

Pambu

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau Newsletter

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PAMBU NEWS

Warm Pacific greetings for 2012 from the Pambu office! The Bureau has had a busy start to the year continuing to work hard on the long-term preservation of the documentary heritage of the Pacific Islands and to make it accessible.

Professor Lal, the Chair of the PMB Board, is currently the Acting Director of the School of Culture and History within the College of Asia and the Pacific at the ANU. He will continue in this role until the new Director is appointed later this year. In addition to this work, Professor Lal continues his work on a large scale project about Australia's engagement with the South Pacific from the 1940s to the 1980s, focusing on the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu.

The Bureau continues to receive offers of archive collections for preservation copying relating to the Pacific from scholars and individuals.

In the past few months the Bureau has listed and copied the following collections:

PMB 1382 PATON, Frank (1906-2002) and Rita (1904-1982), Diary, correspondence and miscellaneous papers of missionary service on the island of Tangoa, New Hebrides (1931-33), 1931-1994. Reels 1-2. (Available for reference.)

PMB 1383 FAVETTA, Fulvio (-), Patrol reports and field officer's journals, Popondetta and Tufi, Northern District, Papua New Guinea, 1968-1972 and Tari, Southern Highlands, Papua New Guinea, 1972-1977. 1 reel (Available for reference.)

PMB 1384 CIASTKOWSKI, Christian Pierre (1949-2011), Patrol reports and related papers from Chimbu District (1969-1970), West New Britain District (1970-1976), Southern Highlands and Oro Provinces, Papua New Guinea, 1969-1976. Reels 1-2. (Available for reference.)

PMB 1385 PIULA THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, Theses for the Bachelor of Divinity, Piula, Upolu, Samoa, 2001-2008. Reels 1-6. (Available for reference.)

PMB 1386 PATON, John G. (1824-1907), Journal, research notes and correspondence from the New Hebrides, 1858-?. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)

PMB 1387 PATON, Margaret (Maggie) Whitecross (d.1905), Journals and correspondence from the New Hebrides, Sep 1870-Nov 1975. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)

PMB 1388 READ, Dr Kenneth, Papers relating to ASOPA courses, 1949-1956, 1988-1999. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)

In November 2011, the PMB Member Libraries endorsed a motion that the PMB should move from capturing and delivering PMB titles to member libraries in microfilm format to digital format. The Executive Officer continues to work with IT staff at the ANU and Bureau member libraries to develop policies and a suitable digital storage repository and interface that will provide access to PMB titles in digital format. Many researchers have expressed their support for this move as accessing and searching historical documents in electronic form is more user-friendly than microfilm.

In February 2012 the Bureau participated in a workshop at ANU on "War in the Pacific". The workshop was held as part of the development of a new undergraduate course at ANU and to develop networks amongst professionals working in various fields and cultural institutions in Canberra that hold collections relating to the War in the Pacific.

A select list of titles relating to the "Pacific War (WWII) in the Islands on PMB microfilm" was produced as part of the workshop.

In April, I travelled to Samoa to undertake fieldwork and make preservation copies of student theses at Piula Theological College and *The*

Samoa Times (1984-1993) at the National University of Samoa. Piula Theological College offers a four year course leading to a Diploma in Theological Studies with the possibility of further study to complete a Bachelor of Theology (additional two year programme) or Bachelor of Divinity (additional three year programme) degree. The Bachelor of Divinity degree was introduced at Piula Theological College in 2000. Students are encouraged to appreciate and write about Samoan culture and values in relation to Methodist Theology and faith. The theses are designed as independent research work where students show their originality, creativity and contribution to theological learning.



The chapel at Piula Theological College

I worked in the Library at Piula Theological College which was well equipped. I copied a total of 53 theses creating 6 reels of microfilm (PMB 1385). Some of the theses copied included:

- FA'ALAFI, B. Leauma. *A Theology of the Concept Talia (Acceptance): With Special Reference to the Samoan Methodist Church*. 2006 (73pp.)
- NUUALALO, Isaako. *Tapena Faafafine Toaga (Prepare as a Diligent Woman): A Contextual Christology of Ministry in the Samoan Context*. 2008. (53pp.)
- TAUTIAGA, Iafeta Setefano. *A Theological significance of the Tatau (Tattoo) in the Samoan Context*. 2004 (81pp.)
- TUIVANU, Tamatasi. *The Atofevailiai and the Problem of Youth Suicide: with reference to the Youth of the Methodist Church in Samoa*. 2002 (75pp.)
- TOLEAFOA, Moloka, *Nurturing, conserv-*

ing and sustaining: implications of mangrove ecosystems and God's creative process for Church mission. 2009 (62pp.)

- SAVAIINAEA, Liua. *The Issue of Child Development: with reference to Children of the Methodist Church in Samoa.* 2002 (64pp.)

I also worked in the Library at the National University Samoa (NUS) and copied *The Samoan Times*. I was warmly welcomed to the NUS library by Avalogo Togi Tunupopo, the Head Librarian, and the NUS library staff. Earlier issues of *The Samoan Times* have previously been microfilmed by the University of Hawai'i (1964-1983), so I focused on copying *The Samoan Times* from 1984-1993 (PMB Doc 534). The NUS Library was missing the bound volumes for 1985 and 1986 but was able to borrow these issues from the Nelson Memorial Public Library in Apia so that I could copy them. In three days I microfilmed 7 reels (1984-Sep 1993).

Permission to copy *The Samoan Times* was given by Associate Professor (Dr) Unasa Felise Va'a, a former editor of *The Samoan Times*. I was also fortunate to attend a lecture by Dr. Unasa titled "*O le amio Faatamali'i – Elements of Samoan Chiefly Behaviour*" as part of the NUS Centre for Samoan Studies Seminar Series.



Associate Professor (Dr) Unasa Felise Va'a, former editor of *The Samoan Times*, Kylie Moloney and Avologo Togi Tunupopo, Head Librarian, at the NUS Library.

In February this year, the PMB and PNG Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), began an AusAID funded project to preserve the PNG DAL Land Use Survey Reports. This project was instigated by Mike Bourke of the ANU, following the fire which destroyed the records of the Lowland Agricultural Experiment Station at Keravat in April

2011. (See Elizabeth Ling's article in this newsletter about re-stocking the Keravat library.)

In April 2012, Ewan Maidment travelled to PNG and worked at the Department of Agriculture and Livestock offices in Port Moresby to deliver and install digitisation equipment and to deliver a *Digitisation Workshop* in which DAL and PNG National Archives staff began a retrospective archives digitisation project. This included an archival survey, listing and preparation of documents, database content compilation, installation of the digital camera and peripheral equipment (supplied to DAL), operation of the digital camera, interface, processing, storage and backup of digital images, storage and preparation of original documents for transfer to the National Archives.

The DAL staff who participated in the Workshop were interested and keen to learn all aspects of the retrospective digitisation process. As well as staff time, the Department committed substantial resources to the Workshop, allocating its Konedobu conference room and providing food and transport. The PNG National Archives and Public Records Services also made a serious commitment of staff and time to the Workshop. Ms Vicky Puipui, Acting National Archivist, and Ms Lien Erepa brought their professional archival experience to bear on the Workshop activities, demonstrating in practice their procedures for handling, control, storage and records transfer from Departmental to Archival custody. The National Archives also donated 50 archives boxes for packing DAL records to be transferred to the Archives.

DAL staff will continue to digitise the Land Use Reports and maps and the PMB will develop a "front end" catalogue so that the reports can be accessed through the Internet. The project is due to be completed in early 2013.

I will be taking maternity leave from early August 2012 for ten months. During this time, Dr. Joanna Sassoon will work three days a week in the role of Executive Officer for the Bureau. Joanna is a highly qualified professional archivist with extensive practical experience in archives and records management. She has worked with a variety of archive materials and collections, and has experience in working on digital preservation archive projects. In addition to the everyday office administration of the Bureau, Joanna will focus on the move towards digital distribution of PMB titles.

Kylie Moloney, PMB Executive Officer

**FIELD WORK ON MAKIRA,
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

In this article, Natalie Blake, a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney writes about her fieldwork on Makira in the Solomon Islands and how she has made use of the PMB's historical photographic collections to support her research.

In 1971 and 1975 survey and excavation by Roger Green and Michael Kaschko at the site of Mwanihuki (SB-4-6) at Pamua on Makira, Solomon Islands, yielded substantial evidence of a 16th Century Spanish presence within an indigenous village setting. Further investigation of this site has been made possible due to Gibb's ARC investigation 'Beyond the New World – Archaeological Investigations of the failed Spanish colonies of the Solomon Islands'.

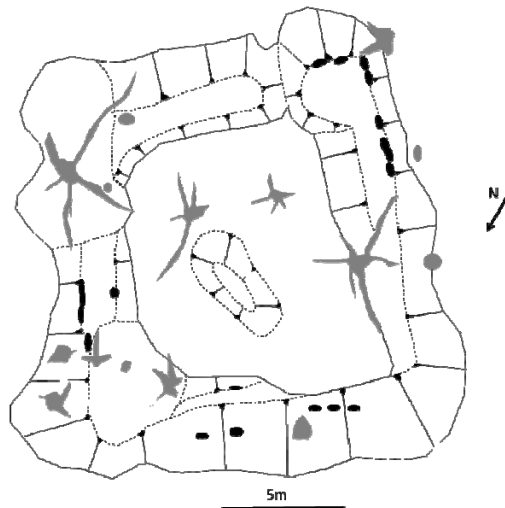
As part of my PhD research linked to this project, a detailed survey across the study site was done in 2010/2011. This survey uncovered an extensive range of coralline features; some of these had been identified previously by Green and Kaschko. All of these features were elevated mounds, either circular or rectangular and had irregularly hewn coralline boulders marking their perimeter boundaries. The preservation of these features varied across the site. To the west, where year round gardening practices are currently maintained by St Stephens School, preservation was variable as some of these coral rocks were lifted to extend the garden. Ensuing storm wash and walking over the area affected the shape and elevation of some of these low-lying mounds. Towards the east, which hasn't been gardened in living memory (except for a small strip immediately adjacent to the next village, Tawapuna), the overall preservation of these features was much better. However visibility here was challenging due to the dense undergrowth, and much less of an issue in the gardened areas. Cultural remains on the surface of all of these included dense scatters of chert, fire-cracked rock and shell. Mammalian bone fragments (human and small/medium mammal) were also visible on some.



According to local landowners, the headland is tambu and the site of a burial ground, the individual burial features are known as hera (see Figure 1). Other members of surrounding villages describe areas of this headland as being an old village site and identified some of the features as house platforms, with these hera also present.

Analysis of these is still in progress and an

important component of this, along with discussions with the local population, includes close assessment of historical accounts and photographs which assist in contextualising the layout and nature of coastal villages prior to European modifications.

A large photographic collection donated by James Tedder, a District Officer and Commissioner in the Solomon Islands from 1952-1974, is a new addition to PAMBU's vast collection and along with the council records in the formative years of the BSIP provides valuable evidence. Part of Tedder's varied job description included tours to the villages, both on the coast and in the hills. These photographs form a valuable part of the PAMBU collection and an indispensable component to my research. Village layouts and house forms are just a couple of the aspects that are extremely helpful when considering the number, geographical range and relative density of the features present on the study site.



SB-4-6	Feature 17
	Tree
	Insitu coralline rock
	Outlined area denotes main concentration of coralline limestone rubble
Drawn by R. Tuffin, S. Manebosa	

This work would not be possible without: ARC, Carlyle Greenwell Research Fund, Postgraduate Research Support Scheme, Dorothy Cameron Fellowship and the University of Sydney Postgraduate Research Travel Scheme.

**GERMANY TO PRESENT GIFTS FOR
SAMOA'S 50 YEARS OF
INDEPENDENCE SCHOLARSHIP,
ARCHIVAL EQUIPMENT
CELEBRATE CONNECTION**

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International, May 29, 2012) – The German government will be presenting gifts to Samoa to mark 50 years of independence, including equipment for a colonial archives project.

Samoa was a colony of Germany from 1900 to 1914 and the German ambassador to New Zealand, Thomas Meister, says even though the official relationship ended years ago, the countries still have a strong connection.

The gifts consist of a scholarship for a Samoan university graduate to complete post-graduate studies at a university in Germany, and equipment for the Samoan Fire Service and Disaster Management Office.

Ambassador Meister says two digital cameras are also being gifted, that will form part of the joint German-Samoan project on the digitization of colonial archives.

"I visited this project myself only in March and they have about I think 600,000 documents which are now digitised and for the future this is very important on one hand for the future of Samoa and on the other hand. Also through this digitisation those files will be made accessible to researchers all over the world."

The German ambassador to New Zealand, Thomas Meister.
Radio New Zealand International, May 29, 2012. www.rnzi.com

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**AN ANNIVERSARY AND A NEW NAME:
THE TUZIN ARCHIVE FOR
MELANESIAN ANTHROPOLOGY**

The UC San Diego Libraries recently bestowed a new name on the Melanesian Archive, renamed the Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Anthropology, in honor of the late Donald Tuzin, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at UC San Diego until his death in 2007. Tuzin and his colleague, Fitz John Porter Poole (1941-2002), cofounded the Archive in 1982 and quickly enlisted the partnership of the UC San Diego Library, where the Archive is housed and administered.

From modest beginnings thirty years ago, the Archive has grown into an internationally-renowned collection of fieldnotes, correspondence, photographs, films and other research materials produced by anthropologists

What Tuzin and Poole modestly envisaged filling a few file cabinets now occupies over 120 meters of shelving in the Mandeville Special Collections Library. The collection has been built through gifts of unpublished materials from scholars and their heirs. With few exceptions, onsite use of the materials is unrestricted. Finding aids for most collections are available online, linked from the Archive's website: <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/locations/sshl/resources/featured-collections/melanesian-studies/the-melanesian-archive.html>. Copies of some of the materials have been provided in the past to libraries and archives in Melanesia, mostly through a microfilming program. Currently Archive staff are engaged with digitization of photographs from select collections in the Archive, notably those of Roger Keesing, Harold Scheffler, Sylvester Lambert, Roy Rappaport and Edwin Cook. Digitized images are openly accessible through the UC San Diego Digital Library Collections: <https://libraries.ucsd.edu/digital/#home>.



Donald Tuzin, then a graduate student at ANU, with Arapesh people of Ilahita village, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea, circa 1970. Photo courtesy of Beverly Tuzin.

The Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Anthropology's new name was made official on May 9 with a symposium, Melanesian Anthropology: Archival Perspectives, featuring talks by anthropologists Polly Wiessner (University of Utah), Nancy Lutkehaus (University of Southern California), and David Akin (Contemporary Studies in Society and History). Another aspect of the celebration is an exhibit of photographs from the Tuzin Archive, on display in the Geisel Library through the end of June. Kathy Creely, Library of the UCSD.

**DIGITAL LIBRARY PROJECT
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC,
ALAFUA, SAMOA**

The library at the University of the South Pacific in Alafua, Samoa is currently working on a digitisation project to make available important documents and research held in the library.

This project came about for several reasons. Firstly, much of the student research into Agricultural subjects for the Pacific region, held in the library, is not available for access anywhere else. To make this information available internationally and to the region will open up important information on topics for Pacific Agriculture that are unique. Information will also be available 24/7 to other USP students studying agriculture throughout the Pacific Islands. Currently the only access to this information is by visiting the library in Alafua personally. Secondly the project will provide a way of preserving valuable data from deterioration and loss.

The types of data to be digitised and held in the Alafua Digital Library are 3rd year students Agricultural research projects, mini research projects completed by the Students International Training (SIT) programme hosted by USP and editions of journals published by USP Alafua such as the Alafua Agricultural Bulletin, JOSPA (Journal of South Pacific Agriculture) and SPAN (South Pacific Agricultural News.)



USP Library, Alafua, Samoa

The equipment used for this project was initially very basic. The library had planned to use a simple desktop Multi Function Device to scan hard copy data page by page. However, recently the library has received a new Ricoh photocopier with a document feeder and scanning capabilities. This device significantly speeds up the digitisation process as loose leaf pages can be scanned using the document feeder in a matter of seconds. Items

for digitisation are being removed from their bindings to enable scanning and are then rebound at completion.

Files are created in PDF format at 300dpi and transfer directly from the photocopier to a folder on the desktop of the PC. The files are currently stored on the local PC, backed up to an external hard drive and named with the Author's name and the Project shelf number which is assigned by the library. The Agricultural and SIT projects have all been digitised and library staff are about to begin working on older editions of Journals. It is hoped that once the initial digitisation project has been completed, the library will be then collect documents in digital format ready to be imported directly into the digital library database.



Agricultural theses at the USP library, Alafua

The next step is to build the digital library itself. USP Alafua Library is planning to use the Greenstone Digital Library software installed on a server as USP technical staff are familiar with this software and can offer support. The PDF files will be moved to the server and library staff will learn the skills needed to create the library, including assigning metadata. It is also our intention to enter URL links into our library catalogue so the digital documents can be accessed from a catalogue search. Before the digital library “goes live” library staff will be ensuring copyright clearance and necessary permissions to make this information available have been cleared with the authors.

Angela Jowitt, USP Library, Alafua, Samoa

BUK BILONG PIKININI

Buk bilong Pikinini (books for children) is an independent not-for-profit organisation based in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, which aims to establish children's libraries and foster a love of reading and learning. In PNG there are few functioning libraries outside the school system and most children do not have access to books at all.



The purpose of Buk bilong Pikinini is to focus on early childhood learning as a key to literacy. Only half of school-age children go to school and the literacy rate in PNG is well under the 50% officially claimed. We aim to bring the books to the children via the creation of small Buk bilong Pikinini libraries in community based localities such as near settlements, clinics and market places. We collect books from private individuals and publishing houses and seek to obtain funding for our libraries through various fundraising efforts as well as through corporate sponsorships.

Buk bilong Pikinini was established in 2007 and has so far set up eight children's libraries with many more to come.

To learn more about Buk bilong Pikinini or to help, please visit: www.bukbilongpikinini



PMB PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS DISPLAYED AS PART OF THE 11th FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS, SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Bureau has recently supplied digital copies of 19th century historical photographs of the Solomon Islands from the Charles Morris Woodford collection (PMBPhoto 56) and the Metcalfe collection (PMBPhoto 42) as part of the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts which will be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in July 2012.

Charles Morris Woodford was born in 1852, the eldest son of the five children and educated at Tonbridge School, England. He subsequently went into his father's wine business in Gravesend in Kent. The family was well-established, middle class and prosperous at a time when London was the economic centre of the British Empire.

At Tonbridge school Charles had shown an aptitude for collecting and displaying insects. This had become a popular pastime in rural England at the time and many amateur botanical and natural history clubs had been established. In 1881 CM Woodford left the family business and travelled to Fiji hoping to make a good collection of insects, birds and animals from the islands to submit to the British Museum. In Fiji, after a year of collecting, he needed extra money and so joined the colonial service. When office work palled, an opportunity for travel to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands [Kiribati and Tuvalu] eventuated and so as Government Agent on a labour vessel he travelled north on a voyage to return indentured Gilbertese to their home islands.



Image from the Woodford collection:
PMBPhoto56_088 "Natives at Fauro", c.1886

He quickly recognised that no real collecting had been done in the Solomon Islands apart from some coastal investigations by naturalist/surgeons on Royal Navy survey vessels.

Between 1885 and 1888 Woodford made three expeditions to the Solomon Islands, travelling in coastal trading boats and staying in communities with the local people while he collected over 17,000 specimens that he later sold and presented to the British Museum of Natural History. His expeditions and his collections have only been briefly described. Woodford was later appointed the first Resident Commissioner of the British Solomon Island Protectorate in 1897 and remained in that position until retirement in 1915.

Rev. John R. Metcalfe (1889-1970) was born in Yorkshire and served as a Methodist missionary in the Solomon Islands for 37 years. He served as a home missionary in Great Britain before moving to Victoria in 1914. He became a candidate for the Methodist ministry in 1916, and after being ordained was appointed to the Solomon Islands in 1920. After a brief period at Roviana, he was appointed to Choiseul as assistant to the Rev. V. LeC. Binet. Apart from four years at Teop, he remained on Choiseul until 1951. During the war, he served as a Coast watcher. He became chairman of the Methodist Mission in the Solomons in 1951, a post he held until he retired to Australia in 1957. He continued to take an active interest in the mission until his death.



Image from the Metcalfe collection:
PMBPhoto42/2/053, Stephen & Mulu & Duck.

More information about the festival can be found online at: www.festival-pacific-arts.org.sb

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THE RE-STOCKING OF AGRICULTURE INFORMATION AT NARI, KERA VAT.

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) conducts applied and development oriented research on food and cash crops, live-stock and resource management issues in Papua New Guinea, emphasising on the small-holder semi-subsistence farmers to improve their livelihoods and create economic growth in their communities and the nation. In its mandate it aims to transfer agricultural technologies and credible information to farmers in the four agro-ecological zones of PNG where its regional coordination centres are located.

Serving the New Guinea Islands region is the Islands Regional Centre based at Keravat in East New Britain Province. Established in the 1928, this station is the biggest and oldest in comparison and according to history was initially the base for some of the agriculture commodities and industries currently in PNG today like cocoa, coconuts and oil palm.

Over the 80 plus years and previously under the national ministry of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, and now NARI, research information and extension had always been a major strength of the work at the Keravat station. As a result the information material collected accumulated gradually reflecting the work programmes, research studies and activities carried out in those 85 years.

Until the fateful evening of the 11th April 2011 the whole cross-shaped office complex housing four administration offices, entomology and pathology laboratories, agronomy and the information centre was tragically burnt down.

To replace the information collection is an impossible task to undertake, although it would be great to replace every item if we were able to.

What we can only do is rebuilt up the information collection and we have started by contacting major publishers, donors and distributors of appropriate agricultural information material. From the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation in Netherlands, we have received a collection of publications worth 6000 Euros and it includes two sets of main series of booklets and practical guidelines plus co-publications with other institutions. They have also offered to extend their

support to us in other ways such as organising access to additional reference books. Additionally from the Australian National University, Dr R. Mike Bourke has also been very concerned and helpful in collecting and shipping six boxes of PNG textbooks, documents, and articles to us with assurance of additional forthcoming.

We are collecting catalogues from agricultural publishers like the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, the Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International, United Kingdom to purchase their products. Locally we plan to go through our existing Melanesian Agricultural Information Network which consists of eight partners in PNG, two in the Solomon Islands and another one or two in Vanuatu. The South Pacific Commission is another publisher whom we will approach for assistance.



Books donated to the Keravat Library via the ANU.

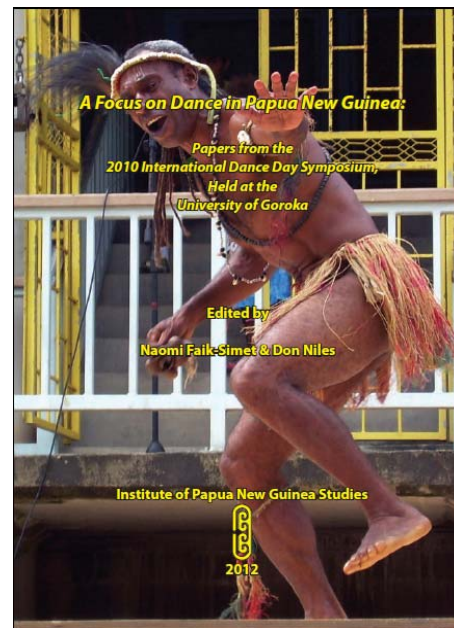
Another exercise I am doing is collecting locally produced information from the nearby libraries of the Cocoa Coconut Institute and University of Vudal libraries and scanning them into pdf format to catalogue them as digital information which is easier to share and disseminate.

The internet is a great medium that we use to collect information but its use is currently limited due to certain restrictions within the institute.

By Elizabeth M. Ling
Librarian, NARI.

* * *

A focus on Dance in Papua New Guinea



The Music Department of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies is pleased to announce the publication of the book *A Focus on Dance in Papua New Guinea: Papers from the 2010 International Dance Day Symposium, Held at the University of Goroka*, edited by Naomi Faik-Simet and Don Niles.

The book discusses issues relating to the study and practice of dance in PNG. It highlights concerns of the role of dance as an important tool in education and at the same time a medium for cultural preservation.

Papers in the publication addressed the theme "Sustaining Dance as an Important Art Form through Education" under the various topics; education, advocacy, traditional dance, protection, preservation and safeguarding, contemporization, the United Nations Educational and Scientific Cultural Organisation's 2003 convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage, and dance in the Church.

Copies can be ordered from:
Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies
Box 1432
Boroko 111
Papua New Guinea
Email: ipngs@global.net.pg

**EXCERPTS FROM
“AT HOME ON A PACIFIC ISLAND”
BY RITA W. PATON**

Frank and Rita Paton were Presbyterian missionaries in Tangoa (Vanuatu) from 1931-1933. Their daughter, Mrs. Barbara Dean, recently allowed the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau to copy their archive in Melbourne which includes diaries, correspondence, papers, slides and photographs that relate to their missionary service in Tangoa. Frank Paton was appointed to Tango in association with The Teachers' Training Institute (TTTI) where he was responsible for building and carpentry. Rita taught the married women in the afternoons. Below are some excerpts from Rita's writings about her time on Tangoa. The photographs were taken and processed by the Paton's on Tangoa. The photographs accompanied their letters and the captions have been directly transcribed from the originals.

“The young housewife (*sic*), transplanted from here to a South Sea Island home, has plenty of amusement provided by the dustey belles who do the house-work for her. On a small island in the New Hebrides [Tangoa] where I was “Missus” for over two years, my girls (quite unconsciously), gave me enough fun to have stood me in good stead for all the years since. Even now as I put bread on the toaster for breakfast, I fancy that I can hear Lemar say, as she did many a morning; “Missus I make – a toast?”
“Yes, please Lemar.”
“I put butter along ‘im?”
“Yes please.”
“I cut off skin for ‘im?”
“Yes please.”

And so our toast arrived at the table in due course, buttered and “skinless”, otherwise without crust...

On washing day the girls used every pint of water to advantage. One day I took particular notice, and this was the programme. First they boiled the white clothes in the copper, then the towels, and coloured things. After they had finished the washing and had it on the line, they used the suds for scrubbing out the tin tubs, the laundry table, the cement floor – then they put that water in their tins and washed their own dresses, and finally, with the dipper ladled it out and gave their three piccanninies (*sic*) a shower-bath on the grass!...

The steamer with supplies and mails from Australia came only once in six weeks, which meant that we had to order all our wants for three months in advance... After steamer day our pantry rather resembled a grocery shop, for of course it meant that tins of fruit, meat, jam and the ordinary household requisites had been ordered by the dozen, or, if for a larger family than ours, by the case... The boys used to carry our cases of goods from the wharf to the house, and took untold delight in unpacking for me. There was always a clean sweep of paper of all sorts. Newspaper with pictures on it, particularly coloured ones, which for long afterwards would adorn the walls of their houses, pieces of brown paper, coloured tissue paper – all were commandeered “Missus, I take?” or “For me, ‘ere?”...

They were always most interested in what the wrappings disclosed. I can well remember the scene – about five or six boys having taken the boards off the tops of the cases, diving in among the papers and straw, undoing everything and unpacking the tins and jars on a table to be checked over later. And every now and again, a whispered “Wass – sat?” or “He for what?” as a boy held up a tin of something he had never seen before. Meat and fruit and sardines were well-known, but such things as Ovaltine and Brasso were new and needed explanation by the “official in grey”, a boy who had once worked in Burns-Philp’s store in Vila.



Image from the Paton collection:
PMBPhoto60_44

“In our front garden; the dog is not on his best behaviour! He doesn’t like the sun in his eyes! Tangoa, New Hebrides, May 1933 (now called Vanuatu. 1985) (Rita and Frank Paton)”

...When a baby was born, the mother was supposed to take a fortnight off from work at the house. But rarely could she be induced to stay away for more than a week. One girl came back to work with a baby a week old, and, as it was Monday morning and her turn to do the washing, she took it as a matter of course, and towards the wash house she made her way. I intervened and said that the two girls must change their work and she was the next week. It took a deal of asserting on my part, for she had been determined to do it, as it was her turn.

Later in the morning I went in search of her. When she had finished the house-work, she had gone to the garden to bring in oranges. I came across her away up a big orange tree poking at the fruit with a six-foot stick. This gathering of fruit, pineapples, oranges, paw-paw, and mangoes was a bit of work the girls liked to do, as was also what they termed "looking out fire", or as we would say "gathering sticks".



Image from the Paton collection:
PMBPhoto60_120

[Mr. Paton, with necktie and hat, and three ni-Vanuatu males; body of water in background.]

And so, with such pleasantries, life to the housewife passed quickly enough. No wonder, it is, that house-keeping here in our civilised Australia might seem to lack some of that variety and humour that we had there – a combination that made up to some extent for the loneliness of being for a long time the only white woman on that South Sea Island.”

* * *

GUNSON ESSAY PRIZE IN PACIFIC HISTORY

An inaugural prize of AUD\$1,000 will be awarded at the Pacific History Association Conference, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, 6–8 December 2012, for the winning entry in the Gunson Essay Prize Competition.

Postgraduate students from any country are invited to submit an essay in English, between 5,000 and 8,000 words on any topic to jph@anu.edu.au by 1 November 2012.

The winning entry will be chosen by a judging committee including a special speaker at the Pacific History Association Conference and representatives of the Pacific History Association and *The Journal of Pacific History*.

The Gunson Prize aims to promote the work of scholars at the early stages of their research. It pays tribute to Dr Niel Gunson's generous mentoring of so many students and fellow-scholars over a lifetime of dedication to Pacific history. It will be awarded every two years.

For any further details, please contact *The Journal of Pacific History*, jph@anu.edu.au.

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THE SOCIETY OF JESUS CHARTS A FUTURE FOR MICRONESIAN SEMINAR WITH EX- PANDED PROGRAMS (APRIL 2012)

During the last eight months the Society of Jesus in Micronesia has been conducting an external study of the research and pastoral functions of Micronesian Seminar. Micronesian Seminar, or MicSem as it is widely known, is the Jesuit think-tank located on Pohnpei that has become known regionally for its commitment to social issues and the quality research of its founder, Fr. Francis X. Hezel, S.J. The recent study, undertaken by the East Asian Pastoral Institute [EAPI] in Manila, has reviewed Micronesian Seminar's library, website, publications and archives in light of the manpower and community needs in Micronesia, especially in the areas of technology, culture and faith.

In light of the recommendations of the study, the Society of Jesus will re-establish the library and archives of MicSem at its school on Chuuk, Xavier High School. The library will remain open and available as a special collection that will serve students, the broader community in Micronesia, and scholars from overseas. The staff will continue to make available the current publications, archives and photos online at the www.micsem.org website. Project and staff resources will be devoted to building the online resources in the years ahead with new publications, photos and cultural archives as they become available. The discussion forum will be discontinued.

Please see: <http://www.micronesiaforum.org/discussion/9869/press-release-the-future-of-micsem/p1> for the full press release.

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