

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA ARCHIVES SECTION

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### **Source Materials Related to Research in the Pacific Area**

The proceedings of a 1971 Australian UNESCO Seminar have now been published. The Seminar was held in Canberra in September of that year, the Planning Committee having consisted of Mr W. D. Richardson, Chairman (Assistant National Librarian), Mr Harrison Bryan (Library of the University of Sydney), Mr J. J. Graneek (Library of the Australian National University), Mr H. E. Maude (a Specialist in the Bibliography of the Pacific), Mr G. D. Richardson (Principal Librarian, the Library of New South Wales), and Dr F. J. West (Department of Pacific History, Australian National University).

The Seminar title was "Source materials related to research in the Pacific area", and the proceedings have been issued under that title (published for the Australian National Commission for UNESCO by the Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1973). The proceedings include two papers by Mr H. E. Maude, "Pacific Documentation: an introductory survey", and "Bibliographic control of Pacific manuscripts"; Dr S. Latukefu of the History Department, University of Papua and New Guinea, gave a paper on "The collection of oral traditions in Tonga", and Dr Ron Crocombe of the University of the South Pacific, Suva, gave one on "Oral history in the 1970s". In addition, there is a chapter on "National and local collection of Pacific manuscripts" by Kevin Green, then the Chief Archivist of the Papua and New Guinea Archives; a chapter on the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau by Robert Langdon, the Director of that Bureau, and one on "The use of Pacific manuscripts — the problems of the scholar and librarian", by Dr Francis West. Finally, there are two papers on conservation and preservation, by Dr H. J. Plenderleith, formerly the Director of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, in Rome.

At the end of the document, a list is published of the recommendations of the Seminar. Some of these recommendations have already been implemented — e.g. that dealing with the need for a brief handbook "which sets out in non-technical language a variety of simple, inexpensive ways that documents may be protected against the major ravages of tropical climate, insects and comparable other Island risks" — the handbook to be written by Dr Plenderleith and published by the Committee. Others are perhaps a little outside the realm of possibility — e.g. the one which suggests that the Australian UNESCO Committee for Libraries and Related Fields should, in collaboration with appropriate libraries, arrange for the reproduction of works which are basic to the Pacific area and which are now unobtainable at reasonable prices. The implications of a program of documentary copying like this are very wide-ranging indeed, and it is doubtful if the UNESCO Committee for Libraries and Related Fields, or the Committee that has taken over the functions of that earlier one (the UNESCO Committee on Museums and Libraries) could ever command

either sufficient funds to complete a task like this on its own, or sufficient influence to persuade some other authority to do it. There would also be considerable difficulties as far as copyright is concerned.

Many of the recommendations are worth pursuing, however, and at a recent meeting of the Committee on Museums and Libraries of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO a sub-committee was appointed to draw up a list of priorities, and otherwise make it possible for the recommendations to be put to the proper authorities.

#### **New Zealand Library Association—Archives Committee**

The New Zealand Library Association's Archives Committee has begun the publication of a quarterly newsletter. It is called *Archifacts*, which the editor describes as a double pun, but which, from his own explanation, seems to be a treble one. The first issue (April, 1974) is taken up mainly with reports on the New Zealand Library Association Conference, held in Wellington; an account of the career, and an examination of the papers, of Sir James Hector, New Zealand scientist (the Hector Papers are in the Hocken Library at the University of Otago); and some book reviews.

The Editor apologises for the fact that the first issue has a Dunedin bias; the second issue makes amends. It has an excellent, though short, article on the National Archives, being personal reminiscences of Pamela S. Hall, who many Australian archivists will remember as Pamela Cocks, a former member of the National Archives staff. There is a brief statement on the records of the Christchurch Mechanics Institute, held by the Canterbury Public Library, and some News Notes — which do not seem to have any Dunedin bias at all. The Accession Lists are useful, and cover the Alexander Turnbull Library, the Hocken Library, the National Archives, and the University of Auckland. These, taken in conjunction with the fact that there is a news note about the Canterbury Public Library's new archivist, demonstrate that *Archifacts* is an all-New Zealand publication.

The Editor is Mr S. R. Strachan, Archivist, the Hocken Library, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin.

#### **Establishment of Training Facilities for Archivists in South-East Asia**

In 1973 M. Cook was appointed a UNESCO Regional Consultant to examine the proposition that training facilities in archives management for the whole South-East Asian Region should be established. He visited Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, and his report is published as a UNESCO document "Establishment of regional training facilities for archivists in South-East Asia" (Serial Number 2952/RMO.RD. Paris, August 1973). The tour was meant to include Burma as well as the other countries listed above — but the Burmese Government found his visit inconvenient.

The report is a useful document. After some preliminary remarks, the author deals one by one with the National Archives institution in each of the five countries, telling something of its history and functions, examining its organisation, and commenting at length on projected staff needs. For each institution, there are tables which give the statistics for anticipated staff needs in each year from 1974 to 1978

in each of the two grades “higher professional” and “intermediate professional”.

The recommendations of the report are that:

- (a) A regional institute of archival science should be established in association with the proposed national school of librarianship and archives, Malaysia, and with the University of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur.
- (b) A project should be drawn up and submitted at the appropriate point to UNDP providing for the appointment of a project director to take responsibility for the development and running of the regional institute, assisted by short-term consultants.
- (c) It should be the duty of the regional institute and of the project director to organise short courses or workshops in various participating countries towards the training of intermediate or sub-professional staff.
- (d) The arrangements for associating the regional institute and the school of librarianship and archives of Malaysia should follow the recommendations of the UNESCO/SARBICA\* symposium.

\* South East Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives. The recommendations of the UNESCO/SARBICA Symposium are given in an appendix to the Report.

## NEWS NOTES

### **Australian National University**

The Archives Unit has along with other institutions in Australia attempted over the years to provide some form of published guide to its holdings. The term “finding aid” would be misleading in this context. Since there is a dearth of other news of the kind which is usually mentioned in this section — staff changes, major organizational developments and so on — and since the usual standby of important acquisitions doesn’t really help much, it is proposed to mention existing and projected guides and other developments which may be of future importance.

There are at present two lists available, one of records of companies and firms, the other of records of employer, employee and professional associations. The first edition of these lists in their present form was published in 1968, and updated versions were produced in November 1971 and November 1972. A new edition of each up to 31 May, 1974, will be available before this appears in print.

These lists are distributed free to libraries, archives and university departments likely to be interested — history, political science and economic history — and, on request, to interested individuals. The lists give in tabular form the deposit number, the name of the organization, date range, quantity of records, types of records, conditions of access and (in the case of companies and firms) the type of business engaged in.

This year or early in 1975, it is still hoped to produce a guide of a somewhat different kind. Although still under development, it is at present visualised as giving the same types of information as the present lists (although in somewhat more detail) and also some indication of the strengths and weaknesses of each deposit. While the value judgement inherent in this last feature is perhaps fraught with some danger it is felt that the advantages to potential users will outweigh this.

Finally, as a long-term development we are beginning an investigation of the practicability of using the computer facilities available to