

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Edited by Margaret J. Jennings

**Pacific Regional Branch, International Council on Archives
(PARBICA)**

Correspondent: John Wright, Secretary-General

As PARBICA FIVE gets closer, we must keep in touch. Funding is more difficult this time than for any previous conference, but the hope is to have full representation and largest PARBICA meeting ever for our tenth anniversary. AIDAB is offering support of \$A15,000.

Dr. Malama Meleisea, outstanding Samoan scholar and Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, has accepted our invitation to direct our sessions on Oral History. He will be assisted by other Samoan scholars.

I am happy to report that UNESCO has agreed to provide assistance for an Archives Legislation Workshop as part of the Seminar sessions of PARBICA FIVE. The legislation sessions will be important for all of us. In many cases, existing legislation needs review and revision. Examples are the vital topics of freedom of information and privacy and access to public records generally. Special attention and assistance will be available for those not having archival legislation at present. Lee McDonald, National Archives of Canada, will head the Archival Legislation Workshop with a person to be designated by Australian Archives, one from New Zealand National Archives and a fourth, Kathleen Callaghan from the Office of Information Practices, Hawaii.

PARBICA Constitution: it is clear from past and present experience that the organisation and structure of PARBICA is not functional. It has been proposed that, in short, the Executive Board simply be eliminated and that the Bureau would *add two* offices, and Assistant Treasurer and an Editor, for a total of seven. It is felt that a working executive could then be created with a more realistic expectation of meeting annually and conducting business more effectively.

Other topics which demand consideration are membership in PARBICA, the possible addition of a new membership category (such as Associate Member), and a review of voting rights. At the Conference, we will have to review the matter of PARBICA members required to join ICA.

New Zealand

Correspondent: Bruce Symondson, President ARANZ

Wellington Maritime Museum

After six months as Archivist Ken Scadden has been promoted to curator of Archives, Library and Museum. Accessions include archives of the New Zealand Line, including records of the old Commonwealth and Dominion Line, and archives of the New Zealand Institute of Marine and Power Engineers. An exhibition commemorating the 50th Jubilee of the Royal New Zealand Navy will be held July/December 1991.

National Archives

After a campaign going back decades, the National Archives has a purpose built building. It will move into a building in Mulgrove Street, previously used by the Government Printing Office. It will be entirely renovated to archival specifications and renamed Archives House. The movement of holdings will result in curtailed reference services through to the end of 1991. The site is only one block from Parliament, and close to Government departments and the Parliament and National Libraries. National Archives will finally have a "home", to the benefit of the archives, their users and the staff. For the first time the National Archives will be in a building designed to assist public programs. A large exhibition area will allow for the first time exhibitions on an appropriate scale. There will be a permanent audio visual display concerning the archives history and operations. The centrepiece of the building will be the Constitution Room, in which the Treaty of Waitangi and other founding documents will be displayed. At present the National Archives is in six locations. While the one building will enable an appropriate display capacity this will not be at the cost of other functions, all will benefit from the new facilities. The Government has approved the building of a national archives office in Dunedin at a cost of \$1.6 million. This is part of a "regional" policy that in the past ten years has seen the appointment of professional staff to the Auckland office, itself also planned to move to new premises, and the opening of offices in Christchurch.

Veterans' Records

The Turnbull Library has received hundreds of tapes of First World War veterans being interviewed about their experiences. The tapes are the result of two years' research by Jane Tolerton and Nicholas Boyack. The tapes will be part of the library's oral history section. In the past the library has systematically collected veterans' diaries and correspondence. The tapes will provide an added dimension to other records concerned with experiences of war.

Peace Records

The Peace Movement Aotearoa has begun a project to establish a peace movement archives in the Wellington area. A similar project has already begun in Christchurch. The concept was originated by Elsie Locke, the writer. The idea is to bring together past and present records of peace organisations, records that would otherwise be lost.

Oral History Archive

Since 1984 top politicians and their spouses have been holding taped interviews, daily during elections and otherwise weekly, for the New Zealand Oral History Archive. The project intends an immediacy and detail not possible with the usual interview that occurs after the politician has retired. The archive is not restricted to politicians, another project included monthly interviews with employees of the old Forest Service and its Forestry Corporation successor. In total there have been interviews with 450 New Zealanders in 56 projects. The archive now works closely with the Alexander Turnbull and National Library.

1990 Sesquicentennial

Roughly equivalent to the Bicentenary, the celebrations have resulted in many events around New Zealand. Bypassing normal transfer timetables the 1990 Commission has already transferred files concerned with thousands of events to the National Archives.

Archival Education

There has recently been two important initiatives. The Wairarapa Polytechnic will be holding in 1990 a year-long course in archival education, though it is expected that some people will also wish to do particular parts of the course. As part of a revision of the Diploma in Librarianship at Victoria University of Wellington an option will be offered in 1991 in Archives and Records Management. The course will not train students in these disciplines, it will open students to issues and management principles. Neither course is equivalent to a post-graduate diploma in archives or records management but both in different ways begin to fill the gulf between that ideal and the present short, ad hoc courses that was all that was available in New Zealand.

1990 ARANZ Conference

This was held in November in Auckland. The theme was the current state of archives, and future directions. With 1990 being a busy year arrangements were made later than was desirable, and attendance at 60-70 people was down on previous years. Having said that the general

standard of papers was good, a number of the sessions being especially successful. The keynote speaker was Sigrid McCausland, who will need no introduction. Her address confirmed that the Tasman makes no difference to the problems and challenges faced.

Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Correspondent: Peter Miller

During 1990, the Hocken Library's intake of archives and manuscripts amounted to 458 m, the highest figure ever. Total holdings are now 5610 m. The result is that the building is bursting at the seams and relief to be afforded with the opening of the Dunedin Office of National Archives at the end of 1991 cannot come too soon! The present depressed New Zealand economy is placing heavy pressure on taking in archives of failed companies and this, together with yet another reorganisation in local government scheduled for 1992, means that freed-up space is likely to rapidly disappear. Reader daily visits last totalled 1275 (4466 productions), with 567 written and telephone enquiries being handled.

The University of Otago Registry now has another larger intermediate records store with a capacity to house about 1000 m of records, mainly financial, awaiting the expiry of statutory retention periods. On the wider local scene, the Otago/Southland Branch of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand is busy with arrangements for the ARANZ conference to be held in Dunedin over three days in August 1991. The theme is "Archives of Recreation and Leisure", but there will also be an equal number of sessions on more specialised archival issues. A training seminar, "Care of Small Collections" will precede the Conference. Australian archivists attending will be made to feel very welcome!

National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea

Correspondent: Nancy Lutton

Several promising events have occurred lately to make us feel that the outlook here is not all bad in spite of the economic and political situation. Gabriel Gerry returned from Sydney having completed his course in Archives Administration at the University of New South Wales. The final two graduates on the staff, Tukul Kaiku and Paul Unas, then made us proud when they both won AIDAB Equity and Merit Scholarships to do the same course. This should mean then that by 1992 when the Chief Archivist completes her contract, there will be five professional staff, thus making a solid foundation for the future of the National Archives. Joseph Molita has still not been able to return from Bougainville, but we hope this will only be a matter of time.

The Friends of the National Library bought us an IBM Compatible Computer in November, much to our delight. We are now able to enter our series descriptions much faster and to access them for subject information. New data bases have also been designed for location and current agency information. We use CDS/ISIS for these. Having our own computer means we can also access the Patrol Reports database on PROCITE by the University of California, San Diego, Melanesian Studies Resource Centre.

In recent months, the staff have put in much hard work on rationalising the storage areas between the new and old buildings. The old building is to have the semi-current records, while permanent archives come into the new building.

As we do Series Descriptions and complete a group, we also prepare *Guides* for publication. *Guide to the Post-War Government Secretary's Records* has just been completed and is about to be printed. It will be followed by Guides to the Administrator's Records and to Health Department Records, both of which should be ready in the next few months.

Another publication project is the Microfiche of Patrol Reports. Nine Provinces have now been completed and are for sale in subdistrict sets. A brochure has been prepared and will be distributed shortly.

Tahiti — French Polynesia

Correspondent: Julien Teaha

We've just finished our move. At present we're busy sorting things and putting them away, as well as doing research for various people.

Anyway, let me show you the new building of the Polynesian Archives Service (of which here are a few photos).

The building of the Polynesian Archives Service is the result of an effective collaboration between metropolitan France and the Territory. In fact, more than 600 million Pacific francs have been invested, of which 120 million are from the metropolitan Ministry of Culture, more precisely from the administration of the French Archives, which offered us their very valuable cooperation from the beginning of the planning of the project.

The building is five storeys high, and the inside has been planned to serve a specific need, namely the conservation of the Polynesian archival heritage. To this end, it benefits from:

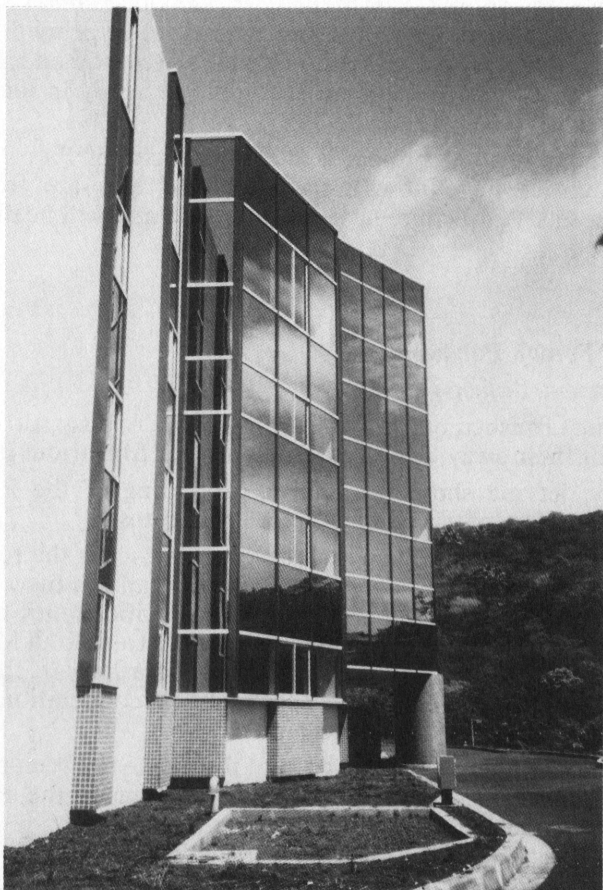
- 12,000 lineal metres of archive shelving, arranged in 12 self-contained units of 200 square metres, permanently air-conditioned at 22 degrees and maintained at 50% humidity, conditions which are

certainly costly, but indispensable to the safe-keeping of the documents entrusted to us;

- a cold room at 15 degrees for the conservation of documents printed on certain materials, and for films, micro-films and other audio-visual materials;
- a map room, a conference room for 100 people, a room intended for the installation of a photo-laboratory, and a public reception area.

The building was opened on 3 July, 1990 by the Minister of Culture. The President of the Territory, several members of the local government, and representatives of France were also present.

(Translated by R. Hanney, University of Adelaide.)



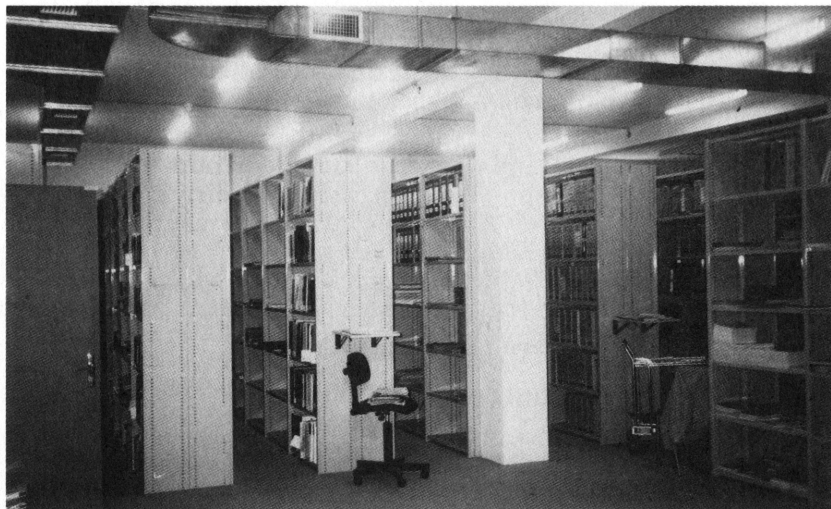
Polynesian Archives Service Building, north aspect.



Polynesian Archives Service Building, reception area.



Polynesian Archives Service Building, stack area.



Polynesian Archives Service Building, cool storage area.

Historical Records in Western Samoa

Correspondent: John C. Wright (reprinted from Parbica Journal, December 1990)

The first phase of one of the most important historical projects ever undertaken in Western Samoa, a survey of non-current and archival records of the government, concluded in July 1990 after four weeks of intensive work. Commissioned by the Government of Western Samoa, by direction of the Prime Minister, Hon. Tofilau Eti Alesana, and with financial assistance from the Canada Fund, the project was conducted by a core team of PARBICA (Pacific Regional Branch International Council on Archives) members.

Coordinated by Mrs. Siavata N. Gale, Deputy Secretary General of PARBICA (and Head Librarian, National University of Samoa) and John C. Wright, Secretary General, PARBICA (and Territorial Archivist, American Samoa Government), the survey itself was carried out primarily by Dr. Peter Orlovich, Treasurer, PARBICA (and Senior Lecturer in Archives, University of New South Wales) and German language consultant Mrs. Karin Brennan (PARBICA member and archivist at University of New South Wales) all working with local consultants and assistants, especially Mrs. Teuila Hall, Senior Records Office, Office of the Prime Minister.

Of significance is that the survey was the first professional archival survey of government records in Western Samoa and the first such survey commissioned by the Government for its own use.

The basic purpose of the survey, itself of great value and utility, is to be the heart of a comprehensive report (the second phase of the project), including a five-year work plan, which will be the foundation document for establishing a national archives.

Concentration was given to major records, such as those in the Office of the Prime Minister, Land and Titles Court, and records written in German. One special project, strenuous, dirty and requiring numerous assistants, involved a review of a large quantity of mixed records hitherto inaccessible for decades.

About 5000 cubic feet (150 cubic metres) of material was reviewed in total, some in detail. This examination revealed, happily, that more early records have survived than expected.

The survey also showed the need for remedial conservation with approximately one-third of the material and professional preservation treatment required for not less than 250 cubic feet (near 8 cubic metres) of records, or 750,000 documents. Despite the expense and time that will be involved, the bright side is that original documents can be preserved. It should be noted that even if many of these fragile records are later to be microfilmed, they must first be properly conserved.

All in all, the records have endured physically better than could have been anticipated, despite sub-standard and hazardous storage conditions, a hostile climate, insects, rodents, and general neglect.

While they have survived, many records are in partial or total disarray and require cleaning, sorting, inventorying and placing in new, modern archival quality folders and containers. This substantial task alone presently is estimated to need the services of two or three people, full-time, over 18-24 months.

Of particular interest for American Samoa are certain early land and title records. Important travel records were found for the period most needed, the 1930s, and will be a vital supplement to scarce census and census-related records. Documentation of the development of both Eastern and Western Samoa, and their relationships, especially up to 1940, will be a rich, extensive source of continuing research.

Reciprocally, American Samoa has records and data contained within records, that pertain to Western Samoa. The sharing of this information will help to fill in many missing details of both a general and personal nature.

The need to place culture at the centre of development is beginning to be recognised by the international community as not just theoretical and fundamental but practical and economical.

Preservation of the cultural heritage of a nation enriches and energises mankind's heritage. The establishment of the National Archives of Western Samoa will be outstanding in the participation

and celebration of UNESCO's World Decade for Cultural Development, 1988-1997.

In addition to its essential function as an administrative part of government it serves, the National Archives of Western Samoa will be a dynamic non-renewable historical and cultural resource, forming an indispensable part of the heritage of the nation, the region, and of universal human history.

South-east Asian Regional Branch, International Council on Archives (SARBICA)

Correspondent: Mohd. Maidin Hussin, Treasurer

The 2nd Colloquium on Oral History is scheduled to be held 9-14 June 1991 in Kuala Lumpur. It is organised by the National Archives of Malaysia under the Intra-ASEAN Cultural Program sponsored by the ASEAN Cultural Fund. This project has been approved by the ASEAN-COCI Committee on Culture and Information in 1990. It will be the Second Colloquium on Oral History organised by the National Archives of Malaysia.

The project will be carried out in two phases:

In phase 1, Malaysia will organise the Colloquium to promote and explain the principles and concepts of oral history and its applications.

In phase 2, Singapore will organise the Colloquium beyond the basic promotional level, to discuss the present and future directions and trends which can enhance the effectiveness of oral history as a research tool and as a historical source material; and to take steps to promote regional research and collaboration in these fields.

The National Archives of Malaysia conducted the First Colloquium on Oral History in conjunction with the Fourth General Conference of the South-East Asia Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (SARBICA) in May 1978. It provided a background on the growth of oral history documentation at institutional and national levels; covering important aspects of oral history which include principles and scope; methodology and programming; as well as problems and prospects. The Colloquium was attended by at least 84 participants.

Objectives

To promote regional awareness of the stages of oral history in ASEAN member countries;

To upgrade skills and knowledge in oral history to improve efficiency and effectiveness of oral history as a means of documenting history;

To promote and exchange knowledge and experience on technological development, methodology and techniques and to document standards and establish professionalism in the field of oral history; and
 To promote regional cooperation on oral history.

Theme of the Colloquium

Theme: Oral History: The ASEAN Experience.

The Colloquium is proposed to spread over seven sessions to cover the following:

- Session I — Oral History — Its Contribution to National Heritage.
- Session II — Status of Oral History in ASEAN Countries.
- Session III — Methodology and Approaches to Oral History.
- Session IV — Application of Oral History Techniques.
- Session V — The value of Oral History as Research Material.
- Session VI — History Narrating Session: Growth and Development of ASEAN.
- Session VII — Adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations.

Participants

Two representatives from each ASEAN member country: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The representatives will be sponsored by the organiser.

Observers from interested institutions will be invited to attend the Colloquium at their own expense.

For further details please contact:

Secretariat
 2nd Colloquium on Oral History
 National Archives of Malaysia
 50568 Jalan Duta
 Kuala Lumpur
 Malaysia
 Telephone No.: 03 250 2688
 Fax No.: 03 255 5679

Government Records Service, Hong Kong

Correspondent: Don Brech

Following the recent review of records management in Hong Kong Government, a pilot disposal project was launched in September 1990. The project involves five agencies holding 29% of government's

records. In addition to taking action on the accumulation of inactive records in those agencies, it will serve to demonstrate the benefits of a planned disposal program within Hong Kong Government. The project is also creating opportunities for the development of records training for agency staff.

The Records Management Office has transferred its main office to the new records centre in Aberdeen on Hong Kong Island which began operating in October 1990. A third records centre is now at the planning stage. This will be located at Tuen Mun in the New Territories and is a start to the development of regional records services in Hong Kong. The government's records agency will, for the first time, have facilities sited away from Hong Kong Island enabling it to more effectively meet the records needs of agencies in Kowloon and the New Territories. The records centre is scheduled for completion at the end of 1991.

State Archives Bureau, People's Republic of China

Greetings from Mr. Feng Zizhi, Director-General

China and Australia belong to the Pacific Region and it is very important to strengthen friendly contacts between the archivists of our two countries. It is a great honour for us to have the chance to contribute articles on Chinese archives work in your International Notes of the magazine *Archives and Manuscripts*. Therefore, I recommend Mr. Xu Yuqing, Deputy Chief, the Foreign Affairs Division of the State Archives Bureau as the correspondent of your magazine.

May the friendship of the archivists of our two countries be developed continuously.

State Archives Bureau, People's Republic of China

Correspondent: Xu Yuqing

Archival Work in China

China is an ancient civilisation with a long history and the archival endeavour in China also has a long history. The imperial archives, a repository made of stone and brick, was established in 1534. The archives, which is vacant because of the unsatisfactory environment, was used especially for the preservation of imperial records and genealogies. The First Historical Archives of China was established in 1925, which is responsible for the preservation of records of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Since the founding of New China in 1949, rapid progress has been

made in the archives field. The Second Historical Archives of China was established in Nanjing in 1951, the main holding of which is the records of the National Republic (1911-1949). The Central Archives of China was established in 1959 and its main holdings are records and historical materials of the Chinese revolution since 1919 and records of permanent and long-term value transferred from the central government organs since 1949.

But the most important thing is the establishment of the archives administration organ in 1954 — The State Archives Bureau (SAB). SAB's main function is "responsible for the entire nation's archival endeavour and to carry out its overall planning, organisation, coordination, systemisation, supervision and direction". The promulgation of "The Archives Law of the People's Republic of China" in 1988 has further reinforced the importance of archives work in our society. The administration of archival work in China is carried out according to the principle of united leadership with divided levels of management. At present, a national network of the archives administration has been initially established. The total number of the nation's archives administration agencies is 3460 with SAB as the top leading organisation, including provincial archives bureaus, city (prefectural) archives bureaus and county archives bureaus at local levels and archives offices (sections) of government departments above the provincial level. The total number of archives repositories throughout the country is 3500, which professionally accept the guidance and supervision of archives administration bureaus at all levels correspondingly.

The total holdings of Chinese archives is: the textual records, 150 million volumes; recordings, video tapes and films, 144,700 boxes; photos, 5.35 million pieces. There are about one million staff working in the archives field.

The most comprehensive and advanced training in the archives profession is carried out in the Archives College of the People's University of China. The college admits graduates of the senior middle school through a strict examination. Students will have four years of study at the college and will get a BA degree upon their graduation. Archives departments and specialities have been established in 33 universities and colleges in China.

In recent years, SAB has taken an active part in the international archival field and has established friendly relations with more than 30 countries. This year will see seven or eight foreign archives delegations visit China. The annual meeting of ICA Training Committee and a regional symposium on environmental protection against pollution and prevention against disaster will be held in Beijing and Shanghai respectively in September and October.

It is hoped that friendly relations and professional exchanges between the archivists of our two countries will be established and developed through our mutual efforts.

National Archives, Japan

Correspondent: Chiyoko Ogawa

History

The National Archives (Kokuritsu Kohbunshokan) was established in July 1971. It is an auxiliary organ of the Prime Minister's Office. Its function is to take charge of preserving administrative records and archives, to make them available for public inspection, to undertake research, and to manage the books of the Cabinet Library (Naikaku Bunko).

By the Public Archives Law enforced as of June 1, 1988, the National Archives was given the status to play an important role as the facility responsible for the preservation and utilisation of national office documents, and others, as historical materials for future generations.

In many countries it has been a time-honoured practice of national government to preserve official documents originally produced for administrative purposes for later evidence and reference purposes. In European countries, among others, the modern archives system of centralised archives preservation was developed, such as the Archives Nationales of France established in 1790 with many authoritative collections accessible to the public. Today, archives is considered to be one of the three pillars of cultural facilities together with libraries and museums.

In Japan, since the Meiji Restoration in 1868, it has been customary for each government ministry and agency to preserve their official documents within its own premises.

After World War II a movement eventually surfaced for the prevention of the dispersal and loss of these precious official documents and, simultaneously, for the establishment of facilities that would allow public access to such materials.

The Science Council of Japan submitted in November 1959 a recommendation to the Prime Minister, calling for the establishment of a government-run archival institution so that any further dispersal and loss of official documents might thus be checked and the appropriate measures for public access thereof might be taken. The government, which was quick in appreciation of the urgency of the matter, immediately instructed all ministries and agencies to take appropriate measures to arrest the outflow of government documents.

The Government also commenced taking a survey of the state of preservation and arrangement of documents in the government ministries and agencies, and made a study on the measures to be taken for preventing further dispersal and loss of documents and for providing access to the public. Research on foreign archival systems, and the like was also carried out. As a consequence, the National Archives was established.

Organisation

As an auxiliary organ of the Prime Minister's Office, the organisational set-up of the National Archives comprises the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the General Affairs Division, the Archives Division and the Cabinet Library.

The General Affairs Division is responsible for the management of the Archives premises and facilities as well as for routine clerical work regarding personnel administration, accounting, and the like.

The Archives Division occupies itself mainly with the preservation and management of the archives and documents transferred from various government ministries and agencies, as well as the promotion of public utilisation of the archival holdings, liaison with similar institutions both at home and abroad, and archival research.

The Cabinet Library manages historical volumes which belong to the National Archives. It handles also matters related to access of materials to the public and conducts research and investigation on old volumes and the collection.

Building and Facilities

The National Archives building is a ferro-concrete structure with four floors above the ground and two underground floors. The total floor space is 11,550 square metres, of which ca. 2700 square metres is above ground level. Eighty per cent of the building space is underground including five-layered stack areas, whose capacity is 40 km of shelvings. These accommodate also an accession entrance and a tentative repository and, an arrangement room, a fumigation station, and air-conditioning system and its control station etc. Inside of the stack area the air is regulated continuously to the temperature of 22 degrees centigrade and 55% of relative humidity. Throughout the building smoke detectors and emergency alarms are installed, and the stack areas are equipped with carbon dioxide fire-extinguishers as well.

Archival Holdings

Accession, preservation and utilisation of the official documents concerning the national government administration are carried out in

accordance with the agreement of the Interministerial Liaison Council. The Liaison Council decided that permanent classified records in each government ministry and agency must be transferred within 30 years of its creation. Other records should be transferred to the National Archives from ministries and agencies according to their archival value. Thus, in principle all the records in the holdings of the National Archives are to be opened to the public after 30 years from their creation.

Goshomei Genpon is a series of promulgated original manuscripts with the name and the seal of the Emperor. It consists of Imperial edicts, ordinances, laws, and cabinet orders as well as the former Imperial Japanese Constitution and the Constitution of Japan.

Dajoh Ruiten is a chronologically arranged series of typical articles compiled by the record section of Dajohkan, the Cabinet of Meiji Government. It consists of 19 categories such as systems, government organisations, official rules and ceremonies. The materials are the fair copies selected from the cabinet diaries, journals or Kohbun Roku documents, etc. It covers the period between October 1867 and 1881.

Kohbun Roku is the basic governmental record series of the early Meiji period. It is the compiled official documents of the Dajohkan Cabinet dated 1868 to 1885. Most of the materials created or received by the cabinet are contained within, and the materials are classified by original office and arranged in chronological order. A set of copied texts exists as well.

Kohbun Zassan is a series that consists of documents created or received by the Cabinet and excluded from the Kohbun Ruishuh since 1886, compiled and arranged by the original office and chronologically.

Other Major Series:

1. Documents relating to the meetings of the Privy Council.
2. List of Imperial Sanctions for the conferment of orders and decorations dated from 1893.
3. Documents on appointments and dismissals of government officials requesting the approval of the Emperor, ministers, etc., dated from 1871.
4. Original documents on reforms of government organisations relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs dated from 1903.
5. Materials transferred from the Ministry of Education relating to the approval of the establishment or abolition of universities and other schools, etc., dated from 1883.

6. Materials transferred from the Ministry of Transportation relating to the management and discontinuance of private railroad enterprises as well as the cancellation of their licences dated from 1889.
7. Materials transferred from the Environment Agency relating to the management of national parks, the authorisation of execution involving national parks, the designation of national parks, etc., dated from 1927.
8. Documents returned from the United States Government.

Cabinet Library

The Cabinet Library (Naikaku Bunko) was founded in Tokyo in 1884 as the central government library. It was originally called the Dajohkan Bunko, then with the establishment of the modern cabinet system in 1885, its name was changed to Naikaku Bunko.

Since then it has been a popular library for scholars at home and abroad with its holding of Japanese and Chinese classics and archival collections. There are many materials of archival character in the Cabinet Library holdings and its administrative status has been included within the Cabinet and the Prime Minister's Office. In consequence, upon the establishment of the National Archives in 1971, the Cabinet Library was incorporated into the National Archives. The inclusion of the Cabinet Library gives a special feature to the National Archives of Japan.

As noted above, most of the books in the Cabinet Library are books in Japanese and classical Chinese. Many of them were once part of such fine collections as the Momijiyama Bunko owned by the Tokugawa Shogunate, the Shoheizaka Gakumonjo, the Wagaku Kodansho and Igakukan. In addition to these collections, the Cabinet Library has many ancient manuscripts and documents formerly in the possession of old shrines and temples, and/or nobles and/or samurai families, administrative diaries and codes of the Tokugawa Shogunate, and Western books and their translations that are administratively used by the Meiji Government as well as post-Meiji Restoration government publications. At present the Cabinet Library has a total of 550,000 volumes including Western books and their translations, and Government publications.

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau

Correspondent: Gillian Scott

During 1990 the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau added a total of 14 new titles to its microfilm collection. Various Pacific Island countries and groups are represented in these new releases: Fiji, Loyalty Islands,

Solomon Islands, Society Islands, New Hebrides, Papua New Guinea and Tonga and two reels contain material relating to Oceania in general. Subject matter includes: Solomon Islands philatelic history, 19th century missionary diaries, memoirs, a Papua New Guinea survey flight, anthropological notes, correspondence, botanical material (includes medicinal plants), poetry and detailed medical records on the German Protectorates during the early 1900s.

The 1991 program will include microfilming of New Hebrides linguistic material; more anthropological notes; the papers of a Papua New Guinea geologist; a Papua New Guinea periodical produced during the German administration; patrol reports; Catholic mission annual reports; the 1909-10 journal of a sailor's visit to the Cook Islands and New Zealand and Tahitian, Tongan and Gilbertese manuscripts. In addition to the microfilming program the Bureau is also preparing two new publications. These are complete annotated catalogues for the Manuscript and Printed Document Series microfilms. In the past, the Bureau has produced only short-title catalogues containing name, title, inclusive dates and number of reels. The new publications, due for release in June/July this year, will fully describe the contents of each title and will therefore provide excellent reference material for Pacific researchers. The Bureau continues to seek, and preserve, unpublished or semi-published Pacific Island manuscript material, particularly those items in private hands or considered to be at risk either from adverse climatic conditions, insect infestation, civil disturbance or simply loss or damage through poor storage facilities. We welcome contact with anyone in possession of, or with knowledge of such items so that valuable research material may be preserved, not only for the Pacific Islands people to which it may relate but for the many Pacific scholars and researchers who study life in the islands. The Bureau currently have five publications and a total of 1426 microfilm titles available for purchase. All enquiries should be directed to the PMB at Room 22-I Block, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601.