



*John Wright, Peter Orlovich and Sam Kiama, PARBICA FIVE, June-July 1991.
(Photographer: Nancy Lutton)*



*Opening Ceremony, PARBICA FIVE, American Samoa.
(Photographer: Nancy Lutton)*

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Edited by Margaret J. Jennings

PARBICA FIVE. American Samoa 23-30 June 1991, Western Samoa 1-10 July 1991.

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Lynette Paglinawan (Hawaii)
Lee McDonald (Canada)*

Parbica Five, the fifth biennial conference and general meeting of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, comprised four major elements:

1. Biennial General Meeting
2. Formal social activities program
3. Oral history workshop
4. Archives legislation workshop.

The Fifth Biennial Conference was officially opened at the Fono Guest House in Pago Pago, American Samoa by the High Talking Chief, Fa'amausili Pola. It was attended by a Colour Guard from the Department of Public Safety and an orchestra from the local High School. Each participant was presented with a garland at the ceremony, which was televised.

Representatives attended from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Marianas, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. Unfortunately representatives from French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati and Tuvalu were unable to attend.

The Biennial General Meeting was conducted in several sessions in both American and Western Samoa and predominantly chaired by the Deputy President Jones George (F.S.M.) in the absence of the President, Kunei Etekiera (Kiribati), and assisted by Peter Orlovich, Treasurer (Australia).

The two most notable resolutions passed affecting the administration of PARBICA were that the outgoing Secretary-General become an ex-officio member of the incoming Bureau until the next General Conference; and that the Executive Board be abolished (the Constitution was re-drafted to reflect this change). Niue was the latest

addition to PARBICA membership and its first report is included (see below). Each country presented a report covering archival development over the last two years.

Office bearers were elected for 1991-1993:

President:	Alfred Capelle (Marshall Islands)
Vice-President:	Siavata Gale (Western Samoa)
Secretary-General:	Lynette Paglinawan (Hawaii)
Treasurer:	Dagmar Parer (Australia)
Editor:	Tukul Kaiku (Papua New Guinea)

These also comprise the Bureau, including Gabriel Gerry (Papua New Guinea).

Four honorary members were elected:

Nancy Lutton (Papua New Guinea)
George Paniani (Cook Islands)
Ken Scadden (New Zealand)
John Wright (American Samoa)

Major sources of funding for the Conference included AIDAB (Australia), The Asia Foundation, The Commonwealth Foundation, Unesco/Pacific States, Unesco/Paris, the International Council on Archives, the Canada Fund, Wellington and the Mission for Regional Cooperation, Suva. These were augmented by national archives institutions, airlines and individual governments.

PARBICA SIX will be held in Guam in 1993.

During the Conference, visits were arranged to the American Samoa Territorial Archives, a tour to the Western District and another to the Eastern District of American Samoa to see points of interest and legend and historic sites. A special Kava ceremony was arranged for the delegates. The Acting Governor of American Samoa held a reception for the delegates, and one working dinner was held with the first graduates (1940s) of the local high school as an exercise in oral history. In Western Samoa, the Minister for Education opened proceedings. One memorable visit was made to a village where the Kava ceremony was performed to honour the delegates, and traditional cooking demonstrated. A visit to the local theological college was highlighted by a church service made complete by an impressive choir.

Oral History Workshop (*Lynette Paglinawan*)

From 24-30 June, Oral History workshops were held in the Conference Room of the Rainmaker Hotel in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

The meeting was convened in response to a resolution made at PARBICA FOUR in 1989 in Wellington, New Zealand. The stated purposes of the meeting were twofold. The first was to train

participants in the technical aspects of recording and collecting oral history. The second was to provide participants with an opportunity to observe the application of oral history techniques in the field and to apply some of the techniques themselves.

One principal resource person/trainer was retained to assist in the meeting, Ms Judith Fyfe of the Alexander Turnbull Library, Oral History Collection in Wellington, New Zealand.

The meeting was officially opened by the Acting Governor Poumele Galea'i.

The sessions on oral history covered the following:

1. History of oral history and oral tradition.
2. Varieties of oral history and oral tradition.
3. Recording oral history and oral tradition.
4. Equipment and technology.
5. Archival management of the record.
6. Finding aids and assistance; copyright.
7. Ethical and legal issues.
8. Uses of oral history and oral tradition.
9. Survey of archives and oral tradition.
10. Guidelines for oral history.

Additionally the conference provided several opportunities for the reference to 'try out' the newly acquired skills in oral history interviewing with local community resource people in Pago Pago and Apia.

Survey results on the involvement of National and Territorial Archives in oral history in the Pacific region

A questionnaire was completed by PARBICA participants during the Workshop to collect information on involvement of National and Territorial Archives in oral history in the Pacific region.

It was found that only a third of the National and Territorial Archives have an active program in oral history, either in the collection, storage, preservation or dissemination of oral tapes. However, of the institutions which do not have active programs, 41% intend developing plans for an oral history program within their institution in the future.

All questionnaire respondents listed other oral history collecting bodies within their countries and recognised the need for close cooperation and liaison with these other collecting bodies.

Very few respondents (13%) received special funding for their oral history activities. Hence the major reason given by respondents in the question as to what prevented institutions from becoming involved in active oral history programs was lack of funding and lack of trained staff.

Recommendations

Considering that oral history provides Pacific islands archives with an adequate and culturally relevant device and means to counterbalance written documents, it was recommended that Pacific archives:

1. Develop a good understanding of the nature of oral history and how it is materialised to assess its value and relevance for the country and the Pacific;
2. Deposit all research materials obtained during research in any Pacific country in the archives/national library of the country concerned;
3. Liaise with other institutions within the country which are active or interested in collecting oral history documents;
4. Strengthen ties, coordinate initiatives and establish policies of mutual cooperation and assistance;
5. Pursue an organic relationship with other holdings and collections of the archives;
6. Adopt and make available internationally recognised guidelines and standards to institutions and individuals; and
7. Create national directories and oral history collections.

Archives Legislation Workshop (Lee McDonald)

Jointly sponsored by UNESCO/PARBICA, the workshop on archival legislation began on 3 July 1991.

The objectives of the workshop were confirmed as:

- (a) to become familiar with guidelines for drafting modern archival legislation;
- (b) to develop skills in utilizing these guidelines, adapted to specific needs;
- (c) to prepare an action plan for submission and acceptance of archival legislation; and
- (d) to review new guidelines from UNESCO on legal questions facing audiovisual archives.

The methodology selected consisted of presentations on issues and models, small group discussions on specific archival legislation issues, and reports back to the full meeting by spokespersons. Facilitators for each group included Michael Piggott (Australia), Eamonn Bolger (New Zealand), and Richard Paglinawan (Hawaii). Pacific island states that have archives legislation in place were able to share their experience with colleagues in the small groups and the plenary discussion.

The major reference text provided to participants was the RAMP study with guidelines entitled *Archival and Records Management Legislation and Regulations* (Eric Ketelaar, UNESCO, 1985). The table of contents of the publication served as the workshop outline.

The workshop began with a brief statement from each state on the current status of legislation or other authority related to archives within their jurisdiction. In addition to several laws already in effect, a number of states referred to draft legislation currently in progress.

The first presentation of a model was delivered by the workshop consultant, Lee McDonald. He used the National Archives of Canada Act of 1987 to highlight one practical example of legislative essentials:

- (a) Scope for legislation;
- (b) Definition of 'record';
- (c) Ministerial Records;
- (d) Objects and Functions of an Archives;
- (e) Control of records destruction;
- (f) Transfer of records to the Archives; and
- (g) Defunct organisations.

The first meeting of the three small affinity groups then focused on two specific questions that were to be answered within the context of the individual requirements of each state.

- (a) Beyond the archives created by core departments of the state government, should archives legislation extend to:
 - court records
 - records of the Head of State
 - other jurisdictions (provincial, municipal)
 - government owned corporations?
- (b) Beyond the archives created by government and government related institutions, should archives legislation be extended to include archives created in the private sector?

Each of the three groups examined national responses and reported back to the full meeting.

The second presentation of a model was delivered by Michael Piggott. He used a package on the Australian *Archives Act of 1983* to demonstrate the continuing need for educational efforts within the bureaucracy even after legislation has been passed and directed attention to features in the Act felt to be of interest in the Pacific context:

- (a) Concise statement of purpose;
- (b) Functions and coverage;
- (c) Disposal and destruction control;
- (d) Alteration of records;
- (e) Transfer of records to the Archives;
- (f) Access to records; and
- (g) Transitional provisions.

The workshop continued with a presentation by Richard Paglinawan (Hawaii) on factors affecting the initiation and

development of legislation. When accurately and concisely defining a program for legislation, he noted three important elements:

- (a) an emotional appeal that excites the imagination;
- (b) a rational program that is easily explained; and
- (c) a practical approach that can be implemented.

In addition to facts and statistics supporting the need for an issue to be addressed by legislation, a proposal will also need to assess the potential impact on other government agencies. Models and precedent may be used to demonstrate how other jurisdictions have resolved similar issues through legislation. Once a draft law has been prepared in consultation with legal counsel, it will need to be carefully monitored throughout the legislative process to ensure that it continues to enjoy support.

The second meeting of the three affinity groups responded to two related questions:

- (a) Who has an interest in archives legislation and how can they be reached?
- (b) Should there be an advisory body for the archives and, if so, who should be represented?

The groups each reviewed these issues and incorporated the discussions in individual responses for each state. Reports back to the full meeting generated a lively interchange on methods for reaching potential supporters of archives legislation through appropriate communication. For example, one participant (Solomon Islands) referred to a regular short broadcast on commercial radio about archival records and history that reached neighbouring islands and generated positive interest.

The third presentation of a model was conducted by Eamonn Bolger using both the New Zealand Archives Act of 1957 and a draft new Bill prepared in 1984 but not yet passed into law. This model allowed participants to examine the legislative revision process and the effect of related legislation such as the 1982 Official Information Act on access issues.

On Monday, 8 July, the workshop reconvened with a brief review of material covered to date. The affinity groups then developed responses to two additional questions related to the fundamentals of archives legislation:

- (a) Which archives functions should be specified in legislation?
- (b) Which records management functions should be specified in legislation?
 - standards and practices for records operations in departments and agencies?
 - training and advice in the management of current records?
 - records centre operation?

Reporting back to the whole group provided a further opportunity to compare and contrast the different approaches of each state.

The fourth presentation of a model was conducted by George Paniani (Cook Islands). He noted that archives legislation in his country had been passed with unanimous consent of all members of the legislature. Special attention is needed to apply the law to the neighbouring islands that each have a distinct culture. The law was drafted to ensure that it took into account relevant legislation of other agencies.

Building on earlier discussion of archival functions specified in legislation, the whole group then reviewed two key issues together:

- (a) What provision should be made for the transfer of records to the archives?
 - by date: 25 years, 15 years, 5 years
 - by schedule: active and dormant
 - by other agreement; and
- (b) What provisions should be made for access to records placed in the archives?
 - time periods
 - access test.

The group briefly reviewed requirements for legislation on audio-visual material and made reference to the importance of relating to copyright legislation when working in this field.

Finally, the workshop reviewed the key elements of archives legislation and discussed logical reporting relationships for an archives within government structures. The workshop concluded with the presentation of a case for new or revised legislation by each group in the form of a role playing exercise.

Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Correspondent: Peter Miller

The University vacations this year have seen the employment of temporary staff to undertake two major arrangements and description projects. The first involved the archives 1874-1960s of the Standard Insurance Company of NZ Ltd, which went into liquidation in 1961 as a result of the 'activities' of the manager of its Sydney Branch. The Library was granted custody of the archives by the High Court in 1989 and also received the remaining funds of the Company, to be applied to the archives. Our second project was the forty linear metres of archives of the Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand Ltd, covering mainly 1875-1913. These constitute one of the country's finest sets of business archives for this period.

Space considerations still loom very large. Government approval for

the start of construction of the new office for National Archives in Dunedin has been delayed while funding options are examined. As a result, the projected completion date has receded into 1992 and the archivists are considering resorting to lotto tickets to raise the necessary finance!

The NZ Archives and Records Association's annual conference was a very successful affair. Held 15-17 August, it attracted over sixty people. The theme was 'Dunedin — It's All Archives Here'. In addition to the formal sessions, workshops were held on Local Government Archives and the National Register of Archives and Manuscripts. There were also tours of institutions, and a conference dinner. It is anticipated that Conference Proceedings will be published.

National Archives of Niue

Correspondent: Ligi Sisikefu

Niue is an isolated, uplifted coral island, 19 degrees S. latitude and 169 degrees W. longitude. It is about 470 km east of Tonga and about 560 km southeast of Samoa. It has an area of just over 259 sq km and approximately 21 km long and 18 km wide. The main road which roughly follows the coastline is approximately 64 km in length. Population presently is approximately 2267.

Over the years, government department's closed files have been organised and indexed by various people. Finally, these were deposited in the Fale Fono on the lower floor directly behind the Fono chambers. Also deposited are the Assembly meeting tapes. This was the National Archives until recently when it was identified that it is only for the Parliamentary Archives. To date, the materials held are both National Archives and Parliamentary — to be sorted at a later date.

Recent developments

In April 1990, a part-time archives officer was appointed for the management and organisation of the archive collection thus signifying the importance of Archives. Initially, the task was heavy as the collection had been left unattended for some years and malfunctioning air-conditioning in 1989 meant several moves for the materials. A file index compiled earlier was missing. Currently, an officer is in the process of indexing the collection and repairing damaged records.

Some materials date back to the early 1900s and they are both Assembly and National archives materials.

Towards the end of 1990, departmental accommodation was reorganised. This meant more closed files were transferred to the Archives which required space. These eventually were housed temporarily in a vacant room in the Business Advisory Service Building.

The next shift was earlier than envisaged so a working room in the Public Library complex was vacated for these files. Although squeezed for space the archives officer is now under one roof with the rest of the immediate library staff. This still does not hold the answer for the National Archives as the present library accommodation is a private home with owners in New Zealand. There are still other government departments' closed files to be included in the archives collection.

Assembly meeting tapes (reel to reel)

These were sun dried to kill mould after the air-conditioning leakage. Then they were thoroughly cleaned, but their condition is still uncertain as a playback machine is not available on the island. This is an urgent requirement to replay the tapes for identification. The University of the South Pacific holds reel-to-reel tapes on Oral Traditions which also need to be replayed.

Tohi Tala Niue (TTN) — Niue Newsletter

Compilation of these is also a top priority for binding as the backlog document dates back to 1983. The bound volumes are the only source of these publications which document the nation's development. These volumes are now transferred from the Parliamentary Library to the Public Library for close supervision of access. Archives copies are retained in loose form.

Justice Department records

These are with the Administration closed files. There are Marriage Certificates, Adoption Orders, Death Certificates plus others dating back to the early 1900s.

National Archives & Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea

Correspondent: Gabriel Gerry

Legislation

Legislation has been in the process of drafting for the last six years. Any progress is always affected by the constant changes of departmental heads, ministers and government. It is hoped to get it through Parliament either this or early next year (1992). It is presently with the legislative draftsman, and is a joint Act with the National Library.

Return of Colonial Archives from Australia

Sometime in the 1930s, the Administration of the Territory of New Guinea sent to Australia the German New Guinea Archives captured

in Rabaul in 1914. In 1942, records of, the Administrations of British New Guinea and Papua were saved from Port Moresby and sent to Canberra. After the establishment of the National Archives in Papua New Guinea, Australia agreed to return these archives after microfilming them. Now twenty-five years later, the microfilming is almost complete.

The German New Guinea records had to have special treatment owing to the language problem and an agreement was reached that Bundesarchiv in Germany would supply an indexer. The originals are to be returned to PNG together with a copy of the microfilm, and microfilm copies are to be supplied to a number of other interested states including those comprising the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The British New Guinea/Papua records were never subject to a written agreement. About half the originals had been returned after filming by the early 1980s, but no microfilms except for one very important series. More recently, efforts have been made to finalise the project and the remaining originals will be returned soon. A request has been made that the films also be provided free.

Records destroyed during World War II

Territory of New Guinea records which were still in Rabaul in 1942 (if not previously destroyed by volcanic eruption in 1937) were completely destroyed by enemy action. This means there is a gap in archives between 1914 and 1942 for that part of the country of Papua New Guinea. Negotiations are underway with Australian Archives, Canberra, to copy any archives it holds concerning the Territory of New Guinea as a means of reconstituting those destroyed. Funds for this project will be needed.

Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA)

This new association was set up in February, with President, Dakio Syne (Federated States of Micronesia); Vice-President, Michael Hamerly (Guam); and Executive Secretary, Arlene Cohen (Guam).

Interested librarians and archivists are invited to join PIALA. The annual subscription is US\$20. The first general membership meeting is planned for October 1991, in Koror, Belau. For further details contact Arlene Cohen, Executive Secretary, Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives, c/- University of Guam, RFK Library, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96921.