

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Edited by Don Brech**

*Editor's Note:* Towards the end of last year ill health compelled Margaret Jennings to resign her position as editor of this Section. In these rather unhappy circumstances I offered to take on the position for the current issue of *A&M*.

Under Margaret's editorship from 1988 to 1993, **International Notes** flourished and expanded, disseminating information about archives in the Pacific and South East and East Asia regions to readers worldwide.

Her regular reminders to the network of correspondents that she built up over the years attracted a regular response and won her many friends. Since taking over as editor I have heard from some of them and invariably their letters have included expressions of concern for Margaret and their best wishes for her recovery.

It was a great shock and sadness to hear of Margaret's death in the course of preparing these notes. On behalf of **International Notes** correspondents and readers everywhere I should like to record our appreciation of Margaret's editorial work over the past five years. We will miss her.

*Note: Where no correspondent is given, the notes have been compiled by the Editor from personal contact.*

## ICA

### **Round Table**

*Correspondent: Michael Piggott*

The Director-General of Australian Archives, George Nichols, attended the XXIX International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA) in Mexico City on 22–24 September 1993. The theme of the Round Table was *Advancing Archives: Strategies within Government*. During the fourth working session, which dealt with 'Cooperation and advancement of archival goals' Mr Nichols spoke to a brief paper which had been contributed by Australian Archives.

## Electronic Records Committee

*Correspondent: Steve Stuckey*

The ICA in 1992–1993 approached Australia to appoint two representatives on its Committees, one from the professional society (ASA) and the other from the national archives (Australian Archives). The ASA sought representation of the Committee on descriptive standards, and nominated Chris Hurley; Australian Archives sought representation on the new technical committee on electronic records and nominated Steve Stuckey. Both nominations were accepted.

The Committee on Electronic Records is chaired by John McDonald of the National Archives of Canada. The Secretary is Ken Thibodeau of NARA. Other representatives are Peter Anderson (Scottish Record Office), Jan Boomgaard (Amsterdam Municipal Archives), Niklaus Butikofer (Swiss National Archives), Ivar Fonnes (Norwegian National Archives), Gertrude Long (International Monetary Fund), Michèle Conchon (French National Archives) and Pitt Kuan Wah (Singapore National Archives). The Committee met for the first time in Ottawa from 27 to 29 October 1993 (M. Joël Poivre represented



*Members of ICA Electronic Records Committee, Ottawa October 1993. From back left — Steve Stuckey, Pitt Kuan Wah, Joël Poivre, Ken Thibodeau, Secretary (seated), Niklaus Butikofer, Gertrude Long, John McDonald, Chair (seated), Jan Boomgaard, Peter Anderson, Ivar Fonnes.*

Mme. Conchon). The meeting confirmed the terms of reference of the Committee as follows:

Within the terms of the general objectives of the ICA as set out in article 2 of the Constitution, and in cooperation with other ICA bodies and international non-governmental organizations where appropriate, to undertake study and research, promote the exchange of experience and draft standards and directives concerning the creation and archival processing of electronic records.

The three-day meeting came to an interim definition of an electronic record, articulated a list of issues related to electronic records, and a list of actions for six one- or two-member groups, addressing these issues. Further discussions will take place at the Committee's next meeting, which Australia is hosting in Canberra in the week before the Australian Archives' 'Playing for Keeps' conference; John McDonald will take advantage of his paper to the conference to update delegates on what the committee discussed the week before.

The Committee will meet again in 1995 in preparation of its major report to a workshop at the next ICA Congress in Beijing in 1996.

### Section of University Archives

*Correspondent: Glenda Acland*

During its twelfth Congress at Montreal in September 1992, ICA established a Provisional Section of University Archives to be known as ICA/SUV. The Provisional Section has four years — until the next ICA Congress in 1996 — to prove its value, but the unprecedented interest shown in a special body for university and college archives by archivists from many countries should enable the new Section to carry out activities which justify its existence.

The effort to organise a university and college Section was initiated by an *ad hoc* committee led by Alan Ives of Charles Sturt University, NSW, Australia. This effort was a reflection of the importance of university and college archives in the countries represented by the *ad hoc* committee members: Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden and the United States.

Forty-one archivists from thirteen countries attended the founding session and elected a Provisional Steering Committee. The Committee members are: Marjorie Barritt, Chairperson, University of Michigan, USA; Andrée Despy-Meyer, Secretary, Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium; Mahame Abdouramane, Universite de Niamey, Niger; Guy Diné, Universite Laval, Quebec, Canada; Alan Ives, Charles Sturt University, Australia; Christina Jonsson, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden; Patricia Methven, Universtiy College, London, UK; Shelley Sweeney, University of Regina,

Saskatchewan, Canada, Esperanza de Verona, University of Miami, USA. Michael Cook, University of Liverpool, UK is an adjunct member.

The Section is beginning its work by compiling a directory of university and college archives in all the member countries of ICA. The Section will use the directory information to conduct a survey of university archives, to gather and exchange information about university archives internationally, and to solicit suggestions about activities which would be of interest to university archivists around the world. The Section is also planning annual seminars on topics of interest to university archivists.

Archivists may participate in the Provisional Section of University Archives if they are individual members of ICA or if they represent an institution which has institutional membership of ICA. For additional information about the Section or to make suggestions about activities, please contact one of the Steering Committee members. In Australia, Mr Tim Robinson of the University of Sydney, the current ASA University SIG convenor, is co-ordinating contact with the Section.

## **EASTICA Region**

### **Government Records Service, Hong Kong**

In early 1993 the Administration announced its proposed relocation of the Public Records Office from the Central District, Hong Kong Island to an industrial area in Tuen Mun in the New Territories, a location remote from users and not readily accessible by public transport.

The proposal aroused considerable opposition from local bodies and researchers and the Legislative Council's Information Policy Panel. While the Government's position remains officially unchanged, the proposal has still to be implemented. The issue was given extensive coverage in the press and on television.

Mr Joseph C. M. Lee was appointed Government Records Service Director in 1993, Mr Thomas Y. W. Lau reverting to his former position as Archivist, Public Records Office.

The Records Management Office participated in the 2nd Business Centre Exhibition on records management held from 12 to 14 January 1994. The exhibition was jointly organised by the Efficiency Unit of the Chief Secretary's Office, Government Records Service, Information Technology Services Department, Management Services Agency, Government Property Agency and Security Branch.

The aim of the exhibition was to draw attention to the need for proper records management and to promote the use of efficient records management systems and the availability of current technology in this area. The event was well attended by government employees and was open to the public.

### **Hong Kong Film Archive**

The Urban Council announced the establishment of a Hong Kong Film Archive in December 1992 to preserve the Territory's film heritage. Hong Kong is the third largest film producer in the world, making over 100 films each year. It is estimated that, since 1946, over 7 500 films have been produced.

The major functions of the Film Archive are to acquire, conserve, catalogue, document, research and exhibit Hong Kong films and related material.

A purpose designed building will be constructed at an estimated cost of HK\$53 million and is expected to be completed in 1996. A temporary office is located in the Science Museum complex in Kowloon East and has commenced acquisition and conservation of historical films and other materials.

### **Government Archives and Records Service, Republic of Korea**

*Correspondent: Ki-Ok Kim*

Mr Ki-Ok Kim was appointed as Director-General of the Government Archives and Records Service in succession to Mr Cho-Il Ahn in 1993.

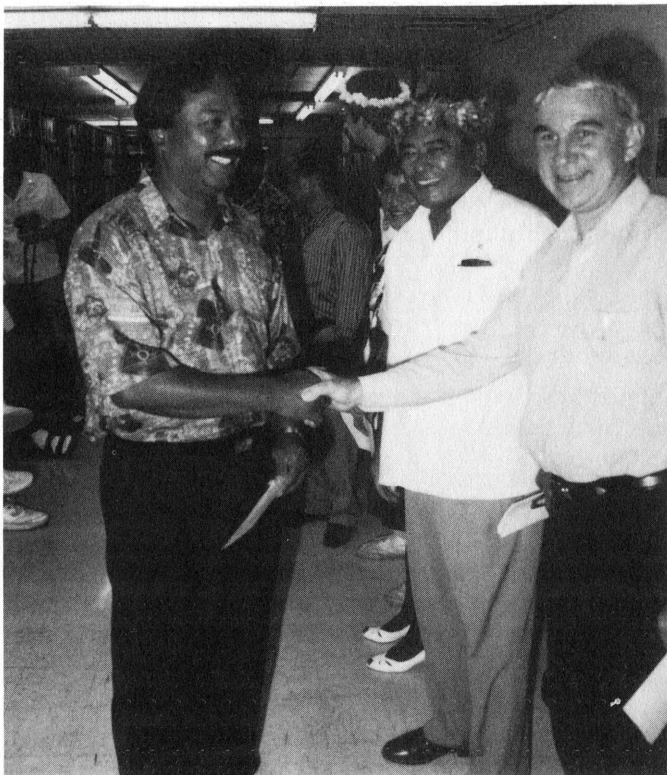
## **PARBICA Region**

### **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

*Correspondent: Herbert Del Rosario*

The United States Department of Interior's Office of Territorial and Insular Affairs granted the Northern Marianas College US\$30 000 worth of video and photography equipment in November 1993.

The equipment, plus a three-weeks intensive course on video production, script writing and photography, came at a time when the College's Oral History Project badly needed assistance to upgrade its program. The video equipment has been added to the audiovisual equipment of the College Library.



*Graduation ceremony at Northern Marianas College video course. From left Herbert Del Rosario, the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the representative of the United States Department of Interior.*

### **National Archives of Fiji**

*The following note was received from John C. Wright of Hawaii and Margaret S. Patel on behalf of the National Archives of Fiji.*

#### **Setareki Tuinacava 1934–1993**

The doyen of Oceanic archivists, Setareki Tuinacava, was found dead in his office at the National Archives of Fiji on the morning of 24 November 1993. Tui, as he was known to all, is survived by his mother, his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Born 28 July 1934 at Matuku Island, Tui was a graduate of Fiji's Queen Victoria School and the University of Auckland. He began working as an assistant at the National Archives of Fiji in 1958 and was appointed Government Archivist in 1971.

He served as President of the Fiji Society 1972–1974, as a member of the Public Service Appeals Board 1981–1987, and on the Board of Governors of the Ratu Kadavulevu School 1986–1993. As a member of the Union Club, Tui served two terms as Vice President during 1973–1989 and was President in 1975. Always a supporter of sports, in 1976 he was appointed Hon. Secretary of the Fiji Rugby Union, serving with energy and esteem for seventeen years.

Tui travelled widely, in his capacity as an official of the Fiji Rugby Union and took and attended archives meetings and seminars in New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Canada, England and Germany.

At its Fourth General Conference in Wellington in April 1989, the members of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives unanimously elected Tui an Honorary Member 'in recognition of distinguished service and dedication to the archives profession in Fiji, in the Pacific region, and to the international archival community, and with particular appreciation and affection for his service as its First President, 1981–1987.'

It had been Tui's intention to take early retirement but the untimely death of his designated successor, Masood Khan, in August 1989 called Tui back to office.

Although modest about himself and his accomplishments, Tui inspired many young Pacific students to study history and to see archival work as a viable and honourable profession. The maturation of the National Archives of Fiji will be firmly established on the framework created by Tui in his thirty-five years of devoted service.

*Veivinakati Tale — Peace.*

### **National Archives of New Zealand, Wellington Office**

*Correspondent: Mark Stoddart*

Director of the National Archives, Kathryn Patterson, received a Suffrage Medal on 30 September 1993. On accepting the award Kathryn said that she saw it as being in recognition of the contribution made by the National Archives to Suffrage Year.

The National Archives has seconded Eamonn Bolger to Wanganui District Council for one year to arrange its archives.

### **National Archives of New Zealand, Dunedin Regional Office**

*Correspondent: Peter Miller*

The new Dunedin Regional Office of National Archives (PO Box 6183, Dunedin) was officially opened on 1 September 1993 by the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Honourable Graeme Lee, in the presence of

about 120 guests. A ceremonial Maori blessing and presentation of a magnificent greenstone taonga\* added much to the significance of the occasion.

The building brings together all holdings of Government archives for the Otago/Southland region previously held by the Hocken Library, University of Otago and the Christchurch Office of National Archives. The five staff have been fully occupied with accessioning and establishing new procedures for control of the transferred archives and, as one would expect, dealing with researchers making initial visits to the fine new premises which are located in Dunedin's main street.

Bruce Russell and Claire Wood took up positions with the National Archives in Dunedin.

\*A ceremonial stone signifying 'possessions, valuables', *Concise Maori Dictionary*

## New Zealand

*Correspondents: Mark Stoddart and Peter Miller*

The New Zealand Film Archive opened new premises in Wellington in August. The Film Archive, sponsored by the Bank of New Zealand, undertook a 'Last Film Search' in the Gisborne-Hawkes Bay area between 13 October and 5 November 1993. This was the third regionally based film search.

Recent appointments have included: Peter Jackson, Archivist, Auckland City Council; Robyn Mason, Archivist and Librarian to the Hobson Wharf Maritime Museum, Auckland; Janine Delaney, Archivist and Susan Chivers, Assistant Archivist to the Hocken Library, Dunedin; and Yvonne Robertson, Archives Assistant, the Hewitson Library, Dunedin. Anna Blackman, Archivist, Dunedin City Council, resumed her job last November, following her successful attendance at the University of NSW archives diploma course.

Pricilla Hill resigned as Archivist for the Bank of New Zealand. The Bank archives are, at present, closed to the public.

The National Library has stopped publishing the *National Register of Archives and Manuscripts in New Zealand* and the half-time position at the National Register has been disestablished. A special final edition of the *Register* entitled 'Archives of Women's Organisations' was published to celebrate Suffrage Year.

The Alexander Turnbull Library celebrated the input of the 100 000th record on the Tapuhi computer database in September 1993. The database began operating in June 1992 and has recently extended its coverage to pictorial collections, including drawings, photographs and prints.



Independent Newspaper Ltd is providing NZ\$30 000 over three years in support of Victoria University's literary archive project. The funding will enable payments to be made to selected New Zealand writers with strong associations with the University in return for their agreeing to deposit material in the archives.

Dr F. Gerald Ham, former State Archivist of Wisconsin and Professor of Archives Studies at the University of Wisconsin, USA, has completed his report to the Council of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand on current and future training needs for practitioners in New Zealand. The report, *Towards Career Professionalisation: An Education Programme for New Zealand Archivists and Records Managers*, is available from ARANZ, PO Box 11-553, Manners Street, Wellington at NZ\$15 excluding postage.

## SARBICA Region

### National Archives of Cambodia

*Correspondent: Peter Arfanis in Cambodia*

Little has changed in the last year at the National Archives of Cambodia. Archives staff still sit with little to do in the delapidated repository which stands behind the newly painted National Library. They can only look across the way and watch staff at the Library struggling to come to grips with the potential of computer technology while they sit at their desks waiting for the day to end.

However, hope is in sight. The Overseas Services Bureau, Australia has indicated that it has room in its budget to send an archivist to Cambodia under the Volunteers Abroad Scheme. There is also a shipment of supplies donated by institutions in Australia waiting to be sent once transport to Cambodia is found.

In December 1993, UNESCO commissioned French archivist, M. Benoit Van Reeth to prepare a report on the situation of archives in Cambodia. UNESCO's assistance with the development of a records and archives management infrastructure is vital to preserving the integrity of records in this country.

Currently, I am conducting a survey of records held in the national repository. So far it appears that a surprising number of important series and registers dating back to the 1880s have survived the many years of war and unrest that has befallen this country. But these are all in poor condition.

These are all only small steps. The task ahead is massive and complicated and will take many years, but Cambodia is a resilient country and there is only one way it can go from here — forward.

## **National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia**

From 24 to 30 January, 1994 the National Archives hosted a workshop on 'The archivist profession: development and problems' organised under the Exchange of ASEAN Archivists program. The workshop was attended by archivists from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The keynote address was given by Dr Noerhadi Magetsari who succeeded Dra Soemartini as Director-General of the National Archives in 1992.

The workshop program included visits to the National Archives, the Jakarta Local Government Records Centre, the Government Records Centre of the Province of West Java in Bandung and the Records Centre of the Municipality of Bandung. The last two days were devoted to the presentation of country reports, an introduction to computer systems for records centre management and discussion of the archivist profession.

## **National Archives of Singapore**

*Correspondent: Pitt Kuan Wah*

Since 1991, the National Archives has been holding a Micrographics Dialogue Session on a yearly basis. The Session comprises a half-day workshop with microfilm users in the public sector.

The aim is to disseminate good micrographic practices to users and to discuss and clarify issues and problems relating to microfilm production and preservation. Through the sharing of experience and feedback from users, the Archives hopes to be able to formulate guidelines and local standards for all microfilm users as well as to better plan for their training requirements.

The 3rd Micrographic Dialogue Session, attended by some twenty-eight representatives of Singapore government agencies, was held in November 1993. The theme was 35 mm Microfilm Production. The guest speaker was Mr Chris Philippides, Senior Engineer from IMTEC, a leading United Kingdom high resolution 35 mm camera manufacturer. The topics covered included: critical performance factors in 35 mm microfilming, such as design of AO cameras, standards and quality control procedures; current world-wide use of 35 mm cameras and future trends in 35 mm microfilm applications.

The previous Session, held in May 1992, focussed on temperature and relative humidity control in microfilm preservation. The next Session, in July 1994, will be on the use of commercial microfilm bureaux.

## National Archives of Thailand

Mrs Chaunpit Tongklaw, Archivist in the Records Classification Section, together with Miss Somsuang Prudtikul, Librarian of the Office of Documentation and Information at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, attended the workshop on the archivist profession under the Exchange of ASEAN Archivists program in Jakarta in January 1994.

## Bank of Thailand

The Bank of Thailand was established in 1942 (Buddhist Era 2485) as the central bank, taking over the note issuing function from the Ministry of Finance and the assets of the Thai National Banking Bureau that had been created in 1939 (B.E.2482).

The Bank operates under legislation, the most important being the *Bank of Thailand Act*, 1942 (B.E.2485), the *Currency Act*, 1958 (B.E.2501), the *Exchange Control Act*, 1979 (B.E.2522) and the *Commercial Banking Act*, 1979 (B.E.2522).

It carries out its functions through eleven Departments, three Offices and two Centres at its headquarters building at Bangkhunprom in Bangkok. In addition, it has a city office at Surawongse Road and three regional branches at Songkhla, Khon Kaen and Lampang. In the provinces where there are no branches, the provincial treasurer acts as the Bank's representative.

Records management is the responsibility of the Department of Administrative Services which is assisted by the Records Appraisal Committee and the Records Centre. Records retention and disposal are supported by a computer system developed by the Bank's computer staff using Turbo Pascal Version 4.0. This will shortly be available to all Bank headquarters staff on a local area network. The Records Centre currently holds some 20 000 cu. ft. of records.

The Archives, which was set up in the 1970s, is administratively located in the Library and Information Centre. Its holdings total some 2 500 cu. ft. These are maintained in an air conditioned storage area next to the Records Centre. The archives are indexed using Mini CDS/ISIS Version 2.3 software. This is linked to the economics sub-system of THAINATIS, the national information system that was established in 1987.

*The Editor gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mrs Benjamas Tanyaporn, Assistant Director, Library & Information Centre, Mr Somsak Vichean, Automation Librarian, Miss Tasanee Jaitiangkit, Senior Archivist and Miss Jiraporn Siridhara, Archivist, of the Bank of Thailand in preparing this note.*