

Pambu

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

No. 31 Executive Officer: Robert Langdon April-June 1973

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The letter was written by J. Hoogerwerff, the manager of the Rabaul Printing Works, to his employer J.B.O. Mouton, who then lived in Sydney. It is one of a long series of letters from Hoogerwerff to Mouton covering the period, 29 March 1936-11 February 1942, which has come down the years.

The last letter was written a few days after Hoogerwerff was captured by the Japanese. He lost his life a few months later when the Japanese ship Montevideo Maru was sunk by an Allied torpedo while conveying the civilian population of Rabaul to Japan.

The Hoogerwerff-Mouton correspondence forms part of an extensive collection of documents that has recently been microfilmed for the nineteen sponsoring libraries of the Papua New Guinea Records Project (see Pambu No. 30, pp.1-2). Other documents in the collection include a manuscript entitled 'Memories of J.B.O. Mouton,' correspondence between the Rabaul Printing Works and a Hamburg firm from 1919 to 1926, and balance sheets of the Rabaul Printing Works from 1929 to 1938.

Mouton's 'Memories' throw some further light on the notorious Marquis de Rays expedition of a century ago, as Mouton, himself, was one of the members of that ill-fated expedition which attempted to found a settlement on the fever-ridden shores of New Ireland.

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A full list of the latest additions to the Bureau's microfilm library is given on the last three pages of this newsletter.

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The book begins with an account of American trading, sealing and whaling activities in the Southern Ocean to 1850. This is followed by a description of the museums and other institutions in New England, U.S.A., which house such material

as ships' logbooks and journals covering voyages to the Southern Ocean, the private correspondence of officers and crews, and the commercial and legal papers of shipowners, etc.

The third and longest section in the book is a table of American vessels which visited southern Australian coasts to 1850. The table lists the vessels alphabetically, and gives such details as hailing port, date of voyage, master, owner or agent, and places visited. In addition, there is a guide to references to the ships in Alexander Starbuck's History of the American Whale Fishing from its Earliest Inception to the year 1876 (Washington, 1878), J.S. Cumpston's Shipping Arrivals and Departures, Sydney 1788-1825 (Canberra, 1964) and to other such works. Among the latter is the Bureau's Provisional Indexes to Logbooks and Other Material Copied on Microfilms PMB 200-PMB 302. (Unfortunately, a similar index covering logbooks copied on films PMB 304-PMB 400 appeared after the manuscript of Dr Wace and Mrs Lovett had gone to press.)

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