

Resources

Melanesian Studies at the University of California, San Diego

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Over the last decade, anthropologists and librarians at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) have been engaged in the important task of gathering published and unpublished materials about Melanesia. These efforts have been carried out under the auspices of two organizations, the Melanesian Studies Resource Center and the Melanesian Archive. This article will present a summary of the history and roles of these organizations, followed by a description of some of the highlights of the collections.

THE MELANESIAN ARCHIVE

The Melanesian Archive was started in 1982 by Donald Tuzin and Fitz John Poole, both faculty members of the department of anthropology at UCSD. The archive is dedicated to the collection, preservation, dissemination, and repatriation of unpublished materials on all aspects of Melanesian society, culture, linguistics, and history.

The archive's collections are built primarily through direct solicitation of materials from Melanesian scholars. Authors are urged to give copies of their unpublished works to the archive and, if possible, to grant open access to their works and permission to make microfiche copies. Any restrictions deemed necessary by authors are honored, however, and authors retain copyright, including the right to publish at a later date. The archive also includes collections obtained by gift from the estates of deceased scholars.

The ethical imperative for anthropologists and other scholars to reciprocate

the privilege of conducting research in Melanesian countries has become a sensitive issue in recent years. One of the most important means of reciprocation is the repatriation of research products. This concern was a major impetus in the establishment of the Melanesian Archive. The Melanesian Archive seeks not only to obtain copies of unpublished materials for its own collections, but also to obtain permission from the authors to disseminate these materials by means of microfiche copies. Free sets of these microfiche are deposited in selected research libraries in Melanesia on a continuing basis. Approximately three hundred fifty documents have been microfiched to date. This function of the Melanesian Archive has positive ramifications for scholarly relations between Melanesian countries and the overseas research communities, for the development of libraries and archives in the region, and, ultimately, for the future of Melanesian scholarship.

Libraries that receive the microfiche sets include the National Library of Papua New Guinea, the University of Papua New Guinea, the University of Technology (Papua New Guinea), the Solomon Islands National Library Service, the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education, the University of the South Pacific (centers in Suva, Honiara, and Port Vila), the South Pacific Commission (New Caledonia), the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, and the Universitas Cenderawasih (Irian Jaya).

Microfiching achieves another important objective, that of preserving these unique items and assuring their

continued existence for future generations. Many of the texts are at risk in their original formats, as paper becomes brittle and inks fade. The tropical conditions under which some materials were recorded make them particularly vulnerable to deterioration. The Melanesian Archive extends this preservation function to other formats, including tape recordings, photographs, and films, by copying to other media and ensuring the best possible storage conditions.

Scholars may obtain access to the Melanesian Archive by visiting UCSD or by ordering microfiche documents by mail at nominal cost. Most of the collections are available for unrestricted use. A few items have restrictions placed on access by their authors, usually for the protection of informants or because of other concerns about confidential matters.

An automated database of the Melanesian Archive has been created using Pro-Cite software, which allows for searching by author, title, keyword, and subject. Free searches are performed by archive staff on request. Copies of the database are available on floppy disk. New additions to the archive are cited in an annual accessions list, to which subscriptions are free. Catalogs of the microfiche produced by the archive are published regularly.

For more information about the Melanesian Archive, please contact:
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THE MELANESIAN STUDIES RESOURCE CENTER

In 1983, with the creation of the Melanesian Studies Resource Center, the Melanesian Archive became part of a larger cooperative venture with the Central University Library at UCSD. The original focus on unpublished materials was broadened, and ambitious plans were laid to build a major collection of published works on or of relevance to Melanesian anthropology. The first three years of this project were generously funded by the US Department of Education, under Title II-C of the Higher Education Act. Current funding is provided by the UCSD Library and campus administration. The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research has supplied additional funding.

The Melanesian Studies Resource Center's holdings are integrated with the general and special collections of the Central University Library and are open to the public. The collections are fully cataloged. Specialized reference assistance for visitors is provided by the center staff. Reference service is also available by telephone or correspondence.

For more information about any aspect of the Melanesian Studies Resource Center, please contact:

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COLLECTIONS OF THE MELANESIAN ARCHIVE

The collections of the Melanesian Archive include field notes, word lists, genealogies, folklore, conference papers, tape recordings and transcripts, photographs, and videos. Some of the more extensive collections are described here.

The papers of the late John Layard, author of *Stone Men of Malekula*, were given to the Melanesian Archive in 1989 by his son, Richard Layard. Of particular interest to Melanesian scholars is the large body of unpublished writings concerning Layard's field work on the island of Atchin (off the coast of Malekula, Vanuatu) in 1914-1915. These materials include his field notes and photographs, as well as an unpublished book-length typescript on the kinship system and social organization of Atchin, and other incomplete texts.

A. L. and T. S. Epstein's field notes on research among the Tolai people of Matupit, New Britain, address visits from 1959 to 1961. The collection also includes statistical records and census reports, as well as computer tapes and related documentation for produce market studies in various locations throughout Papua New Guinea.

Bruce Knauff's field notes are a record of anthropological research among the Gebusi people of Papua New Guinea's Western Province from 1980 to 1982. The notes, written by Knauff and his wife, Eileen Cantrell, detail their investigations into concepts of social structure, kinship, and culture. The Gebusi spirit world was an area of special investigation, an interest

reflected in transcripts of séances and other rituals. Also of note are Eileen Cantrell's records on climate, food supply, and subsistence gardening.

The papers of Hal and Peta Colebatch, Australian political scientists who lived and taught in Papua New Guinea in the late 1960s and 1970s, are another important resource. The collection includes the Colebatches' own writings, together with many papers written by other authors. Political and social issues in Papua New Guinea are the principal topics, with special focus on the 1968 House of Assembly elections, local government, and rural development.

In 1991, the papers and library of the late Edwin Cook will be added to the collection. Cook, who worked among the Manga people of Papua New Guinea's Western Highlands Province in the 1960s and 1970s, was one of the first anthropologists to make use of the Rorschach Psycho-diagnostic Test and the Thematic Apperception Test in Papua New Guinea, and there is extensive documentation on these subjects. The collection also includes field notes, linguistic materials, tape recordings, genealogical tables, and photographs, as well as several hundred monographs from Cook's personal library. This collection is the gift of his widow, anthropologist Susan Pflanz-Cook.

COLLECTIONS OF THE MELANESIAN STUDIES RESOURCE CENTER

One of the most comprehensive extant collections of published works on Melanesia has been gathered by the staff of the Melanesian Studies Resource Center. In addition to

anthropological works, extensive breadth has been built in history, linguistics, missionary accounts, colonial literature, and other social sciences. The collection is strong in current as well as retrospective titles. Materials in the English, French, German, and Dutch languages are especially well represented. Formats include monographs, dissertations and theses, serials, newspapers, videos, and microforms. A notable omission is current government publications: scholars in need of such documents are referred to the excellent collection at the University of Hawaii.

The Melanesian Studies Resource Center has gathered extensive microform sets of archival materials from other institutions. Foremost among these are patrol reports from Papua New Guinea, which contain a wealth of original sources pertinent to the history and ethnography of the country, including the accounts of patrols in first-contact situations.

Microfilmed patrol reports and station records for the pre-World War II period were obtained from the Australian Archives, under special agreement with the Papua New Guinea National Archives. These reports, numbering in the thousands, have been indexed by the center's staff and are available for use at the library. This is the only copy of these reports held outside Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The National Archives and Public Records Service of Papua New Guinea and the Melanesian Studies Resource Center are cooperating in a major project to microfiche and index more than thirty thousand patrol reports held in Papua New Guinea. These reports

cover the period from post-World War II through the mid-1970s. The center is supplying microfilm and chemicals for the project and center staff are compiling the index. When the project is finished, complete microfiche sets of the patrol reports will be held at the national archives and at the center. Access to the microfiche reports is open. The microfiche are available for purchase from the National Archives of Papua New Guinea, as a complete set or by individual subdistrict.

The Melanesian Studies Resource Center has participated in other microfilming projects as well. The center is one of eight members of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau at the Australian National University. Membership in the bureau underwrites the costs of the bureau's extensive microfilming activities, providing important support for preservation of archives and manuscript materials throughout the Pacific Islands. A set of the bureau's microfilms is available at UCSD. These microfilms cover a broad range of materials and subjects, from missionary records to personal diaries. The center also supported the bureau's Oceania Marist Province Archives project, which microfilmed the Catholic mission's records of its activities in New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna.

The center holds many other large microform sets from a variety of sources. These include, for example, records from the British Colonial Office, archives of several missionary organizations, Dutch-language colonial reports on Irian Jaya, unpublished French-language ethnographic works on New Caledonia (including materials

by Maurice Leenhardt), extensive sets of governmental and private archives microfilmed by the National Archives of Fiji, and nineteenth-century American diplomatic correspondence for the region. Some unusual cartographic resources in microform are also held, including US Navy nautical charts of Melanesia drawn between 1917 and 1975, charts of the major national surveying expeditions to the Pacific from 1768 to 1842, and World War II-era aerial photos of the Pacific Islands from the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. The last set includes some sixty-four thousand photos on seventy reels of microfilm, of which about half are of Melanesia.

Dissertations and theses are another important component of the Melanesian collection at UCSD. More than seven hundred titles have been added so far, from universities in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, England, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. New titles are continually being added. Most of these works may be borrowed on interlibrary loan.

OTHER COLLECTIONS AT UCSD

Two other collections at UCSD are of considerable interest to Melanesian scholars. The Kenneth E. Hill Collection of Pacific Voyages includes more than two thousand accounts of Pacific voyages from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. Many reports by anthropologists, botanists, zoologists, and other scientists who accompanied the explorers are also held. Eighteenth-century British scientific and exploratory expeditions are particularly well

represented. The Hill Collection is housed in the Mandeville Department of Special Collections. For a more detailed description, see the annotated bibliography of the collection entitled, *The Hill Collection of Pacific Voyages* (La Jolla: University Library, University of California, San Diego, 1974-1982).

Another important collection at UCSD is the library of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the largest marine science library in the world. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century scientific expedition reports, including the Challenger Expedition, are one of the special strengths of the collection. There are extensive holdings of published materials on the marine environment, geology, and natural history of the Pacific Islands. Scripps also holds a comprehensive collection of contemporary hydrographic charts for the Pacific Islands from the US Defense Mapping Agency, and the national hydrographic agencies of Britain, France, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia, as well as some historic charts.

CONCLUSION

The wonderful resources for Melanesian studies at UCSD have been gathered with the international scholarly community in mind. It is hoped that conditions of open access to the collections, availability of interlibrary loans, and the microfiche copying and repatriation program will encourage scholars to use these unique collections and to consider giving copies of their own unpublished materials to the Melanesian Archive.

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