

Pambu

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

No.38

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Jan.-Mar.1975

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RECORDS PROJECT TO BE WOUND UP

The Papua New Guinea Records Project, which the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau organised two years ago, is to be wound up. This follows the resignation of the project director, Mr Kevin Green. His resignation will take effect from 4 April, twenty-six days short of the period originally envisaged for the operation of the project. Mr Green is to take up a post as archivist in the CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization), Canberra.

The Bureau hopes to distribute all outstanding films obtained under the project to the nineteen sponsoring libraries by about the end of May. The sponsoring libraries are: The National Library of Australia, Canberra; the Library, The Australian National University, Canberra; the Mitchell Library, Sydney; the Library, Macquarie University, Ryde, NSW; the Library, University of Newcastle; the Library, University of New South Wales, Kensington; the Library, University of Sydney; the State Library of Queensland, Brisbane; the Library, James Cook University of North Queensland, Townsville; the Library, University of Queensland, St Lucia; the State Library of South Australia, Adelaide; the Library, The Flinders University of South Australia, Bedford Park, the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne; the Library, La Trobe University, Bundoora (Melbourne); the Library, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria; the Library, University of Melbourne; the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington; the Library, University of Papua and New Guinea, Port Moresby; the Library, University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

Since the last list of films obtained under the project was published in Pambu (No.36), the following films have been obtained:

- PMB 627 PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Miscellaneous documents
- PMB 628 ARNOLD, Rev. John Kissack: Diaries, 1923-26 and articles
- PMB 629 FENBURY, David Maxwell: Papers, 1947-72
- PMB 630 MANN, Rev. Ira J.: Diaries and papers, 1919-41

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 Its purpose is to locate unpublished documents of value concerning the Pacific Islands and to obtain copies of them on microfilm for four world libraries specialising in Pacific research.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.

PMB 631 PENHALLURIACK, P.M.: Nakanai patrol reports, 1929-30

PMB 660 INVESTORS LTD: Company papers re Papua, 1936-65

The film PMB 627 contains two letters in French written by Maximillian Mouton from Blanche Bay in 1885 and 1886; a letter from the Administrator, Brig.-Gen. Sir Walter Ramsay McNicoll, to W.C. Groves, re Tench Island, 26 June 1934; the will of Harry Darby, 17 February 1931; the diary of a visit to inspect Robinson River Plantation kept by J.S. Horn from November 1932 to January 1933; articles and a radio script by the Rev. G.J. Platten, 1938-45; and notes concerning the transfer of the administration from Rabaul to Lae in 1941, written in 1963-64 by E.P. Holmes.

The diaries of the Rev. J.K. Arnold, microfilmed on PMB 628, should be of particular value to historians of Papua. Arnold (1895-1955) was a Methodist missionary in the Dobu circuit. He went to Papua in May 1923 and left in June 1928 but kept diaries only until he went on furlough to Australia in January 1926. His diaries, which are in three volumes, each containing an index, concern his travels in the D'Entrecasteaux and Kiriwina Islands.

Arnold was the author of a grammar of Edugaula, the language of Dobu, and the lingua franca of the D'Entrecasteaux Group and beyond. He was a keen observer and writer. His diaries were kindly made available for microfilming by his daughter, Mrs L.A. Pederick of Glen Waverley, Victoria.

Students of recent Papua New Guinea history should find much to interest them among the papers of Mr D.M. Fenbury, a prominent member of the PNG administration from 1947 until his recent retirement. Mr Fenbury, who was born in Western Australia in 1916, became a patrol officer in New Guinea in 1937. After wartime service with the AIF and ANGAU followed by a spell with the government of Tanganyika, he returned to New Guinea in 1947 to become ADO responsible for organising native local government councils. Several senior posts later, he went to New York as the Australian government nominee in the trusteeship division of the United Nations Secretariat. In 1962 he became secretary of the Department of the Administrator. His last post was secretary of the Department of Social Development and Home Affairs.

'SPECIAL BONUS'
ISSUE OF PAMBU

This issue of Pambu is what the gentlemen in the advertising industry might describe as a special bonus issue. This is because it contains an index to obituaries appearing in the Pacific Islands Monthly from August 1945 to December 1973.

The index has been compiled as a spare time job over the past few years to assist in the Bureau's own work. We hope it will also be of value to other Pacific researchers.