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From the Archives: Resources on Micronesia

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NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

From the Archives

Resources on Micronesia

FRANCIS X. HEZEL

Map-makers throughout the ages seldom began their task *ab ovo*. Most had the good sense to work with what had already been done, however faulty, as they began to delineate the island world of the Pacific. The early 19th-century French and Russian naval captains made use of the sketches done by Spanish navigators two or three centuries earlier, and the German hydrographers in turn consulted their works. Maps of the Pacific, as anywhere else in the world, were compilations and corrections of earlier attempts to do the same.

What is offered here is a map of a different sort – not a depiction of the geographical layout of the region with land masses marked and defined, but a guide to the cultural and historical sources that can be used to provide a time dimension to our understanding of the Pacific. At one time, this would have been tantamount to a list of written library and archival materials, published and unpublished. In our own age, however, histories are as often as not multimedia productions that depend on the use of photos, moving footage and music. Hence this list includes as many of these visual and audio resources as possible, all in the hope of providing the prospective cultural explorers of our day with a map of the resources they might find helpful in conducting their own study.

The part of the Pacific surveyed here is designated as Micronesia, a term that is famously ambiguous in the literature. By Micronesia, as it is used here, is meant that part of the western Pacific north of the equator that has had and continues to have some political affiliation with the USA.¹ It is composed of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the three independent nations that once formed part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific: Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Most of the region was successively under the rule of four world powers: Spain (until the end of the 19th century), Germany (1899–1914), Japan (1914–45) and the USA.

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¹ This definition excludes Nauru and Kiribati, both south of the equator and members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Resources on the history and culture of the islands are widely scattered around the globe, in part because of the succession of different nations that ruled these islands. The multiplicity of missionary organisations, representing various denominations and countries, just adds to the mix. For anyone considering research in the area, the problem is not so much locating particular documents or photos – we have the internet to help us with this – but a guide to general resources that we might have overlooked. This essay is intended to be a broad map showing major resource centres and giving some indication, surely not an exhaustive list, of what each might offer.² At very least, we can hope that this guide, in showing what resources are available where, will save users the time and expense of needless travel.

PRINT MATERIALS

Micronesian Seminar (MicSem), Chuuk

<http://new.micsem.org>

Nearly complete collection of the colonial reports during German, Japanese and US Trust Territory periods; comprehensive collection of anthropological literature, including unpublished dissertations; complete collection of published proceedings of Congress of Micronesia (1965–77) and national legislatures of Palau, FSM and RMI; extensive collection of reports of government agencies; unpublished letters and materials from Catholic and Protestant sources from mid-19th century (ABCFM 1852–1910, German and Spanish Capuchin papers); nearly complete collection of published Catholic mission articles (1886–1990); complete collection of the German South Seas Expedition volumes and published German ethnographic articles; 43 volumes of German reports and literature on Marshalls and Marianas (1899–1914); nearly complete collection of standard published material on all parts of Micronesia; regional newspapers and magazines.

Micronesian Area Research Center, Guam

<http://www.uog.edu/micronesian-area-research-center>

Excellent collection of Spanish archival material (100,000 pages gathered from Spain, Mexico and the Philippines) on the Marianas from the 17th to

² Published directories include: Arlene Cohen, *Directory of Libraries, Archives and Museums in Micronesia* (Mangilao 1993); Adrian Cunningham (comp.), Susan MacDougall (ed.), *Directory of Libraries and Archives in the Pacific Islands* (Canberra 1997); and Arlene Cohen and Sandra Henderson (eds), *Directory of Libraries and Archives in the Pacific Islands* (2nd edn, Mangilao 2003). Specific surveys relating to Micronesia include: William Wuerch, 'A bibliography of manuscripts, archives, and other unpublished materials relating to Guam and Micronesia in repositories in the United States', Micronesian Area Research Center, Working Paper 56 (1991); Karen Peacock, 'Online access to the Trust Territory Archives Photograph Collection', *Contemporary Pacific*, 7:1 (1995), 178–86; Karen Peacock, 'Across all Micronesia: records of the US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands', *Contemporary Pacific*, 1:1–2 (1989), 168–72; E.H. Bryan Jr, 'Air photographs of Pacific Islands filed in Bishop Museum', n.d. (1960–71), Ts., roneo, copy held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

19th centuries; strong collection of published and archival materials on government of Guam during 20th century; collection of 800 master's theses and doctoral dissertations on the region; genealogical materials on Guam; complete collection of newspapers and magazines published in the region; US military materials on naval rule over Guam (1899–1950); complete collection of published materials on Guam and the Northern Marianas with much on the rest of the area.

Hawai'i Pacific Collection, Hamilton Library, University of Hawai'i, Manoa

<http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/pacific>

Full microfilm collection (2,100 reels) of the Trust Territory archives (1945–78); field notes of select anthropologists and political scientists on Micronesia; annual reports of government agencies; full Pacific Manuscripts Bureau series on microfilm; very good general collection on the Pacific, including Micronesia.

Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library, Honolulu

<http://www.missionhouses.org/library>

Micronesian Collection, 1852–1923.

Belau National Museum, Palau

<http://www.belaunationalmuseum.net>

Japanese language books; original field notes from researchers; 5,000 books on Palau and surrounding islands.

Alele Museum, Majuro

<http://alelemuseum.tripod.com/Archives.html>

Archives of the Marshall Islands, along with congressional proceedings, high court documents and other government reports housed there in 2,500 microfilm reels.

College of Micronesia, FSM

<http://www.comfsm.fm/?q=lrc>

Trust Territory archives materials, including newsletters and reports; copies of newspapers and journals.

College of Marshall Islands

<http://www.cmi.edu/>

Copies of US documents on nuclear testing in the Marshalls (1946–58); Gifford Johnson, Marshall Islands resource materials 1946–93.

CNMI Archives, Northern Marianas College, Saipan

<http://www.marianas.edu/content.php?id=1&cat=3&mnu=20>

Papers of former governors of CNMI; proceedings of legislatures in Northern Marianas; over 500 reels of microfilm on political status negotiations; public

laws from the CNMI Legislature (1978–2007); microfilm copy of Trust Territory archives (1945–78); copy of 70,000 pages of Spanish government records from the National Archives of the Philippines (1678–1899).

Northern Marianas Museum of History and Culture, Saipan

<http://northernmarianashumanities.org/sec.asp?secID=21>

Digital archives of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council stored there. They include 19th-century Spanish records on the Marianas from the National Archives of the Philippines; documents on the creation of the commonwealth; interviews for oral history of the Marianas; set of 28 volumes containing German reports on Marianas (1899–1914).

Major resources located outside the region

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU), Australian National University, Canberra

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/catalogue>

Digital copies of whaling logs with comprehensive list of the islands visited by each ship (1790–1870); ABCFM letters and papers (1852–1929); assorted Catholic mission files.

National Archives of Australia, Canberra

<http://www.naa.gov.au>

Correspondence of the German government from New Guinea (1885–1914) with reports and documents relating to Micronesia.

National Library of Australia, Canberra

<http://www.nla.gov.au>

Archives of Reichskolonialamt (1884–1914) in 262 microfilm reels, with reports on Micronesia and other German colonies in the Pacific. Documents on early British contact with Micronesia can be found in Historical Records of Australia.

Mitchell Library, Sydney

<http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au>

Copies of German documents from the Pacific (1885–1914); journals of many early British ship visits and papers of a few traders such as James Lyle Young.

National Library of New Zealand, Wellington

<http://natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/>

Journals and papers of many 19th-century voyagers and traders in Alexander Turnbull collection.

British National Archives, London

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Reports on visits of early British naval vessels to Micronesia in 19th century.

US National Archives, Washington

<http://research.archives.gov>

Assorted documents on US Trust Territory (1946–78); reports on visits of US naval vessels to islands in 19th century.

Japan Center for Asian Historical Records

<http://www.jacar.go.jp/english/index.html>

The largest collection of Japanese historical documents, including those on the Japanese mandated Micronesia.

Japan National Archives, Tokyo

<http://www.archives.go.jp/english/>

Official records of the islands under the League of Nations Mandate (1919–41), along with war records and postwar relations with the Pacific.

National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka

<http://www.minpaku.ac.jp/english/>

Japanese ethnographic studies on the islands (1920–40) and contemporary research on island culture.

PHOTOS, LIVE VISUAL FOOTAGE, AND MUSIC**Micronesian Seminar, Chuuk**

<http://new.micsem.org>

Over 80,000 photos, many of them historical, and 760 videos and pieces of movie footage on the entire region. The photos include copies of select images from nearly all the museums and archives listed below. Fine digital collection of island music, ancient and contemporary, with 25,000 items.

Micronesian Area Research Center, Guam

<http://www.uog.edu/micronesian-area-research-center>

About 120,000 photos and slides, almost entirely on Guam and the Marianas. They include early historical photos during Spanish rule; collection of Georg Fritz, German administrator on Saipan; and naval rule on Guam (1899–1950). Good collection of ancient maps of the western Pacific.

Guam Museum, Hagatna, Guam

<http://www.guammuseum.com>

Several thousand photos, including US naval photos of Guam during the 20th century, governors and officials on Guam, and historical sites on the island.

Nieves Flores Memorial Library, Hagatna, Guam

<http://librarytechnology.org/libraries/library.pl?id=16532>

Several thousand catalogued photos from private and public collections illustrating the history of Guam during the 20th century.

Northern Marianas Museum of History and Culture, Saipan

[no website]

Hundreds of photos on the Marianas during Japanese and early US administration (1930–60). [300 copied for MicSem]

CNMI Archives, Northern Marianas College, Saipan

<http://www.marianas.edu/content.php?id=1&cat=3&mnu=20>

Few hundred photos of Northern Marianas at end of war and during post-war years (1945–60).

Belau National Museum

<http://www.belaunationalmuseum.net/>

Several hundred German- and Japanese-period visuals (1899–1945); assortment of Trust Territory-period photos (1945–80).

Alele Museum, Majuro, Marshalls

<http://alelemuseum.tripod.com/Archives.html>

Joachim DeBrum collection of 2,200 photos of the Marshalls (1890–1930); some photos of US military in the Marshalls (1944–60). [most copied for MicSem]

Library of Congress of Federated States of Micronesia, Pohnpei

[no website]

Hundreds of public relations photos on islands during the late Trust Territory period (1965–80). [most copied for MicSem]

FSM Public Information Office, Pohnpei

<http://www.fsmpio.fm/pio.html>

Several thousand photos of public events in FSM and of leaders' travel abroad (1980–present). [340 copied for MicSem]

Japan

Tokyo University Museum, Tokyo

<http://www.um.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>

Perhaps 200 photos on Japanese period (1920–40). [74 photos copied for MicSem]

National Diet Library, Tokyo

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/>

Few hundred photos of Japanese period in the islands (1920–40) and scanned old books in public visual archive. [70 photos copied for MicSem]

Japanese National Film Center, Tokyo

<http://www.momat.go.jp/english/nfc/>

Few hundred photos of Japanese period; dozens of rare films on Micronesia during Japanese period (1914–40); small selection of Japanese songs on the Pacific. [most copied for MicSem]

National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka

<http://www.minpaku.ac.jp/english/>

Few hundred photos on life in the islands (1920–40); smaller collection on phosphate mining on Fais and Angaur. [150 copied for MicSem]

Japan Institute for Pacific Area Studies (JAIPAS), Tokyo

http://www.jaipas.or.jp/index_library.html

Private collection of Yoji Yamaguchi containing about 50 photo books on the Japanese period in Micronesia (1914–45) along with other loose photos and ephemera in Asia-Pacific Material Room. [200 photos copied for MicSem]

Japan National Diplomatic Records Archive, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/hq/record/docs.html>

Contains rare archives from early encounters between Japanese and Micronesians, including watercolours of the Marshalls in 1891.

*Spain***Real Academia de Historia, Madrid**

<http://www.rah.es/biblioteca.htm>

Few hundred photos of the islands and their people in late 19th century (Arias Collection). [163 copied for MicSem]

Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid

<http://bdh.bne.es/bnearch/>

Handful of photos of Spanish forces and buildings in the islands in 1890s. [copied for MicSem]

Museo Nacional de Antropología, Madrid

<http://www.mna.inah.gob.mx/index.html>

Few photos of islanders and displays at World Exposition of 1887. [copied for MicSem]

Museo Naval, Madrid

<http://museomadrid.com/museo-naval-de-madrid/>

Two dozen maps and photos of Spanish naval ships from late 19th century. [copied for MicSem]

Jesuit Archives, Granada

[no website]

About 500 photos on Jesuit mission activity in the islands (1920–50). [copied for MicSem]

Mercedarian Sisters, Berriz

[no website]

A few hundred photos of Mercedarian work in the islands (1920–80). [copied for MicSem]

Archives of the Capuchins of Navarra

<http://censoarchivos.mcu.es/CensoGuia/archivodetail.htm?id=39659>

Few hundred photos of the mission on Guam (1910–35). [copied for MicSem]

Germany

Missionsarchiv OFMCap, Münster

[contact Karel Weener, <http://www.ethnohistory.nl/photographs/>]

1,500 photos of German Catholic missionary activity (1900–14). [all copied for MicSem]

Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Köln

<http://www.museenkoeln.de/home/pages/326.aspx?s=326>

Couple hundred photos of islands (1900–14). [45 copied for MicSem]

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (Dahlem Museum)

<http://www.smb.museum/home.html>

About 500 photos, many of them dating to the visit of HMS *Espiegle* in 1883, the rest taken by Kubary and others in the 1870s and 1880s. [Most of this collection is still unseen today.]

Stadt- and Universitäts Bibliothek, Frankfurt

<http://www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/ozeanien/oceania.html>

500 photos of German rule (1900–14). [nearly all copied for MicSem]

Institut für Ethnologie, University of Tübingen

<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/>

250 photos of German rule (1900–14). [all copied for MicSem]

Linden Museum, Stuttgart

<http://www.lindenmuseum.de/>

Many photos of Jaluit in 1890s and others by Volkens in 1870s; several hundred, all undigitised, of island features and plants (1900–14). [Most are largely unseen, although very few are of cultural features or people.]

Museum für allerlei Volkerkunde, Hamburg

<http://www.voelkerkundemuseum.com/>

2,500 digitised photos taken during the South Seas Expedition (1908–10); 500 digitised photos taken by Jan Kubary (1870–85); about 400 mounted photos from the South Seas Expedition (1908–10). [Hundreds of these photos are hitherto unseen.]

Grassi Museum, Leipzig

maria50douglas@gmail.com

About 900 photos, some taken by Kubary in the 1870s, but most of the photos can be found in Hamburg or Berlin.

Stadt-Archiv, Erfurt

<http://www.erfurt.de/ef/de/leben/bildung/stadtarchiv/>

Album of 80 photos of the Marshalls taken by District Officer Wilhelm Knappe (1886). [most copied for MicSem]

Marineschule Mürwik, Flensburg

<http://www.marine.de/portal/a/marine>

50 photos of German period (1905–14). [copied for MicSem]

Netherlands

Universiteit Leiden, Leiden

<http://media-kitlv.nl/>

Digital Image Library contains many early images on Micronesia.

Russia

Russian Geographical Society, St. Petersburg

<http://www.rgo.ru/en>

Miklouho-Maclay's collection of manuscripts and drawings (1817–32).

USA

US National Archives, Washington

<http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/photos/>

Thousands of photos of World War II campaign in the Pacific, including the islands of Micronesia; about 50 photos of Fish and Wildlife visit to Micronesia in late 19th century. [2,000 copied for MicSem]

US Naval Historical Society, Washington

<http://www.navyhistory.org/>

Hundreds of photos of islands during WWII naval operations and early post-war years. [750 copied for MicSem]

US Library of Congress, Washington

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/>

Few hundred photos of the islands during WWII or immediately afterwards. [75 copied for MicSem]

United Nations, New York

http://www.unmultimedia.org/photo/photo_library.jsp

About 200 photos of UN visits to the Trust Territory and of island officials to the UN (1950–78). [125 copied for MicSem]

Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

<http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/>

Few hundred photos of post-war Yap and the Marianas. [90 copied for MicSem]

Peabody Museum, Harvard, Boston

<http://pmem.unix.fas.harvard.edu:8080/peabody/>

Few dozen historical photos of Marshall Islands. [10 copied for MicSem]

Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle

<http://www.burkemuseum.org/>

Few dozen photos of pottery making in Palau (c.1950). [13 copied for MicSem]

Hawai'i Pacific Collection, Hamilton Library, University of Hawai'i, Manoa

<http://library.manoa.hawaii.edu/research/digicoll.html>

About 20,000 photos on islands during Trust Territory administration (1950–80); 2,500 photos in Steven Thomas collection on traditional navigation; 800 photos of the Marshalls (1950–75) in Jack Tobin collection; 700 photos of Trust Territory (1949–51) in Margo Duggan collection; 900 photos of nuclear diaspora in the Marshalls (1945–70). [hundreds copied for MicSem]. Also many live video programs and newsclips on Micronesia; few hundred island songs in Barbara Smith Collection.

Hawaiian Historical Society, Honolulu

<http://www.hawaiianhistory.org/>

20 photos of Protestant mission activities in Micronesia (1870–1900). [copied for MicSem]

Hawaiian Mission Children Society, Honolulu

[no website]

20 photos of old Micronesian mission (1870–1900). [copied for MicSem]

Australia and New Zealand

MacMillan Brown Collection, Canterbury, NZ

<http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/home/archives.shtml>

200 photos of the islands by MacMillan Brown (1912). [most copied for MicSem]

University of Auckland, Auckland

<http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/ampm/>

Archive of Maori and Pacific Music holds dozens of Lisa Burke's recordings from Kiribati and the Marshalls.

National Library of New Zealand, Auckland

<http://natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/photographic-archive>

Few photos on Micronesia, including visit of British warship *Espiegle* (1882–85).

Mitchell Library, Sydney

<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

70 photos of the Marshalls and Nauru (1917–18) in Thomas McMahon Collection. [most copied for MicSem]