

NOHANZ

Newsletter

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Lesley Hall

Executive Committee:

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Ruth Greenaway

Bruce Ralston

www.oralhistory.org.nz

Newsletter: We seek news and views from around the country about what is happening, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress or completed. Email contact is Rachael Selby at R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz who is looking forward to receiving your contributions.

NOHANZ news

- Planning continues for the next conference to be held in Christchurch in June 2005. We'll soon be sending out a call for papers. If you have ideas for any sessions, please send them to either Megan Hutching or Linda Evans.

megan.hutching@mch.govt.nz or
linda.evans@natlib.govt.nz

- On 28 September NOHANZ hosted a launch in Wellington for *Remembering: Writing oral history* co-edited by committee members, Anna Green and Megan Hutching, and containing chapters by Megan and Anna as well as Lesley Hall and Alison Laurie. Judith Fyfe launched the book at the function which was well-attended despite the dreadful weather. (The book is published by Auckland University Press and sells for \$39.99.)

- We have two events scheduled for November – a regional meeting in Christchurch and a videohistory workshop in Wellington. See below for more details.

Regional Meeting

The meeting will begin with a social evening on Friday 19 November and will continue on Sat 20 until lunchtime on Sun 21 November.

Venue: Macmillan Brown Library, University of Canterbury, Christchurch
The programme will include oral history project reports and presentations, a workshop with Linda Evans on funding and turning interviews from tape to type; and a presentation by Jeff Palmer, Archivist, Macmillan Brown Library.

For more information, including costs and how to register, contact:

Kim Morton

84 St Davis St

LYTTELTON

Tel: 03 328 8133

Email: kimm@ihug.co.nz

Workshops

- *Videohistory workshop*

27 – 28 November, Film School,
Wellington

Tutors: Judith Fyfe and Tony Hiles

Fee: \$350

See enclosed flyer for details.

- *University of Otago Summer School
Oral history workshop, 21-23 January
2005*

This will be taught by Ann Day, who teaches oral history and heritage studies in the UK where she has also run workshops for local history groups. She is a committee member of the US Oral History Society and an experienced oral historian.

The workshop will cover the usual practical aspects of interviewing and making the recorded material available.

Cost : \$300

For more information, email
summerschool@otago.ac.nz or ring
03 479 9181

NOHANZ email list

We wish to set up an email list so that we can send out information to members more efficiently and at less cost. If you have an email address and would like to receive messages this way, please send your address to Megan Hutching:
megan.hutching@mch.govt.nz

We don't anticipate that there will be a great number of messages.

Conference reports

International Oral History Association Conference, Rome June 2004

Pataka Moore and I travelled to Rome in June to attend the conference being hosted by the City of Rome. Rome is a magnificent city and it was a great privilege to attend such a conference. With the temperatures each day being

around 35 degrees, we walked more slowly than usual, however, Rome is a city worth walking in as around every corner is another unforgettable site.

The conference was based at the City of Rome building at the top of dozens of steps. The presentations were in three rooms at the top of those steps and another seven rooms in various locations within 15 minutes walk of the main conference room. Unfortunately, many participants stayed at the main building, in part because of the heat, and hence the sessions spread around the other seven venues were often very poorly attended. This was most disappointing to people who had travelled from South America, Africa and northern Europe to present a paper, only to find they had no audience. Of the 27 presentations offered in the main venue, more than half were by Americans, and most presenters were English speakers. This continues to cause some dissatisfaction amongst the non-English speaking attendees. While the conference languages are officially English and Spanish, translation facilities were only available on some occasions in the main venue and nowhere else.

The best part of attending a conference though is meeting so many people who have undertaken fascinating projects around the globe. Each participant received a CD with all the papers and this is a wonderful resource.

The next conference in 2006 will be in Sydney. This caused a great deal of debate, not the location, but the timing. The North Americans claim that their summer is the most suitable time for conferences, that is, June and July. Others felt that the best time to visit Australia is in their summer, November to January. The Australians have bowed to the pressure and indicated the conference will probably

be in the winter to suit the northern visitors coming south. The issues that are most hotly debated are often nothing to do with oral history! Despite all this, the next conference will be closer to New Zealand and Sydney will be a popular venue for New Zealanders – we hope!

Rachael Selby

10th World Congress of Accounting Historians

One hundred years ago the first World Congress of Accountants was held at St Louis. Although these large congresses lost popularity after the rise of the 'Big 8' accounting firms with their own international conferences, in the first eighty years these were very large international events held once every four years. Richard Vangermeersch, a patriarch among American accounting historians, was very keen to stimulate research on the congresses, and so it was to St Louis that we travelled. However, having started the conference at St Louis we then decamped and went 350 miles by bus to the lovely campus of Ole Miss, at Oxford in Mississippi, 70 miles south of Memphis, where the second half of the conference operated in the University campus.

There were 122 papers presented, from researchers in 20 different countries. I delivered two papers; one from my oral history interviews on accounting firms, concerning the influence of international congresses on the development of international affiliations; and one on the history of sector neutral started setting and its influence on private sector measurement and recognition principles. Another paper of interest to oral historians was a review by Soon Nam Kim from the University of Wollongong, on 'Rethinking the Oral History Method: Reflections on Academic authority'. Soon Nam

undertook an oral history study of Chinese in the accounting profession in New Zealand when she was at Waikato University. The plenary sessions were addressed by David Walker (Comptroller General for the USA, on budgetary and financial issues in the USA); Dick Edwards (Cardiff) on Problems and Challenges in Accounting History Research, Tony Tinker (Baruch, NY) on the Origins of Social Accounting, and Scott Voynich (Chairman of the AICPA).

Getting across the States to Tennessee proved difficult for many delegates; airlines sticking with their habit of cancelling flights without notice being a problem for international travellers with tightly timed connections, resulting in a few papers postponed or cancelled from lost luggage. The other 'trap' for new players was the facilities; the first two days were held in the Airport Renaissance Hotel in St Louis with the only facility being an overhead projector. This is typical of events in hotel conference centres, where they charge exorbitantly for any other delivery method. The second part, being on a University campus, offered the full range of power point and document cameras.

Having arrived safely in St Louis we proceeded to the top floor of the Airport Renaissance Hotel for the reception. The diet was generous but eclectic: frozen custards, lemon squash, and platters of pastries, chocolate brownies and fruit. The next reception was in a very interesting venue: the Mercantile Library in Saint Louis. It was a surprise to some delegates that these two events were 'dry'; the choice being fizzy grape juice or cordial. This situation was alleviated in fine style at the events on the last two evenings of the Conference once we had crossed the border into Mississippi. Conference dinner attendees were thoroughly entertained by a large man in black

flares, with a wonderful Elvis voice and a typically laid-back Southern manner. Other entertaining speakers during lunches included an address titled: 'The Truth About Lewis and Clark' (two early transcontinental explorers); and an address by a Professor of English Literature about William Faulkner while we had an open-air lunch in the grounds of Faulkner's lovely ante-bellum southern mansion. For me, this site was as interesting as the other large white mansion I visited on my last day: Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley. This was not part of the conference, but for any social historian it is indeed a fascinating tourist attraction.

The next Congress in Nantes, France in 2006, can only prove a contrast to this experience. The range of topics was impressive, although there were fewer papers using oral history than at other accounting history conferences I have attended.

Any reader interested in business history topics is welcome to borrow my copy of proceedings to find recent research relevant to their own interests, or look on the website and ask the authors by e-mail: www.accounting.rutgers.edu/raw/aah/worldcongress/program.htm

2004 Awards in Oral History

The following Awards were made this year:

- Anand Naran
How the tables have turned (oral history of DJs) (\$1420)
- NZ Theatre Archive
The emergence of professional theatre in post-World War II New Zealand (\$1500)
- Rowan Taylor
People of the lake: interviews with Pakeha fishers of Lake Ellesmere (\$2500)

- Erolia Ifopo
Alofa atu I Kalaisetete: From Samoa to Christchurch with love (\$3000)
- Phillip & Andrew Moore
A golden era in NZ skateboarding (\$3000)
- Martin Rumsby
Film artist interviews (\$3000)
- Ruth Greenaway
Otautahi/Christchurch peace stories project (\$3500)
- Helen Beaglehole
Lighthouse keepers (\$3900)
- Adele Broadbent
Volunteer Service Abroad volunteers of the 60s and 70s (\$5000)
- Patrick Coleman
Loyal Orange Institution in the South Island (\$5000)
- Jacqui Foley
Project Aqua oral history collection (\$5000)
- Pip Oldham
Mike Walker: Levin-based film maker and photographer (\$5080)
- Henry Chan
Chinese war refugees who arrived in NZ 1939 and 1940 (\$5800)

Oral history around the world

- British Library National Sound Archive. A new web site allows visitors to listen to the incredible variety of spoken English in the north of England. Users can hear how people spoke in the 1950s and how they speak today. And the words used are explained so that you know what a bleb is and what to do with a ruddle. www.collectbritain.co.uk/collections/dialects

- Japanese oral history association. The Japan Oral History Association was launched in September when more than 100 oral historians from throughout Japan participated in an international forum held at Chuo University in Tokyo.
From Oral History, Autumn 2004