

Report on Parbica

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The formation of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) was described in the December 1981 issue of Archives and Manuscripts, and included a statement of objectives and functions, a coverage of the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA and also of the Training Seminar for Pacific archivists which preceded the Conference. The account ended with a mention of the first meeting of the PARBICA Executive Board and the setting up of five committees.

The present general description of the activities of PARBICA carries the account onwards from this point. Two documents distributed to members of PARBICA may also be noted. These are Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA and the PARBICA Project Program 1983-1987.

The present text is drawn from the Pacific Archives Newsletter No 1 — Newsletter of PARBICA — for which it was prepared.

Peacesat Meetings

Members of the Bureau, (President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General/Treasurer), have made contact by satellite on seven occasions by courtesy of the Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiment (PEACESAT), and terminal manager Ms Elsa Flavell of the Wellington Polytechnic, New Zealand; with sessions being open also to those members of the Executive Board and Committee Convenors who could participate.

Sessions of an hour were held on 4 December 1981, 26 February, 7 April, 9 June, 27 August and 12 November 1982; and on 8 March 1983. PEACESAT meetings have had the advantage of providing verbal contact between members of the Bureau, and also between the Bureau and members of the Executive Board. Reception has been variable, however, and Agenda papers and Minutes of PEACESAT meetings, which are distributed to all Executive Board members, have been looked on as an important means of keeping the Executive Board informed.

PEACESAT meetings have made possible such things as the consideration of the Minutes of the first meeting of the Executive Board, and correcting the false impression of a regular \$15,000 annual subvention from ICA; reporting on the preparation of descriptive accounts of the inauguration of PARBICA; and exchanging comments on the functioning

of committees, (Peacesat One): consideration of a draft application to the International Archival Development Fund for funding to cover an Executive Board meeting in Guam; the funding by the Asia Foundation of annual membership subscriptions to PARBICA on behalf of seven island nations; confirming that committee convenors were not members of the Executive Board unless already elected, and were not seen as consultants, (Peacesat Two): noting receipt of a grant of US\$4,000 from the Archival Development Fund to cover a planning meeting of the Bureau or assist towards a more general meeting; and consideration of a Bureau meeting in Rarotonga, (Peacesat Three): confirmation of dates and arrangements for the Bureau meeting in Rarotonga; consideration of draft PARBICA Project Program 1983-1987; reporting on funding approach to the Asian Cultural Council; and dates of future PEACESAT meetings, (Peacesat Four): presentation of the Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA prepared by Peter Orlovich, including the Constitution of PARBICA, distributed to members of the Executive Board; report of the Bureau meeting in Rarotonga; consideration of PARBICA Project Program 1983-1987 as revised at the Bureau meeting; announcement of Judith Hornabrook's appointment as Chief Archivist, Papua New Guinea; consideration of a submission for the funding of a seminar and general conference in Guam; the possibility of funding the visit of an expert through the region under the Fulbright-Hayes program, referred to in the PARBICA Project Program, (Peacesat Five): consideration of the Draft ICA Medium Term Plan and the elements of the PARBICA Project Program incorporated in it; reporting of contacts with the Non-Government Organisation Committee for Development Co-operation of ADAB (Australian Development Assistance Bureau) and Australian National Commission for UNESCO and with the UNESCO Regional Conservation Centre, Canberra, (Peacesat Six): attendance of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General/Treasurer at meeting of the Round Table on Archives in Kuala Lumpur; paper by John C Wright on "Conservation without chemicals in Oceania"; completion by PARBICA members of a questionnaire for the Commission on Archival Development, (Peacesat Seven).

Meeting of Bureau in Rarotonga

With the assistance of a grant from the Archival Development Fund, the Bureau held its first meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on 19-27 July 1982. The main purpose was to develop further the Draft Project Program 1983-1987, and to consider priorities. Attention was also given to the Cook Islands archival situation through an examination of accommodation, Government record keeping operations, local archives, and discussions with the authority controlling the Government archives.

At its meeting in Rarotonga the Bureau also approved the issue of the Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA, bound up with

associated documentation, including the PARBICA Constitution as agreed upon at the conference.

Parbica Project Program 1983-1987

The PARBICA Draft Project Program was drawn up with three purposes in mind. The first was to provide input into the ICA Draft 2nd Medium Term Plan, and the format therefore followed the ICA guidelines closely. A copy was sent to the Executive Secretary of the ICA in May 1982. The second important purpose was to provide a coverage of the matters to which PARBICA should give attention, with the aim of assisting in the planning of activities. A third associated purpose was to list the activities of PARBICA in project form to assist in obtaining funding. It was seen as likely that funding would have to be sought on a project-by-project basis.

The PARBICA Draft Project Program was circulated to members of the Executive Board in May 1982, revised at the meeting of the Bureau in Rarotonga in July, and the revision distributed to members of the Executive Board in August.

PARBICA projects incorporated in the ICA 2nd Medium Term Plan — issued in its final form in the latter part of 1983 — with the PARBICA Project Program paragraphs given in brackets are as follows: 1.1.1.3 Regional consultation on archival legislation (1c); 1.2.4.1 Fact-finding and advisory mission in the South Pacific (1a); 1.3.3.2. Regional seminar on the management of archives, 1985 (1g); 2.2.1.1 Organisation of professional and technical training in the South Pacific, including academic and in-service training (2.a.b.c.d.); 2.2.1.2 Regional demonstration centre in conservation in Fiji National Archives (1.f); 3.2.2.2 Regional seminar on records management, 1983 (2.e); 4.2.1.4 Study of the use of alternative energy sources for air conditioning (4.a); 5.2.3.3 Regional seminar on the archival handling of oral sources, 1987 (2.e); 6.4.1.3 Regional consultation on the archives of former governing powers relating to Pacific island nations (1.d); 7.2.2.3 Regional exhibit on the archival resources of the South Pacific region, 1985 (6.e).

An important point to note is that while these projects are included in the ICA 2nd Medium Term Plan and ICA will give support where possible, the implementation of the projects is fundamentally the responsibility of PARBICA itself.

PARBICA Committees have had an involvement in elements of the PARBICA Project Program. The question of professional and technical training is in the hands of the Committee on Training and Consultancy, with Convenor Peter Orlovich (2.a.b.c.d): the preparation of a directory of Pacific archival institutions, covering particularly the official archives of island nations in the region is with the Committee on a Register of Archival

Holdings in Pacific Institutions, and Convenor Bruce Burne (1.b): the Committee on Conservation and Co-operative Purchasing of Supplies has considered the question of supplies and also that of archival containers (4.b), and the Convenor, John C. Wright, has written a paper "Conservation without chemicals in Oceania" which would also form a valuable part of a basic information manual for Pacific archivists (2.i) being edited by Judith Hornabrook with assistance from Setareki Tuinaceva: and the Committee on Funding with Judith Hornabrook Convenor and John C. Wright has been active in seeking sources of funding for PARBICA, contacts including the South Pacific Commission and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Aid Programme), where approaches by individual member countries are required; New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs; New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO; further approaches to the Asia Foundation, where there have been funding cut-backs; Asian Cultural Council; Fulbright-Hayes scheme; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Chase Manhattan International Foundation; Lilley Endowment; Ford Foundation; and Carnegie Corporation of New York. Independently, contacts have been made with the Non-Government Organisation Committee for Development Co-operation of ADAB (Australian Development Assistance Bureau), and the Australian National Commission for UNESCO.

PARBICA and the ICA

Appreciation is expressed of the support and assistance given to PARBICA by the ICA and in particular by members of the ICA Executive including the Executive Secretary, Charles Kecskemeti, and Treasurer, Alfred Wagner.

Working within the frameworks provided by the ICA has been of assistance to PARBICA, including, for example, participation in the development of ICA medium term plan which has been of assistance in PARBICA planning. Alfred Wagner was ICA representative at the inauguration of PARBICA in Suva and has continued to maintain a personal interest. As Treasurer he has been involved in the provision of funding for PARBICA covering funds for the Bureau meeting in Rarotonga, and, more recently, a grant of \$US500 towards publications of PARBICA, made as part of an ICA 2nd Medium Term Plan project to assist all regional branches in publishing.

ICA, of course, provided funds for the PARBICA Inaugural Conference, with UNESCO, through ICA, funding the preliminary training seminar — both conference and seminar receiving financial support from the Asia Foundation — and bringing Dr Frank Evans to Suva to provide training leadership. Dr Evans, as UNESCO consultant in Archives, has provided continuing assistance through the provision of a steady supply of UNESCO reports and papers produced under the

Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP).

While the President of PARBICA, Setareki Tuinaceva, was not able to be present at the ICA Round Table Conference in Kuala Lumpur in October 1982, the Secretary-General attended as President of the Australian Society of Archivists, and was joined by the Deputy Secretary-General/Treasurer, Judith Hornabrook. This conference provided not only an opportunity to meet with members of ICA generally but also with representatives of other regional branches of ICA. It also allowed for contact with members of the ICA Executive and with the Commission on Archival Development, including the Chairwoman, Mrs Soemartini, and the Secretary for Development, Evert van Laar. Assistance was subsequently given in providing responses from the Pacific region to a CAD questionnaire on the Archival Situation in Developing Countries.

Judith Hornabrook went on from Kuala Lumpur to attend the meeting of the ICA Executive in Bali as an observer. Now a member of the ICA Executive, she has since attended the Round Table Conference in Bratislava in 1983 and subsequent executive meeting in Prague, and has been able to maintain valuable personal contacts with the Executive and other members of ICA.

ICA assistance to regional branches extends to the provision of funding to cover either travel or accommodation costs of attendance of the President of a regional branch at meetings of the Round Table on Archives, the ICA Executive — of which a President is an ex officio member — and the International Congress on Archives. It is hoped that such an attendance will be possible at the International Congress in Bonn in 1984.

PARBICA is also taking advantage of the generous offer of the West German Government in funding travel and accommodation for one individual from each regional branch of ICA to attend a training seminar in Bonn and the subsequent International Congress on Archives.

PARBICA and ASA, ARANZ, SAA

The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) as a Category B member of ICA supported the formation of a Pacific regional branch, being among those involved in the initial moves, through an approach by Council to the Executive Secretary of the ICA in July 1980. In 1981 Council obtained a grant of A\$3,000 from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs which allowed the President to attend the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA and also brought Ian McLean to Suva, providing additional expertise at the training seminar which preceded the conference.

Participation in the Inaugural Conference led to election of the President as Secretary-General of PARBICA, which with the Deputy Secretary-General/Treasurer being from New Zealand allowed for close

participation in PARBICA of the two countries seen as most likely to provide important technical and financial support for PARBICA.

The Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) was also represented at the Inaugural Conference through Judith Hornabrook. It has since taken action to become a financial member of PARBICA and is investigating the question of Category B membership of ICA.

The ASA and ARANZ have both published accounts of the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA in their respective journals — *Archives and Manuscripts*, and *Archifacts*. Both archival societies are seen as providing through their membership an important resource of expertise and individual assistance for PARBICA.

In this category it is hoped to include the Society of American Archivists (SAA), represented at the Inaugural Conference of PARBICA by John C. Wright as an observer. The Deputy Secretary-General/Treasurer made contact with the Society in September 1982 seeking to publicise PARBICA, and Alan Ives, PARBICA Editor, attended the annual conference of the SAA in Boston in October. At two sessions on the ICA he was able to introduce references to PARBICA during discussion. Interest was expressed, particularly by David Gracy, Texas State Archivist, at that time President-elect for 1983-84, and it is hoped that representation of PARBICA may be possible at the SAA conference in 1984 preceding the International Congress on Archives in Bonn.

At the Biennial General Meeting of the Australian Society of Archivists in May 1983, the outgoing Council included in its report for 1981-1983 references to the formation of PARBICA, and a section on PARBICA by the Secretary-General for information purposes. In December 1982 the Society made a donation of \$200 to PARBICA and the report referred to the operations of an International Committee set up to foster awareness of ICA and support for PARBICA.

An agenda paper before the Biennial General Meeting was a Medium Term Plan 1983-1987 for the Society, which also included links with the PARBICA Project Program. The plan received the support of the meeting and was referred to the incoming Council. It is hoped that initiatives by the present Council including the development of wider facilities for archival training, one of the projects referred to in the plan, will also be of benefit to PARBICA.

The Biennial General Conference of the ASA, which followed the meeting, also provided an opportunity for a Presidential address emphasising the need for the Society to take into account international responsibilities including responsibilities toward ICA and the Pacific Regional Branch.

With the election of a new ASA Council, the Secretary-General

continues on Council as Past President, maintaining this direct link with the Society.

Funding

PARBICA needs a stable source of funding for a forward period of at least three years. Major funding support in the past from ICA and UNESCO has been acknowledged and also assistance from the Asia Foundation and the Australian Government. Funding approaches have been indicated in describing the activity of the PARBICA Funding Committee. Further approaches to Government and UNESCO are being developed, as well as to foundation and commercial sources, recognising also that in addition to international assistance, significant funding is required from within the region.

The nature of archival development in the Pacific region is such that archival institutions are far apart and very limited in personnel and resources. The Suva training seminar showed how important it was for island archivists to meet together. The Suva seminar covered a great deal in terms of archival theory and practice, but opportunity needs to be provided for such archivists to continue to meet together and share their problems, and some of their solutions.

As participants at such meetings cannot be funded for travel or accommodation by their own institutions and countries, total funding is required from external sources, as for the training seminar in Suva: total funding must therefore be obtained by PARBICA. This means overall funding of the order of \$50,000 a year.

Obtaining such funding from national and international sources continues to be a principal focus of attention for PARBICA.