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MOWCAP
UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form

Asia/Pacific Memory of the World

Register

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries
Assessed by: (Rujaya Abhakorn).....(date) .. / .. / (XXXXXX).....(date) .. / .. / (XXXXXX).....(date) .. / .. / (XXXXXX).....(date) .. / .. /	Decision: (circle as appropriate) 1. Recommended 2. Not recommended 3. Recommended subject to the following (attach additional comments if required):

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Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current *International Memory of the World Register*

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

and the [Australian Memory of the World Register](#) to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Please submit two complete document sets on paper (one original and one photocopied versions) and one electronically.

Completed nominations should be posted by mail and submitted electronically to reach the following address:

Ms Helen Swinnerton
 Secretary General of MOWCAP,
 1/F Tower 2 & 3, HSBC Centre, 1 Sham Mong Road, Kowloon
 Hong Kong
helen.swinnerton@gmail.com

The nomination form and any accompanying material will not be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at <http://www.unesco.mowcap.org>. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee (rujaya2000@yahoo.com). Please keep a copy of this form for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please also keep an electronic version of the completed form as we will need this for successful nominations to speed up entries onto the MOWCAP website.

Ray Edmondson
 Chair, MOWCAP

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Nomination form

Cook Islands Proclamation

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

A fragile and rare, one-paged document written in Maori, the language spoken by most of the population of the Cook Islands at that time, called the Proclamation (E Tutatua Akakite), signed by the Earl of Onslow, on 4th April, 1891, on behalf of the Queen of Great Britain & Ireland, placing a protectorate over the Cook Islands. This document marks the beginning of a relationship, which continues today with the Queen as the Head of State of the Cook Islands through the Governor General of New Zealand and the Cook Islands inheriting a Westminster parliamentary system. This is an extremely rare document and is believed to be the only one in the Cook Islands.

Its rarity and its significance in the creation of the modern Cook Islands are important reasons for the continued preservation of the document.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Cook Islands Library & Museum Society Incorporated

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Owner

2.3 Contact person(s)

Jean Mason

2.4 Contact details

Jean Mason

Cook Islands Library & Museum Society Inc

Ph: 00682-26468

tatau@oyster.net.ck or library

museum@cookislands.org.ck

Telephone

Facsimile

Email

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(682) 26468

tatau@oyster.net.ck

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

The document nominated is the Proclamation (*E Tuatua Akakite*) dated 4th day of April, 1891 whereby the Earl of Onslow on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, declares that it is unnecessary that native rulers cede their power to the British Crown, but instead the Cook Islands (at that time the southern islands of the group) shall be a Protectorate and Frederick Joseph Moss shall be the British Resident within the group. Although the Proclamation was made in 1888, it appears not to have been formalised until 1891

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

The document is catalogued R.5.08 namely it is the 5th document received by the Society, from Rarotonga, in the year 2008. The document is one page of fine foolscap paper with the proclamation written in the Cook Islands Maori language.

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

Photos

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

It is assumed the Proclamation was originally held by the Governor in New Zealand (appointed by the British Queen) but some time in the 1950s it was donated by Mr Geoffrey A. Neville, Resident Commissioner of the Cook Islands (appointed by New Zealand) to the Ngatangia *Are Korero* (house of culture/learning) where it hung for many years in a picture frame. Over time the picture frame deteriorated and eventually, in 2008, it was brought to the Society for preservation and safekeeping by Mr Iaveta Short, a former politician.

3.5 Bibliography

A bibliography demonstrates what others have independently said and written about the heritage you are nominating. It is best if you can cite scholars from several countries, rather than just your own country, and if they are authoritative voices clearly independent from

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both your own institution and UNESCO.

C.H.Davis record of Charles James Ward in “*Narrative of Charles James Ward of Rarotonga, Cook Islands*” published 1933 and held at the Mitchell Library, Sydney, Australia

“*The Cook Islands 1820-1950*” by Richard Gilson (ed. Ron Crocombe), Victoria University Press, Wellington, 1980

“*The Years of the Pooh-Bah*” by Dick Scott, Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, Auckland, 1991

“*Destiny Well Sown*” by Elsdon Craig, manuscript held by the Whakatane Museum & Historical Society, New Zealand.

“*Nation and Destination... Creating Cook Islands Identity*” by Jeffrey Sissons, Institute of Pacific Studies & University of the South Pacific, Fiji, 1999.

“*Southern Cook Islands History, Custom and Land Tenure Akapapa'anga korero tupuna e te Akono'anga Ture Enuua o te Pa Enuua tonga i te Kuki Airani*”, Ron Crocombe and Ross Holmes.

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Name	Qualifications	Contact details
1. Hon. Wilkie Rasmussen	MA (Anthropology) LLB (laws) Cook Islands Member of Parliament	(682) 29033
2. Makiuti Tongia	MA (Cook Islands Ethnologist)	(682) 22850
3. Prof. Jeffrey Sissons	BA (Hons), PhD	NZ 04 4636131

The referees you cite will be asked for their opinions. UNESCO may also contact other authoritative referees so that a good spectrum of opinion is available for assessment purposes.

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature

Full name (Please PRINT)

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Date

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name Cook Islands Library & Museum Society, Inc. **Address** P.O. Box 71 Avarua Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Telephone (682) 26468 **Facsimile** none **Email** librarymuseum@cookislands.org.ck

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name Cook Islands Library & Museum Society, Inc. **Address** As above

Telephone As above **Facsimile** **Email** As above

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

Although there is legislation to preserve traditional artefacts, there is no law governing the preservation or administration of the Proclamation, or other important or rare documents, for that matter.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

On request and by prior arrangement members of the public may view the Proclamation and obtain facsimile copies. There is a copy of the Proclamation on permanent display in the Museum.

Digital copies are available and there are no legal or cultural impediments on access.

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4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

Any copyright has expired with the elapse of time.

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

Yes – to the extent it can be. The history of ownership is fairly well established – primarily Government bodies, making fraud unlikely.

5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

The Proclamation is irreplaceable. It is of great importance to the people of the Cook Islands. It has had, in retrospect, positive and negative impacts on the Cook Islands. Today, Cook Islanders around the world, especially in places like Australia and New Zealand, continue to be influenced by this historic event.

Britain was at the time reluctant to expand its colonial commitments in the Pacific. However, It was Makea, a paramount chief on the island of Rarotonga, who sought the protection of the British Crown against a perceived French invasion at a time when Anglo-French relations were poor. New Zealand also placed pressure on the Colonial Office as it saw the Cook Islands as an important weight station in its trade. However, Britain remained coy on annexation and instead opted for a protectorate which would give the traditional leaders a considerable degree of autonomy while enjoying the protection of the British Crown.

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In the Cook Islands it led to a special relationship, which continues today, with the Queen of Great Britain still the Head of State of the Cook Islands through the Governor General of New Zealand and all Cook Islanders are New Zealand citizens although the Cook Islands is an independent nation with Westminster style democracy. Unlike many countries, the colonial history of the Cook Islands is not seen in a negative light by its citizens.

There are parallels with Niue but ongoing dependence with New Zealand is all but inevitable given the size of the nation. The relationship has parallels to, but is different from, the free association pacts Palau and Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia have with the USA. nationals of these states although entitled to work and live in the US are not US citizens. By contrast Cook Islanders are New Zealand citizens. Also, the practical reality of a heavy military presence in the Marshall Islands and Palau, coupled in the case of the Marshall Islands with issues of compensation arising from nuclear testing, means the historical relationship is a little less benign and more complicated than that which arose with Britain, and New Zealand, from the Proclamation in the Cook Islands.

It has had a great influence on the course of Cook Islands history, which on balance, has been mostly positive. The colonial administration was seen to moderate the excesses of protestant Christianity brought to the island by John Williams in 1823 while ensuring that land tenure would remain in the control of the native population and they would be protected from abuse and excesses of European traders. The Cook Islands evolved towards independence without the need for conflict as a catalyst for change.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

Time: Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

Yes. It was during the time the European powers were scrambling for colonies. A key reason for raising the British flag was to stave off the French in neighbouring French Polynesia, while the Proclamation itself was in part designed to placate the traditional leaders in the Cook Islands that Britain wished to supplement and not usurp their authority. The Protectorate was a balancing act aimed primarily at neutralising the Cook Islands to arrest expansion of French acquisitions from Tahiti.

It is also possible that anti-Roman Catholic sentiments in the local population were fanned by London Missionary Society missionaries who had been established in the Cook Islands for sixty years. At the time the LMS church had pervasive influence in the local community through its church-appointed magistrates and schools (the only schools at the time were church organised).

Also, at that time New Zealand was placing pressure on England to make annexations in

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Samoa, where German colonial interests were already entrenched, and in Tonga, where both Germany and France were active although no annexation took place. With a proposed Panama Canal to be constructed New Zealand was keen to secure the Cook Islands. By contrast Britain had had difficulties with France in the New Hebrides which it did not want to see repeated in the central south Pacific. Hence, while this event occurred in the age of imperialism, Britain was in respect of the Cook Islands, a 'reluctant coloniser'.

Place: Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

It is the location, the middle of the south Pacific, which gave rise to the document for the reasons outlined above. New Zealand wanted protection of a prospective trade route through the mooted Panama canal while Britain did not see a strategic interest in acquiring colonies in the middle of the Pacific.

People: Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development..It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

The document marks the beginning of the transition of a society governed by missionaries & traditional leaders to a secular Westminster style of governance. Initially the traditional leaders had trouble understanding what the Proclamation meant which is not surprising given, at the time, the Colonial Office in Britain was uncertain what it wanted from the islands. Initially, there was some restoration of traditional power as the status of traditional chiefs, the Ariki, was elevated - to some extent at the expense of the missionaries. Within two years a General Council had been formed on Rarotonga, the main island, made up of judges, Ariki and mataiapo (spokesmen for the chiefs). After this a federal legislature was formed. These councils quickly evolved into a mixture of traditional leaders and elected representatives of the kind which perpetuates in Tonga today. Over the next 65 years the nature of representation evolved to become more representative but even after self-rule in 1965 considerable residual powers were retained by the New Zealand High Commissioner, which were in colonial times held by the resident agent, but these were either abolished or transferred to the Cook Islands Queen's Representative in the immediate years after self-rule.

Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

It marks an enormous change to the administration and politics of the Cook Islands.

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Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

The proclamation is typical of its time and in a style no longer seen.

The document also has community significance especially amongst older citizens, students of history and the House of Ariki (council of chiefs).

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

It is rare and the document is special to the Cook Islands.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

The hand-signed one-paged, foolscap document (with a typed English translation from the same period) is yellowed with its edges disintegrating. In spite of this, it is a complete document.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

The Proclamation is yellowed with age and is disintegrating. It is made of fine paper common at the time and in a hot, humid climate like the Cook Islands with the Society's few resources it is difficult to preserve. It is so fragile it cannot be handled at present.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

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Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

The Alexander Turnbull Library and Te Papa Museum in New Zealand were approached to help preserve another document in the Society's collection but they were unable to assist. The difficulties relate primarily to ownership (and loss or damage of the item) while it is in their possession.

We do not presently have the funds or equipment to properly preserve the Proclamation.

8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register*.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

The Cook Islands UNESCO Commission Secretary-General, Sharyn Paio, supports this application. Mr Iaveta Short, the former custodian of the document, and Mr Sonny Williams, Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Development, as well as Mr M. Tongia, former Secretary-General (also former Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Development) have been consulted and all are supportive of the document's continued preservation.

The general view is this document marks one of the most important events in Cook Islands history, the effects of which are still being felt. It marks the beginning of the change from a church-based (LMS) system of governance to one of a secular Westminster style.

A century later, in 1988, on the anniversary of the centenary the event was celebrated with the installation of a monument in front of the main civic building in downtown Avarua (capital of Rarotonga, Cook Islands) by a representative of the British Government.

If the nomination is successful funds will be sought, from donors, to place a facsimile of the Proclamation in a stand-alone glass case where the status of the document on the Memory of the World Register will be prominently displayed on the plinth. Support from other sources for the preservation treatment of the document by a paper conservator will be sought. Information on the Proclamation and the significance of its inclusion in the MoW register will become part of the education programmes of the museum as well as being publicized in local news media and on the Society's website.

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9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MOWCAP website reviewed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8) |

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- Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required)
-
- Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records
-
- Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required)