

Finding aids

Most of the collections have been catalogued separately. The extensive inventory comprises: short titles in PMB number order; an index of main entries and subjects and the main inventory comprising one descriptive sheet for each collection in PMB number order.

Published guides include: *American whalers and traders in the Pacific: a guide to records on microfilm* (Canberra: ANU, 1978) providing indexes of ships; captains/logkeepers; places visited; items located but not filmed; obsolete names to modern equivalents and vice versa and *Where the whalers went: an index to the Pacific ports and islands visited by American whalers . . . in the nineteenth century* (Canberra: ANU, 1984) both edited by Robert Langdon.

Research value

The collection has been a popular one with researchers doing Pacific studies because of the many and varied collections within it. The large number of whaling logs reproduced provides valuable information on whaling vessels operating around the New Zealand coast and in other areas of the Pacific in the nineteenth century.

WESTERN PACIFIC ARCHIVES Micro MS Coll 11

Records relating to the Secretariat of the Western Pacific High Commission, 1875-1915. 274 reels.

Provenance

Microfilmed from the originals held by the Western Pacific Archives, Fiji and purchased in 1972-1973.

In 1978, the records of the Western Pacific High Commission were sent back to London where they are now housed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Contents

The territories coming under the jurisdiction of the WPHC included Fiji, Kiribati (Gilbert and Ellice Islands), Vanuatu (New Hebrides), Pitcairn Island, and the Solomon Islands.

The records of the WPHC comprise 25 separate series. This collection contains only series 1 to 4. Series 1 to 3 (reels 1-5) contain finding aids for Series 4 in the form of indexes and registers. Series 4 (reels 6-274) contains general inward correspondence.

Finding aids

There is an inventory which briefly indicates the contents of all reels and listing the other series not on microfilm.

Research value

This collection contains a wide range of information about the Western Pacific and would be of interest to researchers studying the administrative, economic and social history of that area. It is to be hoped that microfilm of the other series will be made available in the future in order to provide complete coverage of WPHC activities.

5. *New Zealand*

NEW ZEALAND COMPANY Micro MS Coll 13

Records, 1837-1861. 184 reels.

Provenance

The original records are held by Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. They were microfilmed as part of the AJCP Colonial Office Series and were acquired in 1970 and 1982.

Contents

The collection contains records of the second New Zealand Company which operated