

Pambu

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau Newsletter

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PAMBU NEWS

This year the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Since beginning its operations on 16 April 1968 the Bureau has produced 3,800 reels of microfilm of archives, manuscripts and rare printed material in or relating to the Pacific Islands, together with related indexes, finding aids and guides. The Bureau is now also using digital technology to reformat photographs, audio-visual materials and documents. Over the forty years the Bureau has produced one of the most extensive resources available for studies of the Pacific Islands.

Dr Peter Orlovich, formerly Lecturer in Archives Administration at the University of NSW, now Visiting Research Fellow with the School of History and Philosophy at the University of NSW, recently wrote to the PMB:

The establishment of the PMB was one of the most important initiatives ever taken in Australia to promote the preservation of the archival heritage of Oceania by directing its labours towards the location, identification

and microreproduction of the archival resources of Pacific Island nations, states and territories, well before the administrations of those islands were able to adequately implement their own measures for ensuring the preservation of their own national, state and territorial archives. I am very pleased, therefore, to congratulate you and your committee, and especially your predecessors, on the very important contribution which PMB has made in the past forty years to ensure that the archival heritage of the Pacific Islands has been preserved in microform for posterity. The work of the PMB has also raised the profile of the archival heritage of the Oceanic states and nations.

The PMB is an international joint copying project, founded collaboratively by librarians at the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, the Mitchell, Turnbull and LaTrobe Libraries, the National Library of Australia, and scholars at the Australian National University. It has continued to absolutely rely on a remarkably high level of international cooperation between Islanders and Island institutions, the PMB member libraries and Pacific scholars worldwide. The Bureau is very fortunate to be directed by a Management

Committee chaired by Professor Brij Lal and made up of a number of world experts on the documentation of the Pacific Islands. Over the last six years, Elizabeth Ellis, the Mitchell Librarian, who has just announced her retirement, has taken a prominent role on the PMB Committee, helping to ensure the Bureau's sound footings and productive operations.

One marked aspect of the PMB's operations is its strong presence in the Islands. The Bureau has had an exceptionally busy period of archival field projects in the Islands and elsewhere, as follows:

- Tarawa, Kiribati, 3-17 January 2007, to help Sr Margaret Sullivan with the arrangement and description of the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru.
- Honolulu, 14-23 March 2007, to participate in a conference, *Hidden Treasures: Accessing the Riches in Pacific Collections*, organised by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai'i; and to microfilm English translations of Hawaiian language documents in the Micronesian Collection, 1852-1923, at the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library.
- PNG, 16 May-3 June, to microfilm archives of the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory in collaboration with the PNG National Archives, Dr R.W. Johnson, Mr Herman Patia, and the other RVO staff; to survey records of the PNG National Lands Commission and Land Titles Commission in Port Moresby with Sam Kaima; and investigate possible microfilming projects at the Rorongo Theological College Library and the Lowlands Agricultural Experiment Station near Keravat, East New Britain.
- Victoria, 17-25 June, to select Unevangelized Fields Mission archives from the Library of the Bible College of Victoria at Lilydale for microfilming; to microfilm Sr Rhoda Ransom's diary and photographs from the Duke of York Islands, PNG, 1912-1913, held by Don Horsey in Shepparton; and to collect research papers of the late Robert Kent Wilson on industrialisation in PNG from Mrs Valerie Wilson in Carlton.
- Honiara, Solomon Islands, 1-6 July, to address a meeting of Bishops of the Church of Melanesia and, working with Bishop Terry Brown, to microfilm some of the Church's records held at the National Archives of the Solomon Islands.
- New Caledonia and Funafuti, Tuvalu, 25 Sep-26 Oct 2007, to participate in the PARBICA 12 conference in Noumea; to microfilm *La Dépêche Kanak* and other Kanak newspapers in collaboration with the Territorial Archives of New Caledonia; and undertake the final stage of the Endangered Archives Programme, Tuvalu National Archives Major Project with Richard Overy, Kataloto Lopati Ponton, Mila Amilale, and the staff of the Tuvalu National Library and Archives.

- Tarawa, Kiribati, 29 Nov-14 Dec 2007, to microfilm the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru, working with Sr Margaret Sullivan.
- Melbourne, 12-15 Jan 2008, returning archives of the Unevangelized Fields Mission, microfilmed for the PMB by W & F Pascoe Pty Ltd in Sydney, to the Victorian Bible College Library; selecting another batch (16 archives boxes) for microfilming; and picking up papers of C.J. (Joe) Lynch on constitutional development in the Pacific Islands (5 cartons) from Dr Jonathan Ritchie at Trinity College, University of Melbourne.
- Honolulu, 16-21 Mar 2008, to participate in a workshop with Dr Evelyn Ellerman, Dr Steven Windou, Dr Karen Peacock and others on production of a PNG Print Culture website.
- Adelaide, 9-10 April 2008, to microfilm a collection of letters and rare publications of Rev. Isaac Rooney, a Methodist Missionary in New Britain in the 1880s, held by Andrew Rooney and catalogued by Professor Matthew Spriggs.
- Sydney, 11-14 May 2008, to microfilm correspondence and manuscripts of the late Rev. Dr Sione Latukefu held by Mrs Ruth Latukefu; and to pick up additional research papers of Dr Robert Norton.

This schedule of fieldwork in the Islands, together with commitments in Canberra and elsewhere in Australia, is part of the reason that this issue of *Pambu* is so dreadfully late!

The PMB's main in-house microfilming has consisted of the following projects:

- PMB 1282/Reels 1-40: CSR Limited, Head Office, Fiji correspondence, 1880-1947 (Restricted access). We have microfilmed CSR Fiji letters-out, 1880-1891, Fiji Colonial Secretary's letters-in, 1907-1939, Immigration (Indian labour, Fiji) letters-out, 1916-1926, and the surviving Rarawai Mill, letters-out, 1916-1947, and Rarawai Mill letters-in, 1903-1925. The PMB will not proceed to microfilm further CSR correspondence (Sigatoka, Labasa, Lautoka, Nausori, Panang, Inspectors) until some feed-back is received from this round of microfilming.
- PMB 1291/Reels 1-10: R.J.S. COOKE (1938-1979), Reported observations of volcanic activity in Papua New Guinea before 1944: published and unpublished documents, C1-C837 (Available for reference). This project is being carried out in conjunction with the microfilming of Rabaul Volcanological Observatory files at PMB 1294-1296. One aim is to produce digital copies of the documents linked to an in-house RVO information management system for PNG volcanic hot-spots. Funding for the digital conversion is provided by the PNG-Australia Volcanological Service Support (RVO-Geoscience Australia Twinning Project) supported by AusAID.

Other recent manuscripts microfilming projects have included:

- PMB 1267: GUNTHER, Sir John Thomas (1910-1984): Papers on health administration in Papua New Guinea. Reels 1-6. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1273 MOORHOUSE, David Bruce (1936-2003): Papers documenting his career as a Patrol Officer and land investigation consultant in Papua New Guinea, 1955-1996. Reels 1-6. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1285: THRELFALL, Rev. N.A., *From Mangroves to Frangipani: The Story of Rabaul and East New Britain Province* (1988), Ts., 2 vols., 682pp. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1286: MILTRUP, Fr. Franz SM, Bougainville Manuscripts: *Paipelaten Yia Belong Mi Long Bougainville* (an autobiography in Tok Pisin); and *Bougainville World War II, c.1989*. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1287: COLLINS, Burton Wallace (1916-1977), New Guinea Notebooks, 1937-1938. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1290: WOODFORD, Charles Morris (1852-1927), Papers on the Solomon Islands and other Pacific Islands, 1879-1927. Reels 1-5. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1292: SCALES, Ian A. (1963-), Papers relating to the Western State movement, Solomon Islands, 1999-2001. Reels 1-2. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1297: RANSOM, Sr. Rhoda (1887-1968), Diary kept at the Methodist Mission in New Britain and the Duke of York Islands, New Guinea, and related papers, Jul 1912-Mar 1913. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1298: KOLIA, John Alexander (1931-1993), Correspondence, related papers and publications, 1978-1993, collected by Nancy Lutton. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1299: UNEVANGELIZED FIELDS MISSION / ASIA PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MISSION, Archives documenting missions in Papua New Guinea and West Papua, 1931-1992. Reels 1-11. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1302: GILL, Cecil, *Awara*, memoir of a medical missionary in Papua, 1926-1933, and elsewhere, together with three short stories, and Dr Gill's correspondence with Nancy Lutton. (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1303: GEYLE, Adrian Martin, *Currents and Customs: stories of a tribal kind*, Parts 1 & 2, a memoir and photographs of patrol work in Western District outstations and field assistance with oil search companies in the Gulf and Sepik Districts, PNG, 1951-1960, together with *Iuri 1954*, an account with photographs of a patrol to the Iuri people, Border Mountains, Sepik District. 1 reel. (Available for reference.)

- PMB 1304: GRAFEN, W.C.J., Patrol Reports, Tufi Sub-District, Northern District, Papua New Guinea, 1952-1954. 1 reel (Available for reference.)
- PMB 1305: THRELFALL, Rev. N.A., Notes and research materials on the history of Rabaul and the Gazelle Peninsula, Papua New Guinea, 1786-1975. Reels 1-12. (Available for reference.)

As an experiment, in consultation with the National Film and Sound Archives, the PMB organized digital reformatting of eight 8mm home movies (silent/colour, varying in length from 8 to 25 minutes) made by Tom and Gwen Taylor in PNG, 1954-1971, for John Momis who borrowed the films from Gwen Taylor and lent them to the PMB when he was visiting the ANU in May 2007. Mrs Taylor also lent her collection of PNG photographs which have been reformatted to digital images, as:

- PMB Photo 13/1-44: TAYLOR, Gwen: Collection of photographs from Bougainville, East New Britain and Kerema, Papua New Guinea, c.1945-1954.

Sr. Ransom's photographs, microfilmed at PMB 1297 with her diary, were also converted to digital format at:

- PMB Photo 14/1-35: RANSOM, Sr. Rhoda (1887-1968): Post cards and other photographs from the Methodist Mission in New Britain and the Duke of York Islands, New Guinea, Jul 1912-Mar 1913, and family photograph.

Four additional collections of photographs have been digitised:

- PMB Photo 15: GEYLE, Adrian Martin, *Currents and Customs: stories of a tribal kind*, and *Iuri 1954*, (Cf. PMB 1303.)
- PMB Photo 16: HERKENHOFF, Fr. Franz, SM, Photographs in Bougainville taken by Fr Franz Herkenhoff and Br Bryan Leak, 1990-1992.
- PMB Photo 17: LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY, Samoan District, *Niue Centennial Volume, 1846-1946* (Photograph album, including maps.)
- PMB Photo 18: READ, W.J. (Jack), New Guinea Photographs, 1930-1940.

In addition to the papers of Joe Lynch and the second batch of UFM archives, mentioned above, the PMB has been given custody of the following material:

- Cuttings from the Hawaiian press on the Pacific Islands, c.1942-1974, 39 volumes, gathered by the Hawaiian Sugar Plantation Association, transferred from the Pacific Collection at the University of Hawaii Library to the PMB for microfilming.

- Mr Albert Speer MBE, partly unorganized research papers on PNG topics: 2 cartons for arrangement and description.
- Papers and photographs of Rev. Adam Wilson documenting his service with the Presbyterian Mission in Vanuatu, 1934-1947: digital copies of part of the family archives lent by his son, Alan Wilson who lives in Oxford, England, together with some related printed material, for microfilming.
- Dr Peter Cahill, sample correspondence file, 1996-1999, for microfilming, interest and assessment with a view to microfilming parts of his research materials.
- W.J. (Jack) Read, PNG Patrol Reports, related papers and photographs, 1921-1937, on loan from his daughter Judy Fairhurst, through Peter Cahill and the Fryer Library, for microfilming.
- Dr Ian Hughes, 27 PNG maps, 1943-1972, many annotated, used by Dr Hughes for his fieldwork, which have now been digitised with a view to linking them to his field notes.
- Stanley Guise Middleton, Taubada: an autobiography, Papuan experiences, 1925-1947, in digital format, reconstructed from notes (the original manuscript having been lost) by his son, Trevor Middleton.
- Solomon Islands languages: manuscripts and old prints, originally gathered by the Marist Fathers Donatien Coicaud and Chris Kamphuis in Malaita, passed on to Fr Jan Snijders SM, who donated them to Professor Darrell Tryon. On loan to the PMB for microfilming.
- Dr Hiromitsu Iwamoto, filmed oral history interviews on DVD conducted by Dr Iwamoto in Tok Pisin with 176 indigenous Papua New Guinean elders regarding their experiences during WWII, for duplication and supply to the PMB member libraries.
- From Dr Nigel Statham, a copy of a letter to William Mariner from his Tongan adoptive mother, Mafihape, and an English translation of it, written in longhand on pages left blank for notes at the end of a copy of Mariner's and Martin's *An Account of the Natives of the Tonga Islands in the South Pacific Ocean*, 2nd ed. (Edinburgh: Constable and Co., 1827) that was inscribed by Mariner to his daughter Margaret McCulloch in 1849. The book is now in the possession of Denis McCulloch of Worcestershire, England. For microfilming.

Dr Statham has been visiting the PMB to use the original manuscripts of Dorothy Crozier's unpublished edition of *Mariner's Tonga* for his Tongan translation, and is now working on the possibility of publishing Crozier's manuscript.

Dr Melvin Thatcher, Asia-Pacific Area Manager for the Genealogical Society of Utah, visited the PMB early in 2007. In response to my request he indicated that the GSU had surplus microfilm readers which may be donated to Pacific Islands

archives and libraries. In June Dr Thatcher confirmed that the GSU was willing to donate the machines and to pay for the freight. They are NMI 2020 readers in good working order – *not* reader-printers. Since then we have contacted 15 institutions which have accepted the donation. The microfilm readers were shipped out in March and the first of them are just being delivered. The institutions are: PNG National Archives and Public Records Service, Head Office and Lae Branch (2 machines); UPNG Library (2 machines); Divine Word University Library, Madang, College of the Marshall Islands Library; National Library and Archives of Vanuatu; National Archives of the Solomon Islands; Kiribati National Archives; OLSH Archives Kiribati; Tuvalu National Library and Archives; Taonga Niue; Cook Islands Library and Museum Society; Cook Islands National Archives; Archives and Library Services, Samoan Ministry of Education (2 machines).

In April this year the PMB transferred seven archives boxes of the papers of Dr Stanley Wigley MBBS, FRCP (1917-2000) to the PNG Institute of Medical Research in Goroka. Stan Wigley was Specialist Medical Officer (Tuberculosis) in charge of the Tuberculosis Control Unit with its headquarters in Port Moresby from 1957 until his retirement in 1973. Most, but not all, of the papers have been microfilmed by the PMB at:

- PMB 1182: WIGLEY Stanley C. (1917-2000), Papers on tuberculosis, other health matters, and conservation in PNG, 1952-1991. Reels 1-6. (Available for reference.)

Dr Wigley's papers were originally transferred to the PMB by his daughter, Mrs Amanda Mullen, who left it up to the PMB to make archival arrangements for them. Dr Margaret Spencer recommended that the papers be transferred to the PNG IMR. The PMB is very grateful that the IMR has accepted custody of the Wigley Papers and hopes that they prove a useful addition to the Institute's research resources.

Mrs Josepha Kapa, New Guinea Collection Librarian at the University of PNG Library, visited Canberra in April 2008, for a joint training attachment at the National Library, the ANU Pacific Research Archives and the PMB.

Ewan Maidment
PMB Executive Officer, 12 Jun 2008

**INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE
PACIFIC:
A LIBRARY'S ROLE IN PACIFIC
TWINNING**

*Volunteer law libraries in Australia and New Zealand could be 'twinned' with a like library in the Pacific. The twinning concept would allow agencies to develop closer working relationships.*¹

In 1986 the Secretary of Attorney-General's Department, on his return from the Pacific Island Legal Officers Meeting (PILOM), now called Pacific Islands Legal Officers Network (PILON), requested the then Principal Librarian of Attorney-General's Department, Lorraine Weinman, to "do something for the Pacific Islands!"

A small group of energetic and willing librarians belonging to the Australian Law Librarians' Association (then Group) committed to assist a few Pacific nations by sending loose parts, superseded texts and legislation. It became clear that despite the assistance being greatly appreciated by the Pacific recipients' the material sent was not necessarily suitable for the agency and the volume of material sent was overwhelming.

In 1991 Lorraine presented a paper at the Special Law and Health Librarians Conference in Canberra, suggesting that volunteer law libraries in Australia and New Zealand could be 'twinned' with a like library in the Pacific. The paper was warmly received by attendees and with Jacqui Elliot, the then High Court Librarian as the volunteer coordinator, the official ALLA Pacific Law Library Twinning Program was born.

The Twinning Program essentially provides legal texts, librarian assistance and training to Pacific law and justice sector agencies. In 2006 following Jacqui Elliot's retirement the Australian Law Librarians' Association requested the Attorney-General's Department take on the role of coordinating the twinning of law libraries in Australia and New Zealand with law and justice sector agencies in the Pacific Island nations.

This formalising of the process removed the burden of a volunteer having to coordinate the

program. The Co-ordination role will now rest with the Lionel Murphy Library of the Information Services Branch of the Australian Attorney-General's Department for as long as funding through the AusAid Pacific Governance Support Program (PGSP) is available. The formalising of the role will also help develop solid communication channels, up-to-date guidelines, procedures and reporting mechanisms and support for the volunteer agencies in Australia and New Zealand as well as the Pacific agencies.²

In recent years the Australian Attorney-General's Department has been able to utilise funding under the PGSP program to expand the work with their twins in Tonga, Nauru and Samoa. That work has included assistance with legal materials, the purchase of metal shelving and providing legal research training in-country.

In April 2008, a team from the Australian Attorney-General's Department travelled to Tonga and Samoa where team members trained around 200 Pacific staff in hands-on, basic computer, Internet and legal research skills. Attendees ranged from magistrates to clerks and private law firm staff. Library staff were trained in basic cataloguing and collection maintenance practices.

The training sessions highlighted the diverse skill levels of users, which ranged from those who had never used a computer before to those who were just sitting in as observers. Some attendees thought they didn't need training, but confessed at the end to have still learnt something.

The work in-country needs a higher commitment of resources than applies at the moment to the Twinning Program; however it has allowed for significant improvements across the law and justice sectors and will speed their progress towards sustainability.

Information Services has been successful on its past three grant submissions. The release of the white paper 'Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability' provided a confirmation to the Information Services Branch of the importance of this work and the long established relationships fostered by this scheme.

¹ Weinman, Lorraine. Paper at the Special Law and Health Librarians Conference, Canberra, 1991.

² There are currently 20 Pacific agencies twinned with 14 Australian and New Zealand partners.

Twinning has given us a greater appreciation of the difficulties sometimes faced by Pacific staff and a better understanding of how we can help them improve the sustainability of the law and justice sector in this region.

The two most important factors for the future is to encourage new partners to join and the ongoing willingness, support and cooperation of the many Australian and New Zealand law and justice agencies that contribute to the Twinning Program.

For more information on the program please contact the Australian Attorney-General's Department, Information Services Branch, Lionel Murphy Library at pacifictwinning@ag.gov.au

Karyn Gladwish
Director, Lionel Murphy Library
Information Services Branch
Attorney-General's Department

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THE WHITES AVIATION PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION AT THE TURNBULL LIBRARY

In 2007, the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, New Zealand, acquired the photographs of Whites Aviation Ltd. It is a significant collection that provides extensive coverage of New Zealand scenes and topics, and also includes photographs taken in the Pacific, Australia, Antarctica, and Southeast Asia.

The company's founder, Leo White, began as a freelance photographer in Auckland in the 1920s, and later worked for the *Weekly News* magazine. He was closely involved with aviation in Auckland in the 1920s and 1930s, and pioneered aerial photography in the region. He wrote a book, *Wingspread: the pioneering of aviation in New Zealand* (published in 1941), and served as a photographer with the RNZAF during World War 2. In 1945, he established Whites Aviation in order to publish a series of illustrated publications on aviation history and aerial photography. One of its first publications was Leo White's book about the RNZAF Fighter Squadrons in the Solomon Islands, *Fighters: the RNZAF climbing the Solomons ladder in the South Pacific*.

The Whites Aviation collection has nearly 81,000 negatives (film and glass) 55,000 prints, and 10,000 colour transparencies. They date from the 1920s until 1988, and were taken by either Leo White or Whites Aviation Ltd. Of these, there are some 5,000 or so prints (with their negatives) relating to the Pacific region, taken between the 1940s-1960s. In the later 1940s, Whites Aviation took photographs for the airlines that were beginning to open up Pacific air routes. Further Pacific visits were made in later years.

The files of prints are organised by place: Aitutaki, Fiji, Honolulu, New Britain and Rabaul, New Caledonia, New Guinea, New Ireland and Admiralties, Papua, Rarotonga, Solomon Islands and New Hebrides, Tahiti, Tonga, Western Samoa, and Samoa (US). They include aerial shots of villages, cities, landscapes and coastlines, and also many land-based photographs of scenes and people. Some of the photographs depict developing tourist amenities, and the airlines flying tourists to the Pacific.

Historians, earth scientists, planners, conservationists and private individuals are all making use of the collection. The Library's online catalogue for its pictorial collections is available on TAPUHI at <http://www.tapuhi.govt.nz>. A small but growing selection of images from the Whites Aviation collection appears on the Timeframes image database, available on the Internet at <http://www.timeframes.govt.nz>. People interested in the Whites Aviation collection are welcome to get in touch with the Library for further information. Photocopies or digital copies of the photographs are available.

John Sullivan
Curator, Photographic Archive, Alexander
Turnbull Library
May 2008

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THE ARCHIVES OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TARAWA AND NAURU

The aim of the PMB fieldwork in Tarawa in January and December 2007 was to microfilm the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru. Sr Margaret Sullivan FDNSC and the Bishop's assistant, Beitaake, had identified and described most of the archives in 2006. In January 2007 I arranged and listed them, but there was no time on that occasion to make microfilm copies. Most of the microfilming was accomplished in December. There was time for a cursory survey of the Kiribati Protestant Church archives and to visit the Kiribati National Archives.

I stayed in one of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters' houses for visitors at Teoraereke, very close to the Bishop's House where the archives are stored. The Sisters kindly allowed me to join them for dinner each evening at their House in the same compound. Sister Margaret Sullivan, the OLSH Kiribati Provincial Archivist, took a keen interest in the project and I worked very closely with her on selection of material for microfilming. The archives were microfilmed at:

- PMB 1289: CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TARAWA AND NAURU, Archives, 1886-1986. Reels 1-13. (Restricted access.) Reel List available from the PMB on request.

The Vicariate Apostolic of the Gilbert Islands was established in 1897. It was originally part of an MSC vicariate which covered parts of Papua, New Guinea and the Gilbert Islands, administered from Yule Island, Vunapope and Tarawa, with its Provincial House in Randwick, Sydney. The Vicars Apostolic were:

- 1890-1897 - Mgr. Couppé MSC, (Vicar Apostolic of New Britain)
- 1898-1927 - Mgr Joseph LeRay, MSC
- 1927-1933 - Mgr. Joseph Bach, MSC
- 1938-1961 - Mgr Octave Terrienne, MSC
- 1961-1966 - Mgr Pierre Guichet MSC

The Diocese of Tarawa was erected in 1966.

- 1966-1979 - Mgr Guichet continued as Bishop of the Diocese
- 1979-to the present - Bishop Paul Mea MSC.

The Diocesan archives are arranged following the model which Fr Amerigo Cools used for the Archdiocese of Papeete (PMB 1080-1082) and the Diocese of Rarotonga and Niue (PMB 1064), and for the Diocese of Taihoe (Marquesas – not yet microfilmed).

The archives of the Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru are held in good order in filing cabinets in the library in the Bishop's House at Teoraereke. There is an air-conditioner in the room which is usually turned on during the day. It is remarkable that the archives have survived the vicissitudes of WWII and the climate.

The archives document aspects of the Catholic mission in the Gilbert Islands from its commencement in 1886. They were fortunate to survive the War in Tarawa intact. The early correspondence is quite strong. Sister Margaret has transferred some documents to the MSC Archives in Rome (correspondence from missionaries received by Fr Wigishoff, 1909-1915, C.2.1-4; letters from Superior-Generals and other MSC letters and documents, 1899-1947, J.1.1-J.2.5), but she has kept photocopies of the documents for the Bishop's archives in Tarawa.

There is a fairly good set of Diocesan circular letters and pastoral letters (C.1). The Parish correspondence is a bit patchy, and there are two missing files (B.4.2 Abemama, and B.4.6 Betio). The Nauru and Ocean Island Parish files (B.4.18-20, B.4.26-29) are particularly strong. The government correspondence, 1891-1978 is also very strong (H.2), as are the files documenting Catholic primary and secondary education in the Gilberts (E.2).

The Mission's Karlai Plantation, Wide Bay, South Coast, New Britain, is very well documented for the period 1913-1978 (L.2). There is also a very good set of correspondence between Bishop Guichet and Karl-Heinz Stellmach regarding the documentary film on the operations of the Diocese, *Sailing in the Trade Winds*. The manuscripts include drafts of Fr Sabatier's, *Sous l'équateur*, and his *Dictionnaire Gilbertine-Français*, and Fr Georges Delbos', *Nous mourons de te voir! Histoire de l'Eglise aux Iles de Corail*, but there are no other diaries, journals or memoirs in the archives.

The work on the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru depends on the strong cooperation of Sister Margaret Sullivan and the other Sisters in Tarawa. I am very grateful for their support, hospitality and kindness. It is a great privilege to share a part of the Sisters' community life and I very much appreciate it.

Ewan Maidment, PMB Executive Officer

**NEW PACIFIC ISLANDS ACQUISITIONS
AND ON-LINE ACCESS TO PACIFIC
DOCUMENTATION**

Meredith Batten, Manager Overseas Collection Development at the National Library of Australia, has reported that Anya Dettman from the NLA has completed a project aimed to trial acquisition of PNG materials through untraditional means, such as web searches and peer information sharing, rather than a trip to the physical locality. The project has successfully fulfilled its aims. The NLA was able to identify dozens of new titles, in a variety of formats. Previously unknown publishers and a new supplier were also discovered. Meredith commented that this process was an invaluable opportunity to evaluate and improve the NLA's PNG collection.

Meredith also mentioned that the National Library of Australia has undertaken to archive Pacific websites. Two PNG collections have been created so far: 'Elections 2007' and 'Government & Research Websites'. Collections are hosted on the Internet Archive, and more will be harvested in the future. The Library's portal to these collections is at

www.nla.gov.au/collect/PacificWebArchiveCollections.html

The NLA has also recently created an online gateway to digitised documentary materials relating to the history, culture and people of the Pacific region. The 'Digitised Pacific resources: global collections' web portal is available at www.nla.gov.au/oz/digitised-pacific-resources.html/. Collections featured in the portal have been formed within the Pacific and in significant education and cultural heritage institutions internationally. Materials include photographs, line drawings, diaries, log books, maps, nautical charts, rare books, newspapers, theses and audio recordings.

In addition to its comprehensive databases of Pacific legal documents, the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) <http://www.pacii.org/>, an initiative of the [University of the South Pacific School of Law](http://www.pacii.org/), has remodeled its Pacific Islands Treaty Series and established an Historical Documents Archive, sub-titled, *Movement towards independence in the South Pacific: a digital archive of Legislation, Orders, Treaties, and related documents*.

The Digital Ethnographic Project (DEP) <http://www.csus.edu/anth/trobriand/depth/index.htm> being organized by Jay B. Crain, Allan C.

Darrah, Linus Silipolakupulapola Digm'Rina and Caroline Gardner at California State University, Sacramento, will be composed of all known and accessible texts for a "classic case" culture — the Trobriand Islanders of Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea.

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PAPERS OF REV. HEINRICH FELLMANN

Ulrich Fellmann, of Aachen, Germany, wrote to the PMB in July 2007 asking about the possibility, in view of their importance and fragility, of microfilming the papers of his grandfather, Rev. Heinrich Fellmann, held at the Mitchell Library.

Ulrich Fellmann was concerned that his grandfather's papers may have been in some danger of destruction because of the poor paper used by the Methodist Mission at that time in hot and wet Raluana, New Britain, where Rev. Fellmann lived. More importantly, Ulrich felt that there is an increasing interest, both in Australia and in Germany, in mission and colonial history during the German colonial administration on New Guinea.

Responding to Ulrich Fellmann's request, Martin Beckett, of the Original Materials Branch, State Library of NSW, revised the listing of the Fellmann Papers with a view to having them microfilmed as part of the Mitchell Library's preservation microfilming program. Mr Beckett's listing, compiled in October 2007, is given below.

Ulrich Fellmann reported that Rev. Heinrich Fellmann (1871-1946) was the first German Methodist Missionary to serve in the Bismarck Archipelago (starting there together with his wife in February 1897). He was Chairman of the New Britain District (later, Bismarck Archipelago District) of the Methodist Church of Australasia from 1902 until 1912. Afterwards he moved to Sydney to do translation work there. Ulrich Fellmann suggested that there may have been some political reasons why Heinrich Fellmann was sent from Germany to the Bismarck Archipelago in 1896. The Pioneer Missionary George Brown (1835-1917) had asked Heinrich Fellmann to come to the Melanesian Islands. Heinrich Fellmann was the founder of the first German (German speaking) congregation in Rabaul in 1911/1912, comprised of protestant members - Methodists and others.

Papers, c.1882-1962, of Rev. Heinrich Fellmann
(Acquired Jan. 1975: ML 304/74). ML MSS 2785 (1 carton) Located at K 21654.

- (1) Copy letterbook of letters written by Rev. Fellmann, 23 Jan 1905 – 20 May 1910. Typescript copies.
- (2) Letters received by Rev. Fellmann, 7 Dec 1903 – 2 Apr 1917, mainly from the office of the Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia, Sydney. Several letters are written by Rev. B. Danks and by Rev. John Wheen (General Secretary of the Society).
- (3) Miscellaneous letters, 9 Dec 1912 – 29 Apr 1915 and undated, received by Rev. Fellmann. The letters are written in vernacular languages. A few other miscellaneous (printed) papers are included. A note with the papers states: "Papers in the Tinata Tuna (Kuanua) language of the Tolai people of East New Britain. Mostly letters written by Methodist pastors in New Britain and New Ireland, to Rev. H. Fellmann when he was resident in Sydney. Some of the letter-writers are leading figures in the history of the Church in the New Britain / New Ireland area."
- (4) Letters, 18 Dec 1907 – 18 Feb 1951, from Miss Grace Gill (written from Raluana - Neu Pommernâ & Geelong - Vic.) to Mrs. Johanna Fellmann. This collection of letters was acquired as further papers in Aug 1975 (ML MSS 2785 Add-On 794) and added to the main collection of Rev. Heinrich Fellmann papers. A note with the letters states: These letters are mainly about the life and work of various families on New Britain Methodist Mission Stations."
- (5) Legends and Stories of the Tolai People (East New Britain), written by Tolai in their own language (Tinata Tuna), for Rev. H. Fellmann.
- (6) Dictionary and Grammar of the Duke of York Island language (new Britain Group), Papua New Guinea. By Rev. George Brown, revised by Rev. B. Danks. Sydney, 1882. Duplicated mss. Preface & Grammar 70pp.; Dictionary 328pp.
- (7) Grammar (in German) of the Tigak language of the Kavieng area, north New Ireland, Papua New Guinea.
- (8) The Gospel of St. Mark in the Tigak language of Northern New Ireland (Neu Mecklenburg Nordâ dialect), 1911.
- (9) Stories from the Book of Genesis in Tinata Tuna (Kuanua), East New Britain.
- (10) Student copybooks (13 vols.).
- (11) Student sketchbooks (6 vols.).
- (12) Various printed works, 1885-1921, being mostly sections of the Bible in vernacular languages (14 vols.).

Please note that the following papers are now available on preservation microfilm in the Mitchell Library. For research use the Mitchell could supply further microfilm copies, or digital (CD/DVD) and paper copies made from microfilm:

CY 4756, frames 1-319: Copy letterbook of letters written by Rev. Heinrich Fellmann, 23 Jan. 1905 - 20

May 1910 (ML MSS 2785, Item 1).

CY 4757, frames 1-561: Correspondence, 1903-1962, including letters received by Rev. Fellmann, 1903-1917, and letters written by Miss Grace Gill to Mrs. Johanna Fellmann & her daughters, 1907-1962 (ML MSS 2785, Items 2-5).

Dr. Ulrich Fellmann kindly provided the Mitchell Library with an additional 13 original letters from Grace Gill to the Fellmanns, 1952-1962 (ML MSS 2785, Item 5) and also an original page which had been previously missing from Rev. Fellmann's letterbook.

The Mitchell Library also holds the following pictorial material: Pic. Acc. 3210: Photographs, c.1897-1951, of village life and customs, missionaries and mission buildings in Papua New Guinea and Samoa (446 negatives in 25 boxes, 25 photographic prints, 7 slides).

* * *

JIM BURTON AN ENTHUSIASTIC COLLECTOR OF DIVERSE MATERIAL RELATING TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

Jim Burton spent twenty years residing and working in seven locations in the South Pacific islands groups of Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. Since returning to Australia he has been gathering records not only of his own South Pacific years but also of the activities of his fellow travellers. Jim has established an elaborate routine to achieve his goals.

During 1993-95 Jim Burton made three compilations of information from the *Pacific Islands Monthly*, under the headings, People, Shipping and Island Groups. Guided by the two indexes to the *PIM*, for 1930-45 and 1945-55, he has produced 174 files of documents on People and 15 files on Shipping and continues to develop and extend his collection. He has also compiled booklets of information from the *PIM* on Island Groups, eg. Fiji (60pp.) and PNG114pp.), which are available to anyone prepared to reimburse the costs of photocopying, binding and postage.

Jim Burton has also been working on a broader project *Documenting the Families and the Identities of the South Pacific Islands - A Biographical Dictionary*. This project has been underway for the past 20 years, having been initiated jointly by Jim and the late Reece Discombe. Biographical data for entries in the *Biographical Dictionary* is gathered via a questionnaire which can be completed by email or in hard-copy. Jim invites residents and former

residents of the Islands to contact him if they would like to be included in the *Dictionary*.

Jim Burton is also gathering data for his *Biographical Dictionary* from the *PIMs*, 1955-2000, which he is indexing, and by abstracting information from the CD, *Australians and Other Expatriates in Papua New Guinea 1888-1975*, collated by Joan Ainsworth in 1981 and published by the Queensland Family History Society. Jim believes that he will be enthusiastically adding material from these sources into his database for years to come. The documents on the CD include extracts from newspapers and Government Gazettes, cemetery tombstone and burial details, internees from two wars, changes of name, naturalisation applicants *etc.*

Jim is just 140 issues short of a complete collection of 839 issues of the *Pacific Islands Monthly*. Some of his early copies of the *PIM* are showing their years, however he protects the originals by making photocopies for handling and cutting. Jim has many *PIM* duplicates which he is keen to exchange, not sell, with others who might like to build up their collection, or have copies that they no longer require.

Another most interesting project that Jim has underway is his series of community meetings, *Memories of the South Pacific Islands Are Being Recalled*. Three gatherings have already been held in each of four of Brisbane's City Council Libraries. Forthcoming meetings this year will be held on 11 July, 8 August and 12 September in the Carindale Library on Brisbane's southside. As well as meeting with other former Island residents, interesting guest speakers from one or another of the Island groups, CDs and DVDs, books and other presentations add to the enjoyment of these gatherings. There are no costs involved as Jim and Joan Burton supply morning tea, and they have nothing to sell.

In January 2006, Jim presented a paper titled, *My South Pacific Years - with an ongoing interest*, at the AAASP Conference of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies, Carseldine Campus of the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. Copies of his paper (16pp.) are available free-of-charge if included with postage of copies of the previously mentioned Island Groups booklets.

Jim Burton's contact details are: 4 Gwydir Street, Riverhills QLD 4074; Ph. (07) 3376 3356; Email <burtonjf@bigpond.com>

VALE REECE DISCOMBE (1919-2007)

One of the pioneers of underwater diving in the South Pacific, Reece Discombe, died on 2 June 2007, aged 90. Born in New Zealand, Reece Discombe was first of all a professional deep-sea diver and naturally he was one of the first to use the autonomous deep-sea diving suit perfected by the Cousteau-Gagnan team just after World War II.

A resident of the New Hebrides (today Vanuatu) since 1947, he carried out very many dives around the numerous islands of the archipelago and, further north, on the site of the wreck of Lapérouse's ships at Vanikoro. In relation to this, he took part in the first research expeditions in the 1950s and 60s. In March 1958 an expedition organised by Pierre Anthonioz, French Resident Commissioner in the New Hebrides visited the site of the wreck of the *Astrolabe*. Reece Discombe, who had a good knowledge of the site, having dived on it several times, and Robert Charles, also a good diver, accompanied Pierre Anthonioz, as well as Jack Charles Barley, the captain of the *Don Quichotte*, the Residency vessel. In June 1959 Reece Discombe accompanied Haroun Tazieff to the site of the wreck of the *Astrolabe*, this time on the Condominium vessel, the *Rocinante*. They were accompanied by Jack Barley and a Belgian photographer, Jacques Théodor, a specialist in underwater photography. Reece Discombe gave a graphic account of this expedition in the *South Pacific Magazine* No.22, October 1959.

Reece Discombe became a familiar face on the Vanikoro reef. He was to dive on it several times and methodically explored the southwest reef between the *Astrolabe* wreck passage and Bruat passage. Having interviewed the inhabitants of Vanikoro and the last employees of the Kaori Timber Company, who had discovered objects which came from the remains of a ship situated at the bottom of a fault on the outside of the reef, as early as 1962 he was convinced that this was certainly the site where the Lapérouse expedition's second ship lay. In February 1964 he returned to the site with the French Resident Commissioner in Port-Vila, Mr. Delaunay, who confirmed that the vestiges discovered at the new site, known as the fault, were indeed from one of Lapérouse's ships. Reece Discombe was associated with the major French Navy expedition, organised in March 1964, with the *Dunkerkoise*, under the command of Captain

Maurice de Brossard, head of the Navy Historical Service. As a member of the diving team, which included among others Dr Merlet, Chief Naval Medical Officer Becker and Yves Magnier from ORSTOM, Reece Discombe led the team to the site of what proved to be the place where the *Boussole* broke up and sank in May or June 1788.

Over a period of years of research on the sea floor, a myriad of objects were recovered, such as those coming from American vessels sunk during the Pacific War or materials thrown into the sea when troops stationed in the archipelago departed. So the story is told of the 14 bulldozers brought up to the surface and of the 100 tyres which had been sent to the bottom. Reece Discombe was also one of the very first to have dived on the wreck of the *President Coolidge* in Santo. As often as possible the modern maritime adventurer worked in collaboration with scientists.

His participation in the search for the wrecks of numerous warships, lost aeroplanes and the bodies of pilots lead to his being particularly well-known and honoured by the US Navy. He became a correspondent of the famous Missing in Action Hawaii group, which specialised in searching for those who went missing in action.

Reece Discombe leaves the memory of a man of action, generous of spirit, one of the pioneers of underwater research in the South Pacific. He was a witness of the history of his times and lived his life in the service of maritime discovery.

Translated by Dr Darrell Tryon from an obituary by Gabriel Vallet (GV) in Société d'Etudes Historiques de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, Bulletin, No.152, Sep 2007, pp.74-75.

Extract from Bob Langdon's unpublished second volume of his autobiography, *Every Goose a Swan* (PMB 1230)

Reece Discombe and his wife Jean, both New Zealanders, were at the airport to meet me. Reece was a humorous, strongly built man in his early forties with only one good eye. He had not had much schooling but was a mine of information about everything relating to the New Hebrides. I gathered that he had lived in Vila since the end of World War II and ran a motor garage and an electrical workshop on the waterfront. In the previous few years, he had also developed a profitable sideline as a maritime salvage expert and had been on two French expeditions to Vanikoro to recover relics of La Perouse's *Astrolabe*. He had been there again the previous June to investigate the possibility of salvaging a cargo of

jettisoned brass. This had given him the opportunity to search for the wreck of the *Boussole*, which he had tried to pinpoint by closely reading the accounts of Dillon and others. He had found it while swimming over the outer reef. Something glinting on the seabed had caught his eye. It proved to be the edge of a French gold coin almost completely embedded in coral. The principal wreckage comprised anchors, lead blocks, cannon, and such like.....

Discombe did not get the recognition for his discovery in the world's press that he had hoped for. However, his moment of glory did come. About four years later, General de Gaulle visited Vila as President of France and personally invested Discombe with the insignia of officer of the National Order of Merit, France's civilian equivalent of the Legion of Honour. He was a bit miffed, though, that the fate of one of France's most celebrated explorers had been revealed by a mere New Zealander. 'It's a pity you're not a Frenchman', he said as he hung the ribbon around Discombe's neck.



Mr Reece Discombe hemi bin lus long eli moning long namba 2 Jun 2007.
(Photo from Vanuatu CulturalCentre
http://www.vanuatuculture.org/organisation/20070615_reece-discombe.shtml.)

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