

Resources

Pacific Anglicanism: Online Bibliographical Resources

TERRY M BROWN

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In this brief report, I put forward the range of bibliographical resources about Pacific Anglican church history currently available, especially online. (The Internet addresses [URLs] for the websites mentioned in this report are summarized in the appendix.) My relationship has been primarily with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (previously known as the Melanesian Mission, the Diocese of Melanesia, and the Church of Melanesia), with dioceses in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu/New Caledonia. However, the report also speaks to bibliographical resources concerning the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Sāmoa, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island, and Hawai'i.

When I first came to Solomon Islands to teach at Bishop Patteson Theological Centre in 1975, I used resources available in the college library and briefly overlapped as staff with John Pinson, a priest-librarian-archivist who was working on a bibliography of publications of the Melanesian Mission Press and its heirs from 1855 to 1975. That bibliography, titled "How Can You Sing the Lord's Song without a Book"—is now online at http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/pinson_bibliography.pdf. It and Sally Edridge's *Solomon Islands Bibliography to 1980* (1985) are invaluable resources for Solomon Islands history.

After fifteen years in Canada, I returned to Solomon Islands in 1996 as Anglican bishop of Malaita. In preparation for writing the chapter on the history of liturgy in the Anglican Church of Melanesia for the *Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer: A Worldwide Survey* (Hefling and Shattuck 2006), I returned to the college library only to discover that many of the books and pamphlets I had previously used were missing. Some of these I found in the archives of the Church of Melanesia (material up to 1975; John Pinson had also organized this collection), which

were on deposit in the National Archives of Solomon Islands in Honiara. I also discovered some material on the Anglican history website, Project Canterbury (www.anglicanhistory.org), which had been operating for a few years under the direction of its founder, a young Episcopal lay scholar, Richard Mammana. I wrote him, and we decided to develop an Oceania directory on the site.

The result, about seven years later, is “Anglicanism in Oceania”—an extensive array of online resources on the Anglican Church in Solomon Islands, New Hebrides/Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Sāmoa, Tonga, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island, and Hawai‘i (<http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/>). The site includes many primary resources that are difficult to find in libraries as well as modern scholarly work such as doctoral dissertations by anthropologists working in Anglican communities in the Pacific. The whole Project Canterbury site continues to grow, is worldwide in scope, and tries to include all eras and theological traditions of Anglican/Episcopal practice, from Evangelical to Catholic. The site is very popular and has somewhere between 6 and 7 million hits per year. I am both an Episcopal patron and a contributing director, the latter in recognition of the sometimes tedious work of scanning fragile pages to make sure they endure and are widely available. US copyright law means that anything published before 1923 can be put online without restriction, but later material requires the permission of author and/or publisher. We have especially tried to include research by local Anglican scholars and private memoirs of Anglican missionaries, whether published or unpublished.

However, the story does not quite end there. As I used the Church of Melanesia archives, I discovered that the finding guide did not correspond well with what was there. I had the frequent experience of asking archives staff for one item in the guide only to be told it was missing; then the next week, when I asked for something else, the missing item would surface. As I was moving toward retirement as diocesan bishop in August 2008, I proposed to the Council of Bishops that I stay on as a volunteer archivist for the Church of Melanesia, with a special focus on the pre-1975 collection. The bishops agreed for me to stay on for four years, 2009–2012. I then approached the director of the Solomon Islands National Archives, Julian Chonigolo, with the proposal and asked for only two things: free access to the repository and some workspace. She kindly agreed, and I have been working there ever since.

In the last four years, I have worked through the collection and pre-

pared a new finding guide, now almost complete. It includes new material added after 1975 but before my arrival in 2009. In the process there have been exciting discoveries, many of which we have uploaded to the Oceania directory of Project Canterbury. These have included a journal of New Zealander Charles Hunter Brown written as he accompanied Bishop John Selwyn on his first visit as diocesan bishop to the islands in 1877 (mislabelled in the original finding guide as being by Selwyn himself) and many sermons and other items, often published by the Melanesian Mission Press on Norfolk Island or Guadalcanal. I have also been able to provide much material to visiting scholars, correspondents, and local researchers, whether from the theological college or local high schools. Recently I have done color scans of all the Bishop John Coleridge Patteson manuscripts in the collection (letters, a sermon, his 1866 voyage journal) and am depositing an electronic copy of them in the St John's College Library in Auckland.

I have also been collecting material and adding to the archives, for example, the papers of the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia (1978 to present); papers of missionaries and local clergy; and periodicals runs, especially after the English and New Zealand editions of the *Southern Cross Log* (which began in 1895) ceased publication. (The archive has a nearly complete run of the New Zealand/Australia edition and a three-quarters run of the English edition. Both runs need digitization, a task beyond me, although many articles of note are available on Project Canterbury.) Because they seemed endangered or simply stored away without care in their various sites, I have also made a collection of Melanesian Mission/Diocese of Melanesia/Church of Melanesia/Anglican Church of Melanesia-related small publications (booklets, pamphlets, tracts, etc, published in Melanesia or elsewhere) from 1857 to the present, separated into two catalogs that are divided at 1975, the year the Anglican Church of New Zealand Diocese of Melanesia became the autonomous Church of the Province of Melanesia. The Melanesian Mission/Diocese of Melanesia (1857–1974) catalog contains 490 items; the Church of Melanesia/Anglican Church of Melanesia (1975–2012) catalog contains 270. These catalogs are now available in PDF form on Project Canterbury. Publications are in English and Oceanic language vernaculars, especially Mota, a Banks Islands language that was the lingua franca of the Melanesian Mission.

The catalogs have also come to include Anglican publications pertaining to Papua New Guinea and Polynesia as well as some ecumenical pub-

lications. Much so-called gray literature is included, as the Melanesian Mission Press and its heirs did considerable commercial work. I have also compiled a third catalog of early Solomon Islands Roman Catholic, South Seas Evangelical Church, and Methodist/United Church publications collected from various sources. All three catalogs total about 800 collected items, 120 of which have been digitized. It is probably the largest collection in the world on its subject.

Hosted by the same server as Project Canterbury is the Book of Common Prayer website (<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/>). We have been adding Pacific-language translations of Anglican liturgies from the Anglican Church of Melanesia archives and elsewhere to the world subdirectory of the site at <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/world.htm>. Currently digitized there are liturgies in twenty-four languages of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, with additional vernacular liturgies from Papua New Guinea, Polynesia, and Hawai'i. We continue to add new vernacular liturgies to this site. In many cases—Savo, Russell Islands, Arosi, Bugotu, and many others—this is the only place on the Internet where digitization of these languages has occurred. Indeed, the Project Canterbury and Book of Common Prayer websites probably contain more Pacific-vernacular digitized publications than any other site on the Internet. It is hoped that this digitization will help the survival of these sometimes-endangered languages.

Also involved in this story is the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU) in Canberra. They had done some earlier microfilming of the Diocese of Melanesia collection before it reached the National Archives, but for some reason further permission had been withheld. However, the Church of Melanesia agreed for the microfilming to resume, and PAMBU has been steadily working away on the collection, visiting every year. Their website (<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/>) includes a catalog of what they have done. They have also kindly supplied archives boxes. Island Culture Archival Support in California has also kindly supplied folders and acid-free envelopes and sheets for old photographs and albums. The archive includes a good collection of photos of the Tasmanian photographer J W Beattie, who visited Melanesia in 1906. I have digitized about five hundred of these. A pleasant surprise was that three Diocese of Melanesia films (from 1947–1963) that were on reels were converted to video format in New Zealand before I arrived; I have since arranged for these to be converted to DVD format and have distributed them widely. We recently acquired from the New Zealand Film Archive a DVD of portions of George

H Tarr's 1922 film made for the Melanesian Mission, *Ten Thousand Miles with the Southern Cross*.

With the renewed involvement of PAMBU, in 2009 the Anglican bishop of Vanuatu, James Ligo, asked whether we would assist with sorting and archiving about a hundred boxes of diocesan papers in very bad shape, heaped up in the diocesan office in Luganville, Santo. Ewan Maidment from PAMBU and I first visited in 2009 and, over the last four years (Kylie Moloney came from PAMBU in 2010), have slowly organized and selectively microfilmed the collection. I have recently produced a small catalog of the collection, which is now well preserved and boxed, though there is still much sorting to do. The catalog is available from me at terrymalaita@yahoo.com.

Finally, one other scholar is to be mentioned. In the midst of all of the above activities, I began to correspond with a New Zealand priest-historian, Fr Michael Blain, who was working on the Blain Biographical Directory, a prosopographical study of Anglican clergy of the Anglican Church of New Zealand (including the dioceses of Melanesia and Polynesia) ordained before 1931. The most recent edition is available on Project Canterbury at http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/blain_directory/. This is projected as the final edition, though we continue to make additions to the master copy. I have been able to assist Michael with biographical details on the Melanesian clergy from resources in the archives. In the process, we both became interested in the clergy of the pre-annexation Anglican Diocese of Honolulu, operating as a mission of the Church of England. Michael has produced a prosopographical study of these clergy, which can be found at http://anglicanhistory.org/hawaii/blain_directory.pdf. Project Canterbury already had an extensive Anglicanism in Hawai'i directory at <http://www.anglicanhistory.org/hawaii/index.html>.

This digitizing has recently extended to Anglican clergy in Australia. Michael has assisted Leonie Cable in digitizing the vast card file of Australian Anglican clergy up to 1961, which she and her late husband, Ken Cable, had compiled. Included in this resource are early Papua New Guinea Anglican clergy (the Diocese of New Guinea was part of the Australian Church of Australia until 1978) and Australian Anglican missionaries in the Pacific. It is now online at <http://anglicanhistory.org/aus/cci/>. Because of privacy concerns, a one-hundred-year rule has been invoked and full details are available only on clergy born before 1912. Others are included by name and date and diocese of ordination only.

I hope that what I have done endures. Though my attempt to get the

Anglican Church of Melanesia to construct an archives building has not succeeded to date, I believe the collection is now secure in the National Archives of Solomon Islands. As I have returned to Canada, the Anglican Church of Melanesia Council of Bishops has agreed to hire a part-time archivist to look after the collection. Perhaps most important, even if the fragile papers or rare documents do not survive the tropical climate and insects, they have at least been recorded and digitized for future generations.

References

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1985 *Solomon Islands Bibliography to 1980*. Suva: Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific.

Hefling, Charles, and Cynthia Shattuck, editors

2006 *The Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer: A Worldwide Survey*. New York: Oxford University Press.

APPENDIX Online Resources regarding the Anglican Church in Oceania

Resource	Description	URL
How Can You Sing the Lord's Song without a Book	bibliography of publications of the Melanesian Mission Press and its successors, 1855–1975	http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/pinson_bibliography.pdf
Project Canterbury	out-of-print Anglican texts and related modern documents worldwide	http://www.anglicanhistory.org
Anglicanism in Oceania	resources about the Anglican/ Episcopal Church in many Pacific Islands	http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/
Book of Common Prayer, world subdirectory	Pacific-language translations of Anglican liturgies from the Anglican Church of Melanesia archives and elsewhere	http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/world.htm
Pacific Manuscripts Bureau	microfilms of materials from the Diocese of Melanesia	http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/

 APPENDIX Online Resources regarding the Anglican Church in Oceania (*continued*)

Resource	Description	URL
Blain Biographical Directory of Anglican Clergy in the South Pacific	detailed list of Anglican clergy of the Anglican Church of New Zealand (including the dioceses of Melanesia and Polynesia) ordained before 1931	http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/blain_directory
Blain Biographical Directory of Anglican Clergy in the Diocese of Honolulu 1862–1902	detailed list of clergy of the pre-annexation Anglican Diocese of Honolulu	http://anglicanhistory.org/hawaii/blain_directory.pdf
Anglicanism in Hawai'i	resources related to the history of the Anglican Church in Hawai'i	http://www.anglicanhistory.org/hawaii/index.html
Cable Clerical Index	index of more than 6,570 Australian Anglican Clergy serving in 1788–1961, including those serving in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere in the Pacific	http://anglicanhistory.org/aus/cci/
