

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Edited by Margaret J. Jennings

## PARBICA REGION

### PARBICA

*Correspondent: Dagmar Parer*

Since election of the new office bearers in July 1991 the President, Mr Alfred Capelle, represented PARBICA at the ICA (International Council on Archives) Executive Committee meeting held in The Netherlands in November 1991.

The Secretary-General is organising an Executive Bureau meeting at which the agenda for the PARBICA 6 conference will be discussed and finalised. PARBICA 6 is scheduled to be held in Guam in 1993.

The minutes of the PARBICA 5 conference hosted by the Samoas between 24 June and 11 July 1991 have been prepared and are being circulated prior to publication. The proceedings are envisaged to be included with those of PARBICA 4, held in New Zealand in 1989, in Issue No. 11 of the *Pacific Archives Journal* which is set to be produced in April/May 1992.

The Editor of PARBICA has initiated the publication program and is planning to produce four issues of the PARBICA Newsletter and two issues of the *Pacific Archives Journal*.

**Won Pat Congressional Archives, University of Guam.**

*Correspondent: William L. Wuerch*

I have good news about the Won Pat Congressional Archives and other collections here at the University of Guam. A new library/computer centre research centre complex is under construction. The first phase, which includes the Micronesian Area Research Centre's new home, was completed in February 1992. The work on the Won Pat papers will then be able to proceed. There will be ample space for the growth of the archives and other special collections.

**National Archives, New Zealand**

*Correspondent: Hank Driessen*

Major changes have taken place at the National Archives of New Zealand over the last two years. In the reorganisation of the

Department of Internal Affairs in 1988, the National Archives became a somewhat incompatible member of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Business Group where its functions as an administrative arm of government could not be properly represented. A Cabinet Review Committee in 1989 recommended a more appropriate status for the National Archives, as an autonomous stand-alone business within the Department, and this took effect on 1 July 1990.

The last two years have seen major developments also in accommodation. In December 1990 New Zealand's first purpose-built archives facility was officially opened in Christchurch by Graeme Lee, the newly elected Minister of Internal Affairs. The attractive two-storey building in Peterborough Street contains offices, research and exhibition rooms and a repository complex that now holds all the archives previously scattered over three different sites. Well advanced plans to upgrade the Auckland accommodation and to establish an archives operation in Dunedin were placed on hold while the Cabinet Committee on Expenditure Control examines possible alternatives. Available storage space in the premises rented by National Archives in Auckland has dwindled to 300 linear metres which are already committed, and there is no room left for any additional shelving. Government restructuring over the last three years has resulted in large quantities of records of the Otago-Southland region being transferred to the Hocken Library, Otago University. The Library is now unable to accommodate any more government records.

In Wellington the Government Print building in Mulgrave Street was purchased in December 1989 as the new headquarters of the National Archives. An extensive refurbishing project is now near completion and has turned an immensely strong but a rather drab building into a highly functional and a most attractive showcase for the organisation. After months of careful planning by National Archives staff, a massive shift has now begun that is emptying the various buildings from which the institution currently operates its reference and government loans services. The move has been planned to ensure minimum disruption to client services. However, from October all public services were suspended so that the last kilometres of records could be relocated. Full public services will be provided from the Mulgrave Street headquarters from 9 December 1991.

As well as reading, exhibition and training facilities, the new Wellington headquarters also contains the Constitution Room in which some of New Zealand's most significant founding documents, including the Treaty of Waitangi, will be on permanent display to the public. This shrine-like room is the 'heart' of the building and was completed in advance of the refurbishing program for a special Sesquicentennial exhibition of the Treaty toward the end of 1990.

Major changes in personnel have also occurred. Ray Grover, the

Director since August 1981 and Chief Archivist since October 1982, retired on 4 July 1991. During his ten year tenure the institution escaped being the exclusive preserve of research with a narrow academic bias and archivists became actively involved in the management of both central and local government. Above all, Ray will be remembered for his unceasing push to improve archives accommodation and to establish regional operations in Auckland and Christchurch. Lasting reminders of his decade at the helm will be the Christchurch building and the new headquarters in Wellington. Ray has been retained by the Department to oversee the completion of the Wellington building project. Kathryn Patterson was appointed to replace Ray as Director and Chief Archivist. Kathryn comes to us from Treasury where she was the Director of Information Management for almost four years. Before that she was Deputy Librarian of the Parliamentary Library for nine years.

Margaret Retter was appointed Assistant Director (Wellington) upon the departure of Ken Scadden who became Curator at the Maritime Museum. Jane Tucker also left and her position as Reference Archivist was filled by Christel McClare who was formerly with the National Library as Support Manager for Library Services. Clive Sowry returned as Film Archivist after successfully completing the University of New South Wales postgraduate diploma course in archives administration and Philippa Fogarty of the Christchurch office is currently tackling this course.

Exhibitions are an important means for raising public awareness of archives. A successful first exhibition was mounted in the new Christchurch building which ran from May to July 1991 and dealt with the development of early government in Canterbury, the West Coast and the Chatham Islands. A follow-up exhibition is planned for early 1992 on education in Canterbury. In Wellington a three year advance exhibition program is being put in place. This includes an exhibition of war art to commemorate fifty years since the Pacific War, and in 1993 the centenary of the Women's Suffrage movement in New Zealand that will feature the original 1892 and 1893 petitions held by the National Archives. The opening exhibition in December 1991 is simply called 'Evidence' and aims to show the importance of archives as evidence for major events and developments in New Zealand's history.

National Archives mounted a major exhibition in Crete earlier in 1991, to commemorate the Battle of Crete which was witnessed and captured in oil paintings, water colours and sketches by official New Zealand war artists at the time. These art works were on display also in the Beehive, the executive wing of Parliament Buildings in Wellington, toward the end of October.

From November 1991, National Archives introduced charges to government departments for the preparation of appraisal

recommendations, and to encourage them by the provision of guidelines and standards to undertake their own. This will not detract from the final authority of the Chief Archivist over the disposal of government records. The charges are consistent with government policy to have inter-departmental services and costs made transparent.

The lack of updated archives legislation continues to be of concern. An increasing number of government offices fall outside the scope of the the thirty-four year old Archives Act. Of particular concern is the lack of coverage over State Owned Enterprises. Another awkwardness is the transfer of functions — and therefore records — from central to local government bodies. Since such transfers entail a loss of control by National Archives under the current Act it has been necessary to prevent the destruction of these records by additions to the gazetted schedules protecting specified local government archives.

### **National Archives and Public Records Service, Papua New Guinea**

*Correspondent: Nancy Lutton*

The morale of the National Archives has recently been greatly enhanced by the return of three professional archivists after lengthy leaves of absence. Joseph Molita, who had been trapped at his home in Buin, South Bougainville since early 1990, arrived back October 1991. Tukul Kaiku and Paul Unas completed their courses at the University of NSW for the Diploma in Information Management (Archives Administration) and returned in November and January respectively. With five nationals now fully qualified, the National Archives looks forward to achieving more of its goals, and the contract Chief Archivist, Nancy Lutton, can leave in October with confidence in the staff to carry on.

The second of a series of Guides to Groups of Records in the National Archives *A Guide to the Records of the Department of the Administrator* was published in December and distributed to all PNG Government Departments and major libraries in the world interested in Pacific sources.

Sales of the *Microfiche of Patrol Reports* have also gone well, mostly purchased by institutions which specialise in Pacific materials. Canberra is well served with both National Library and Australian National University purchasing sets, and the Australian Archives is being donated a set. In Sydney, the Mitchell Library has a set. The University of Hawaii, the University of California, San Diego, and the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand also have sets.

In November, the first batch of originals and microfilms of the German New Guinea G Series were received from Australian Archives. This project is the result of cooperation between

Bundesarchiv in Germany, who provided an indexer, and Australia and Papua New Guinea. The originals are in beautiful condition. It was very lucky that they were taken to Australia in the 1930s, otherwise they would have suffered the same fate as the Territory of New Guinea records which were destroyed by enemy action in 1942.

Australian Archives has also been most generous in donating other materials. A set of approximately 800 negatives and prints copied from Glass Plate Negatives of ethnological photographs taken by F. E. Williams and others in the 1920s and 1930s (CRS A6003 and A6004), has recently been received. They have also donated complete microfiche sets of ANGAM I and II which will enable us to have access to PNG Series Registrations and also to their relevant recording/controlling agencies. We are most grateful for all these.

A major event of recent months has been the visit of Dr Peter Orlovich to conduct a course in Records Management and Archives at the University of Papua New Guinea. Two middle level staff members attended the course to their great benefit. He was here for six weeks. When not teaching, he spent time at the National Archives where he could see his former students in their working environment. He gave seminars to the Archives staff and to the National Library staff. He accompanied various archivists on visits to a number of government departments demonstrating in practical terms the research into history and functions of the department that is required, and also the searching questions needed to establish what records the department concerned, keeps. As the only institution of its kind in Papua New Guinea, National Archives often feels its isolation. Dr Orlovich's visit seemed to bring the world to PNG, and made the staff feel they were more part of a whole and gave them confidence that they were following in the right tracks.

### **Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Papua New Guinea**

*Correspondent: Sam Kaima*

Archival and records management training in the South Pacific had been very limited, but was only encouraged when PARBICA was formed in 1981. Before PARBICA archival training in the region had been left to archival schools in United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Papua New Guinea, by far the largest of the Pacific countries in terms of geography, population and numerous islands has just started an ambitious archival training program. Regular workshops have been conducted beginning in November 1989. Aside from regular workshops, a semester long elective is offered to Degree and Diploma students through the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of Papua New Guinea.

One of the major steps in archival training had been the commencement of a Certificate program for registry clerks during the Lahara (Summer) Sessions which commenced in 1991. I am looking forward to further this program for a lot of registry clerks in the country as well as the region.

### **Vanuatu National Archives**

*Correspondent: K. Willie Toa*

This is a brief report of the National Archives delivered at PARBICA 5 held in American and Western Samoa, June 1991.

#### *Staff*

Towards the end of last year, the number of staff members had been reduced from four to three due to salary problems. At the moment the office is left with one Archivist, Secretary Typist and a Cleaner/Messenger.

#### *Budget*

The budget allocation for this year is Vt. 7,000,000. In a sense, this allocation is too low for the entire Cultural Centre (Archives, Museum, Library) to operate for twelve months. It is hard, for instance, to meet the necessary needs for the Archives with only Vt. 2,000,000 if we were to share Vt. 7,000,000 among the three sections. Not enough money for salary and the running of the services. I find it very hard to manage the Archives department with only Vt. 2,000,000 a year.

#### *Training*

Training is essential and a key to much archival development. There is a big need in this area which requires full support of PARBICA, besides funding agencies and institutions to provide basic training in the field.

#### *Visitors/Researchers*

The number of visitors who visited the National Archives during the period May 1989-June 1991 totalled seventy. These were mainly people doing research in Archives.

#### *Legislation*

The Council of Ministers approved a paper on Thursday 7th March 1991 and it is now with the legal department office for the first draft.

The Council of Ministers in its meeting No. 8/7/3/91 held on Thursday 7 March 1991 decided on WP/2/HA Reference C.D/MIN/8/7.91 approved that:

- (a) The Archives Section be separated from the Cultural Centre management, and to be managed under a new 'Public Record Office Act'.
- (b) That the Public Record Office be created under the proposed Act, be a Government department and administered under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (c) That the Council of Ministers agreed in principal to the separation of Archives from the Vanuatu National Cultural Council and authorises the Attorney General's Office and Ministry of Home Affairs to work on the draft of the Public Records Office Act.

### *1990 Special Project*

During the school term holidays the National Archives employed two students, one from Malapoa College and the other from INTV College in Port Vila, doing Cataloguing. This project was funded by the British High Commission, in Port Vila, as a gift from the British Government towards the Nation's 10th anniversary celebrations. The amount donated was Vt. 222,000.

### *Visits of M. Bruno Corre — New Caledonie Territorial Archives*

Towards the end of last year, requests were made through the French Embassy in Port Vila, for a Ni-Vanuatu francophone student to assist with listings of original French documents. The request was also in line with a one week visit of M. Corre in the Archives.

The request was accepted anyway, by the French Embassy in Port Vila to provide assistance for a francophone student to do at least six months training attachment with M. Bruno Corre, Territorial Archives in New Caledonie.

Also with great help provided by the French Government in Port Vila, M. Bruno Corre was able to visit the Archives of Vanuatu. He spent one week with Archives and had visited all responsible people concerning needs and problems facing the Archives of Vanuatu. He was in the country from 9-14 June 1991.

One important part of the visit was to establish good relationships between the two countries — especially in the fields of archives, and also to return old papers relating to each country of origin.

### **Western Samoa**

*Correspondents: Siavata Gale, Peter Orlovich*

Tropical Cyclone Val, which struck Western Samoa with devastating results between 7 and 10 December, 1991, resulted in substantial damage to several public buildings housing government archives, and to the principal libraries in the country — the Nelson Memorial

Library (Western Samoa's national library) and the Malua Theological College Library — although the full extent of the damage either to the archives or the library collections has not yet been accurately established.

Apart from the *Nelson Memorial Library* in Apia, considerable damage was sustained by the library of the *Malua Theological College* situated on an exposed coast some fifteen kilometres to the east of Apia. The *Malua Theological College*, established by the London Missionary Society on 24 September, 1844, under the superintendence of the Rev Charles Hardie and the Rev George Turner, LL.D., has had an outstanding role in the missionary history of the Pacific, and its students, who have been predominantly native Samoans, but also included other Pacific island students, were actively involved in missionary activities in the islands of Niue, the Tokelaus, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The College, which occupies the original site on which it was established in 1844, will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 1994. The earliest translation of the bible into the Samoan Language, and other religious and secular publications were printed in the earliest building which still stands in the grounds of the College, and though much in need of renovation, is being restored by the College students.

The College library, which occupies a two storey building on the Malua campus, housed one of the most comprehensive collections of religious publications in the Pacific islands, and was especially renowned for the strength of its holdings on the missionary movements in Oceania. A catalogue of the library's collections was nearing completion prior to Cyclone Val, but it is now understood that three-quarters of the collection has had to be withdrawn as a result of damage resulting from the cyclone.

A request has now been received from the Librarian of the National University of Samoa, Siavata Gale, who has for several years provided voluntary cataloguing assistance to the library at Malua, for the donation of religious books and serials to replace those which have been lost or irreparably damaged. The *Malua Theological College Library* included publications on all aspects of religion and on all religions, including many rare books which will be very difficult, if not impossible to replace. Should you have any duplicate or withdrawn religious publications, including monographs and serials, which are no longer required by your own institution, and which would be suitable for donation to the *Malua Theological College* in Western Samoa, please contact: Siavata Gale, University Librarian, National University of Samoa, PO Box 5768, Apia, Western Samoa.

Further information relating to this request may be obtained from Karin Brennan, Assistant University Archivist (Telephone: 697 2906) or Dr Peter Orlovich, Senior Lecturer, School of Information, Library



and Archive Studies, (Telephone: 697 3443; Fax: 313 7092), University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033, Australia.

### **Pacific Manuscripts Bureau**

*Correspondent: Gillian Scott*

Now into its twenty-fourth year, the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau has in its collection a total of 1438 titles on approximately 1600 reels of film dealing with all aspects of the history and culture of the Pacific.

In the past, it has probably been difficult for a researcher to obtain detailed information on the contents of each title. Catalogues for the Bureau's collection provided only the author's name, the title and inclusive dates in a short title format. The advent of advanced technology has made possible two welcome additions to the Bureau's publications list — Complete Annotated Catalogues for both the Manuscript and Printed Document Series microfilms.

The catalogues — 872 and 158 pages respectively — have been compiled using the original information sheets produced as each new title was filmed. They not only provide detailed contents lists for each title but include information on the location of the original material, access conditions and the contact name and address where special permission to supply is required. It is also now possible to check on the contents of each of the 420 reels in the New England Microfilming Project series as each one has an individual entry. Wherever possible additional information on an author or title which has subsequently become available has been included in the new entry and titles have been cross-referenced to earlier and later entries where applicable. Both catalogues have comprehensive dictionary indexes. The user's attention is also drawn to an earlier Bureau project which is often overlooked — The Oceania Marist Province Archives (OMPA) — a special project during which records of the Catholic Church in islands of the Western Pacific were copied on 398 reels of microfilm. Individual indexes were prepared for each of six dioceses and material copied in Rome and published collectively in a very limited edition as *The Catholic Church in the Western Pacific: a guide to records on microfilm*. A reprint of this publication is now in preparation and will be available later in the year.

The setting up of the Bureau's database has made a number of specialised publications possible. The first of these, *Women in the Pacific*, has come about in response to a growing number of requests for information on the material the Bureau has copied which relates specifically to women. This small index lists all those titles which are known to have been written by, or about, women. The index is particularly interesting since many names appear which are not individually listed in the indexes to the Complete Annotated

Catalogues. For instance, the women correspondents whose names appear in the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions records (PMB 738-767) and the whaling women who kept journals and diaries of their voyages with husbands and family. The list is by no means exhaustive but it does make it easier for a researcher to locate relevant material.

The next specialised publication on the Bureau's collection will probably be on linguistic materials since these also attract a great deal of attention. There are many topics which can be dealt with in this way including agriculture, botany, missions, voyages, etc. The Bureau would welcome any suggestions researchers or users care to make.

In addition to specialised publications, the database has also made it possible for users to access the catalogues via computer networks. Full text files are available via 'anonymous' FTP (File Transfer Protocol) on the node COOMS.ANU.EDU.AU.

The original short-title catalogues have also been up-dated and are still available on request as is the newsletter, *Pambu*, which appears approximately twice a year in conjunction with the release of new microfilm titles. The most recent microfilm releases include material from the Cook Islands, the Gilbert Islands, Tahiti and New Ireland.

Inquiries about the Bureau's publications and microfilms should be addressed to: The Executive Officer, Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, Room 22 — I Block, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601. The Bureau can be faxed on (06) 257 1893 or telephoned on (06) 249 2521. If you have, or have knowledge of, unpublished Pacific material suitable for preservation microfilming, particularly manuscript material considered to be at risk, the Bureau would be pleased to hear from you. Or, if you or your institution would like to suggest a project please forward the details for consideration and assessment.

## SARBICA AND ASIA REGIONS

### **National Archives of Brunei Darussalam**

*Correspondent: Pg Omarali bin Pg Anak Hashim*

Pg Omarali bin Pg Anak Hashim, Curator of Archives as a representative of Brunei Darussalam, attended the ARMA-ASEAN Professional Document Course in Records Management, 15 July to 4 October 1991, with five participants from ASEAN nations.

This course was one of the projects approved by the ASEAN-Canadian Dialogue of Cooperation and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency or CIDA. The National Capital

Region (Ottawa) Chapter of ARMA International consented to coordinate it.

The course lasted for twelve weeks with the first three weeks spent in classroom sessions in records management that included its application in Canadian institutions. Each participant underwent an attachment for six weeks either to a government department or private sector where he/she experienced first hand knowledge of records management in the host institutions. The last three weeks were assigned to the 'wrap-up' with talks from invited guests and the writing of a project report.

Visits to private firms and institutions were arranged to get the latest development on the subject as well as to computer vendors which supplied the software. Leisure times were spent visiting tourist attractions around Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston, Canada.

### **State Archives Bureau, People's Republic of China**

*Correspondent: Xu Yuqing*

#### *ICA/SAE Committee Meeting and Symposium on Archival Training*

The Committee Meeting of Section for Archival Education (SAE) and Training of ICA and the Symposium on Archival Training were held in Beijing, People's Republic of China from 9-14 September 1991. Attending the meeting and Symposium were Eckhardt G Franz, Chairman of SAE, Carol Couture, Vice Chairman of SAE, Paule Renepazin, Secretary of SAE, Section members: Paola Carucci, Bruno Delmas, Pirkko Rastas and archival training experts Theo H.P.M. Thomassen from The Netherlands, David B. Gracy from USA, Dr Peter Orlovich from Australia, Yasuhiko Mori and Masahito Ando from Japan. The Symposium was attended by 100 Chinese archivists, teachers and students of archives colleges.

September 9 was devoted the Symposium on Archival Training in Asia and Oceania. Feng Zizhi, Director-General of the State Archives Bureau of China opened the Symposium by a welcome speech. In his speech, a brief introduction to China's archival training was made. In China, archival training consists of higher education, secondary school education and in-service training. Up to the end of 1990, archives colleges, archives departments and archives specialities (programs) have been established in thirty-four universities and fifteen colleges for adults in the whole country. Archival professional courses have been set up in fifty secondary technical schools. A national archives training centre has been formed within the State Archives Bureau and twelve local archival training centres have been formed within the provincial archives bureaus. In recent years, China has turned out 119 graduates with an MA degree, forty-four graduates with dual BA degree, 60,000 graduates from universities, 4500 from archival training courses and

13,000 from secondary technical schools. The number of teachers devoted to archival education amounts to 1477, among whom 746 are full-time teachers.

The symposium was followed by Eckhardt Franz's paper on archival education and training in various countries organised by ICA and UNESCO. Archival training and education in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Indonesia and Japan was presented by Messrs Orlovich, Gracy, Couture, Thomassen and Ando respectively.

The Committee Meeting of SAE was held on the morning of 10 September and the afternoon was spent on an exciting tour of the Great Wall and Ming Tombs.

In the following three days, the participants were grouped into three parts: one group went to Nanjing, another group went to Shengyang and the third stayed in Beijing and had a one day tour of Tianjin City. They had respectively one day of subsequent discussions on archival training with Chinese colleagues and had visits to the archives department of the university and archives repositories. Also included in their itinerary was sightseeing tours of cultural relics and landscapes.

As China's culture is typical oriental, which is completely different from the west, it seemed to participants that the tour of China was an adventure and many of them expressed that what they saw and experienced was often difficult to find the appropriate words to describe.

The success of the symposium was shown in the resolutions adopted by Steering Committee of ICA/SAE 14 September, 1991: 'The impressive achievements of the Chinese archivists in the fields of archives administration, conservation and preservation of archives and archival training should be made accessible to the international professional community' and 'Invite the State Archives Bureau of China to consider the possibilities of organising a periodic 'stage' for archivists from the Asian and Pacific regions to have them share the professional experience of their Chinese colleagues'.

We are fully convinced that the holding of the symposium on archival training in China will surely strengthen professional exchanges on archival training between Chinese archivists and archivists of the world and many archivists of China and Oceania have the chance of exchanges on archival training in the future.

### *Shanghai Regional Seminar*

Sponsored and funded by UNESCO, ICA and the State Archives Bureau of China, a regional seminar on the protection of archives against environmental pollution and on the prevention of disasters was held in Shanghai, southeast China from 28 October-2 November,

1991. Twenty delegates from China, Indonesia, Japan, PDR of Korea, Republic of Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended the seminar. Keynote speeches delivered at the seminar were by experts from China, Japan, Germany, United States of America and the United Kingdom.

Mr Feng Zizhi, Director-General of the State Archives Bureau briefed the participants on the development of archival work in China: a complete archives administration system has been established from the central to regional levels of the whole nation; the network of archives repositories of various kinds at all levels has been basically formed; an archives training system with a combination of higher education, middle school education and vocational education has been established; much progress has been made in the study and implementation of advanced attention to exchanges and cooperation in the international archives community.

Six keynote reports were delivered, depicting and analysing the influence of environmental pollution on archives and records, and protective measures to be taken; the prevention and reduction of disasters to archives; and the conservation of microfilms. The participants showed great interest in *Standard of Repository Construction* published in China and it is hoped that this work could be translated into English and French and disseminated in the international archives community.

The seminar adopted a resolution with a hope that more experience would be further exchanged so that concrete ways and measures will be found to solve such problems.

## **Government Records Service — Hong Kong**

*Correspondent: Don Brech*

The Records Management Office opened a new records centre. The centre is equipped with mobile shelving, an automatic sprinkler system and air-conditioning.

The initial installation of shelving has a storage capacity of 10,500 linear metres giving the Records Management Office the potential to handle transfers of inactive records generated by the pilot disposal project launched in September 1990.

## *Freedom of Information*

The demand for a right of access to government records has been raised in Hong Kong.

In a Legislative Council debate on press freedom in February, calls from legislators to introduce a Freedom of Information Ordinance

were rejected by the Chief Secretary, head of the Administration in the Colony.

The Hong Kong Journalists Association, the Hong Kong Human Rights Commission and the Hong Kong branch of Justice held a public seminar on freedom of information in March and have published a draft text of a Freedom of Information Ordinance. Jack Waterford, Deputy Editor of the *Canberra Times*, and Dr John Grace, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Canada, were guest speakers at the seminar.

Public debate on this issue has not yet extended to consideration of the need for complementary privacy and archives legislation.

## **National Archives, Republic of Indonesia**

*Correspondent: Julianti Parani*

### *History and organisation*

The National Archives of Indonesia, established in 1892 was officially called 's Landsarchief in colonial times. Its main objective in those days was to provide information to the Dutch Governors-General in performing their colonial rule throughout the Archipelago.

In 1949, following the official transfer of authority from the Netherlands Government to the new Republic of Indonesia, the 's Landsarchief became Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (National Archives of Republic of Indonesia).

In the first few years its management was placed under the Ministry of Education and Culture, but later on under Presidential Decree no. 215 of 16 May 1961 the National Archives was passed on to the Office of the Secretary State for Special Affairs. After this Office ceased operation in 1966, the National Archives was responsible to the Ministry of State Secretariat. Finally, the National Archives by Presidential Decree no. 26 of 1974, is responsible to the President through the State Secretary.

According to Act no. 7 of 1971 on Basic Guidelines for Archives Management, the main objective of the National Archives establishment is to ensure preservation of documents as national heritage and as national accountability regarding the planning, execution and conduct of national life and to make those materials available for government activities and public use.

To carry out these significant functions the National Archives is concerned with supervising activities of current operating records management and archival collection, storage, preservation, restoration and the use of historical archives for public interests.

### *Centenary exhibition and assessment*

In commemoration of the first appointed archivist Mr J. A. van der Chijs in Indonesia on 28 January 1892, the National Archives of the Republic organised several activities to promote the Archives during the months of January and February 1992.

A one month exhibition of approximately five hundred archival materials were displayed in the beautiful old 18th century Governor General Reinier de Kelerk's manor house which became the Landsarchief office during colonial times and the National Archives after independence. With the idea *One Century Developing the Archives of Indonesia*, the exhibition depicts a flash of Indonesian history through agreements, letters, pictures, graphics, maps, pamphlets, journals, photos, film, videos, etc. From pre-national period, the revolutionary years up to independence and the five year development period during the New Order were shown. Records of activities, reflecting the process and progress of the Indonesian people which is in the custody of the National Archives itself, were supported by the records of the creating agencies themselves, such as the Department of Public Works, the Department of Internal Affairs, the State Secretary, several Banks of the Government, and also indigenous archives from the Mangkunegara of Solo and the Sultanate of Yogyakarta.

In accordance with this commemoration, the Government of Indonesia appointed for the first time sixty-seven archivists from several Departments at central and provincial levels as official professionals in the Archives. This marks an important step in the archival development of our country, because prior to this recognition, archival and records functionaries in government offices were accorded little status. Nowadays Indonesian archivists are professionals and a career in government offices can be pursued along common structural functions.

A two day Seminar on Correspondent Management in the context of Administrative Reform of Government Offices was conducted to mark archival involvement in this area which is relatively new for the Archives. This function has been incorporated recently into the National Archives to speed up administrative reforms coordinated by the State Minister of Administrative Reforms.

In spite of one hundred years existence of the archival function in Indonesia, its profile remains low. Professional recognition is still in its infancy and general appreciation is still scarce. Through this commemoration, the National Archives has tried to persuade public participation by introducing a contest of writing in different mass media about a vast topic of the archives. Surprisingly this contest proved to be a success. In two months, seventy-three articles appeared in different mass media of Jakarta and other main cities, written by a

variety of sympathisers, such as researchers, journalists, government officials, students, etc. Six winners have been chosen and four newspapers were given special award for their warm participation in this contest.

Entering 1992 has been a great opportunity for the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia, because we realise that after one century, at last we have gained a solid base to move onwards and speed up matters in reaching for brighter objectives in the Archives.

## Japan Society of Archives Institutions

*Correspondent: Masahito Ando*

Archival tradition in Japan can be traced back to the 7-8th centuries, when archival repositories called '*tei*' or '*fudono*' were set up in not a few government departments of the ancient imperial state and large temples. These repositories were staffed by archives management specialists called '*fudono-tsukaibe*' who might be said to be ancestors of Japanese archivists.

Unlike European countries, however, the Japanese modern state, formed in 1868, had never introduced modern archives systems, neglecting the nature of public records as the common properties of the people. Instead, rulers of the imperial state kept public records as their own property without opening them to the public. Unfortunately, most of them have been destroyed by war, fire, or by the rulers themselves.

It was only after the second world war that Japan set about her efforts to establish modern archives systems. In 1951, *Shiryokan* or the Department of Historical Manuscripts was set up within the Ministry of Education in order to save historical records in private hands from dispersion. In 1959, Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives was opened as the first public archives office at the local government level, followed by more than thirty local archives during the following thirty years. At the central level, a National Archives and a Diplomatic Record Office were opened in 1971 on the recommendation of the Science Council of Japan.

In 1976, a group of volunteers working for these archival institutions established the Japan Society of Archives Institutions (JSAI), which has been playing a crucial role in the archival development in Japan. JSAI joined the International Council on Archives (ICA) as a category B member (a nationwide professional association) in 1986, when Michael Roper, then Deputy Keeper of Public Records (Britain), visited Japan as a mission of ICA and prepared a very influential report with recommendations on the archival development in Japan. As a result of the above progress, Public Archives Offices Act, the first archival legislation at the national level was passed by the National Diet in 1987.



In 1989, the JSAI published a 'Proposal on the training of archivists', in which the establishment of postgraduate schools for archival training and the introduction of a national qualification system for archivists were strongly recommended in accordance with Michael Roper's report of 1986. JSAI is also planning to organise an ad hoc committee at the coming annual conference to prepare a new detailed guideline on archival education. Secondly, National Archives has also organised an Ad Hoc Committee on the Development of Archival Education with ten specialists including the author. The Committee meets twice a year and its final report is to appear in 1993. Third and last, influenced by the proposal of JSAI of 1989, the Science Council of Japan has just submitted to the Prime Minister an 'Appeal for the development of archives systems', in which the need to set up postgraduate programs for archival training is stressed as an urgent task of the government.

Apart from regional seminars organised by several local archives offices and study meetings held every month by JSAI, three nationwide courses are opening at present, and another one is shortly to follow.

*Shiryokan* or the Department of Historical Manuscripts, now attached to the National Institute of Japanese Literature, had conducted a five-day workshop on the treatment of pre-modern records every year since its foundation in 1951.

Encouraged by the enactment of the Public Archives Offices Act, *Shiryokan* expanded the workshop in 1988 into a 'seminar on archives administration' with two full time courses, a four-week long-term course and one-week short-term course. Many new disciplines were introduced in order to meet the training needs of those who were handling modern public records.

The duration of each course has been doubled into eight weeks and two weeks since 1989. The eight-week course is divided into two terms, the first term in July (four weeks) and the second term in September (four weeks). Trainees who find difficulties in attending both terms in one year are allowed to complete the course in two years.

Entry qualifications to the seminar are a university degree, or some experience in the archival or records management field. Last year, twenty-three trainees registered for the long-term course (twenty-one with some experience in libraries, museums or archival institutions, and two postgraduate students in history and conservation science), and twenty-nine for the short-term course (twenty-six with some experience in libraries, museums or archival institutions, and three postgraduate students in history).

The curriculum of the seminar was designed in the light of ICA and UNESCO's recent studies on archival education. The eight-week course consists of 175 hours of training in a four-part structure: general

and introductory subjects; archives and manuscripts studies; theory and practice of records and archives management; and visits to archival institutions.

A second training program was established by the National Archives in 1988 to train records and archives personnel with relatively little experience in central and local government. The seminar is held once a year and lasts one week. Every year about forty to fifty trainees mainly from documents sections of central government departments and archives offices of local governments attend the seminar. The seminar last year consisted of sixteen topics.

As a third program, JSAI started in 1990 a one-day workshop before its annual conference. The second workshop offered last year in 1991 consisted of three courses, each focusing on: introduction to archives; arrangement and description of archives; and preservation and conservation of archives.

Last, the Business Archives Association, founded ten years ago mainly by editors of company histories, is now preparing to set up a new enthusiastic program to train business archivists. The program is planned to start in April 1992, held once a week and lasting three months. Topics will include an introduction to business records, records management, case studies on several business archives in and out of Japan, as well as basic theory and practice of business archives administration.

## **National Archives, Singapore**

*Correspondent: David Chng Khin Yong*

*Imaging System: Faster access to the Singapore Archives' photograph collection*

In this hi-tech age, it is only natural that the Singapore National Archives should look into automating its operations with the Archival Management System. One area we have identified is the management of the photograph collection. This system, when in place, will improve the public services provided by the National Archives.

To date, the National Archives' photograph collection has a total of approximately 110,000 items. A researcher who wants to view any of these photographs has first to look through the catalogues and select the captions of interest, jot down the accession numbers and then wait for the records keeper to retrieve the photographs. This retrieval process requires a considerable amount of time.

Installing the imaging system will cut the time taken to search and retrieve and will dispense with the need to refile the photographs.

The project has been started and it is hoped to be implemented in early 1993.