



Pacific Manuscripts Bureau Newsletter

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PAMBU NEWS

The Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) became an associate member of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau in May. As the region's peak archival organisation, PARBICA has had *ex-officio* presence on the PMB Management Committee, giving valuable advice and guidance to the Bureau since the early 1990s. By becoming an associate PMB member PARBICA wishes to express its support for the Bureau and to formalise the relationship between the two institutions which have common interests in supporting Pacific archives administration. PARBICA does not wish to receive the PMB microfilms. On behalf of the PMB, Professor Lal has expressed his appreciation to PARBICA for the support of a kindred institution.

The Bureau distributed 101 reels of microfilm to the PMB member libraries in mid January.

Information sheets and reel lists for the new PMB Microfilm Series titles are accessible from the PMB's on-line database catalogue at <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/pambu/>

Recent PMB field work has consisted of the following trips:

- Melbourne, 2 February, to the Library of the Bible College of Victoria, Lilydale, to return microfilmed archives of the Unevangelized Fields Mission and to select a further batch of UFM archives for microfilming at W & F Pascoe P/L, under agreement with Yale Divinity Library.
- Newcastle, 20 February, to microfilm correspondence of Carl Diercke, of Tinputz (Woskawitz) Plantation, Bougainville, held by his grandson, Chris Diercke.
- Currumbin and Brisbane, 26-27 February, to make digital copies of paintings of Captain Brett Hilder held by Jean-Louis Boglio, to meet with

Peter Cahill and Laurie McNiece, Fryer Library Manager, to discuss matters of coordination with the PNGAA Collection, Special Collections, Fryer Library, University of Queensland, and the transfer of master negatives of University of Queensland Press microfilm of PNG newspapers. Also to participate in a *Pacific Memories* session organized by Jim Burton.

- Wanniasa, Canberra, 25 March, to survey and transfer selected PNG papers and publications of Dr Ron May for selective microfilming and deposit in the Pacific Research Archives at the ANU.
- Sydney, 6 April, to meet Mr Richard Neville, the new Mitchell Librarian; and Kylie Moloney to visit W & F Pascoe P/L for orientation.
- East New Britain and Port Moresby, 3-17 May, with the GeoScience Australia-RVO Twinning Project to complete work on Rabaul Volcanological Observatory archives, and to begin microfilming the MSC journal *Hilstruper Monatshefte* in the MSC Brothers' Library at Vunapope.

In July the Bureau will work in Santo and Ambae surveying and microfilming archives of the (Anglican) Church of Melanesia with Bishop Terry Brown and Bishop James Ligo; and microfilming missing issues of the *Vanuatu Hebdomadaire* at the National Library of Vanuatu in Port Vila.

In-house the Bureau microfilmed letters from New Guinea and associated papers of Hector Robinson, 1928-1946, which his son, Alby Robinson, and given to Hank Nelson and Bill Gammage.

Miss Jill Clingan of Canberra has allowed the Bureau to borrow, microfilm and digitise papers, photographs and drawings documenting her work with the Baptist Mission in the PNG Western Highlands, 1971-1973, and her research on the indigenization of the Baptist Church in the New Guinea Highlands, 1990s.

Mrs Jacquie Drohan, of Canberra, has permitted the Bureau to borrow Fiji diaries and photograph albums of her grandfather, Rev. Louis Barnard, 1929-1930, for microfilming and digitisation.

Dr R.W. Johnson lent the Bureau correspondence of the PNG volcanologist, R.J.S. Cooke, for microfilming.

Professor Russell Blong transferred his *Time of Darkness* questionnaire returns and related

correspondence for microfilming and deposit in the Pacific Research Archives at the ANU.

These new PMB Manuscripts Series Microfilm titles are listed on the last page of this *Pambu* newsletter.

In the PMB offices we have continued arrangement and description of the papers and photographs of Professor Murray Groves (working with Karina Taylor of the Pacific Research Archives), the papers of Mr Geoffrey Luck, and the papers of C.J. (Joe) Lynch. We have prepared the next batch of UFM archives for microfilming. We completed work on microfilming and digitization of the R.J.S. Cooke Collection on reported observations of volcanic activity in PNG before 1944. Ewan has also carried out major editing of Endangered Archives Programme, Tuvalu Major Project, microfilm and digitization of GEIC, Ellice Islands District administration archives, and Tuvaluan serials.

The Bureau has also received one carton of papers of George Whittaker, a planter in the Markham Valley who served with the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles during the War, became President of the PNG RSL after the War, and was elected in 1954 as an unofficial member of the PNG Legislative Assembly.

There have been four additions to the PMB Photo Series:

PMB Photo 20 HILDER, Captain Brett, Digital copies of paintings and sketches, 1947-1968.

PMB Photo 21 PARHAM, W.L., Fiji photographs, scanned notebooks and press cuttings, 1932-1942.

PMB Photo 22 CLINGAN, J.M., (1942-...), Photograph albums and sketch book documenting the Baptist Mission in the Western Highlands of PNG, 1971-1973 & 1999.

PMB Photo 23 BARNARD, Rev. Lewis E., Photographs from the Methodist Mission in Fiji, 1929-1930.

In addition, Dr Peter Cahill has transferred to the PMB digital copies of two large sets of photographs documenting volcanic eruptions at Rabaul in 1937 and in 1994 and subsequently:

PMB Photo 24 HOSKING, Dr H.C., Rabaul, 1937.

PMB Photo 25 READ, Chris, *Rabaul, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea, 19 September 1994-2008*.

Dr Richard Eves (ANU) has agreed to allow the Bureau to make copies of his collection of PNG AIDS posters and publications. The posters are now being flattened in preparation for digital copying. Valerie Wilson has sent the Bureau a

box of photographs and slides made by Robert Kent Wilson in PNG.

In February the Fryer Library transferred 125 reels of 35mm master negative of the following PNG newspapers microfilmed by the University of Queensland Press in the 1980s.

Guinea Gold, 19 Nov 1942-30 May 1943, + 1 print issue 1944, 5 reels.
Lagasai (Kavieng, New Ireland), Nov 1947-Jul 1948, 1 reel.
Morobe News, 20 Jul 1940-10 Aug 1940, 1 reel.
Namanula Times, 22 Dec 1915-1 Jan 1916, 1 reel.
New Guinea Courier, 4 Jun 1958 -29 Jul 1959, 1 reel.
New Guinea Highlands Bulletin, 1960-1969, 2 reels.
New Guinea Times, Aug 1959-Apr 1969, 20 reels.
Niugini Nius (*Niugini News*), Nov-Dec 1982, 1 reel.
Nugini Tok Tok, 4 Oct 1962-1965, 1968-Sep 1970, 3 reels.
Papuan Courier, 1917-1942, 9 reels.
Papuan Times, 28 Jan 1911-1912, Feb 1913-13 Dec 1916, 2 reels.
Rabaul Record, 1 Mar 1916-Jul 1918, 1 reel.
Rabaul Times, 1925-1940, 1957-1959, 14 reels.
South Pacific Post, Sep 1950-30 June 1969, 50 reels.
Times of Papua New Guinea, 1980-1982, 4 reels.
Wantok, Aug 1970-Dec 1982, 9 reels.

These are in addition to *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, 30 Jun 1969-30 Jun 1981, 103 reels, transferred to the PMB in July 2006. The PMB has been granted reproduction and distribution rights for the microfilms. Duplicate masters will have to be printed if the microfilm is to be preserved. It is hoped that sales of these titles will help finance the duplication and long term preservation of this valuable resource.

In December 2008 and January 2009 the PMB collaborated with the Pacific Research Archives and several academics at the ANU to mount an exhibition of Pacific Health Services documents, posters and photographs exhibition which is still on show in Menzies Building at the ANU. A catalogue of the exhibition is available from the PMB.

Kylie has collated papers given in the Library-Archives stream at the PHA conference in Suva in December for web publication at <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/pambu/links.html>. With assistance from many librarians and archivists, Ewan has written a Report on Pacific Collections in Australia for the *National Report* of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies to be published later this year.

Ms Camilla Borrevik, an ANU Masters student in Visual Anthropology, undertook a student internship at the PMB for 4 weeks during

March/April. Camilla began to collate a listing of PNG movie films using data from Libraries Australia, the National Film and Sound Archives, the UH Film Catalogue, and a large number of other bibliographic sources. The Bureau is planning to complete this project and publish a union catalogue of PNG movies on the web this year.

Kylie Moloney and Ewan Maidment
30 June 2009

New Pambu email address

The PMB email address has been changed to pambu@anu.edu.au, as the RSPAS IT Section is phasing out the @Coombs email address.

Errata

The PMB staff wish to apologise for an error made on page 2 of the January 2009 *Pambu* newsletter. The title of the PMB Map 003 should read, KERLEY, Fr Kevin SM.

Receiving Pambu in Electronic Form



If you would prefer to receive the *Pambu* newsletter in an electronic form rather than print, please send an email message to: pambu@anu.edu.au with the words, "Subscribe Pambu", in the subject line. We will add your email address to a list which will be used to send our newsletter to you in electronic form.

Finschhafen/Neuendettelsau Mission in New Guinea: Online Collection.

Martin Vollet is a native of Neuendettelsau (Franconia/Bavaria in Germany). His mother used to work for the mission publisher, Freimund.

From the 1970s, Martin has been collecting stamps and items about local history and, over the last four to five years, he has accumulated a fairly large collection of postcards, maps, and published material on the history of the Finschhafen/Neuendettelsau Mission in New Guinea, some of which is represented on his web site: <http://www.ansichtskarten-briefe.de/>

**NOTE ON FRENCH GENDARMERIE
ARCHIVES RELATING NEW CALEDONIA**

In 1898 responsibility for the day-to-day administration of “native affairs” in New Caledonia was transferred to the Gendarmerie, a wing of the French military; gendarmes posted in the brigades and posts of the interior became *syndics* (agents) for the Service of Native Affairs and Immigration (the Service des affaires indigènes et de l’immigration or SAI). Remnants of the SAI archives can be found at the New Caledonia Archives at Nouville, Nouméa (notably in the series 97W). However, some material has been conserved in the archives of the Gendarmerie in France.

The archives of the Service historique de la gendarmerie nationale (Historical Service of the National Gendarmerie) are held at the Chateau de Vincennes just outside central Paris, alongside the archives for the other armed services—the Navy, Army and Airforce. Some of these records previously were held at Le Blanc and more recently at the Fort de Charenton (Maisons-Alfort).

Concerning New Caledonia, there are sixty-five linear metres of archives for the period 1913 to 1976. Of particular interest is the sub-series 98 E: *Détachement de Gendarmerie de la Nouvelle-Calédonie (1913-1946)*. This comprises just two linear metres and has been inventoried. It is made up almost entirely of bound registers of correspondence (some designated ‘confidential’, but mostly ‘ordinary’) sent from the various gendarmerie posts or brigades in the interior to Nouméa.

The 1913-1946 coverage is very uneven (see table below). There is very little material dating from before the mid-1920s. The 1930s and 1940s are better represented. For no post or brigade are there complete sets of correspondence and there are no records at all for many of the East coast posts, notably Hienghène, Touho, Poindimié and Ponérihouen. Records for Houaïlou are only for 1937-39 and Koné only for 1945-46. There are more for Canala (1922-35 and 1937-46) and the Bourail post has good but not complete holdings between 1926 and 1945. Of the Loyalty Islands, Ouvéa (1933-47) appears to be the best represented while Lifou appears not to be represented at all (though researchers should verify that it has not been covered by material from Maré and Ouvéa).

The correspondence includes monthly reports, memos and letters on matters relating to immigration and native affairs, and requests for punishments against *indigènes* and indentured labourers. The collection is of particular value for researchers wanting insights into the practical administration of native affairs (*e.g.* the introduction and organisation of *prestations*, a form of labour tax, on the Grande Terre in the late 1920s) and New Caledonia during World War Two. Other subjects include: observations on relations among settlers, observations on activities in the *tribus* (reserves), reports on criminal investigations and workplace or industrial disturbances, agricultural development in the reserves, the granting of licences and permits, and the movements of indentured labourers and immigrants.

Summary of holdings, ‘Détachement de Gendarmerie de la Nouvelle-Calédonie 1913-1946’

98 E 1-6	Détachement de la Nouvelle-Calédonie à Nouméa	1913-1925, 1939-1947
98 E 7-10	Poste de Boulouparis	1927-1942, 1945-1946
98 E 11-20	Brigade de Bourail	1926-1927, 1931-1933, 1936-1946
98 E 21-25	Brigade territoriale de Canala	1922-1935, 1937-1946
98 E 26-28	Brigade territoriale de Houaïlou	1937-1946
98 E 29-30	Poste de Kaala-Gomen	1939-1946
98 E 31-34	Poste de Koumac	1939-1947
98 E 35	Poste de Kuto	1940-1946
98 E 36-37	Poste de Maré	1943-1946
98 E 38-40	Poste de Moindou	1924-1947
98 E 41-48	Poste de Muéo	1924-1946
98 E 49-51	Poste d’Ouvéa	1933-1947
98 E 52-57	Poste de Paita	1927-1946
98 E 58-59	Poste Pont-des-Français	1937-1946
98 E 60-62	Poste de Pouébo	1937-1947
98 E 63-65	Poste de Pouembout	1937-1947
98 E 66-71	Brigade territoriale de Thio	1922-1946
98 E 72	Brigade territoriale de Voh	1946
98 E 73	Poste de Koné	1945-1946

Source: ‘Répertoire de la sous-série 98E’ (document available in the archives reading room and including a more detailed inventory for each post or brigade).

The archives for the thirty years from 1946 to 1976—the remaining sixty-three linear metres—appear far more extensive. They contain copies of monthly reports and registers of correspondence on native affairs (including *procès-verbaux de palabre*). As at January 2007 they had not been inventoried, but details of a survey of the series (carried out by Claire Berthin between Oct.2005 and Feb.2006) can be found in the bound table (104pp.) available in the reading room. As these archives are subject to a *sixty year delay*, special permission in the form of a *dérogation* is required to consult more recent materials. As of 2005, the archives for the period 1977-1993 (a further 196.5 linear metres) remained in an archival holding centre, the Centre d'archives intermédiaires.

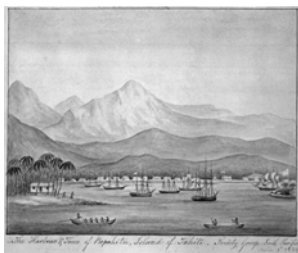
Adrian Muckle and Benoît Trépied
17 April 2009

N.b. The authors' own research has concentrated on the area of Koné, Pouembout, Poya, Muéo and Voh; not all geographical areas represented by the series have been consulted. This research note also draws on information made available in 2007 by the Service historique de la Gendarmerie, notably a report prepared by lieutenant Karine Perrissin-Faber (Adjointe au chef du Centre d'archives définitives), No. 403/2DEF/SGA/DMPA/SHD/DEPEND/CAD, Fontainebleau, le 11 mai 2005.

Contact details and information about opening hours and reader registration for all sections of France's Defense Archives (Army, Navy, Airforce, Gendarmerie, etc.) can be found on the website of the Service historique de la défense:
http://www.servicehistorique.sga.defense.gouv.fr/00bande_jaune/infopratique/sallelecture/horaires_vincennes.html

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NEW PACIFIC SHIPPING LIST
Tahiti and the Society Islands: Shipping arrivals and departures 1767-1852



By Rhys Richards and Robert Langdon,
Canberra, PMB and Boglio Martime Books,
2008, 257pp. ISBN 978-0-9806653-0-7.
Soft bound: AU\$39.60, plus postage.

**REVISITING THE TAIM BIPO
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF
AUSTRALIA'S 'AUSTRALIANS IN PNG,
1942-1975' ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

Over the past eighteen months, the National Library of Australia's Oral History and Folklore Collection has undertaken a project recording the recollections of a diverse group of Australians who lived and worked in Papua New Guinea between the Second World War and the arrival of independence in 1975.

Nearly forty interviews have been conducted so far, primarily by Dr Jonathan Ritchie of Deakin University, although the experienced interviewers Bill Gammage and Helga Griffin have also participated in the project. While the project is close to completion following interviews to be held during Jonathan's visit to PNG in June 2009, there has been general interest in its continuation from a number of organisations and work is under way to seek further funding.

The women and men interviewed so far were selected to reflect the diversity of the Australian experience in PNG during the three decades before independence. Quirks of timing and availability have meant that the resulting group may not be necessarily a truly statistically significant sample. Nevertheless, there is sufficient variety among the interviewees to give researchers something of both the differences and the similarities among the Australians who were there.

Among those interviewed are missionaries such as Marjorie Deasey, teachers including John Rumens and Peter Munster, settlers such as Barbara Jephcott and Tom Leahy, patrol officers and magistrates including Peter Kraehenbuhl, Rick Giddings and David Marsh, scientists such as the archaeologist Jim Allen, journalists including Sean Dorney and John Farquharson, doctors including Ian Maddocks and Mary Guntner, administrators, academics, and artists. Some of the more recent interviewees are the writer Ulli Beier, the artist Georgina Beier, and the administrator Bert Speer. The businessman Richard Leahy and the film maker Chris Owen will be interviewed in PNG in June.

The interviews cover not only the time the interviewees spent in PNG, but their lives before arriving, including the important question of why they chose to go to PNG. At the other end, most of the interviewees talk about what happened following their return to Australia, including some

of the trauma involved in readjusting to life in the modern post-industrial society after many years in the Territory. All interviewees discuss their thoughts on the coming of independence and the impact of their time in PNG on their own lives.

The interviews are stored digitally at the National Library, under the reference TRC 5920, 'Australians in Papua New Guinea (PNG) 1942-1975'. Access conditions vary, and summaries are becoming available.

Dr Jonathan Ritchie
May 2009



Dr Jonathan Ritchie interviewing Mr Bert Speer MBE, a former administrative officer in Papua New Guinea.

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VISIT TO W. & F. PASCOE PTY. LTD.

On Monday 6 April 2009 I visited W & F Pascoe in Sydney. Pascoe's are a family owned business specialising in providing microfilm, microfiche and digital imaging services. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau has worked with Pascoes for over 40 years. The PMB sends all of our master negative microfilms to Pascoe's for processing and duplication.

W. & F. Pascoe Pty. Ltd. was founded in 1957 by brothers Wilfrid and Frank Pascoe. The Pascoes elected from the start to specialize in the microfilming of newspapers, periodicals and manuscripts and other archival material. Over the years Pascoes have established a close working relationship with major libraries around Australia.

Today, a significant part of Pascoes output is in the area of preservation microfilming. Libraries and archives use preservation microfilming as a long term secure storage medium. (Polyester film has a life expectancy of 500 years in suitable storage conditions.)

Each year Pascoes prints at least 1,000 reels of silver halide positive microfilm to supply the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau's member libraries. The company also has automated equipment for scanning microfilms to digital format which is used regularly to convert PMB Microfilm Series titles for supply to researchers.

As part of my visit I was shown around the business and met many staff members including administrators, microfilmers and those working on digitisation. I saw a new microfilming camera from Germany which is entirely automatic and digital. I was shown the chemical plant which is used for processing PMB microfilms and learned about different types of positive film — vesicular, diazo and silver halide. I observed the quality control steps taken by Pascoes, including checking reduction ratios, focal accuracy, density and sequencing of images on the film. I watched how the ultrasonic splicing machine works to fuse film together with vibration and movement. I also observed the process of microfilm reels being converted into digital image and PDF files.

Kylie Moloney
PMB Archivist



PMB printing master microfilms in the cool store vault at W & F Pascoe Pty Ltd in Sydney.

PNG NATIONAL ARCHIVES PROVINCIAL RECORDS PROJECTS

Since 2000 the National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea has carried out records rescue projects in nine PNG Provinces. In each case two Officers of the National Archives visit the Provincial capital and all districts of each Province. The records are surveyed by the Archives Officers. All Provincial and District Records Officers are called in for a three-day workshop on basic records management. Provincial authorities are encouraged to establish a Records Centre and Records Officers are instructed on how to bring in records, identify records for disposal and take care of those for retention at the storage centre.

So far, the PNG National Archives records rescue projects have been carried out in East Sepik (Wewak), Madang Province, Morobe Province (Lae), East New Britain (Rabaul and Kokopo), New Ireland (Kaviege), Central Province, North Solomons (Buka and Kieta), Milne Bay (Alotau), and Enga Province (Wabag).

Two National Archives Officers will be travelling to Sandaun (West Sepik) Province in late May 2009. Based at Vanimo, they will travel by vehicle to Aitape and then by boat to other district centres. A call will be made to all Records Officers from West Sepik Districts to attend a records management workshop in Vanimo.

The PNG National Archives funds these rescue projects from its own budget. There is no assistance from the Provincial governments. However the Morobe Provincial Government is going ahead with plans to construct a new Records Centre in Lae, including a library. The National Archives plans to undertake two Provincial projects each year. If there are enough funds, a second project will be carried out this year in the Southern Highlands Province (Mundi).

Elias Masuali
Acting PNG National Archivist
May 2009

* * *

ARCHIVES RELOCATION STARTS TO YIELD TREASURES

[This article was first published in the *Vanuatu Daily Post* on Thursday 16 April 2009. Re-published with permission from *Vanuatu Daily Post* and Dr. Matthew Spriggs.]

The dedication of the two national librarians, Ann Naupa and June Norman, has led to the relocation to the Cultural Centre of what has been up to now the completely-neglected National Archives. Previously stored, in an unsecured building and essentially inaccessible to students of Vanuatu's history, the collection is at least now safe. But it will require an enormous effort and commensurate resources to get the material catalogued and conserved. After its years of neglect some of the collection is now in very poor condition.

It is fair to say that over the years the dominant view among the Powers-That Be about the Archives has been that it is "samting blong ol waetman nomo", only about the history of the colonial powers. This of course can't be true of the post-1980 Independence records held there. But it is also NOT true of the pre-Independence records either, and the Authorities need to be convinced to take the Collection seriously and develop a plan for its future, including the long-promised dedicated Archives building adjacent to the National Museum.



Vanuatu National librarians Ann Naupa and June Norman.

I will try to demonstrate the value of the Archives to the people of Vanuatu with the remarkable story of a single small "treasure" which has come to light as part of the relocation process. The document was found by Jimmy Kauatonga, Curator of the National Museum, during an initial sorting of the collection that has just got underway within the last couple of weeks. It is a book of the marriage records of the island of Aneityum between 1914 and 1952. Dry stuff, you might think. But it is in fact a key document for the history of that Island.

Jimmy mentioned the find to me, knowing that I have had a thirty-year interest in Aneityum's history. I rushed straight to the National Library to have a look. The first entry can no longer be read but the second reads "Yaufati of Umej and Nisinakro of Umej married at Anelcauhat Church 20 Dec. 1914. Officiating elder Nadunipcev". Of the first 20 marriages recorded between 1914 and 1917, in 13 of them the bride and groom are from the same island district. This follows the traditional Aneityum practice of marrying within the district, mentioned by the missionaries as being insisted on by all concerned long after the population became Christian in the 1850s and 1860s.

This pattern of marrying within the district broke down completely in the period 1917 to 1935, with almost all marriages (73 out of 80) taking place between partners from different districts. But from 1936 until the last entry, number 132 for 1952, almost all marriages were between people of the same district, and almost all were from Anelcauhat, Umej or Aname (Port Patrick). So what happened to change time-honoured marriage arrangements?

Aneityum has the sad distinction of being probably the best-documented case of population collapse through introduced diseases in the entire Pacific. As the first successfully-missionised island in Melanesia, it has remarkably good population census records from within a decade of the arrival of pioneer Presbyterian missionary John Geddie in 1848. But he was already following in the footsteps of sandalwood traders and others, and two major outbreaks of introduced disease had already occurred in the 18 years since the first documented landing of Europeans on Aneityum in 1830.

In 1854 the missionary census revealed a population of about 3800 people on the Island. Estimates from my PhD thesis on Aneityum suggest the population in 1830 could have easily been about 4600 to 5800 people; some writers have suggested it might have been as high as 10,000 inhabitants. In 1861 the missionaries recorded a devastating measles epidemic and one third of the entire population - more than 1200 people - died in a matter of months. As the people lamented at the time, there were not enough people left living to bury all the dead.

The population had no immunity to such introduced diseases and continued to decline sharply until by 1939 there were only 187 people left on Aneityum, a population crash of well over

ninety percent. This terrible story is revealed in the Presbyterian Church and Condominium records of the time, and was first documented by the demographer Norma McArthur in her PhD thesis in 1974. And what was true of Aneityum was probably also the case on many other islands - we just don't have the detailed records for other areas.

So back to our marriage records in the National Archives. Clearly by 1917 the population had declined so much that the traditional pattern of marrying the district could no longer be kept up. In December of that year missionary William Gunn recorded the total population as being "about 320". There were simply not enough people in each district to find suitable marriage partners. They were forced to find husbands and wives from other districts. But people still kept to living in their traditional districts, even as the overall population declined. The missionaries couldn't understand why people did not all concentrate in a few centres such as Anelcauhat and Umej in the south and Port Patrick in the north, but ancestral ties to land were strong. Then by 1936 the population had become so small, about 193 on the entire island, that people were forced to congregate in just a handful of districts. This again is reflected in the marriage register information.

With such death and distress, much knowledge of family ties to particular districts has been lost. Even the names of great-grandparents may not be fully remembered - people might recall the man's name, but not his wife. Or they may not know where they came from originally. All of this is recorded in the marriage register, however, and it will be of tremendous value to the Aneityumese as they seek to understand their history and re-establish their ties to the traditional districts on the island.

One of the most interesting things in the marriage records is the district names tied to the date of the marriage, as they show that there were still people living on their ancestral lands at that particular date. These lands were long-abandoned when I first went to Aneityum in 1978. As part of my PhD, and working with the oldest people on the island, I recorded many hundreds of names of village sites, taro swamps and garden areas and placed them on maps at that time. As well, many of the names are doubtless remembered on the island to this day. What the register gives us is a date when people still lived in inland districts

such as Anumej (at least up to 1927), Ohuul (1926) and Ipijcau (1919).

The register records the marriages too of some of the old men that I worked with in 1978, all but one of them now deceased many years ago: Wariso (married 1949), Balau (married 1946) and Tamadui of Kalili (married 1930). The latest marriage recorded in the book is the only one where one of the partners is still alive in 2009: Chief David Yautaea of Umej whom I also worked with in the late 1970s.

The marriage register is a vital document for all Aneityumese people, vital for establishing family history and connections to ancestral lands. With the help of Vanuatu Cultural Centre and Library staff I have spent my Easter holidays transcribing the register and we will be sending copies to Aneityum through the Cultural Centre fieldworker for the Island, Frank Inhat. So let us hear no more of the "Samting blong ol waetman" attitude to Vanuatu's National Archives! This treasure trove of information about Aneityum is just one out of thousands of valuable documents that the Archives contain. Many more remain to be found as the Collection is sorted through. But it requires that serious effort be made by the Government and all concerned – perhaps helped by Business sponsorship - to resource the cataloguing and preservation of the Nation's history.

The need for an Archives building at the National Museum site needs to be shifted up the priority list; at present it seems to be near the bottom. And a building isn't enough. There is also need for trained staff dedicated to maintaining the collection.

When Rakasa of Anahija (Anaia) and Nekreiyag of Anejpou (Anejpou) were married at Anelcauhat Church on 5 May 1921 by Elder Name, they could never have known that one day the recording of that event might be a vital part of putting together the history of Aneityum and reconnecting families with their ancestral lands. Without the dedication of Anne Naupa and June Norman in saving the Archives by relocating it to the National Library in the face of general indifference from almost everybody, we would never know either.

Dr. Matthew Spriggs
April 2009

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NOTES ON PMB FIELD WORK IN EAST NEW BRITAIN, MAY 2009

The main aim of this fieldwork was to microfilm remaining unidentified volcanological records at the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory. In addition it was planned to locate and if possible microfilm a journal of the Sacred Heart Missionaries, *Hiltruper Monatshefte*, in the MSC library at Vunapope.

Nine reels of microfilm were made, as follows:
PMB 1327 RABAU VOLCANOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY, Additional volcanological records, 1953-2008. Reels 1-5. (Restricted access.)
PMB Doc 500 *Hiltruper Monatshefte* (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart), Vols.3, 5-10, 12-13, 1886, 1888-1893, 1895-1896. Reels 1-4. (Available for reference.) See Reel Lists for details.

The PMB work at the RVO is being carried out in conjunction with the GeoScience Australia-RVO Twinning Project. The PMB fieldwork was timed to coincide with the visit of Wally Johnson, the Twinning Project Convenor, and Shane Nancarrow, the Project Manager. Dr Johnson was convinced that there would be volcanological records in addition to those identified by the PNG National Archives and microfilmed by the Bureau during my visit in May 2007.

There had been heavy rain in East New Britain. The road between Kokopo and Rabaul was flooded and washed out in several spots by banks of ash and mud. The mud had washed through houses and businesses in Rabaul, but Tarvurur was quiet – no eruptions or rumbles, just masses of gaseous vapour being blown away from the town by the trade wind. A grader was clearing the roads and everyone in Rabaul was hoping for a period of relief from the constant rain of ash from the volcano. A meeting of hundreds of Highlander landowners was being held in Kokopo to negotiate a compensation agreement for a Liquefied Natural Gas project at Lake Kutubu. Accommodation at Kokopo and Rabaul was scarce, but luckily Mr Nancarrow let me share his room at the Rabaul Hotel until another room became free.

Shortly after arrival at the Observatory on Tuesday 5 May I participated in a special meeting of RVO senior staff, chaired by Ima Itikarai, RVO Head, which discussed the development of the RVO information management system (IMS) in general and the PMB preservation reformatting project in particular. Dr Johnson reported that AusAID had extended the Twinning Project to the

end of 2009 and that there was likely to be three year extension of the Project from January 2010. He stated that the idea of an RVO IMS had been around for two or three years; it has been endorsed in principle by the RVO PCC; and AusAID assumes that it will be part of the on-going Twinning Program. I confirmed that the PMB Management Committee has endorsed the Bureau's involvement in reformatting RVO documents and making the microfilms available for conversion to a digital format compatible with the proposed RVO IMS. Mr Nancarrow reported that the Twinning Project is continuing to meet the costs of conversion of the PMB microfilm to digital format.



Road outside Rabaul Hotel, deep with ash and mud, RVO on escarpment in the distance, May 2009.



RVO buildings, Tarvurur smoking in the background, May 2009.

Staff at the meeting listed volcanological records to be considered for copying, including papers held by Ima Itikarai at the RVO and Chris McKee in Port Moresby, correspondence of Tony Taylor and Rob Cooke held by Wally Johnson in Canberra, field maps held by David Lindley in Yass, and volcanological correspondence files held at the PNG National Archives.

Kila Mulina, who looks after the RVO Library, tabled a list of published Geological Survey of PNG *Reports* and *Technical Notes* held in the RVO Library, to be considered for copying. It was noted the PNG Mineral Resources Authority is

also proposing a copying project and that duplication of effort should be avoided.

After the meeting Mr Mulina and I surveyed the library shelves noting additional copies of serial publications of the Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources (*Records, Report, Bulletin*), and the PNG Dept of Lands, Surveys & Mines, Geological Section / PNG Dept of Mining, Geological Survey of PNG (*Note on Investigation, Technical Notes, Memoir*). Making the survey we located a cupboard holding additional box files: Research of Tony Taylor, Long Island, Langila, Karkar, Bagana, Ulawun, Other PNG Volcanoes, *etc.* Located on the library shelves were a group of papers collected by Patrice de Saint Ours, Head of the Observatory in the late 1980s and early 1990s, under the headings RVO History, RVO Contingency Planning, Earthquake, Manam, Langila, Karkar, Lamington, Rabaul and History of Events, Rabaul 1994 Eruption. A set of RVO annual reports and additional loose unpublished reports were also located on the library shelves. One box of R.J.S. Cooke's papers, including a file of correspondence of J.H. Latter mainly with G.A. Taylor, was located in the store room housing the seismographic records. These documents were selected in consultation with Dr Johnson and Mr Mulina and microfilmed 6-11 May on 5 reels. Microfilm of Rob Cooke's correspondence, held among these papers, will be spliced with microfilm of another set of Cooke correspondence held by Dr Johnson in Canberra for release as a separate PMB Manuscripts Series title.



Part of RVO Library compactus holding documents compiled by P. de Saint Ours, May 2009.

Vunapope, 5 & 11 May. Researchers who had not been able to locate copies of the *Hiltruper Monatshefte* in Australia had contacted the Bureau. Archbishop Hesse had given verbal

permission for the PMB to microfilm the copies held in the MSC library at Vunapope. The Bureau did not have any MSC contacts in Vunapope, other than the Archbishop who is very busy, so it was not possible to make arrangement in advance. Dr Steve Saunders, the Geodist at the RVO, kindly gave me a lift to Vunapope in the late afternoon of 5 May. I located the MSC Centre but did not find Br Hermann Ostgathe who is in charge of the Library. However I was able to make arrangements with Br Hermann by phone later on from the RVO. Early in the morning on Monday 11 May, John Bosco, the RVO Technical Officer, kindly gave me a lift to Vunapope. Br Hermann explained that the Brothers are very protective of the Library as it has been mis-used in the past – pages torn from book – books missing. The Library holds an incomplete set of the *Hiltruper Monatshefte*, 1886-1982, which reports on Sacred Heart missions in Africa, South America and New Guinea. Br Hermann issued the bound volumes to me three at a time for microfilming in the Recreation Room. Each volume amounts to 400pp. I spent all day microfilming 1886-1896 (gaps) on 4 reels.

Ewan Maidment
PMB Executive Officer
22 May 2009

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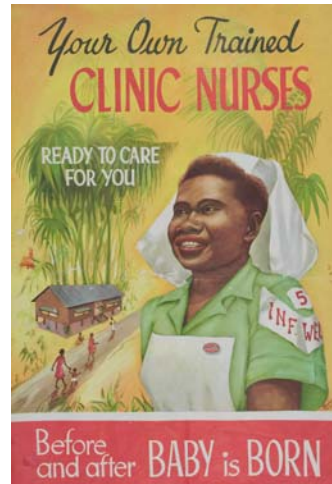
Joseph Binskin diary acquired by the National Library of Australia

The 1909 diary of Joseph Binskin has been acquired by the Manuscripts Section of the National Library of Australia. Binskin was a plantation owner on the small island of Inia, near Bagga Island, Western Province of the Solomon Islands. He and his wife Florrie and children lived in Sydney for some years and his children were educated in Australia. In 1909 his first wife, two of his children and some his workers were brutally murdered on the instructions of Sito, an outlaw from the Mbava tribe on neighbouring island Vela La Vella. The diary covers the murder of his wife and children and the subsequent retribution exacted by European settlers on the Mbava tribe. National Library of Australia Manuscript reference no.: MS Acc09/031.

Pacific Health Programs Exhibition

27 January – 6 July 2009

Menzies Library, Australian National University



Poster promoting maternal & child health in PNG, c.1956. (Jean Chambers collection, PMB 1255/1.)

The Pacific Health Programs exhibition was developed using archival collections from the Pacific Research Archives (PRA) and the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PMB). The exhibition highlights both historical and contemporary health issues in the Pacific, including health services, nutrition, maternal health, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS.



Eye testing chart, Papua New Guinea, 1935. (Dr Stanley Wigley Papers, PMB 1182.)

The Pacific Health Services Exhibition Catalogue is available from the PMB, AU\$8.80, plus postage.

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