

Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives

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PARBICA

The Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) was formed on 27 October 1981 at a conference of Pacific archivists in Suva, Fiji.

The International Council on Archives (ICA) is a non-governmental agency having a consultant and associative relationship with UNESCO. Since 1968 Regional Branches of the ICA have been established for Southeast Asia (SARBICA), East and Central Africa (ECARBICA), Arab countries (ARBICA), Latin America (ALA), Caribbean (CARBICA), West Africa (WARBICA), South and West Asia (SWARBICA). PARBICA therefore fills a noticeable gap.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

As with other Regional Branches, PARBICA seeks to promote the aims and objectives of the ICA and to:

- establish, maintain and strengthen relations between archivists of the region and between all institutions, professional bodies and organisations which are concerned with the custody and administration of archives
- promote all measures for the preservation, protection and defence against all manner of hazards of the archival heritage of the region, and to further the progress of all aspects of the administration and preservation of these archives.
- facilitate the use of archives in the region by encouraging public education and information, and promoting ease of access
- stimulate, organise and co-ordinate archival activities in the region
- sponsor and/or certify professional training of regional archivists
- co-operate with other organisations or institutions concerned with the documentation of human experience and the use of that documentation for the benefit of mankind.

PARBICA would also seek to utilise the archival resources of the region — those with greater resources contributing to those with less.

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

For the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA on 26-27 October, in Suva, Alfred Wagner, Treasurer of ICA and Director of Archives, Bundesarchiv, West Germany, was the representative of ICA and adviser.

Official regional delegates attending were as follows:

Australia: Bruce Burne, Public Records Office of Victoria; Lindsay Cleland, President, Australian Society of Archivists. **Cook Islands:** George Paniani, Acting Government Archivist. **Fiji:** Setareki Tuinaceva, Chief Archivist, National Archives. **Guam:** Magdalena Taitano, Territorial Librarian. **Kiribati:** Richard Overy, Director, National Library and Archives. **Marshall Islands:** Tamar Jordan, Head Librarian. **New Zealand:** Judith Hornabrook, Chief Archivist, National Archives; delegate, Archives and Records Association of New Zealand. **Belau:** Faustina Rehuher, Director, Belau National Museum. **Papua New Guinea:** Richard Dandi, Deputy Chief Archivist, National Archives. **Solomon Islands:** R.G.A. Chesterman, Government Archivist. **Kingdom of Tonga:** Tuilokamana Tuita, Ministry of Education. **Tuvalu:** Kataloto Lopati, Librarian and Archivist, National Library and Archives. **Vanuatu:** Willie Toa, Acting Government Archivist. **Western Samoa:** Rudolf Siemsen, Office of the Prime Minister.

At the Inaugural Conference, a Constitution for PARBICA was adopted and office bearers of a Bureau and an Executive Board elected as follows:

Bureau: Setareki Tuinaceva (President); George Paniani (Vice-President); Lindsay Cleland (Secretary General); Judith Hornabrook (Deputy Secretary General and Treasurer).

Executive Board: Bruce Burne, Ron Chesterman, Richard Dandi, Richard Overy, Faustina Rehuher, Rudolf Siemsen, Magdalena Taitano, Willie Toa. Members of the Bureau are also Members of the Executive Board.

TRAINING SEMINAR

The formation of PARBICA was preceded by a two week Training Seminar from 12-23 October, opened by Hon. Solomone Momoivalu, Fijian Minister of State for Information. Training was initiated by Dr. Frank Evans (UNESCO Program Specialist — Archives) formerly of the United States National Archives, present for the first week, and carried through by a training group headed by Peter Orlovich (Senior Lecturer

in Archives, University of New South Wales) and Judith Hornabrook; and including Ian Maclean (formerly of the Australian Archives, Public Records Office of Victoria, Archives Office of New South Wales), Bruce Burne (formerly Archivist of the Western Pacific High Commission), John C. Wright (Historian-Archivist, Bishop Museum, Honolulu and Consultant, Asia Foundation), Lindsay Cleland and Agnes Conrad (Archivist), Hawaii State Archives). All told, some thirty individuals were present including all delegates to the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA.

The Training Seminar covered archival theory, principles and purposes, concepts, terminology and relationships; the life-cycle of records from records management and survey, appraisal and disposal, to transfer, accessioning and preliminary processing, arrangement and description, reference and access and the preparation of finding aids, publications and exhibitions; role and functions of a national archives and legislation; buildings and equipment, microfilming and the theory and practice of conservation and restoration. Training visits were made to the Fiji National Archives. The prescribed text book used was *Archives Administration, a Manual for Intermediate and Smaller Organisations and for Local Government* by Michael Cook, copies of which were made available to all island participants.

Funding for the Training Seminar was provided by UNESCO, and for the PARBICA Conference by the International Council on Archives, with assistance to both from the Asia Foundation. A grant through the Cultural Exchanges Section of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs allowed the Australian Society of Archivists to fund the attendance of the President of the Society and Mr. Ian Maclean.

FIRST MEETING OF THE PARBICA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The PARBICA Executive Board held its first meeting on 28 October and set up five Committees with Convenors: Training and Consultancy (Peter Orlovich); Regional Register of Archival Resources (Bruce Burne); Funding (Judith Hornabrook); Conservation and Co-operative Purchasing of Supplies (John C. Wright); Regulations (Setareki Tuinaceva); with additional individuals from the Executive Board on each. Alan Ives, Secretary of the Australian Society of Archivists was appointed Editor of the PARBICA Newsletter.

Correspondence with PARBICA should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, Australian Society of Archivists, P.O. Box 83, O'Connor, A.C.T. 2601. Australia.