

Pambu

The quarterly newsletter of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau,
Research School of Pacific Studies,
Australian National University, Canberra

No. 18 Executive Officer: Robert Langdon January-March, 1970

PROJECT TO MICROFILM DOCUMENTS IN NEW ENGLAND, U.S.A.

A project to microfilm documents relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands in the libraries and museums of New England, U.S.A. is to get under way in July this year under the direction of Dr. John Cumpston, of Canberra.

Dr. Cumpston, who recently retired as historian in the Commonwealth Department of External Affairs, is a former Australian consul in New Caledonia and an expert on Australia's early maritime history. He has had wide experience in the microfilming of records.

The project has been organised by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and is being sponsored by twelve libraries in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, including the four member libraries of the Bureau.

The twelve libraries are: The National Library of Australia, Canberra; the Library of the Australian National University, Canberra; the Mitchell Library, Sydney; the Library of the University of Sydney; the Library of the University of Newcastle; the Public Library of Queensland, Brisbane; the State Library of South Australia, Adelaide, in association with the libraries of the University of Adelaide and the Flinders University of South Australia (subject to an agreement being signed by the governing bodies of those institutions); the State Library of Tasmania, Hobart; the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne; the Library Board of Western Australia, Perth; the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington; and the Library of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau was established in 1968 as part of the Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Its purpose is to locate unpublished documents of value concerning the Pacific Islands and to obtain copies of them on microfilm for four world libraries specialising in Pacific research. The four libraries are the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand; the Mitchell Library, Sydney; and the Library of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

The precise aim of the project is to obtain microfilm copies of the logbook, journals, account books and correspondence of the American whalers, sealers, sandalwooders and traders who visited Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, particularly in the first three quarters of the 19th century.

The project is proposed to last for approximately six months from about July 15, 1970 to January 15, 1971. It has developed out of a suggestion made by Dr. Nigel Wace, Lecturer in Geography at the University of Adelaide, who visited New England in 1968 to locate material on the biology and history of the Tristan da Cunha Islands. In the course of his researches, Dr. Wace was struck by the wealth of material of interest to Australian, New Zealand and Pacific scholars; and in a report submitted to the Public Libraries Board of South Australia (which had partly sponsored his field trip), he suggested that a photocopying project should be launched that would benefit those scholars.

Dr. Wace's suggestion was taken up by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau last October, and six months' of negotiations have since been needed to make the project a going concern.

For the duration of the project Dr. Cumpston will hold a Visiting Fellowship in the Department of Pacific History at the Australian National University.

He plans to leave Canberra in mid-May, and will visit Mauritius, Madagascar, England and France before going to the United States. His programme will then be to hire microfilming equipment from Kodak in New York, and visit all the libraries and museums in New England which have agreed to make their records available for microfilming. This programme will take him to such places as Nantucket, New Bedford, Salem, Providence and other old ports on the eastern seaboard of the United States. He hopes to return to Australia with at least 7,500 ft (75 reels) of original manuscript material on microfilm. Copies of each film will be deposited in the twelve sponsoring libraries of the project.

MORE STUDIES OF
PAPUAN LANGUAGES

Father Bernard Baldwin, M.S.C., who is now stationed at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Canberra, has recently made available to the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau for microfilming two further linguistic works which he compiled during his term as a missionary in Papua several years ago. The works are a vocabulary of the Biga Boyowa language of the Trobriand Islands and a vocabulary of the Bohilai language of Basilaki Island, one of the islands of the Louisiade Archipelago off the eastern tip of Papua.

Father Baldwin previously made available to the Bureau a manuscript entitled Biga Boyowa: A notional study of the Trobriand Islands language, which was microfilmed as PMB 41 (See Pambu No.15 p.10). Father Baldwin says of this language: "Mastery of Biga Boyowa will enable conversation with people of the Lousancays, Marshall Bennets, Woodlarks, Laughlans, Amphletts and a goodly number of those living to the south, upwards of 16,000 people."

Basilaki Island, formerly known as Moresby Island, has a population of a couple of thousand. It is a high land island with one peak rising to 1,650 feet, and is about 12 miles long by seven broad at the widest part.

SERIES OF COOK ISLANDS
PAPERS COMPLETED

The member libraries of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau now have a complete record of the proceedings of the Cook Islands Legislative Council and the Cook Islands Legislative Assembly from 1947 to 1962.

The Legislative Council was inaugurated in 1947 and lasted for eleven sessions before being supplanted by the Legislative Assembly in 1958. Until the early 1960s only a few roneoed copies of each session's proceedings were issued and these soon became exceedingly rare.

Early in 1969, the Bureau obtained microfilms of many of the proceedings, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. David Stone, a Ph.d student in the Department of Pacific History at the Australian National University, who had gathered them together while making a study of self-government in the Cook Islands. Since then the Bureau has obtained microfilm copies of those proceedings not in Mr. Stone's collection from the New Zealand Department of Maori and Island Affairs, which has one of the very few complete sets in existence.

LARGE COLLECTION OF PAPERS
ON THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The largest collection of papers kept by a single individual yet to come into the hands of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau for microfilming is a record of the lifetime work of a noted Methodist missionary in the Solomon Islands, the Rev. John R. Metcalfe, who died in Melbourne on January 1. His papers, which include day-by-day diaries for the period from 1911 to 1969, synod reports, unpublished articles, press-clippings, copies of radio broadcasts, newsletters and correspondence, were made available to the Bureau by Mr. Metcalfe's widow, Mrs. Joy Metcalfe, of Frankston, Victoria.

Mr. Metcalfe was born in Yorkshire in 1889, and 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.

Following a brief period at Roviana, he was appointed to Choiseul as assistant to the Rev. V. LeC. Binet. Apart from four years at Teop, Mr. Metcalfe served on Choiseul until 1951, when he was appointed chairman of the Methodist Mission in the Solomons. He retired in 1957 after 38 years' service, but continued to take an active interest in the work at the mission.

Mr. Metcalfe's first task on Choiseul was to help bring peace between the Vunulata and Sengga people, who were hereditary enemies. In 1921, he conducted the first thanksgiving service at Choiseul and guided a ceremony of reconciliation.

During the Japanese invasion of the Solomon in 1942-43 Mr. Metcalfe assisted coastwatchers in his area. He was awarded the OBE in 1958 for "valuable contributions to the social and educational advancement of the Solomon Islands."

The Metcalfe papers will constitute an invaluable mine of material for scholars interested in the modern history of the Solomon Islands. Those so far microfilmed are numbered PMB 67-68 and 74-80, and are briefly described on p.8 of this newsletter.

COOK ISLANDS THESIS
MICROFILMED

The first Ph.d thesis on the Pacific Islands to be microfilmed for the member libraries of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau is one by Dr. William G. Coppel entitled "Development and

and Education in the Cook Islands: A Study of Community and Education in an Emergent Pacific Islands Territory." It covers the period 1823-1967.

The author, who is now a lecturer in the School of Education at the University of New South Wales, North Ryde, N.S.W., was Chief Inspector of Schools and Deputy Director of Education in the Cook Islands from November 1962 to June 1967. His thesis was submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Education, University of Southampton, in December 1968.

The thesis is concerned with the function of education in relation to the contemporary development of the Cook Islands. These islands were granted internal self-government in 1965 after being administered by New Zealand since 1901. The purpose of the thesis is to illustrate educational principles involved in the emergent territories of the Pacific. Social, political and economic aspects of the Cook Islands community are examined historically and in their present operation.

UNUSUAL RECORD OF WAR IN NEW GUINEA

When the Japanese invaded Rabaul on January 23, 1942, 300 European civilians, about 1,000 Asians and a battalion of Australian troops were caught there, virtually defenceless, and made prisoners.

Among the civilians was Edward Llewellyn Gordon Thomas, usually known as Gordon Thomas, who had worked in the Rabaul area for thirty years, first as a Methodist mission printer, then as a planter, trader and oil driller, and finally as editor of the Rabaul Times.

Along with his fellow citizens, Thomas was soon put to work unloading Japanese supply ships at the wharves, but during his first day or two at this an incident occurred that quickly led to a different, easier kind of job. When one of the Japanese interpreters came looking for a European engineer to run the local ice works, Thomas suggested a certain man who was well known to him. About a fortnight later, when an unskilled man was required at the freezer, the engineer whom Thomas had recommended returned thanks by recommending him; and so Thomas became a rouseabout at the freezer. Two other men, a butcher and another engineer, were also given jobs at the freezer at about the same time, and it was through these that, about four months later, they escaped the fate of the rest of their civilian friends.

It transpired that in May, 1942, the Japanese decided to ship all the civilians, except the freezer hands and a few other technicians, to Japan. However, a few days after leaving Rabaul, their transport ship, the Montevideo Maru, was hit by an allied torpedo and all on board lost their lives.

Thomas and his three companions remained at the freezer for the rest of the war, and they thus had a most unusual vantage point from which to view the Japanese war effort and their Co-Prosperity scheme for the East.

After the war, Thomas wrote a book on his experiences and observations which he entitled simply, Rabaul, 1942-1945. However, although the book is a vivid and lively account of an almost unique kind in the realm of World War II literature, no publisher could be found to publish it. It was, it seems, too unusual, and insufficiently endowed with the Boldness Be My Friend type of adventure.

Recently, the typescript was lent to the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau for microfilming, with the result that copies will now be available in Sydney, Canberra, Wellington and Honolulu to anyone who wishes to read it.

UNPUBLISHED SKETCHES OF LIFE IN SAMOA

The Bureau is indebted to Mr. Peter Ranby, of Auckland, New Zealand for two short but interesting manuscripts on Samoa of half a century ago. The manuscripts comprise an English translation of a report on Samoa by Dr. W.H. Solf, the first Governor of German Samoa, and half a dozen Samoan sketches by H. Neffgen, who, in 1916, was Government Interpreter in Samoa.

Solf's report contains general notes, notes on the Protestant and Roman Catholic missions, and on the advisability of not attempting to colonize Samoa with "small people" from Germany. The report was written for the Imperial Colonial Office in Berlin but, according to a note by Neffgen, it was not forwarded by an order dated November 21, 1907.

The six Samoan sketches by Neffgen are entitled: 1. The Samoan Race; 2. Fa'asamoa; 3. The Prescriptive Law of the Samoans; 4. On Invectives-Upu Palauvale; 5. Samoan High Titles and the Distribution of Fine Mats; 6. On Aitus.

ADDITIONS TO P.M.B
MICROFILM "LIBRARY"

The following microfilmshave been made for the member libraries of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau since the last list was published in Pambu No.12:

<u>No. of film</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. of frames</u>
PMB 35	WILLIAMS, John, and BOURNE, Robert - Journal of a missionary voyage, 1823, and other papers (See <u>Pambu No.16</u> , pp.1-7).	77
PMB 36	THOMAS, Edward Llewellyn Gordon - "Rabaul, 1942-1945 (An account of four years as a war prisoner of the Japanese)	388
PMB 37	WILLIAMS, John Chauner - Journal, 1868-1872 (See <u>Pambu No.13</u> , pp.6-8).	62
PMB 38	GREEN, Rev. James L. - Papers, 1874-1908 (See <u>Pambu No.13</u> , pp.1-5).	304
PMB 39	DRIVER, Capt. William - Logbook of <u>Charles Doggett</u> , 1831-1832 and Memoirs (See <u>Pambu No.17</u> , pp.1-8).	109
PMB 40	GILL, <u>Archdeacon</u> Stephen Romney - Letters, 1897-1928 (See <u>Pambu No.16</u> , pp.7-10).	384
PMB 41	BALDWIN, <u>Father</u> Bernard - Biga Boyowa - A notional study of the Trobriand Islands language (See <u>Pambu No.15</u> , p.10).	115
PMB 42) to) PMB 61)	Listed and described in <u>Pambu No.10</u> , pp.2-9.	
PMB 62	HALLETT, L. - A history of Henderson & Macfarlane Ltd. (See <u>Pambu No.15</u> , pp.6-10).	39
PMB 63	BALDWIN, <u>Father</u> Bernard - Vocabulary of Biga Boyowa, the language of the Trobriand Islands.	389
PMB 64	BALDWIN, <u>Father</u> Bernard - Vocabulary of the Bohilai language of Basilaki Island, Papua.	341

<u>No. of film</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. of frames</u>
PMB 65	COPPELL, William G. - Development and Education in the Cook Islands (Ph.d thesis).	629
PMB 66	NEFFGEN, H. - Papers on Samoa	71
PMB 67	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - Articles on the Solomon Islands.	323
PMB 68	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - General letters from the Solomon Islands.	359
PMB 69	GRIMBLE, <u>Sir</u> Arthur - Gilbertese myths, legends and oral traditions.	653
PMB 70	SOCIETE DES ETUDES OCEANIENNES, Papeete, Tahiti - Miscellaneous Papers (Orders of the day...1897, etc.) (See <u>Pambu</u> No.14, pp.9-10).	
PMB 71	SOCIETE DES ETUDES OCEANIENNES, Papeete, Tahiti - Miscellaneous Papers (Letters of Edward Darling etc.) (See <u>Pambu</u> No.14, pp.1-10).	
PMB 72	SOCIETE DES ETUDES OCEANIENNES, Papeete, Tahiti - Extracts on Tahiti from <u>Transactions of the London Missionary Society, 1802-1811.</u>	
PMB 73	FRENCH POLYNESIA - History (Early manuscripts owned by the Territory of French Polynesia) (See <u>Pambu</u> No.15, pp.1-4).	
PMB 74	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - Diaries, January 1, 1911 - July 31, 1921.	488
PMB 75	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - Diaries, August 1, 1921 - May 31, 1931.	985
PMB 76	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - Diaries, June 1, 1931 - October 17, 1938.	903
PMB 77	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - Diaries, October 18, 1938 - February 19, 1946.	827
PMB 78	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - Diaries, February 20, 1946 - January 31, 1956.	903
PMB 79	METCALFE, <u>Rev.</u> John R. - Diaries, February 1, 1956 - November 30, 1969.	551
PMB 80	SOLOMON ISLANDS - METHODIST MISSION - Reports, 1918-1952.	

<u>No. of film</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. of frames</u>
PMB Doc 3A	COOK ISLANDS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - Proceedings, Eighth Session, 1954, Vol. II	480 approx.
PMB Doc 5A	COOK ISLANDS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - Proceedings, Eleventh Session, 1957	840 approx.
PMB Doc 8	COOK ISLANDS - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - Proceedings, Third Session, 1960	900 approx.
PMB Doc 9	COOK ISLANDS - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - Proceedings, Fourth Session, 1961.	1,000 approx.
PMB Doc 23	COOK ISLANDS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - Standing Orders and Proceedings of the First to Third Sessions, 1947-1949.	1,000 approx.
PMB Doc 24	COOK ISLANDS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - Proceedings, Fourth Session, 1950.	480 approx.
PMB Doc 25	(In preparation)	
PMB Doc 26	JENSON, Andrew - "The Society Islands Mission (of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)" - A series of articles from Vols. V-VIII of the <u>Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine</u> , Salt Lake City, 1914-1917.	72
PMB Doc 27	(In preparation)	
PMB Doc 28	"TE VEA MAOHI" (monthly Tahitian newspaper) - Vol.6, No.6 - Vol.14, No.3 (June 1936 - March 1944). (See <u>Pambu</u> No.15, p.5).	

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