
NOHANZ

Newsletter

Volume 15, number 1

MARCH 2001

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Calling all members...

We would like to hear what you are working on. Please share your stories, successes, proposed projects, challenges, etc., with us.

Send to:

NOHANZ
P.O. Box 3819
WELLINGTON

Or e-mail to:
megan.hutching@mch.govt.nz

NOHANZ news

With this newsletter you will find your sub renewal notice, and a registration form for our conference in Wellington. We hope that you will attend.

We will also be holding our general meeting at the conference—on Saturday 2 June. See p. ?? for the agenda. We are calling for nominations for President, Secretary and Treasurer. Send them to P O Box 3819, Wellington. You will need to include the person's acceptance of the nomination.

We hope to have our web site up and running before too long. If you have any suggestions for things that you would find useful on the site, let us know.

NOHANZ Biennial General Meeting Agenda

- ▲ Apologies
- ▲ Confirmation of the minutes of the last General Meeting (5 June 1999)
- ▲ Matters arising
- ▲ Annual report
- ▲ Financial report
- ▲ Election of officers
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - appointment of committee
- ▲ General business

A report of the General Meeting held on 5 June 1999 can be found in the June 1999 issue of the NOHANZ newsletter.

Recent accessions at the Oral History Centre

Selected acquisitions 2000

Please note that some of these collections may have restrictions on their use. Ring or email the Oral History Centre for details: 04 4743000 or jocelyn.chalmers@natlib.govt.nz

**Aroha Trust oral history project.* Fourteen interviews by Pip Desmond with women in this Trust which was a co-operative of women associated with Wellington gangs in the late 1970s.

**Back to the drawing board' : Hamilton architects oral history project.* Nineteen interviews with these architects. Commissioned by the Hamilton Public Library.

**From home to hospital : Maori childbirth in the 1930s.* Twelve interviews by Helen Harte with women from the Bay of Islands area about their childbirth experiences.

Ian Middleton tapes. These tapes are the literary manuscripts of Ian Middleton who is a novelist and short story writer who is blind.

Interview with Jack Cropp. An interview by Carol Dawber with this 1956 Olympic gold medallist in yachting who is also a boat builder.

**Memories of early families from Mangawhai and Hakaru.* Six interviews by Bev Ross with descendants of early Pakeha settlers from this area in Northland. Commissioned by the Mangawhai Historical Society.

Museum of New Zealand project. One hundred and ninety eight videotapes by Gaylene Preston of meetings, interviews and events relating to the construction of Te Papa Tongarewa. The videotapes were used for the documentary 'Getting to Our Place'.

Mussel farming oral history project. Thirty three interviews by Carol Dawber, commissioned by the NZ Mussel Farming Association, recording people associated with this industry in its early days in the Marlborough Sounds in the 1970s and 1980s.

**NZ CCS Otago Inc oral history project.* Eleven interviews by Helen Frizzell, commissioned by CCS Otago, with a cross section of the community it has had contact with over 65 years.

NZ Netherlands Foundation oral history project, stage 2. Twenty two interviews, commissioned by the Netherlands Foundation, with second generation Dutch New Zealanders.

**Ocean Beach bach community oral history project.* Twelve interviews by Sunita Singh with residents of this South Wairarapa coastal community, the existence of whose baches is threatened.

**Past champions oral history project.* Eighteen interviews, commissioned by the Shear History Trust, with Golden Shears champions since 1961 when this sheep shearing competition began.

Quality of life for older women oral history project. Fifteen interviews by Isobel Munro about housing, health, social life and other issues for older women.

**Riverboat stories from the Whanganui River oral history project.* Nine interviews by David Charteris, commissioned by the Whanganui Riverboat Restoration and Navigation Trust, with people who had associations with these riverboats during the first half of the twentieth century.

**Southland oral history project.* Eighteen interviews, commissioned by the Southland Public Library with residents of the province.

**Tararua Tramping Club oral history project.* Six interviews by Melanie Martin with club members exploring tramping culture and aspects of the club's history as a community since the 1930s.

**Trade union oral history project.* Thirty nine interviews by Shaun Ryan, commissioned by the Trade Union History Project, of union activists including officials, delegates and long –serving members.

* denotes the project, or part of the project, received an Award in Oral History

The International Oral History Association

News update! April 2001

Newsletter

Perhaps some background to what's been going on would be helpful. At the X11th International Conference of IOHA, held in Istanbul in June 2000, a new council was elected. One of the first actions of the new council was to agree that an online newsletter, in English and Spanish would help to speed up production, ease interaction, save costs and make IOHA more accessible and visible to the rest of the world. There will be two newsletters posted on the IOHA Barcelona website each year; the new format means that more and longer news items as well as illustrations and facsimile documents sent to us by contributors can be included.

The Newsletter of the International Oral History Association, 7 (January 2001) is now posted on the IOHA website: <http://www.bcn.es/tjussana/ioha/>

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2002 IOHA Conference

Preparations for the X11 conference are already underway. Hosted in South Africa by the University of Durban at Pietermaritzburg, in June 2002, the conference bears the title, *The Power of Oral History: Memory, Healing and Development*. It will be held at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, from 24-27 June, 2002.

Conference website:
<http://www.hs.unp.ac.za/ioha2002>

Proposals are invited from around the world. The proposals may be for a conference paper, a workshop session or a thematic panel. Only the papers with a clear focus on oral history will be taken into consideration.

Conferences Sub-themes are

- Trauma, memory and reconciliation;
- Preservation and dissemination of oral archives;
- Oral history and digitisation;
- Oral history in teaching and learning;
- Gender in oral history;
- Ethnicity and identity;
- Land claims and oral testimonies;
- Religion and memory;
- Stories of warfare, famine and migration;
- Sickness and disability in oral history.

If you are interested, please send us a single-page proposal including an outline of your paper and the following details: name, affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers. Deadline for proposals: July 1, 2001

Send proposals to:

IOHA 2002 Organising Committee
c/o Professor Philippe Denis,
Oral History Project, School of Theology,
University of Natal
PB X 01, Scottsville 3209, South Africa
Phone: (27) 33 260 50 64
Fax: (27) 33 260 58 58
E-mail: ohp@nu.ac.za.

Anna Green, IOHA Secretary

Oral history on the internet

➤ Kilbirnie-Lyall Bay Community Centre Oral History Project

The National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library have been looking at new ways of presenting descriptive databases in a web environment and including digitised copies of material. Several pilot projects have been

completed, one drawing on the oral history collection using the Kilbirnie-Lyall Bay Community Centre Oral History Project. This small project of six life history interviews with seven long-term residents of the two Wellington suburbs was commissioned by the Kilbirnie-Lyall Bay Community Centre and the Kilbirnie Library and carried out by Hugo Manson in 1993. The participants discuss an urban area which has undergone dramatic physical and social changes since the 1920s.

The pilot database provides descriptions of the project and the interviews with links to the full abstract for each interview, selected audio and video extracts which have been digitised and photographs. The original audio recordings are all two to three hours long. Extracts were selected because the size of audio files precludes digitising whole interviews and also because there are still unresolved ethical issues about making entire interviews available in this way. The video recordings were supplementary to the life history interviews and are typically about five minutes long with variable sound quality. The excerpts require special software to be viewed. They are provided in different formats to suit fast or slow home connections. For more information on this see the home page.

All participants in the project still living were consulted about this use of the interviews and other material and it is recommended that participants are also consulted, through the Oral History Centre, before any further use of this material is made.

No search engine was available at the time of the trial so the site is only accessible by browsing.

The address is:

<http://tepuna.natlib.govt.nz/abouttp/abkilbirnie/about.html> or you can find it listed on the National Library home page.

We'd like to hear any comments from visitors to the site. We'd particularly like feedback from oral historians about this trial database presentation from the collection.

Linda Evans
Curator, Oral History Centre
Linda.evans@natlib.govt.nz

➤ The Library of Congress National Digital Library Program announces the release of the online collection, "Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938, at the American Memory Web site at:
<<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/>>

"Born in Slavery" is a joint presentation of the Manuscript and Prints and Photographs Divisions of the Library of Congress. More than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery comprising over 9,500 page images with searchable text, bibliographic records and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves are now available. More than 200 photographs are included from the Prints and Photographs Division that are now made available to the public for the first time. The photographs of former slaves are linked to their corresponding narratives.

The Federal Writers' Project (FWP) originally made no plans for collecting slave autobiographies and reminiscences. Interviews with former slaves were undertaken spontaneously after the inception of the FWP and were included among the activities of several Southern Writers' Projects for almost a year before these isolated efforts were transformed into a concerted regional project, coordinated by the national headquarters of the FWP in Washington, D.C. On April 1, 1937, the collection of slave narratives formally began with the dispatch of instructions to all Southern and border states directing their Writers' Project workers to the task of interviewing former slaves. Today, the Slave Narrative Collection provides a unique and virtually unsurpassed collective portrait of a historical population.

This online collection features an extensive introductory essay by Norman R. Yetman of the University of Kansas which includes information about the interviewers, the people interviewed, and the processes of collection and compilation, as well as a wealth of fascinating stories and candid portraits of former slaves. The digitization of the collection was made possible by a major gift from the Citigroup Foundation.

Please direct any questions to ndlpcoll@loc.gov

Conferences & workshops

Columbia University Oral History Research Office Summer Institute in Oral History

The Columbia University Oral History Research Office Summer Institute in Oral History will be held this year from June 18 to June 29, 2001. This year's topic is "Documenting Memories of Struggle and Resistance: Social Change and Social Memories". Faculty this year are: Alessandro Portelli, Leslie Brown, Anne Valk, Linda Shopes, Ann Cvetkovich, Steve Rowland, Josh Brown, Ted Bongiovanni, Ronald Grele, Mary Marshall Clark, and Alexander Freund.

This year's program will focus on the challenges and complexities of documenting memories of social and political change through interpreting ways in which individuals remember their participation in social movements, communities and

long term political struggles. Faculty and seminar leaders will explore the uses of oral history method and theory to document and interpret social change and social conflict, looking at ways in which individual and social memory intersect and how individuals construct social narratives and historical explanations. Attention will be given to the debates in oral history over how group memories are formed, the interplay of individual and so-called collective memory, as well as the particular challenges of using oral history to document change in contemporary communities actively engaged in political and social movements.

In addition to lectures, presentations and discussions on the themes of the Institute, we will offer intermediate level workshops on interviewing, developing community history projects and documentary methods for recording oral histories through sound and video. The Summer Institute will also feature video and audio documentaries, and tour area museums and archives relevant to oral history and the particular themes of the Institute.

Group participation and discussion will be a priority of the Institute, and fellows will be encouraged to share work in progress with faculty and each other.

Please see the Columbia Oral History Office web page:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/oral/>

for full details, schedule, fees and application forms. Application deadline is May 1, 2001.

Contact us:

Mary Marshall Clark
Oral History Research Office
801 Butler Library, Box 20
535 West 114th Street, MC 1129
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 854-2273
Fax: (212) 854-5378
E-mail: mmc17@columbia.edu

Off-tape

▲ The Alexander Turnbull Library is now subscribing to the journal of the Canadian Oral History Association *Oral history forum = Forum d'histoire orale*. Vol 19-20, 1999-2000 is on the theme 'Indigenous voices from the prairies' and is edited by Winona Stevenson. Articles include:
- 'Walking into the future: Dakota oral tradition and the shaping of historical consciousness', Angela Cavender Wilson
- 'Oral history methods in native studies: Saskatchewan Aboriginal World War Two veterans', Rob Innes
- 'Memorials of Metis women of Saint-Eustache, Manitoba', Nicole St-Onge

- 'Narrative wisps of the Ochekwi Sipi past: a journey in recovering collective memories', Winona Stevenson

Oral History in the Pacific: a survey by National Library

- 'Rather than focus on oral histories sporadically, on a part-time basis or incompletely, a full thorough effort needs to take place as soon as possible, as time is of the essence. The holders of tradition, history, and stories will soon be gone. It should be a full time effort, now.'
- **'Intellectual property rights to recordings. Much oral history in the region is sensitive. There is a need for legislation to protect traditional knowledge and expressions of traditional culture.'**
- 'You must have the trust of the people. Give them some feedback afterward. Too many anthropologists come to the islands, do their work, and leave.'
- 'There seem to be problems with maintaining momentum and sustaining any efforts.'
- 'Lack of perception that oral histories are a priority.'
- 'The tapes ... don't last long in our sort of climate with its high humidity and heat and dust; we don't have proper storage facilities.'

Just a sample of some of the issues raised in responses to a recent National Library survey on oral history in the Pacific and compiled in the 'Report on a survey carried out by the National Library of New Zealand on oral history activity and current needs in the Pacific'.

Background

In October 1998 UNESCO published the report *Information needs in the Pacific Islands*, written by Esther Batiri Williams from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.

One of the recommended Priority Projects from that Report centred on **oral traditions** and was briefly described as *"to preserve for posterity the personal or human side of history best expressed through the oral history interview. The increasingly unavailability of written sources in the areas of study of the Pacific Islands and the need to gain a more complete understanding of the lives of ordinary people have made oral history important."*

In the interest of developing stronger Pacific regional connections, and based on the strengths of its own current programmes, the National Library, in particular the Alexander Turnbull Library, has decided to work toward advancing this Priority Project.

The survey

In October last year, an eight-question survey was sent to 211 organisations, institutions, and individuals throughout the Pacific (excluding New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii). Sixty-one completed surveys were returned.

The respondents were equally distributed over the geographic areas of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Completed surveys arrived from a range of organisations and institutions including governmental, cultural, educational, libraries, archives, museums, religious, and broadcasting. In addition, three surveys were completed by individuals in the Pacific involved in oral history work.

The questions asked covered: the recording of oral history, currently and in the last ten years; existing collections and their size; knowledge of other oral history work and collections; the biggest problems encountered in this work; whether there is a need for more oral history work and who would be best placed to initiate or develop it in the respondent's country; the relevance of short term training programmes co-ordinated by the National Library of New Zealand; other thoughts or issues regarding oral history in the respondent's country or the region; the role the Oral History Centre of NLNZ could play in assisting oral history work in the region.

The primary purpose of the survey was to guide the Library in its decisions so there has been no interpretation or analysis of the responses for a larger audience. The comments and responses received speak for themselves.

Possible Future Directions

Since the completion of the survey the Library has started to look at three possible directions for future activity:

- First, the Oral History Centre at the Alexander Turnbull Library could take on the role of a clearinghouse for information and resources on oral history work in the Pacific, or part of the Pacific. It could, for example, offer training, assist in maintaining equipment and provide relevant information on oral history in a variety of Pacific Island languages.
- Second, due to the number of respondents who focused on the need for preservation and their worries about existing collections, a serious effort should be made to find ways to assist with preservation, working alongside other organisations already active in this area such as PIMA, the Pacific Islands Museums Association.
- Third, the Library could work closely with one Pacific Island nation at a time for a period of 18-24 months to assist in establishing a new

oral history programme or developing an existing one.

The need and desire for increased oral history activity in the Pacific is reinforced by this survey. The National Library is looking at available resources, both within the Library and through contributing collaborative partners. A concerted effort will be necessary to make significant and sustained advances.

The Library is interested in responses to the survey and its ideas about possible future activities. If you would like a copy contact linda.evans@natlib.govt.nz or write to Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library, PO Box 12349, Wellington.



Kei te rapu kaimahi te Alexander Turnbull Library kia noho mai i Te Whanganui-a-Tara;  ngari he w , kua haere ki ng  marae o te motu mahi ai.

He tangata/wahine M ori m hio ki te ako i ng  iwi ki te kohikohi i a r tou k rero, hako  r pu, takitahi r nei.

He mahi pakeke! Me m hio koe

1. ki te reo M ori;
2. ki ng  tikanga M ori;
3. ki te whakapapa k rero/p tai
4. ki ng  k rero o/m  te motu wh nui.

Ko te painga atu, kia matatau koe ki ng  wharepukapuka, me ng  whare tiaki k rero.

 , kua taunga k  koe ki  nei momo mahi i waenga i te iwi M ori.

Ka riro m u hei whakaako, hei tohutohu, hei tautoko te hunga tuku i a r tou k rero.

Whakap  mai ki a Linda Evans, Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library.

The Alexander Turnbull Library is seeking the following staff to be based in Wellington, but spending significant time on marae throughout New Zealand.

Oral Historian, M ori: participating in all aspects of the work of the Oral History Centre, and taking special responsibility for training, advising, and supporting M ori groups and individuals recording oral histories.

- The successful applicant will demonstrate experience in interviewing, knowledge of methodological and ethical issues, experience in working with M ori communities, ability in te reo, knowledge of tikanga M ori, and New Zealand history. Experience in libraries or archives would be an advantage.
- Further information is available from Linda Evans, Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library.

Job descriptions are available from Kate Cooper, HR, NLNZ, phone (04) 474-3065 or e-mail kate.cooper@natlib.govt.nz

Vacancy Number NL1482

Applications close 14 May 2001

The National Library has an equal employment opportunity policy, and a commitment to meeting its objectives under the Treaty of Waitangi.