the British Isles relating to  
Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands

In November 1964 work was begun in London on the compilation of a guide to manuscripts in the British Isles relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. The Australian National University and the National Library of Australia are sponsoring a three year programme with the possibility of one or two more years' extension. The scheme was worked out on the basis of a permanent staff of three, two editors and a secretary typist with temporary help from specialists.

The collection of material in three to five years could not have been contemplated if we had not been able to build on investigations already made. First we have transcripts, and a few photocopies obtained for Australian authorities during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the largest collections of transcripts being those of James Bonwick, used for Historical Records of New South Wales and Historical Records of Australia. Second we have the microfilms and photocopies which are the product of the 'Joint Copying Project' organized by the National Library of Australia and the Public Library of New South Wales, the other states and New Zealand being partners; third we have sources of information in the British Isles, reports of the National Register of Archives and of the Scottish Record Office; and fourth we have information generously given by libraries and scholars.

Information from these four sources was used in a report I made in 1964 while holding a six months' visiting fellowship at the

Australian National University. Copies are filed in the University, in the National Library of Australia and in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. Naturally since 1964 our knowledge has increased and all 1964 and later notes have been placed in files to which we can refer for the survey.

A list of sources of information must include two guides to manuscripts in the British Isles which have appeared during the last five years, A Guide to Manuscripts relating to America in Great Britain and Ireland, ed. by Professor B.R. Crick and Mrs M. Alman<sup>1</sup> and A Guide to Western Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles relating to South East Asia, compiled by Miss M.D. Wainwright and Miss N. Matthews.<sup>2</sup> We have had invaluable help from the editors and compilers of these two publications, both in methods of work and in the discovery of manuscripts. The compilers of the latter gave us copies of all their entries for Australian and Pacific islands material omitted from publication.<sup>3</sup>

For the arrangement adopted we have the precedent of these two recent guides, as well as that of earlier guides to materials for

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- 1 Published for the British Association for American Studies. O.U.P., 1961.
  - 2 Under the general supervision of J.D. Pearson, M.A., Librarian, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. O.U.P., 1965.
  - 3 These are also being used, with permission, as the basis for A preliminary inventory of manuscript material on the Pacific Islands in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Pacific Monograph Series, Vol. I, Canberra, Australian National University.

American history sponsored by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Their example has influenced the decision to limit the area in which manuscripts are sought and also to record findings, location by location, a plan which has proved practical, economical and useful to scholars. A name, place and subject index is currently being made for manuscripts in each repository.

It is estimated that there are about three hundred and sixty libraries, institutions, private archives and business firms to be examined. After two years' work draft descriptions of forty of these have been made and about two hundred are well on the way. A considerable proportion of those not yet finished can be described briefly for we have concentrated on London, Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge and on large collections, the British Museum, the House of Lords, the Admiralty Library (now entitled Library of the Naval Historical Branch of the Ministry of Defence), the National Maritime Museum, the libraries of universities and of societies. Outstanding huge collections in London are the Public Record Office and India Office.

It will be impossible to avoid uneven emphasis on large masses of important material. A long run of closely related papers can be dealt with in a few lines while two or three scattered items have to be described in detail. Most of the material in the Public Record Office, for example, will lend itself to description in general notes on relevant groups and classes and on the nature of the documents filed. It is comparatively easy to adopt rules for detailed entries,

for abbreviations, capitalization, punctuation, etc., but the difficulties of uneven treatment will need careful consideration when final editing is undertaken. This is one reason why all descriptions must be preliminary drafts until the survey is nearer completion, another being of course, the importance of a last consultation with the holding body.

The area covered by the survey is from the coast of Western Australia to Easter Island and from a curve embracing the Marianas and Hawaiian Islands to the Antarctic. The subjects covered may be in any field, description, biography, scientific research, history of exploration, economic and political development, history of art and literature. Where they occur with manuscripts, manuscript maps, drawings and paintings are mentioned but not described in detail and institutions holding only cartographical or pictorial material are excluded.

Every possible avenue is tried, national archives, records of societies and business, libraries, and private owners. No survey can be up-to-date when a halt is called but it is hoped that the present project will have recorded known manuscripts of importance, at the moment at which we come to the end of a survey, location by location.

Phyllis Mander-Jones  
Director of the Guide

Preliminary List of Libraries, Archives and other depositories  
in the United Kingdom and Eire containing manuscripts relating  
to the Pacific Islands

- (1) Admiralty Library
- (2) Alfred Holt and Company
- (3) Birmingham University Library
- (4) Bodleian Library, Oxford
- (5) British Library of Political and Economic Science
- (6) British Museum Library
- (7) British Museum (Natural History) Library
- (8) Buckinghamshire R.O., Aylesbury
- (9) Christ Church, Oxford
- (10) Foreign Office Library
- (11) Guildhall Library
- (12) Haddon Library of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge
- (13) Hereford City Library
- (14) House of Lords Library
- (15) Hydrographic Department (Admiralty)
- (16) India Office Library
- (17) John Rylands Library, Manchester
- (18) Lambeth Palace Library
- (19) Library of the Brethren of Trinity House, Hull
- (20) Liverpool R.O.
- (21) Lloyd's Bank

- (22) London Missionary Society Library
- (23) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- (24) Magdalene College, Cambridge
- (25) Maritime Museum, Hull
- (26) Methodist Missionary Society Library
- (27) National Library of Ireland, Dublin
- (28) National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
- (29) National Library of Wales
- (30) National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
- (31) National Register of Archives
- (32) Nottingham University Library
- (33) N.R.A. (Scotland), Edinburgh
- (34) Post Office Library, London
- (35) Public Record Office
- (36) Rhodes House, Oxford
- (37) Royal Anthropological Institute
- (38) Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- (39) Royal Commonwealth Society
- (40) Royal Entomological Society
- (41) Royal Geographical Society
- (42) Royal Horticultural Society
- (43) Royal Institute of International Affairs
- (44) Royal Society Archives
- (45) Royal United Service Institution

- (46) School of Oriental and African Studies
- (47) Scottish Record Office
- (48) Society of Friends Library
- (49) Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Library
- (50) Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Library
- (51) Trinity College, Dublin
- (52) University College, London
- (53) University Library, Cambridge
- (54) University of London Library
- (55) Wellcome Historical Medical Library

The Filming of German Foreign Office Records at Potsdam

The following is a summary of the abortive attempt made in 1956 to microfilm the German Foreign Office records relating to the Pacific Islands on deposit in the East German Zentralarchiv at Potsdam for the Department of Pacific History at the Australian National University, Canberra.

As soon as we heard that a train-load of German Foreign Office records had been sent to East Germany from Moscow, Professor Davidson wrote to ask whether they contained files relating to the German Consulate in Samoa. He found that they did.

We had known already that the archives of the Consulate and of the D.H. & P.G. had been lost or destroyed in Apia, where they would have been readily accessible to us had they survived. It had been decided, therefore, that the only hope of getting hold of official German material on 19th century Samoa rested with the fate of the archives formerly housed in Berlin. The British Foreign Office did not have the consular material, but as we suspected, the Russians had taken it.

Professor Davidson corresponded with the Director of the East German Archives with the object of getting, if possible, some detailed information on the records and on the means by which we might gain access to them.

He received a list of file series, with general subject

headings and the number of volumes available under each. Among other things, this list confirmed our belief that at least some of the records for Samoa would relate to other island groups; for Germany had enlarged its South Seas consular establishment in the late 1870s, at which time the status of the office of Apia was raised to that of Consulate-General.

On the subject of access Professor Davidson could get very little information. The Director's letters seemed to convey friendly intentions, but the substance of his advice was merely that Professor Davidson, or his accredited representative, should go to Potsdam and select material for microcopying. Questions about the charges for filming, the exchange rate, and the method of payment were evaded.

Since the University does not make a practice of acquiring microcopies of large manuscript collections, Professor Davidson would have, in normal circumstances, suggested to those concerned that the German records be inspected and that relevant series, files, or documents be filmed under the Australia-New Zealand joint copying scheme. In the case, however, there were serious objections to this procedure, the chief one being the restrictions imposed by the Australian Government on transactions with East Germany. Professor Davidson was informed in Canberra that a private individual or group might negotiate with the Potsdam Archives but that an official department or agency might not. At the same time, he was told that the private "research worker" would be in the best position to secure the co-operation of the East Germans.

At this point the prospects seemed too uncertain to follow up at very great expense. However, Mrs Newbury, whom this Department had engaged to translate German documents, found it necessary to go to Europe in April 1956; and she offered to attempt the trip to Potsdam if we would pay her expenses in Germany.

Before this proposal was finally agreed to, we canvassed a number of informants on the subject of microfilm charges and exchange rates. The results were somewhat inconclusive, but there was some ground for believing that the most we would have to pay would be about 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d (Aust.) per frame.

On these terms it was decided that Mrs Newbury should apply for a visa to go to Potsdam as Professor Davidson's personal research assistant. Her main objects were to have been to examine the records, to list all files on the South Pacific (as far as possible), and to determine how much of the material could be copied. It seemed a distinct possibility that an order for film would have to be placed on the spot, without recourse to telegraphic communication, so Mrs Newbury was authorised to order film up to a value of £600. Of course, it was hoped that we would be permitted to have copies of complete files or complete series, if desired.

In the event Mrs Newbury went to Berlin, but failed to receive an East German visa. She made a tentative arrangement, with a German historian, one Dr Neubecker, whom the University probably could commission to go to Potsdam on Professor Davidson's behalf - again, by "private"

arrangement. While in Berlin, Mrs Newbury also learned that our original information on exchange rates was no longer complete; for a more unfavourable rate had been added to those already in operation, with the result that we could be charged as much as 10d (Aust.) per frame if the East German authorities wished to have it that way.

Subsequently Professor Davidson learnt that he might be able to get an East German visa for himself. Pressure of other work, however, made it impossible for him to go and nothing further was done to get the material copied.

Centralarchiv, Potsdam: List of Files Concerning Samoa

FOREIGN OFFICE

1. Annual reports of the Apia Consulate, 1888-97

GERMAN COLONIAL OFFICE

2. The Samoa Islands. 1880-84
3. Commerce and shipping connections with Samoa. 1874-85, vols. 1-26
4. German settlement of Samoa. 1885, vols. 27-30
5. General affairs of Samoa. 1878-88
6. Conference in Apia to determine the affairs of Samoa. 1886-87, vols. 1-2
7. Conference in Washington to determine the affairs of Samoa. 1887-89, vols. 1-5
8. Negotiations with England and America re Samoa. 1888-1906
9. Samoa: Conferences. 1889-99
10. Colonial exertion in the South Seas. 1880-1921
11. Establishment of German administration in Samoa. 1885-1914, 7 vols.
12. Native self-government in Samoa. 1910-12
13. General affairs of Samoa. 1885-1917, 56 vols.
14. Unrest in Samoa in 1909. 1909-15, 2 vols.
15. Municipality of Apia. 1879-1903, 9 vols.
16. Formation of Government Council for Samoa, 1900-14. 3 vols.
17. Foreign representatives in Apia. 1887-1914
18. Dispute between Governor Solf and planter Deeken. 1907-10.
19. Customs and taxation in Samoa. 1895-1932

20. Settlement and migration, Samoa. 1900-20. 6 vols.
21. Matters pertaining to the poor in Samoa. 1895-1932
22. Mining and soil research in Samoa, 1901-10. 2 vols.
23. Research expeditions to Samoa. 1886-1914. 4 vols.
24. Business affairs in Samoa. 1900-12. 2 vols.
25. Business houses and associations in Samoa. 1897-1941. 20 vols.
26. Boundaries and surveys. 1902-14. 1 vol.
27. Commerce and shipping, Samoa. 1900-12. 4 vols.
28. Mission activity in Samoa. 1886-1920. 6 vols.
29. Visits of foreign warships to Samoa. 1900-13
30. Police in Samoa. 1888-1910
31. Posts, Samoa. 1900-37. 3 vols.
32. Press, Samoa, 1892-1936
33. Parliamentary matters (Reichstag) re Samoa. 1910-13. 5 vols.
34. Shipping affairs, Samoa. 1902-16. 3 vols.
35. Education, Samoa. 1888-1916. 3 vols.
36. Taxation, Samoa. 1901-13. 2 vols.
37. Organization of registry office, Samoa. 1900-08.
38. Examination of the second copy of the personal-status register and the despatch of extracts to the provincial administrations: re Samoa. 1901-13
39. Legislation concerning personal status. 1903-21
40. Administration of justice, Samoa. 1900-21
41. Commercial register, Samoa. 1900-06
42. Medical matters, Samoa. 1882-1930. 10 vols.

43. Banking and currency institutions in Samoa. 1901-14
44. General contents of annual reports for Samoa. 1900-19. 3 vols.
45. Collection of reports concerning the development of the German protectorate of Samoa. 1907-09
46. Drafts of Samoan annual reports. 1903-10. 3 vols.
47. Cemetery, Samoa. 1933
48. Colonial memorial, Samoa. 1928-29
49. Statistics on Samoa. 1900-37. 3 vols.
50. Fisheries and fish-breeding, Samoa. 1901-36
51. Forestry, Samoa. 1903-14. 2 vols.
52. Agriculture, Samoa. 1890-1923. 23 vols.

N.B. With regard to those series for which no total number of volumes is given, I suspect that some may run to only one volume each, but others would surely be more than that - RPG.

The Hennings Papers

The Hennings Papers mainly date from 1870 to the end of 1880 and comprise two main classes:-

1. Correspondence

Inwards letters

Copies of outwards letters

2. Accounts

Ledgers

Cash books

Rough cash books

Invoices

Receipts

In addition there is a miscellany of other items including journals (mainly recording business transactions and plantation routine), business working papers and publications (e.g. Gazette notices, business directories, catalogues, etc.).

On Naitauba, Lau Islands, the papers were stored for years in boxes in a loft and have been extensively damaged by damp, mould and vermin. Owing to their fragile, dirty, and in most cases fragmented, condition they will need to be cleaned and repaired before being handled.

In their present state it is difficult to assess their volume accurately, but it is estimated that repaired, pressed and organised the papers would occupy between ten and twelve feet of shelving.

Central Archives of Fiji and the W.P.H.C.  
Suva, Fiji Islands

Ian Diamond,  
Archivist