

# Pambu

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

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Executive Officer: Robert Langdon

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## BUREAU ACTIVITIES TO BE CURTAILED

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau will operate on only a modified scale from mid-February 1977 to mid-February 1979 because of the award of a two-year research fellowship in the Department of Pacific and South-East Asian History, Australian National University, to the Bureau's executive officer. Some of the Bureau's activities, including the publication of Pambu, will be suspended; others will be curtailed. The executive officer will continue to be in charge in a supervisory capacity.

The Bureau's principal function in 1977 and 1978 will be to provide detailed indexes to the 2,000 or so reels of microfilm of Pacific manuscripts, serials and other documents that have been obtained for its member libraries since 1968. The indexing work will be carried out by a part-time assistant.

The Bureau will also continue to provide copies of its microfilms on request to non-member libraries. On the other hand, the active search for and microfilming of manuscripts and other documents of value to Pacific scholars will be suspended. However, limited funds will be available for the microfilming of documents that are brought to the Bureau's attention, and the Bureau will be pleased to hear from scholars who know of such documents and are prepared to arrange the microfilming of them. Copies of microfilms so obtained will be distributed to the member libraries from time to time.

Until mid-February 1977, the Bureau's principal activities will be to distribute copies of all outstanding films to its member libraries and to provide them and others interested with complete lists of, and indexes to, all films obtained since the Bureau was inaugurated in 1968. The chief films now outstanding are about 200

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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 Its purpose is to locate unpublished documents of value concerning the Pacific Islands and to obtain copies of them on microfilm for five world libraries specialising in Pacific research. The five libraries are the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand; the Mitchell Library, Sydney; the Library of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu; and the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne

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reels of whaling logbooks and other documents obtained in the United States between May and October this year in the course of the second New England Microfilming Project directed by Dr. J.S. Cumpston, of Canberra. The project was sponsored by 12 libraries in Australia, New Zealand and the United States and is similar to one organized by the Bureau in 1970. The Bureau plans to produce a consolidated index to all the logbooks obtained on microfilm under the two projects. This index will be divided into three sections: 1. Ships; 2. Captains (or logkeepers); 3. Places visited by the ships in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Copies of the index will be distributed to the sponsoring libraries of the 1976 project and will be available for purchase by other libraries and individuals.

The Bureau hopes to produce a bound volume in 1977 of the various indexes, gazetteers and finding aids that have so far been published in Pambu, and this will also be available for purchase. The next issue of Pambu will be the last until publication is resumed in 1979.

The award of an A.N.U. research fellowship to the Bureau's executive officer follows the publication, in June 1975, of his book The Lost Caravel dealing with Spanish castaways in the 16th century Pacific. The E.O. proposes to carry out further investigations into this topic during the period of his fellowship.

#### INDEX TO ITEMS ON WESTERN PACIFIC

An index to Pacific items in the Annales de Notre Dame de Sacre-Coeur for the years 1881-1975 is reproduced in the ensuing pages. The Annales are published by the Societe des Missionnaires du Sacre-Coeur which sent its first missionaries to New Guinea in 1881 and subsequently sent others to Papua, the Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands and Nauru. The Annales are therefore a repository of much valuable information relating to those islands. Microfilm copies of the Annales have already been deposited in the Bureau's member libraries. The reference number is PMB 330 (35 reels).