

# International Notes

Edited by Don Brech\*

## EASTICA Region

### EASTICA

*Correspondents: Ki-Ok Kim, Republic of Korea and Xu-Yuqing, People's Republic of China*

A successful meeting of the Executive Board of EASTICA was held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 8-10 June 1994. The Executive Board agreed on arrangements for the 2nd General Conference of EASTICA to be held in Japan in June 1995 under the auspices of the Japan Society of Archives Institutions. A symposium on 'Modernising Archives Management' will be held concurrently with the Conference.

A workshop on 'Automation of Archives Management' will be held in Beijing from 24 October to 6 November 1994. This is being organised jointly with the State Archives Bureau of the People's Republic of China.

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

*Correspondent: Ki-Ok Kim*

The Director-General of the Government Archives and Records Service attended the EASTICA Executive Board meeting in Ulaanbaatar and conferred with Ch. Dashdavaa, Director-General of the State Archives Administration of Mongolia about matters of mutual cooperation and the exchange of personnel.

The Government Archives and Records Service is seeking to collect copies of historical records relating to Korea in Mongolia and, similarly, the State Archives Administration is hoping to collect copies of historical records about Mongolia in Korea. It is expected that this exchange will promote cooperation between both countries.

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\* This is Don Brech's last contribution as International Notes editor. As indicated earlier in New Notes, he is returning to Hong Kong. We wish him well and thank him for assisting with *Archives and Manuscripts*. Ed.

## PARBICA Region

### PARBICA

*Correspondent: Dagmar Parer*

The sixth General Conference and Workshop, PARBICA 6, was held in Guam from 4 to 10 July 1994. The General Conference was officially opened by the Lieutenant Governor of Guam, the Honourable Frank Blas and attended by twenty-six people from Australia, American and Western Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Palau and Vanuatu.

A guest observer was Mrs Arlene Cohen, Executive Secretary of the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives. Also present at the General Conference were George Nichols, Director-General of Australian Archives, and Trudy Peterson, Acting Archivist of the United States who was representing the International Council on Archives.

The Conference agenda included officers' reports and financial matters and, most importantly, discussion of the future of PARBICA, its long-term objectives and future projects. Also included was the election of a new Executive Bureau. The new members are: President, Gabriel Gerry (Papua New Guinea), Vice-President, Bruno Corre (New Caledonia), Secretary-General, Karen Brennan (Australian Society of Archivists), Deputy Secretary-General, Ligi Sisikefu (Niue) and Treasurer, Michael Piggott (Australian Archives).

A 3-day Workshop was held after the General Conference. This was aimed at training participants in the implementation of a records management training package for Pacific archivists and records personnel. The theme of the Workshop had been suggested by Pacific country representative in response to a lack of formal training opportunities in records management in the Pacific region. A follow up survey will be conducted at a later date to check on the state of records management training in participant countries.

The training package was designed with small Pacific nations in mind by Records Archives and Information Management Pty. Ltd. The Workshop leader and trainer was Barbara Reed of Recordkeeping Systems.

PARBICA 6 participants were invited to an official dinner given by the Governor of Guam, His Excellency Joseph Ada and received copies of *Keeping Archives* that had been donated by Branches of the Australian Society of Archivists. Copies were also contributed by the University of New South Wales.

## National Archives of New Zealand

*Correspondent: Mark Stoddart*

The Archives Bill is now (July 1994) in the Parliamentary Council following circulation of a draft within government. It is hoped that the Bill will be introduced into Parliament later this year.

The Archives has introduced charges for researchers who are not New Zealand residents. There are three options available to the visiting researcher. An annual fee of NZ\$100 for the long-term researcher; a daily reader's ticket for the short-term researcher at NZ\$10 per day; and a dedicated archivist service. This service is subject to availability of staff and provides an experienced archivist to guide a person through their research. Bookings are required one month in advance. The charges are NZ\$45 for the first hour (minimum charge) and NZ\$22.50 for each subsequent half hour.

For those unable to visit the Archives there is also a three tier level of service. Targeted searches based on accurate details or nominated series with a time limit of 30 minutes will be carried out at a cost of NZ\$22-50 per search. General searches based on known information and what the researcher wants to find out will be conducted with a time limit of one hour for NZ\$45 per search. Lastly, in-depth searches will be carried out according to the researcher's priorities and chosen search strategy. The time limit is as requested. A charge of NZ\$45 per hour applies and researchers will be given an estimate of cost at the time of the initial inquiry.

Prepayment of charges is required in each case before research commences and the preferred form of payment is by international bank draft in NZ dollars. Further details are available in a brochure titled *A Guide for Overseas Researchers*, a copy of which may be obtained from the National Archives, PO Box 12050, Wellington, NZ.

## National Library of New Zealand/Alexander Turnbull Library, Manuscripts & Archives Section

*Correspondent: David Colquhoun*

The major recent development in the Library has been the automation of all accessioning, description and issuing processes. The system is called TAPUHI (Turnbull Automated Project for Unpublished Heritage Items, and the word also has a Maori meaning of to cherish or nurture). It is working well and there have been major productivity gains allowing the Library, among other

things, to provide descriptions of all the previously uncatalogued backlog. Readers are adapting well to on-line ordering and TAPUHI is being introduced to the conservation, pictorial and oral history sections.

Research use of the collections continues to grow and it has been particularly pleasing to see increased use of the collections by Maori researchers, often in relation to tribal claims to the Waitangi Tribunal. Another major research area has been women's history, stimulated by various publications projects developed as part of the 1993 centenary of female suffrage in New Zealand.

There has been less time for publications but the Library has produced an inventory to the papers of New Zealand's leading composer, *The Collection of Douglas Lilburn Manuscripts in the Alexander Turnbull Library*.

On the acquisition front the Library has continued to collect widely. A number of interesting collections relating to early race relations and European settlement have been purchased. New literary collections of note include the papers of New Zealand writers Maurice Gee, Allen Curnow, Fiona Kidman, Alistair Campbell and Maurice Shadbolt. Government legislation in the industrial relations area has led to the demise or amalgamation of a number of trade unions, with the result that we have taken in many labour history collections.

## SARBICA Region

### Audio-Visual Archives

*[The Editor wishes to thank Ray Edmondson, National Film & Sound Archive, Canberra for supplying information for this note.]*

During recent years Australia's National Film & Sound Archive has provided assistance to a number of film archives and repositories holding audiovisual materials in South-East Asia.

In 1993, Ron Brent, the Archive's Director, advised the Hong Kong Government on proposals for its emerging film archive. Mark Nizette, senior conservator with the Archive, visited Cambodia to assist the National Museum in Phnom Penh with preservation of its historical collection of glass negatives. Mark is scheduled to return in October 1994 to join the National Museum and Department of Cinematography and Video in preparing management plans for their collections.

Ray Edmondson, Deputy Director, undertook a survey of film repositories in the Philippines in 1993 and will be following up with further visits in April and September 1994 to help prepare a national strategic plan for film archives.

### **National Archives, Brunei Darussalam**

*Correspondent: Pg Omarali Bin Pg Anak Hashim*

Two archivists from the National Archives represented Brunei Darussalam at the 2nd Exchange of ASEAN Archivists held in Jakarta from 23–30 January 1994. The Exchange project provides a forum for archivists in ASEAN countries to discuss and exchange views of archives matters.

Meetings under the project will rotate between members and will be held in Thailand and the Philippines in 1995 and in Singapore and Brunei Darussalam in 1996. The non-ASEAN countries of Vietnam and Myanmar will be invited to participate in future projects.

### **National Archives of Cambodia**

*Correspondent: Peter Arfanis*

The supplies secured by the Australian based Archivists for Cambodia group in support of the National Archives of Cambodia have been shipped to Phnom Penh with the assistance of the Cultural Relations Branch of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The supplies include 1 000 archives boxes donated by Australian Archives.

### **National Archives of Singapore**

*Correspondent. Pitt Kuan Wah*

The National Archives is the central government authority on preservation microfilming in Singapore and has received a grant of S\$1.5m from the Ministry of Information and the Arts to improve and upgrade its technical services over the next three years.

The improvement program includes the following major installations. A large format microfiche system for microfilming black and white and colour building maps and plans. The 35mm AO size camera currently in use will be redesignated for filming maps and plans of A2 size and below. The new system will allow copying at very low reduction ratios.

A high resolution microscope system with CCTV will be used for quality control of microfilming and conservation work. One of the units will be connected to a video scanning and display unit to enable the readings to be

viewed from a high resolution TV screen. The third major item is an ultrasonic welding machine as part of the continuous effort to automate conservation processes.

Approximately 5 000 rolls or 3% of the National Archives' microfilm collection produced in the 1950s, '60s and '70s are acetate-based and do not meet archival standards for long-term preservation. It has been found that, generally, acetate film is climatically less stable and physically less durable than polyester-based film.

The Archives has recently mounted a five-year preservation program for the long-term preservation of its microfilm holdings. The program is being implemented in three phases. In phase one, all acetate master films will be converted to polyester-based film. The second phase will involve a sulfide treatment of the camera masters, a preservation method developed in the USA. In the final phase camera masters will be hermetically sealed in special pouches to protect them against atmospheric pollution, an approach tested and adopted by the Swedish National Archives and the Bank of Canada. A pilot project is now underway to establish working procedures.

To assist the National Archives to meet its requirement to preserve public records resulting from the advent of electronic recordkeeping, a pilot study is to be conducted in the second half of 1994 to plan for the selection, acquisition and preservation of electronic records. Also included in the pilot project will be a feasibility study on digitizing 16mm textual microfilms and oral history recordings to further improve access to these media.