United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Memory of the World

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):

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

Nomination form

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.

The Western Pacific Archives (WPA) comprises the records of the Western Pacific High Commission, from 1875 until 1978, and the territorial records of the British Agent and Consul, Tonga, and the New Hebrides British Service. The Commission's jurisdiction covered the Solomon Islands, New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony (now Kiribati and Tuvalu), Pitcairn, and Tonga. They provide an invaluable record, not only of the colonial administration, but also of the Pasifika peoples in these areas. Researchers have made intense use of the archives, and much of this research has resulted in published books and research articles.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Special Collections, University of Auckland Libraries and Learning Services

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Owner, custodian, and research services provider.

2.3 Contact person(s)

Stephen Innes
Special Collections Manager

2.4 Contact details

Name

Special Collections Manager

Address

General Library
The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142
New Zealand

Telephone
(649)923-8062

Facsimile
(649)373-7565

Email
s.innes@auckland.ac.nz

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

Western Pacific Archives

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Great Britain. High Commission for Western Pacific Islands. Western Pacific archives. 1875-1978. MSS & Archives 2003/1, Special Collections, University of Auckland Libraries and Learning Services

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

N/A

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

The Western Pacific High Commission was established by Order in Council in 1877 to extend British authority over British subjects in the islands of the southwest Pacific, then outside any formal colonial control. 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. Following the Berlin Congress of 1884-85, a further Order in Council in 1893 vested the High Commissioner with executive and legislative powers and re-defined his jurisdiction, 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.

Intended initially to control the more unruly and illegal activities of European traders and settlers (especially the labour traffic), the Commission over time became a vehicle for British imperial expansion generally, taking on comprehensive administrative functions in the New Hebrides, Gilberts and Solomons including health, taxation, communications, land policy, and public works.

In 1952 the posts of High Commissioner and Governor of Fiji were separated and the WPHC moved to Honiara, where the High Commissioner became Governor of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate in addition to his other duties. 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 records of the Governor of Fiji were transferred to the new government and the Central Archives were disbanded. The remaining collections then formed the newly established Western Pacific Archives. At this time the WPA comprised the files of the High Commission itself, together with records relating to the New Hebrides British Service, the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, the British Agent, later Commissioner and Consul, Tonga, and Pitcairn. As the High Commissioner's responsibilities diminished with de-colonisation, the Western Pacific High Commission became increasingly redundant and in 1978 the Western Pacific Archives closed.

Most of the post-WWII 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 (the pre-1941 records of the BSIP and GEIC were mostly destroyed in the war, but copies of many remain in the WPHC archives); and those of the Western Pacific High Commission were sent to London together with records relating to Pitcairn, Tonga and the New Hebrides.

When the High Commission closed in 1978, these records were transferred to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, pending a decision about a suitable repository in the Pacific area. Although suggestions were made from time to time, a permanent home for the records was not found until 2002, when they were transferred to the University of Auckland Library by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

3.5 Bibliography

Diamond, A. I. (1966). The Central Archives Of Fiji And The Western Pacific High Commission'. The Journal of Pacific History 1, 204-211.

Innes, S. (2007). From the archives : Western Pacific Archives in their new home. The Journal of Pacific History, *42* (2), 265-273.

Rogers, Frank. (1986). Western Pacific and Western Pacific High Commission Archives, Archifacts, 1986/1, 10-12.

Scarr, Deryck. (1967). 'Official – Manuscripts. A. Central Archives of Fiji and the Western Pacific High Commission.' In his *Fragments of Empire : a history of the Western Pacific High Commission, 1877-1914* (pp. 341-343). Canberra, 1967.

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

Name	Qualifications	Address
Professor Judith A. Bennett	BA, BEd, (Queensland) Dip Ed Developing Countries (UPNG), MA (Hawaii), Ph.D. (Australian National University, Canberra).	Department of History University of Otago P.O. Box 56 Dunedin 9054 New Zealand judy.bennett@otago.ac.nz
Associate Professor Hugh Laracy (retired)	MA (Victoria University of Wellington, PhD (Australian National University)	4 Alton Ave Northcote Auckland 0627 New Zealand hughlaracy@gmail.com
Professor Clive Moore, Cross of the Solomon Islands.	BA, PhD (James Cook University)	School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics University of Queensland Brisbane Queensland 4072 Australia c.moore@uq.edu.au

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

R. S. Inn

Full name (Please PRINT)

ROBERT STEPHEN INNES

Date

18 November 2013

4 Legal information

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

Name	Address
Special Collections Manager General Library The University of Auckland Libraries and Learning Services	Private Bag 92019 Auckland 1142 New Zealand

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
(649)923-8062	(649)373-7565	s.innes@auckland.ac.nz

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

Name	Address

Telephone	Facsimile	Email

4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage.

Owned by the University of Auckland Libraries and Learning Services, having been transferred by the Secretary Of State For Foreign And Commonwealth Affairs (UK) to the University Library, by virtue of presentation of presentation under Section 3(6) of the Public Records Act 1958, in October 2002.

The University was established in 1883, and is constituted under the University of Auckland Act 1961. No specific legal requirements regarding preservation apply to these archives, which are excluded from the coverage of the Public Records Act 2005 as a "special collection" under Section 4.

4.4 Accessibility

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

Intellectual access is provided through finding aids available in the Special Collections Reading Room, and also online through finding aids linked from records in the Library's catalogue. Physical access to the collection is provided in the Special Collections Reading Room and the Microtexts Room, the latter when microfilm copies are available.

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

Access to the records is restricted, requiring permission of the Special Collections Manager and written consent to adhere to special conditions aimed at preserving privacy and preventing damage, misuse or unauthorised copying. Access is not confined to members of The University of Auckland, and indeed the collection has been heavily used by all kinds of researchers. The collection is stored off-site in a commercial storage facility, and requested items are normally available within a 12 to 24-hour period.

4.5 Copyright status

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

The copyright status is complex, but a large proportion of the material is covered by the crown copyright provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 (UK).

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. The provenance and custodial history is unquestionable, as the WPA were British public records prior to their transfer to the Library under Section 3(6) of the UK Public Records Act 1958, in October 2002.

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?

This archive has great significance to the Western Pacific as it documents the colonial administration of the region for over a century. Over time, the Western Pacific High Commission (WPHC) took on comprehensive administrative functions in the territories it governed, including health, taxation, communications, land policy, and public works, so without its records, much of the history of the region would be lost.

The collection is of enormous value in recording both the political and economic history of the region, but is also a treasure for Pacific Island peoples, both in New Zealand and in their respective homelands. Today, these records are consulted by academics, indigenous and European, on topics ranging from depopulation and forest history to sports and food consumption changes, as well as by private citizens seeking details of their ancestors.

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")**

Represents the final stages of British colonial expansion and the twilight of empire in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and provides insights into the process of decolonisation.

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?**

The WPA is the sole archive of the records of the Western Pacific High Commission Secretariat, the territorial records of the British Agent and Consul, Tonga, and the New Hebrides British Service. The archives are essential to understanding the history and peoples of this region.

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.**

An invaluable record of indigenous peoples and their responses to colonial incursion and the introduction of Western civilization. This is reflected in the range of research conducted in the WPA on such topics as cargo cults, native medical practice, and intermarriage. It also reflects the nature of colonial administration and attitudes of the colonial authorities and expatriates.

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.**

Again, the "twilight of empire" theme is strongly reflected in the collection, but with a focus on the unique situation of the Western Pacific.

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.**

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?**

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

The collection has been well preserved and managed by professional archivists for much of its history, and as a result appears to be a very complete record of the history of the region.

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.**

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

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.

Preservation of the archives is achieved by the following means:

- the entire collection has been transferred to acid-free containers.
- storage conditions meet Archives New Zealand's *Storage standard* (2007).
- storage facility complies with handling and transit procedures
- staff provide guidance to readers in handling material, and appropriate supports (cushions, gloves, etc)
- all of the early correspondence and associated records (1875-1936) have been microfilmed to preservation standards in an ongoing project
- selected at-risk items are digitised to preservation standards

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.

Apart from the measures listed in the previous section, Special Collections applies a range of preservation strategies to individual items as they become necessary, and generally follows the Library's *Preservation Guidelines* – see attached (draft revision 2013).

Access is provided in a supervised, closed-access reading room, which is air-conditioned and also has CCTV surveillance. Readers sign a general access agreement, and a specific agreement applying to this collection (see attachments).

The materials are mostly described to the folder level, but sometimes to the item level, through finding aids in the reading room. These are based on the legacy finding aids compiled in Fiji during the 1960s and 1970s, but the standards largely comply with the current standards used to describe archival materials in the Library, *Describing archives : a content standard.* Chicago, Society of American Archivists, 2004, and the *General International Standard Archival Description* (ISAD (G)).

The finding aids have all been digitised and entered into the archival management system, the Archivists' Toolkit, which can output files in the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) format. The finding aids are accessible to anyone over the Internet via links to the catalogue records in the Library's Voyager catalogue: http://voyager.auckland.ac.nz/.The Library is investigating a public interface for the finding aids which will enable keyword searching across the whole collection, rather than by individual finding aid as at present.

9 Checklist

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

☑	MOWCAP website reviewed
☑	Introduction read
☑	summary completed (maximum100 word) (section 1)
☑	Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)
☐	If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified
☑	Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)
☑	History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4)
☑	Bibliography completed (section 3.5)
☑	Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)
☑	Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6)
☑	Details of owner completed (section 4.1)
☐	Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2)
☑	Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)
☑	Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)
☑	Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)
☑	Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1)
☑	Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2)
☑	Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3)
☑	Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6)
☑	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)
☑	Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8)

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.
2013	Western Pacific Archives	14

☐	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)

Attachments:

PRESERVATION GUIDELINES_Final_draft.docx
Notes for Users Form 0313.pdf
Reader's Register 022013.pdf
Reader's WPA Form 0313.pdf
Sample finding aid (WPHC 22)
WPAGuide31May2012.pdf
SpecialCollectionsGuide.pdf
DPPlan_Jun2013.pdf