

International Notes

Edited by Ewan Maidment

Archive of Maori and Pacific Music

Correspondent: Richard Moyle, Director

The Archive of Maori and Pacific Music was founded within the Anthropology Department at the University of Auckland in 1970, largely as a result of the efforts of two noted scholars of Maori language and music - Bruce Biggs and Mervyn McLean. Using his own substantial recordings as a starting point, McLean built the Archive into a collection of national and international importance over the 22 years of his tenure as Director, securing permanence for the position of Archive Assistant and establishing a funding line from the Faculty of Arts.

The period from the 1960s to the 1980s was something of a golden era for audio recording projects, and the Archive accessioned many collections from private individuals and ethnomusicology graduate students. The focus on acquiring new material achieved a significant boost in 1984 when the Archive gained UNESCO funding for the Territorial Survey of Oceania Music, a project designed to survey local repertoires from parts of the Pacific about which little or no research had been undertaken. Over the next decade 11 projects were mounted by established Pacific music scholars in Niue, northern Cook Islands, Mangareva, Tokelau, Southern Cook Islands, West Futuna, Fiji, the southern Marquesas, and Takü (Papua New Guinea).

In addition to recording representative samples of existing genres of vocal and instrumental music in each location visited, researchers were also required to train a local person in the techniques of recording and documenting, to provide the national government with a complete documented copy of the recordings, and to submit a report for publication. Initially, reports were published by the University's Department of Anthropology in its Working Papers series but, from 1992, they have appeared in the Archive's own series *Occasional Papers in Pacific Ethnomusicology*; all are still in print.

By 1997 the holdings had grown to more than 55,000 items, and pressure of time had resulted in a limit of three items imposed on users requesting copies of material. In that same year, with funding from both the University and Government, a

program was initiated to digitise the analogue holdings, create an off-site security copy on CD, de-noise the original recordings where appropriate, and copy the material on to a file server from where the Archive assistant could retrieve individual items for copying or on-site listening. By 2002, more than 2,000 CDs had been generated, and the work is ongoing.

As part of the second phase of this program, which will begin shortly, a 10-second audio clip from the start of each item will be copied and linked to the databased documentation for that item. When these databases are made available on the Internet, hopefully by the end of 2002, users will be able to listen to the 10-second clips as a means of positively identifying the material selected, after which they will contact the Archive to request a copy.

The set of relational databases forming the Archive's documentation will then be made available for a trial period, with students and teachers able to play back material they request through designated terminals on campus. Staff in Maori Studies and Pacific Studies are enthusiastic about the variety of innovative teaching opportunities this move will create.

The archive makes no claim to legal ownership of the material in its holdings. Instead, it fulfils essentially a custodial role, curating material and making it available on behalf of depositors in accordance with the formal contract signed by each depositor. These contracts stipulate approved types of persons and use of the material, ranging from complete freedom of use to access restricted to members of a particular ethnic or tribal group. Partly for this reason and partly because of undertakings given by many researchers to those whose music they recorded and subsequently deposited, the Archive makes no charge for providing copies of its holdings.

In 2001 the Archive achieved a moment of fame by being mentioned in the Labour Government's Budget speech, receiving a generous grant from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to digitise the archival holdings of the government radio stations of Samoa and Tonga, as well as Samoan Television. Technicians from the radio stations also received training in digitising and noise removal, and took back with them CDs whose contents were clearer than the tape originals they had originally brought to Auckland.

The Archive now curates these tape originals under separate contracts which allow the stations to remove the material at any time if they wish, and has received in turn permission for personal users to have access to professional and well documented recordings of a wide variety of national events in the respective homelands.

Under the same Ministry grant, the Archive transferred to digital video 30 hours of 16 mm film forming the unscreened rushes of the celebrated 1994 television series *Tagata Tangata*, one of the last big-budget, Pacific-wide surveys of contemporary life in Oceania. Together with several kilos of print documentation covering all aspects of filming and editing, these videos are now available for viewing at the Archive. The results of these projects can be found on www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ant/ethnomusicology/ArchiveNews.htm

For more than 30 years the University has assumed the full cost of operating the Archive apart from external funding for specific projects and is, in effect, now supporting what has developed from a university asset into a national institution. Non-university users (private individuals, Maori tertiary-level students, individuals representing Pacific Island groups) have grown steadily from 38% in 1995 to more than 80% in 2001; within these figures, use by individual members of the general public has grown from 14% to 40%. Within Maoridom, materials are requested from tribal groups from throughout the country: in 2001, recordings of songs, speeches and oral traditions were requested from representatives of 31 Maori tribal groups.

With further digitisation and accessibility through the Web, demand on the Archive's services will soon outstrip its ability to supply. At the same time as this growth in demand, the Government's funding to universities is being constrained and its accountability to public education providers narrowed and made more demanding, often towards economic vocational imperatives and away from a broader, humanities role. In sharp contrast, continuation of its free services is vital to the trust held in the Archive's collections. Quite simply, the Archive is caught between government requirements for the expenditure of university monies and the nationwide nature of the Archive's present services, and needs support and acknowledgement for what its user groups have mandated it to do. To this end, the Archive is currently exploring the possibilities of outside funding.

More detailed information about the Archive is available at www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ant/ethnomusicology/New/PDF/Archive%202002.pdf

Divine Word University Library, Madang, Papua New Guinea

Correspondent: Rosemary Menadue, Fundraising Development Manager, Divine Word University

The Divine Word University (DWU), Madang, Papua New Guinea, is currently in the process of building a 'state of the art' library. Funds for this project have been received from the AusAID, PNG Incentive Fund. The Project Management

Team has advised that this building will be completed and ready to be opened in May 2003 in conjunction with the University's Annual Open Day.

The new library has been designed to have 3, 500m² floor space over two storeys. There will be considerable more room for students, staff and the community to use than in the current library with room for expanding the collections, which are currently held at DWU. The layout of the building will allow for open study areas as well as offices, meeting rooms and a lecture theatre, which will seat some 150 people. The new library will be equipped with a new electronic library cataloguing and tracking system. There will also be better access to information technology for all users of the library with computers having Internet access as well as the common software packages being available for general use.

The new library, when completed, will be the largest library in the Madang Province. The general public will have the ability to access the library on a scale that has never been the case in the past. The library will not only be accessible to students and staff of DWU but the entire population of Madang Province. This ability to access the library will not only be by the normal means of entering the actual building and accessing books but also through the University's website which will also be upgraded to fulfil this purpose.

In Papua New Guinea many primary and secondary schools do not have library facilities nor do they have alternative access to a suitable library, therefore, DWU's library will be in the position to provide services for many schools and teachers. The library will be the home of DWU Press, which will have the ability and equipment necessary for teachers to make textbooks. The teachers will be able to keep learning materials in a suitable manner for themselves or students and for prosperity. DWU will then be helping to make the best possible use of teaching and learning materials, which are scarce in PNG, by making them available in and through the library.

The library will be climatically controlled for the protection of our rare and valuable Noser Collection as well as our general library collection, periodicals and texts. This is very important in the tropical conditions experienced in Madang. The tropical humid conditions cause mould, mildew and general disintegration to the collections and therefore the climate-controlled conditions are very important to the maintenance of the collections.

The Noser Collection is a very unique and valuable collection of Papua New Guinea materials concentrating on Humanities, Social Science and History. The Noser Collection contains newspapers published before Independence, and a fairly comprehensive collection of books on Papua New Guinea's history. This

collection is currently stored in a special area where the documents, reports, maps and publications can be kept with the knowledge that they are being cared for properly. Unfortunately this correspondingly means that the collection is not as accessible to the community and to researchers as it could and will be in a designated area of the new library.

Two Divine Word Missionaries, Archbishop Adolf Noser and Fr Paul McVinney conceived Divine Word University (DWU) in 1968. These Fathers were encouraged to continue to carry on the Society's traditional involvement in tertiary education in areas to which its members were assigned. This Noser Collection was initiated by Fr Mike Morrison SVD, a good friend of the Archbishop, who observed that a lot of valuable materials were left to deteriorate in the parishes of PNG. He asked that members of the various dioceses should contribute materials as a memorial to Adolf Noser, and was diligent in going around to pick up whatever was available. The Collection was still being formed at the time of the Archbishop's death.

This special collection contains classic materials on PNG and Madang Province not available in other libraries. Consequently researchers from around Papua New Guinea, the Pacific and the world travel to DWU, in beautiful Madang, to use the collection for various research requirements.

A major collection was added to the Noser Library after the death of Fr John Tschauer SVD. He had been a parish priest in Madang for many years, and then spent years teaching PNG Church History in Holy Spirit Seminary, Port Moresby. For many years he had been diligent in collecting early German newspapers and mission magazine articles about the north coast of PNG and then translating them into English. This has endowed the collection with a number of German language volumes from the turn of the nineteenth century. Fr Tschauer had dedicated his collection to the memory of the Founder of the Divine Word mission in PNG, Fr Eberhard Limbrock, who arrived with his companions in Madang in 1896. The Limbrock Library consists of many separate articles of English translation as well as the volumes of early German material.

Also associated with the Noser Library is a large collection of stories from the Madang area, recorded and to a large extent transcribed, by Fr John Z'Graggen SVD. These stories were taken down from many parishes within the Madang Archdiocese. The tapes are held in reserve with the Divine Word Missionaries in Mt Hagen, and represent a large assemblage of cultural materials, which have yet to be brought into working order.

East Timor National Archives

Correspondent: Dr Maria Esther Martinez, Records Management Officer, United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)

There are many matters essential to establishing the National Archives of East Timor, among others: legislative framework, repository building; recruitment and training of future Timorese archivists; salvaging, preserving and conserving records; archival budget; repatriation of East Timorese records held abroad; archival claims *vis à vis* Indonesia; and establishing and maintaining regional and international technical assistance.

Historical background¹

East Timor (ET) was a Portuguese colony for more than four centuries. On April 1974, the 'Carnation Revolution' in Portugal opened a new era for the Portuguese colonies, including ET. Laws were soon passed in ET to plan for a transitional government with a gradual transition towards independence by October 1978. East Timorese began to organise political parties in preparation for the self-determination.

The decolonisation process in ET was abruptly interrupted on 7 December 1975 by the Indonesian occupation. The invasion was quickly condemned by the UN Security Council which passed resolution 384 recognising the inalienable right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and independence. Nevertheless a few months later the Indonesian Law 7/76 incorporated East Timor as its 27th Province.

The next push towards self-determination in ET was in 1996 when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to two East Timorese figures: Bishop Carlos Filipo Ximenes Belo, the Apostolic Administrator of Dili, and Jose Ramos Horta, the leading exile of the East Timorese resistance. This award had strong international repercussions as a growing number of non-government and parliamentary groups in Western countries began to persuade their governments to support self-determination in East Timor.

The United Nations and East Timor²

The United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was established by the UN Security Council under Resolution 1246 on 11 June 1999. It was mandated

¹ Department of Public Information, *The United Nations and East Timor: Self-determination through Popular Consultation*, United Nations, New York, 2000, pp. 1–11.

² *ibid.*, pp. 12–60.

to conduct 'popular consultation' with ET people to determine whether they preferred Autonomy (Indonesian rule with greater local authority) or Independence. The newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) was Ian Martin. The Security Council extended UNAMET's mandate until 30 November and endorsed the Secretary General's proposal to restructure the Mission for the interim phase after the 30 August vote.

Trouble started following the announcement of the ballot result - 86% in favour of Independence. The security situation in ET deteriorated rapidly. The eruption of violence was well documented by the hundreds of journalists and observers still in ET. Pro-integration militias conducted organised, coordinated operations through all the population centres, ransacking towns and forcibly displacing hundreds of thousands of East Timorese to the hinterlands, West Timor and other parts of Indonesia.

The Security Council authorised the multinational Military Peace Keeping Force (INTERFET) lead by Australia. At a meeting with the United Nations on 28 September 1999, Indonesia and Portugal reiterated their agreement for the transfer of authority in East Timor to the United Nations. They also agreed that *ad hoc* measures were required to fill the gap created by the early departure of the Indonesian civil authorities.



Records in the attics of Governor's House before National Archives work began

On 25 October 1999 the Security Council established (Resolution 1272) the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). On 17 November the newly appointed SRSG and Transitional Administrator, Sergio Vieira de Mello, took up duties in East Timor. UNTAET was endowed with overall responsibility for the administration of East Timor and was empowered to exercise all legislative and executive authority, including the administration of justice. It was a sweeping mandate and a challenge of broad scope rarely embraced by the UN. The powers of UNTAET were intended to support capacity building for self-government, including a governance and public administration component, and to establish the conditions for sustainable development.

East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA) and the National Archives

As a consequence of these well-known historical facts, we found a country where almost everything was destroyed except the spirit of the East Timorese. Neither electricity nor water were running at normal standards. Infrastructure was very precarious. Transport between districts was difficult and dangerous because of the uncertain security situation. Telecommunications followed the same pattern. Homes were completely destroyed, burnt and abandoned. People were coming back from the mountains with nothing, but were eager to start up again. Given these facts, priority was given to health (at the beginning malaria and dengue fever were rampant), education, infrastructure, security and policing.

I walked through Dili for hours and hours. I wanted to observe and understand the people with whom I would be cooperating. I was completely impressed by their pride in being East Timorese, their dignity and self-confidence. Basically they are politicians by nature, extremely diplomatic and polite towards foreigners. Women deserve a special chapter. Smiling oriental silence and 'Chinese patience' were some of their basic characteristics. Later they realised that the arrival of civilian and military contingents had changed their lives forever.

At the time of our landing in East Timor, the National Archives as a centralised government entity did not exist in the past or in the present. Consequently there was no archives repository or archival infrastructure, nor any archival legislation or archival staff. In addition there was no archives budget for the first months. On the other hand, all of us internationals found ourselves with very concrete job descriptions. Our tasks had to be developed from ground zero and successfully achieved by the end of UNTAET mandate or Independence Day (20 May 2002).

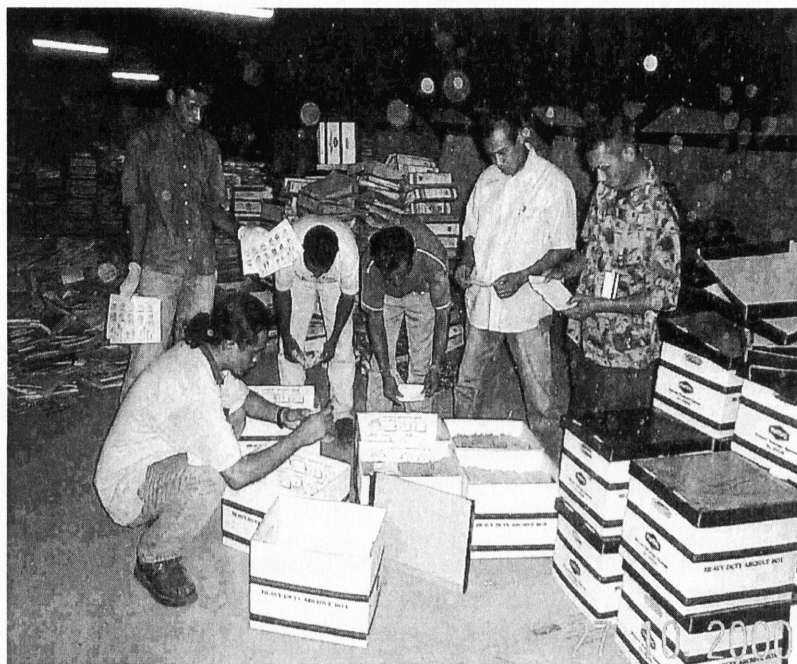
The arrival of two archivists among UNTAET's international staff enabled the development of work plan resulting in the establishment of the National Archives and Records Services (the title later changed to the National Archives) in February

2000, under the Civil Service & Public Employment Department (CISPE). A few months later the Archives was transferred to the Internal Administration Ministry of the East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA).

State of official records in East Timor

During the events in East Timor that followed the popular consultation of 30 August 1999, nearly all government buildings were gutted and the records held therein were destroyed. By the end of it all, there were no records that could be relied upon to enable continuity of any government business in East Timor. Destruction of records held in public buildings meant that almost all the documentary history of East Timor had been ruined as well. Thus there was little documentary history apart from that held by other countries. However some official records, publications, maps and registers were found among the rubbish in some public buildings, in the attics of the Governor's House and in sealed metal containers (some official documents had been placed in these containers due to the political situation during the INTERFET period).

In November 1999 a special archival mission to East Timor from the Northern Territory Archives (Darwin, Australia) took place. Its report and photos are very



East Timorese staff in the Governor's House attics

explicit. The mission recommended urgent action to preserve documents. In September 2000, a second report on East Timorese archives was written by an historian attached to the Portuguese Mission. His conclusions were basically the same as the previous Australian mission.

Salvaging official documents

I was assigned, as a Deputy of the Archives, to start salvaging documents which had survived the destruction of September 1999. It was an unprecedented duty. I inspected the area looking for relevant information. For example, I saw sealed metal containers around the UNTAET compound and heard that a significant number of metal containers had been sent abroad as a security measure. Walking through the attics of the Governor's House there were doors which had been closed by security officers. Some rooms in the Fomento Building held piles of documents which looked like garbage disposal.

The logical questions arose. Where would it be best to start? Where would archival supplies be found? How would we recruit local staff? What administrative procedures applied to hiring staff? How would security issues be best addressed? One thing was clear, we needed close cooperation with UNTAET infrastructure and security forces. It is easy to understand that the task was not easy, and we also had to take into account all political influences.

As we did not have any assigned building, the attics of the Governor's House were selected as the best option. After several inspections, attic no. 2 was chosen because it was the only one with a secure entrance. I cannot explain how courageous this step was. Beginning with the climate conditions: On a normal day in January in Dili it was 37°C and 84% humidity. In the attics of the Governor's House the temperature and humidity were higher.

Recruitment and training of the first archival staff

During the Indonesian administration Indonesians dominated the Public Service. Practically all senior and middle level managerial and administrative staff were Indonesians. The very few East Timorese who were trained or skilled had emigrated to Indonesia or abroad. The levels of know-how and professional capabilities among East Timorese in most sectors of administration were very low or non-existent. The register of former civil servants revealed no archivists.

The first archival team was recruited in August 2001. Since UNTAET was the only employer at that time each appeal for staff brought so many applicants that selection was a long and sometimes difficult process. The first Archives staff were hired on temporary basis: Fernanda Cardoso (a senior officer in the previous

administration), Pedro Fernandez (a senior officer in architectural studies who has a lot of historical knowledge), Ernesto Sarmiento (who holds a public administration degree), Orlando do Carmo and three high school students and one university student.

The second step was to instruct the staff on general archival principles and procedures before starting work. They were given an explanation of the significance of documents, the differences between originals and copies, and the importance of keeping as much as possible of the contents of files and dossiers together. Also the staff were taught about non-archival materials that had to be discarded. This point was very difficult in practice because at the beginning the staff wanted to keep everything. Training was given *in situ* on a daily basis.

Archival supplies donated to us by several Australian institutions helped get the work started. Among other materials, we received archives boxes, cleaning equipment and some furniture. Staff also needed to be trained in using this equipment. We had to explain the use of every single item. They had never seen these materials before. They had no past experience using them, partly because the previous administration had its central repository outside East Timor, partly because none of the staff had worked in an archives, and partly because of their extreme poverty.

Documents were found, covered in dust, in the attics of the Governor's House among the rubbish and furnishings. No pest control had taken place for years – the records were full of insects. Despite instruction about archival and non-archival materials, the natural tendency of the staff was to keep almost everything. In their eagerness to save everything including boxes, boxes were overloaded and were impossible to close.

We had to teach the staff every single detail of each task: from how to handle paper to the reasons for maintaining maps and plans and how to handle them. The same applied for official publications. We found a collection of black-and-white photos in one of the attics. Photographs were not common, even at home. The staff did not know instinctively how to treat them. In other words you had to supervise their work closely. Each day, in each new circumstance, the staff reacted differently. In practice supervision and instruction were difficult. Whenever you prepared a lesson which seemed to be very basic, it was not at all.

The first step in our rescue project was to sort documents by languages: those written in Portuguese were separated from those written in Bahasa-Indonesian. Non-archival materials were put in plastic bags and dropped down to the Mission compound to wait for a truck to pick them up for burning.

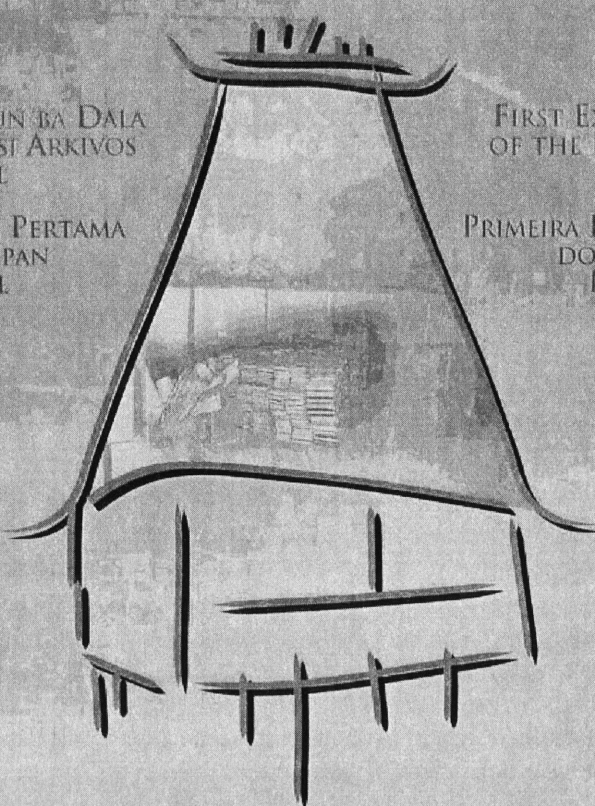
East Timor Past and Present
 Timor Leste Passado e Presente
 Timor-Timur Masa Lalu dan Masa Kini
 Timor Loro Sa'e Houri Uluk no Ikus

ESPOSISAUN BA DALA
 ULUK HUSI ARKIVOS
 NASIONAL


EKSPOSISI PERTAMA
 PENGARSIPAN
 NASIONAL

FIRST EXHIBITION
 OF THE NATIONAL
 ARCHIVES

PRIMEIRA EXPOSIÇÃO
 DO ARQUIVO
 NACIONAL



24-31 MARCH/MARÇO/MARET 2001
 CENTRO CULTURAL - CULTURAL CENTER, DILI
 RUA DOS DIREITOS HUMANOS (EX KODIM-DILI)

 EAST TIMOR
 TRANSITIONAL
 ADMINISTRATION
 National Archives

Official poster for the first East Timor National Archives exhibition

At the beginning the staff were smiling, but working in silence. I called for an interpreter from English into Bahasa-Indonesian in order to be sure that instructions I gave were well understood. One day, while I was checking documents in boxes, I was reading one of them written in Portuguese. Unexpectedly, one of the senior local staff approached me and began to comment in Portuguese on the history of the document. This was the first step toward our direct dialogue. I discovered that among the nine employees, four could understand Portuguese. In addition, I realised that the interpretation was confusing the local staff. The interpreters were just interpreters. I think that the sequence of double speeches lost them.

Simple and practical instruction in short sentences was required, rather than theoretical concepts. We had to work out our own handout materials adjusted to local needs for our future training courses. Teaching materials we received needed a lot of explanation. They were too hard for the local staff who needed to see pictures. I used photographs and single sentence commentary in the last training session I gave, on 'Preservation and Conservation', October to December 2001. Every single idea has to be explained. Sometimes it was very difficult due to their simplicity of life and environment. For instance there was no past knowledge of the concepts of measuring humidity and heat.

The first National Archives exhibition, Dili, 24-31 March 2001

Salvaging records in the attics was very hard. The Archives staff were losing morale in spite of the fact that a lighter than usual work schedule given them. There was considerable absenteeism, sickness and walking around. Time was lost for funeral ceremonies outside Dili. This oriental work pattern and staff difficulties with Western ideas about arriving at work on time are examples of differing cross-cultural expectations. In addition climate conditions in the attics were almost intolerable. The work schedule for local staff was changed: starting and leaving earlier and working fewer than the standard hours. It took time to adjust. However, I realised that as long as the work in the attics continued, the situation would not improve. If I did not show up all the time the staff would run away. I understood that the work was very hard, without any prospect of significant improvement. The staff were lacking inner energy.

I began to think about positive motivation to encourage higher morale among staff. The idea of the exhibition was conceived. Accordingly, I wrote a memorandum to the Director of ETTA and the Internal Administration Minister requesting official permission. A positive response was received quickly and a small budget was assigned. The scope of the project was to organise a public

display of national and international official documents which show East Timorese historical identity.

The chosen venue was the old Museum building just in front of UNTAET Headquarters. This building was selected because the site allowed free movement of the public and met the minimum security and preservation requirements. In addition it was an excellent location for visitors (the majority of them pedestrian).

Training for the exhibition started. It was a turning point among our staff. I explained to them the importance of this event and their key role in it. It took me days because I was talking about something unknown and unfamiliar to them. I remember one of the most senior staff asked me seriously, 'Miss Maria in your country documents are exhibited, are you sure?' They have never seen anything of this kind. I have to admit that sometimes it was difficult to continue with the exhibition training process.

To begin with the staff were taught what an exhibition of documents means, followed by identification of types of documents, such as maps, designs, registry cards, official publications and newspaper clippings, originals and copies. Then the staff were shown how important it is to place the documents properly in boxes and how the photos have to be handled. I wanted to have all of the staff involved in every single organisational meeting over the months of preparation so that they could at least listen to what was needed for the operation.

We worked side by side. As soon as the staff realised what was going on their attitude changed. Surprisingly the absenteeism was left behind. The staff remained at work after hours. They brought photos and documents from their families to complete the display. An easy interchange of opinion and ideas took place. The language barrier was gone. No more translators were called to the attics. More staff remembered their Portuguese and they translated to the others.

The title of the exhibition was also created after several staff discussions. I explained the meaning and purpose of an exhibition title. Then I asked what they wanted to show the people. I asked which idea or phrase best represented what they have been doing (working in the attics). It was like a brainstorm. Finally I decided that 'East Timor Past and Present' would be the best title to synthesise their spirits. They agreed completely.

The poster design was another training achievement. Again, I wanted my people to be involved. So I explained to them why an exhibition poster is important and the elements which a poster has to display. Final ideas emerged after several discussions and these were then interpreted in modern technical language. The

results were excellent, taking into account that archives and documents publicity is not easy. The poster was distributed across the country, to several shops in Darwin and elsewhere abroad. UN headquarters in New York asked for extra copies of the poster.

A few days before the opening, we moved all documents, maps and publications for display over to the museum. Security was provided only during daytime. The National Archives staff decided to take custody themselves. Accordingly they slept at the museum until the opening day of the exhibition.

We were organising the final display on the night before the exhibition opening. The electricity was off at 9pm, as usual in Dili, and then a terrible storm started. Rain leaked through the roof into the middle of the room. The local team responded as if they were following a specialised emergency preparedness course. Tables were moved towards the walls and a new design started. Candles were lit on the tables and, working in groups of three, the staff put the documents in order. Very late that night one of the senior staff approached me and said, 'Miss Maria, we cannot go to leave tonight. We feel nervous and we also are quite afraid if something goes wrong.' So I found myself in the middle of responsible local staff who were facing their first testing experience. All night at the museum was devoted to checking every single detail of the display, adjusting maps on the walls and setting up the third room with displays of publications.

The exhibition opening was a complete success from many different points of view. The key speaker was Mr Sergio Vieira de Mello, the SRSG, who officially inaugurated the National Archives of East Timor. Mr Jean Cady, the International Director of ETТА (DSRSG), Mr Jose Ramos Horta, Minister of Foreign Affairs for ETТА, Ms Ana Pessoa, the Minister for Internal Administration for ETТА, Bishop Carlos X Belo, the Apostolic Administrator of Dili, among other national and international authorities, attended the inauguration ceremony.

The major displays were in three rooms. The first room held a photographic exhibition, subdivided in three sets. The first one, *Before*, showed the state of the attics and other public buildings holding documents as we saw them in the beginning. The second one, *East Timorese Working*, showed Timorese salvaging the documents at different stages. The third photographic display, *After*, showed the final work – rows of archival boxes waiting for final transfer and appraisal, and groups of maps and official publications.

The second room was devoted to samples of the documents found. Sets of documents were arranged according to the languages in which they were originally written, Portuguese and Bahasa-Indonesian. It was agreed that 60 documents

would be displayed in each set. The Portuguese documents were curated by Professor J Mattoso and, working closely with local staff, I selected the Bahasa-Indonesian documents. Simple brochures were distributed giving an explanation of each document (120 samples in total). Accordingly there were three sets of brochures: English, Portuguese and Bahasa-Indonesian.

In the third room there was an exhibition of black-and-white photographs found in one of the attics, samples of official publications and maps. These were displayed on tables. Along the walls were photographs of some public buildings, old Portuguese registration cards, and pictures, among other materials.

The closing ceremony was a well-attended half-day historical conference on East Timor. Lectures were given by Francisco de Menezes, a former Mayor of Dili, James Dunn, former Australian Consul in Dili to 1975, D. Sylvester Sennabulya, the Acting Head of the Archives, Jose Mattoso, a Portuguese historian from the Portuguese Mission, and Kevin Sherlock, an Australian researcher.

Exhibition impact

The exhibition was on display for one week. It was seen by locals, internationals, overseas journalists and special representatives. The foreign journalists reported and filmed everything. The impact could be seen from different points of view. First of all, our local staff they were perfectly conscious of the importance and dimensions of the event. From a national point of view, it was public education for all, from the chiefs of different ministries to the ordinary people. The events also received media commentary at national and international levels.

There were numerous positive effects for National Archives staff: self-confidence, recognising the importance of the archives, understanding the value of documents, changing their attitude towards their archival work, understanding the meaning and organisation of exhibitions, and providing sources for future programs. After the exhibition many staff suggested that we organise a second one as soon as possible. The major point was achieved. The staff had received their basic training on exhibitions. Best of all they expressed their own ideas.

It was one of the best rewards I have ever had in my professional life. The Archives staff were people with a different cultural and social pattern from us, educated for years under a system where personal opinion and decision-making were almost forbidden. Even we were surprised that they showed so much expertise and self-confidence.

Other successful aspects include prominent East Timorese leaders attending the inauguration ceremony, as well as UNTAET leaders who consistently supported

the Archives of East Timor. The exhibition also had an impact on international staff who needed to acquire basic knowledge about archives too. It is well known that the Mission also has records. Many international staff were confused about archives and misunderstood the main concept of the archives in Timor itself. One of the most important impacts was evidenced in our subsequent meeting regarding the Archives budget for fiscal year 2001-02: top decision-makers who had visited the exhibition demonstrated that their attitude towards the Division had significantly changed.

Looking forward

In these UNTAET years the Archives has managed to salvage almost 6,000 linear feet of surviving Portuguese and Indonesian language records in East Timor. Preservation and conservation matters, as well as appraisal, are pending issues. As far as English documents (1999+) are concerned, preservation and conservation arrangements were set up since the beginning with the support of UNTAET international staff as well as other international organisations and East Timor agencies.

Further training is still essential. During this first year, a general training course, 'Training for Records Keepers', was given to civil servants across the country in September 2000. A second course, 'Introduction to Records Keeping', was given in October 2001. I addressed one seminar on 'Preservation and Conservation', for archival staff only, in December 2001-January 2001. The basic point was to educate archival staff in preservation as a preventive measure to assure longevity of archival documents. The essential elements were discussed: security, building maintenance, holdings and public education. Special attention was given to disaster or emergency programs.

Training abroad started in June 2001. Two senior archival staff were sent to Portugal for six months. In October two staff were sent to the National Archives of Malaysia for two months. They received training in records management, conservation and bookbinding. In August 2001 I organised a study visit to Darwin.³ Its objectives were to be familiar with a fully operational repository (National Archives and Records Centre) and to be aware of the differences and similarities of libraries, museums and archives.

International and regional cooperation and assistance will be required for many years. A political decision as far as membership of archival associations is concerned is pending. Before I left ET at the end of April 2001, official information about

³ It was originally planned to visit Canberra however the budgetary situation forced us to change city, but not the project concept.

membership of the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the Pacific Regional Branch of the ICA (PARBICA) was given to the Foreign Minister's Legal Advisor Office as well as to the Minister of Internal Administration of East Timor Public Administration (ETPA). There is no doubt about their importance and positive effects. The international community had and will have an important role to play in supporting this new country and its newborn institutions.

Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives

Correspondent: Michael Hoyle, General Secretary, PARBICA

In early 2002 the PARBICA Bureau received a report and proposal for the development of a records and archives certificate at the University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji) prepared by consultants working for the International Records Management Trust (IRMT). This material marked significant progress in PARBICA's efforts to develop training in the Pacific. In early July PARBICA President, Seta Tale (National Archives of Fiji) and Secretary General, Michael Hoyle (Archives New Zealand) held discussion with representatives from the University to clarify a number of issues as well as provide an opportunity to work through what still needed to be done to get the certificate up and running. Funding for the trip came from the International Council on Archives.

While overall the meeting was constructive and there was a feeling that there had been progress, PARBICA still has a number of hurdles to clear before the University would proceed with a certificate. Discussion centred around a number of key issues including timeframes to establish the certificate, demand for the proposed certificate, budget and other funding issues, and long-term sustainability of the certificate. Despite feeling a little daunted, the PARBICA Bureau has decided to continue to work with USP as well as the IRMT consultants to progress work on the distance education project.

In Suva, the President and Secretary General held discussions with a number of other key people including:

- Mr Apisalome Tudreu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Reconciliation, Information and Media Relations. Covers broad records management issues, electronic recordkeeping, freedom of information and privacy laws, as well as the distance education project, were the main topics covered.
- Ms Chandra Chandar, Project Leader, Records Management Unit and Mr Petero Daurewa, Manager General Administration Services both

at the Reserve Bank of Fiji. A range of records issues were discussed including the introduction of TRIM records management software and the training of all Bank staff in its use.

- Staff at the National Archives of Fiji – where there was an examination of directions that Archives New Zealand is taking as set out in its *Statement of Intent for 2002-03* such as government recordkeeping, electronic records, E-Government and training for records and archives staff.

PARBICA is working hard to get a number of representatives to the IRMT/World Bank Forum on *Evidence Based Governance in the Electronic Age* which is being held in September in Johannesburg, South Africa. According to the invitations sent by the IRMT ‘the project is designed to coordinate a global network of institutions and organisations to provide support for modernising records management systems in parallel with measures to improve public sector management’.

In addition records management is viewed as ‘a core component of the World Bank’s strategy for effective development and poverty reduction’. The Forum will bring together senior officials, national archivists and records and archives educators to explore the issues involved with managing records to meet public sector requirements in computerised environments. PARBICA will be represented by archivists, or those with records responsibilities, from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Cooks Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa as well as the Secretary General from New Zealand who will attend in a resource and facilitator capacity.

Work has also commenced on the PARBICA 10 conference and training workshops which will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, in July 2003. A working party has been established with representatives from Archives New Zealand including individuals from the institution’s Pacific Island and Te Roopu Maori staff networks, the Alexander Turnbull Library, the National Library and the Victoria University. Funding discussions were held by the Secretary General and Treasurer, Kathryn Dan (National Archives of Australia), at a meeting held at State Records NSW prior to the ASA Conference in August. It is hoped that funds will be available for placements in New Zealand institutions for a limited number of delegates either before or after PARBICA 10. Wellington in July should provide Pacific island representatives with an interesting new perspective on living and working in a cold climate part of the Pacific! For more information: Michael.Hoyle@archives.govt.nz.

PARBICA Compendium of Pacific Archives Legislation

Correspondent: Kathryn Dan, Treasurer, PARBICA

The first detailed and comprehensive guide to archives and records laws throughout the Pacific Region has been published by the Pacific Regional Branch of International Council on Archives (PARBICA). From American Samoa to Vanuatu, and including New Zealand and Australian, the publication contains the legislation currently in use in twenty Pacific nations, states and territories. These range in origin from Hawaii's 1905 Law on Public Archives and Disposal of Records to the legislation passed in 2001 establishing the Guam Archives.

The 250-page guide, the *PARBICA Compendium of Pacific Archives Legislation*, was compiled and edited by Nancy Lutton, the Chief Archivist of the National Archives and Public Records Service of Papua New Guinea from 1989 to 1992. She was Editor of the Australian Society of Archivists' journal *Archives and Manuscripts* from 1982 to 1987. The PARBICA compendium was published in Canberra in May and costs A\$28.

Outgoing General Secretary of PARBICA, Evelyn Wareham, recommended the Compendium as 'a comprehensive source for archivists and legislators preparing, reviewing or studying archives legislation, and for students and scholars analysing archival frameworks in the Pacific region'. Mr Setareki Tale, PARBICA's President and National Archivist of Fiji, said the works provided valuable source material for those 'without a legal infrastructure for public records, for those that are planning on reviewing their legislation, and of course for those interested in the legal and administrative problems involved in the care of archives'.

The Compendium consists of fact sheets on each nation, state and territory providing insight into their constitutional status, geography, population, and administrative history that comprise the context for the various statutes. Information on the current state of preparations for recordkeeping legislation in a further three Pacific countries - Samoa, Nauru and Tonga - is also included. PARBICA member countries and states are American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Marianas, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

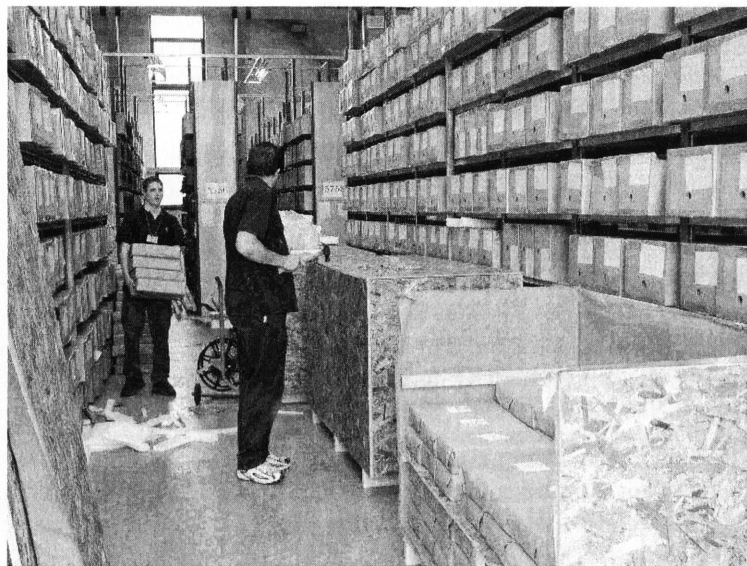
For further information, contact PARBICA officer Kathryn Dan at kathrynd@naa.gov.au. Order the Compendium from: PARBICA publications, c/o National Archives of Australia, PO Box 7425, Canberra Business Centre, ACT 2610, Australia, fax: +61 2 6212 3650.

Western Pacific Archive

Correspondent: Heather Yasamee, Head of Records and Historical Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

After more than 20 years in the United Kingdom, the Western Pacific Archive has arrived in Auckland where it will be open to researchers at the University from the end of the year. The collection captures a century's worth of the life and times of the Western Pacific Islanders through records, photographs, maps and other memorabilia over the period 1877–1978. For availability dates contact Stephen Innes, Special Collections Librarian, University of Auckland Library, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand (email: s.innes@auckland.ac.nz).

Copies of the Registers are being deposited with the National Archives of New Zealand and Australia, the Pacific Manuscript Bureau and the governments of Vanuatu, Tonga, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu. To mark the transfer, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have published a commemorative history, tracing the origins and development of the Western Pacific High Commission and reproducing a selection of documents from the WPHC archive. The publication will be mounted on the FCO's website at the end of the year, but in the meantime a limited number of hard copies are available on request to: rhd.fco@gtnet.gov.uk.



Packing the Western Pacific Archive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office repository, Milton Keynes, UK for shipment to Auckland University Library.

The transfer of the Western Pacific Archive is the result of several years of negotiation, review effort and physical preparation which includes substantial conservation work, by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Achieving a good home for the WPA, and making it conveniently accessible to those who have the most interest in researching it, has been a long-term objective for the FCO. The formal transfer of the archive to the University of Auckland in October 2002 gives all concerned a tremendous sense of satisfaction and we hope that the end of our tenure of the archive will mark the beginning of a renaissance in Western Pacific studies.

Contents

The WPA collections total some 1,700 feet of shelving. The bulk of these files belong to the Western Pacific High Commission Collection, which documents the daily routine business between the High Commissioner and his staff. It encompasses the full span of daily life in the High Commission, covering the social, political, economic, military, diplomatic, judicial and administrative aspects of the WPHC's business and the territories under its jurisdiction. In addition to the files of the WPHC, the records of the British Agent and Consul in Tonga (BCT) and the New Hebrides British Service (NHBS) have also, with the kind agreement of the governments of Tonga and Vanuatu, been transferred to Auckland.

The NHBS collection contains the correspondence of the Resident Commissioner with his District Agents and the High Commission itself. The BCT files, on the other hand, are slightly different, reflecting the unusual nature of Britain's relationship with Tonga, which was never a formal colony. The WPA also includes papers relating to Pitcairn, which continues to be an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. A copy set of Pitcairn papers in the WPHC files is therefore also kept in London, together with a separate small collection of Pitcairn territorial records which may be accessed by researchers on application to the Records and Historical Department of the FCO (enquiries to: rhd.fco@gtnet.gov.uk).

Background history

The history of the Western Pacific Archive is inextricably intertwined with that of the region it documents. The Western Pacific High Commission was established by Order in Council in 1877. For the first 75 years of its existence, it was located in Fiji, where the posts of High Commissioner and Governor of Fiji were held conjointly. A further Order in Council in 1893 vested the High Commissioner with executive and legislative powers and redefined his bailiwick, limiting it to territories under British control. By 1900 his responsibilities comprised the

Solomon Islands, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the New Hebrides, Tonga and Pitcairn. In 1952 the posts of High Commissioner and Governor of Fiji were separated and the WPHC moved to Honiara (where the High Commissioner became concurrently Governor of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate). The earlier records remained in Suva where they were administered as part of the newly created Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific.

When Fiji became independent in 1970, the Fijian records were transferred to its new government and the Central Archives were dissolved. The remaining collections then formed the newly established Western Pacific Archive. At this time the WPA comprised the files of the High Commission itself, together with records relating to the New Hebrides British Service (NHBS), the British Solomon Islands Protectorate (BSIP), the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony (GEIC), the British Agent - later Commissioner and Consul - Tonga (BCT) and Pitcairn (PIT). For the GEIC and BSIP, the WPHC collection contains virtually the only copies of correspondence with the High Commission up to 1942, the records of the two resident Commissioners having been almost totally destroyed during the Japanese invasion and occupation in World War II.

As the High Commissioner's responsibilities dwindled with the progress of the colonial territories to independence, the Western Pacific High Commission became increasingly redundant, and in 1978 the Western Pacific Archive itself



The Western Pacific Archive as it was when Dorothy Crozier was the first Archivist at the Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission, 1954-58

closed. The records of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands were sent to Tarawa (Kiribati) and Funafuti (Tuvalu); those of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate were sent to Honiara; and those of the Western Pacific High Commission were sent to London together with records relating to Pitcairn, Tonga and the New Hebrides. The WPHC records were sent to the United Kingdom in 1979 for safekeeping on the basis that they were British records of a British administration covering several territories at a historical stage when local participation was minimal. The FCO's records department received them reluctantly; recognising that future academic interest would continue to lie with the region, yet accepting a political decision that in the circumstances then prevailing only the UK could offer an undisputed safe home. Privately the intention was to return them to the region when practicable.

More than 20 years later this has finally been achieved. On 9 October the FCO transfers ownership of the WPHC collection to the University of Auckland. Associated collections are being deposited in parallel at Auckland with the consent of the governments concerned. Though the WPHC survives only in the pages of history, its archive remains, not only as an invaluable record of a unique period in the development of the region but also as a testament to those peoples – indigenous, settlers and administrators alike – who collectively made up the humanity of the Western Pacific. It is their story which this archive tells and which, in the careful custody of the University of Auckland, will continue to tell for many generations to come.

Yap State Archives, Federated States of Micronesia

Correspondent: Cheryl Stanborough, Yap State Archivist

I've been here for one month of my two-year appointment and in that time it is expected that I shall train the assistant archivist to take my place and do all the duties of an archivist, not the least of which is to encourage, plead, beg, bully and educate those government departments who are pretending that the archive doesn't exist to part with their records and to do so in an orderly manner – not just dump them in a heap on the floor outside my door! To quote my predecessor's experience:

I found such a gross, disgusting and enormous mess when I first arrived – and while obviously material must have come in batches (transfers) there was no way initially of telling what was what or where it had all come from. I am not sure what the inside of warehouse looks like at present but I can assure you that there were 'records' everywhere – mostly in huge collapsed heaps on the floor – some wet, some eaten away by termites, etc.

My background: I'm Australian, an archivist and an archaeologist – and I work at both, although I admit that my love is archaeology, not archives. The trouble with archives is every time I work in one I get drawn in, and in, and in, but then the same could be said of archaeology. So for me, two years as the Yap State Archivist is exciting. I get to pursue both at once!

Yap State is one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia. Yap proper is a small island some 100 square kilometres. Yap State consists of numerous small islands that can be reached by a ship that does a round trip about once every three weeks. A small plane provides a service to several of the outer islands. The people of Yap proper have a culture that is patriarchal while those of the outer islands have a culture based on a matriarchal structure. The villages on Yap proper have an hierarchy of prestige and importance: northern part of the island – high prestige, southern part – very low, but these people still see themselves as superior to those from the outer islands. This structure has far reaching consequences for a lowly archivist such as me. Where do those I answer to come from? Outer islands!

Housing: I am currently housed at the Blue Lagoon Apartments. The use of the term 'apartment' in this context is somewhat misleading as I have a bathroom and a room with a bed, TV and video, very small bar fridge and a two-burner electric stove of the type people buy for parties to keep additional food hot. At least I have hot water! I am supposed to be moving into something more permanent soon. Well that's what they said a month ago!

Transport: Fortunately I am within walking distance of the archive as public transport consists of the school bus which arrives in Colonia (population 1,100) at 7.30am and leaves at 5pm. Cars are a bit of a lottery here. Many are imported second-hand from Japan. It is not uncommon to see cars riddled with rust with more of the subframe showing than actual bodywork. I've been told that car ownership is a recent innovation, which is of concern as derelict cars litter the place and gave me the impression that car ownership has existed for some time.

The weather has surprised me. I expected it to be far hotter than it has been. This is the wet season and I expected hot and muggy with sleepless nights. And yes, it is hot, but it's bearable. I don't feel that my brains are frying every time I step out the door. Often a cool breeze blows which makes it very pleasant. We have just had two weeks of very intense rain, apparently the result of outer edge of a major cyclone further to the north. Whatever I say about the heat, I'll admit an aqua-aerobics class in the only pool on Yap every weekday afternoon goes down really well. It's also a great opportunity to meet people and may in the long run give me access to some rare photographs from the period of the German administration.

The archive is at present located in part of a concrete water tank constructed by the US in the 1950s and until recently used as a warehouse. My predecessor, Richard Overy described this in his article on the history of the Yap State Archives (*New Zealand Archivist*, vol. XII, no. 4, March 2002, pp. 2-9.) He was not exaggerating! The place is cramped and basically two rooms, one on top of the other with more of a ladder than a stair well between. Rats abound in the rest of the building and termites an ongoing major problem. Work has commenced on altering another small building, in a previous existence a print shop and prior to that, the hospital morgue that I hope to relocate to in November. I suspect we will outgrow it within 3-5 years.

There is one small stand-alone computer. My predecessor, Richard Overy selected TRIM for record management and I have been very fortunate as he communicates with me regularly and freely offers information and advice which is greatly appreciated. The huge amount of work he accomplished in the period he was here is truly staggering.

Apart from all the above, our biggest problem is distance, particularly its impact for supplies and technical assistance. For instance 500 archive boxes is roughly \$3,340 and shipping is \$2,000. That puts a very large hole in a very small budget.