

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Edited by: Margaret J. Jennings

ICA Symposium on Current Records

The National Archives of Canada is hosting an International Council on Archives (ICA) Symposium on Current Records in Ottawa on May 15-17, 1989. The topic of this Symposium will be "Converging Disciplines in the Management of Current Records".

The Symposium is intended for a multidisciplinary audience concerned with the management of current records in all forms. The programme will interest senior managers in information management and other information professionals such as records managers, archivists, librarians, computer specialists, publishers, and providers of information technology systems.

The Symposium will afford the opportunity for discussion of new developments in the management of information and information technology, which together are causing the convergence of hitherto separate information disciplines. Discussion will focus on the reasons for this convergence and the policy and management challenges this changing environment presents to information professionals in general, and archives in particular.

For further information, please contact:

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Brunei National Archives

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The venue for the Seminar on *Archival Exhibition* and the 3rd Executive Board Meeting of SARBICA will be held at BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN,

Brunei Darussalam in November/December 1988. Brunei National Archives of Museum Department is the co-ordinating agency.

A specialist from West Germany will give the lectures on the subject. Members of SARBICA and other interested institutions will attend the Seminar.

Museum of the Marshall Islands

Correspondent: Alfred Capelle

One of the most visibly active agencies in the republic of the Marshall Islands is the Alele Museum. This museum is very well known in many parts of Micronesia and the Pacific. Alele is a Marshallese word for a small basket used in the past by our ancestors to store up their most valuable personal belongings. Contemporarily, this name (Alele) is given to our museum in order to emphasize that we (Marshallese) are a very proud people of our heritage and want to keep it.

A few years ago, we built a house to store valuable items from our past. The Alele Museum houses the Museum Gallery, the Majuro Public Library, and the Marshall Islands National Archives.

The National Archives is developing and hopefully will be much more developed once the renovation project gets underway and completed. The Marshall Islands National Government has appropriated a start-up amount in the last session.

The Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation (MEHP) Executive Board Officers chose to have Alele Museum Corporation to administer the funding for the organization and for the Museum's curator, Mr. Gerald R. Knight, to be their Executive Director.

One of Alele's priorities is the preservation of the Kajin Majel (Marshallese language) and culture in so far as it is part of its role as the division of cultural heritage within the government system of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Hence, the museum staff is working very closely with individuals and organizations to ensure that these goals are successfully carried out and implemented.

Division of Archives & Historic Preservation, Federated States of Micronesia

Correspondent: Jones S. George

An extensive microfilm project is being undertaken throughout the northern Pacific region. The Trust Territory Office of Transition, in cooperation with the Western Pacific Computer Association, utilizing a grant from the Department of Interior Office of Territorial and International Affairs,

is committed to providing each of the governments of Micronesia with microfilm equipment and training.

It is projected that the equipment will be installed in place at all locations (Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Truk and Yap, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau) no later than September of this year and appropriate training will follow thereafter.

Our microfilm operation has completed filming all the Public Information Office files and records and is now concentrating on the former President's files stored at our government warehouse.

Bank of New Zealand Archives Museum

Correspondent: Robin Griffin

Special Exhibition

On 10 July 1967 New Zealand finally gave away imperial currency or £.s.d. Those oldies amongst us who'd been caned at school for their failure to grasp the intricacies and beauties of a sexagesimal counting method, that is, having a base 60 instead of 10, had mixed feelings about abandoning a system so painfully mastered. Be that as it may, we have mounted an exhibition to celebrate the 21st birthday of decimal currency which ties in with semi-permanent exhibitions on the British pound and—yes—Australian coins. Naturally we have not overlooked “real archives” such as contemporary brochures, posters, photographs, newspaper clippings and an internal memorandum. An A4 leaflet of 10 sides (help!) called *Background notes on the history of the decimalisation of New Zealand's currency* has been prepared and is available FREE to anyone who can remember the title or carry it out of the Museum. A copy has been deposited among the memorabilia of the International Notes Editor.

National Archives of Papua New Guinea

Correspondent: Judith A. Hornabrook

On 2 June 1988, the new National Archives building at Waigani was formally opened by the Governor-General, Sir Kingsford Dibela, escorted by the host Minister of Education, Hon. Joseph Aoea.

The official proceedings were held outside the building and with the band of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and marquees, courtesy of the Defence Force, there was quite a garden party atmosphere. After the ceremony visitors were able to inspect the premises and view a small exhibition prepared by staff.

Erected by Fletcher Morobe and designed by the Department of Works, the white single storey building of 1012 square metres has a steel frame

with blockwork infill external walls. The roof is of bronze colour metal decking and the most obvious architectural feature is an external sun louvre system which covers the front.

The carved name sign and counters at the reception and reference rooms are the work of the National Arts School. Approximately half the building is devoted to air-conditioned stack areas.

Most National Archives personnel have now settled into the new home, which houses the main archival holdings. Repository Supervisor Dagi Golu and Conservation Officer Robert Gwamuwe are reorganising the old building which is to be used as an intermediate storage repository and to accommodate the Conservation Unit.

It has been a particularly busy time for everyone but efforts are now being resumed to form a public service working party on records management and to deal with the heavy demand from departments for appraisal of records and storage space. It is also hoped to make progress on finding aids.

This year we have welcomed back Archives Officer Tukul Kaiku and new colleagues—Archives Officers Archie Sikat and Joseph Molita; Clerk Robert Oronnie and typist Pamela Paul. With the imminent arrival of two more clerks the establishment will at last be complete.

Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA)

Correspondent: John Davies

PARBICA will be holding its 4th Biennial Pacific Training Seminar and the General Conference of Parbica in Wellington, New Zealand, from 10–23 April, 1989.

Seminar Theme: Arrangement and description of Archives and Finding Aids.

The objectives of the Seminar are to provide the participants, who are principally responsible for the care, custody, control and management of the National archives of their respective countries, with instruction in:

- (a) the basic principles of *archive arrangement* and their application in the evolving administrative context;
- (b) the purpose and nature of an archival descriptive programme, with an exposition, in a sequence of practical workshops, of *archival descriptive techniques*, and of strategies for developing an *archival finding aid system*.

The project is also designed to provide participants with an opportunity to review archival development in the Pacific region and to identify aspects

of archival development on which PARBICA might focus its attention in future.

It is anticipated that, as a result of the Project, participants will be provided with the basic skills and knowledge essential to the implementation of archival programmes in their respective countries designed to make better provisions for the physical and intellectual control of their archives and the documentation of their holdings.

The training will be directed by Dr Peter Orlovich, Head of Information Management, University of New South Wales and PARBICA Director of Training. The training team will include Ms Judith Hornabrook, Chief Archivist of the National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea and Archivists from Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Michael Roper, Deputy Keeper, Public Records Office, London and Secretary General of the International Council on Archives, has been invited to deliver the Keynote address.

National Archives, Singapore

Correspondent: Lim Moh Cher

The highlights for the year were:

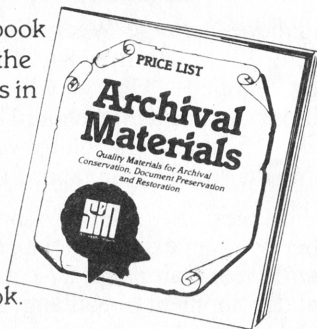
- (a) The Singapore Heritage Week 87, an annual event which took place from 23 to 29 July 87. The event included a pictorial exhibition entitled "Our Traditions", cultural performances, competitions and an Inter-School History Quiz. The History Quiz was held on 5 March 88 jointly with the Ministry of Education to promote the study of Singapore's history among students.
- (b) "Tidal Fortunes: A Tale of Three Rivers" (29 August—16 September 87)—an exhibition which was held in conjunction with the Clean Rivers Campaign 87 celebrations. Its focus was on the historical development of Kallang, Rochore and Singapore Rivers.
- (c) "The Development of Nee Soon Community" (28 November—7 December 87) which traced the historical development of Nee Soon. Two books "A Pictorial History of Nee Soon Community" and "The Development of Nee Soon Community" were published for this exhibition.
- (d) "A History of the Ministry of Community Development" (28 February—6 March 88) traced the origins and development of the ministry since the 1950s.
- (e) The exhibition on the winning entries of the Family Tree & Historical Documents Competitions (22 March—3 April 88). These two competitions were a fringe activity of the Singapore Heritage Week 87.

- (f) "Wayang—A History of Chinese Opera in Singapore" (4 June—26 June 88). This exhibition was held in conjunction with the Singapore Arts Festival 88. It traced the origins and evolution of Chinese Opera in China, development of opera in Singapore and explored the art form. A book of the same title was published.

The annual micrographics course which covers both the theoretical and practical aspects of micrographics was held from 21 September to 26 September 87. The course participants were from various government departments, statutory boards and overseas trainees.

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