



APSIG Newsletter

ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group

No. 84, March 2014

Contents of this issue:

APSIG Lunchtime talk	1
CDNLAO meets in Canberra	1
Elephant diplomacy	3
Solomon Islands volunteering	3
IFLA RSCAO meets in KL	3
Indonesian book treasures	
Buk bilong Pikinini project	5
Pacific artefacts online	5
Queensland art exhibition	5
NGA exhibition	6
Inaugural Australian Education symposium	6
East Asian library collections	7
APSIG/EALRGA Xmas lunch	7
ASAA 2014	7
Newsletter details	7

Eastern music, Western notes: Lost - or found - in translation

Lunchtime talk, Wednesday, 7 May 2014,
Conference Room, NLA, 12.15 - 1.15pm.

What happens when music of the Southeast Asian world comes into contact with music from the Western tradition? How does music function in the intercultural exchange between Southeast Asia and the West? This presentation will highlight the influence of east upon west and west upon east, accompanied by excerpts from Malay and Vietnamese music. Dr. David Irving, a lecturer at the Australian National University, is a specialist on Baroque music

and its use in the Malay world. Mr Le-Tuyen Nguyen is an Australian composer, researcher and music teacher, and Teaching Fellow at the Australian National University. He is an authority on a popular form of nineteenth century Vietnamese music.

Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania meets in Canberra

The National Library hosted the 22nd meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) on 27 February 2014. 24 delegates from 18 countries attended the meeting, several of them for the first time.



In a busy schedule across two days our international guests spent the first day hearing about collaborative collecting initiatives, copyright, digital preservation and digital collecting in Australia from National and State Libraries Australasia colleagues.

On the second day the CDNLAO meeting heard about library activities in the region

and enjoyed several presentations about projects and developments of common interest:

E-legal deposit of online publication in Japan – presented by Mr Toru Toyoda, National Diet Library;

Digital New Zealand – developments and measuring impact – presented by Mr Bill McNaught, National Library of New Zealand;

Update on the National Libraries Asia Pacific Project – presented by Ms Mei-Chen Lee, National Library of Singapore;

Trove – presented by Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, National Library of Australia;

National Library Reading Room Integration – presented by Ms Margy Burn, National Library of Australia.

CDNLAO also discussed the five high level trends identified in the IFLA Trend Report, entitled *Riding the Waves or Caught in the Tide?* CDNLAO resolved to convey a summary of its discussion to IFLA.

Social events

The Governor-General of Australia, Quentin Bryce, hosted a reception at Government House to welcome the delegates. Fortunately the grounds of Government House were able to supply sightings (and many photographs) of kangaroos.

The Conference dinner, held at the NLA, was an occasion for Canberra-based APSIG members to meet with CDNLAO colleagues and friends.



L to R Ms Merewalesi Vueti, Fiji, Kylie Moloney, Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and Mrs Karina Bundu, Papua New Guinea



Standing: Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Director-General, National Library of Australia



Overall the meeting and activities were very successful. The 2015 meeting will be held in Thailand.

Alex Philp
Director, Asian Collections, National Library

Elephant Diplomacy: Early Thai-French Relations

At a well-attended lunchtime talk on 6 November, and using his usual careful research and wit and humour, Andrew Gosling (pictured below) spoke about Thai-French links in the 1680s, drawing on the National Library's rich collection of old and recent works



L to R Amelia McKenzie, Professor Craig Reynolds, Andrew Gosling

He has published his research in his article, "Siam and the Sun King: France's First Embassy to the Thais," published in the *National Library Magazine*, March 2013 and his "France and Siam in the 17th Century: Resources at the National Library of Australia" in *APSIG Newsletter*, March 2013.

But did he answer the question : was a white elephant sent to France by the Thai King? They certainly tried but it seems the answer is : "non".

Volunteering with heritage collections in the Solomon Islands

Over the past few years, several Australian volunteers have worked in the Solomon Islands to strengthen and preserve significant archival collections in a variety of organisations. At an APSIG lunchtime talk

on 11 March, we heard colleagues speak about their experiences in our Pacific neighbour.

Carmel McInerney was at the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation

Sue Feary was at the Solomon Islands YWCA

Catherine Green and Kari James at the Solomon Islands National Archives



They spoke about their experiences in working with these collections in collaboration with local staff who had often worked in these organisations for many years.

Well worth seeing their presentations and illustrations which Kylie Moloney has mounted at:

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/online.php>

IFLA RSCAO meets in Kuala Lumpur

Jayshre Mamtora, Australia's representative on RSCAO reports that the IFLA RSCAO (Regional Standing Committee on Asia and Oceania) mid-term meeting was held 17-19 February 2014, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting was hosted by the Malaysian Library Association and held in the Resources Centre of the famous Petronas Towers.



Amongst other issues, the group reviewed the abstracts submitted for the RSCAO Open Session of the IFLA Conference in Lyons, France. The program for the Open Session, "Transcending Borders: National, Social and Ethnic issues", has now been finalised, with Jeremy Lachal, Executive Director of Bibliotheques Sans Frontieres (www.bibliosansfrontieres.org), confirmed to present the Keynote Address.



Ian Yap and Janice Ow, IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania

In addition, the program for the joint session with the Section on Knowledge Management with the theme, Knowledge management initiatives and development in Asia and Oceania, is in the process of being finalised.

More recently, the National Library of Indonesia hosted the BSLA (Building Strong Library Associations) Asia and Oceania convening in Jakarta, 4-7 March. The long term goal of the programme is to build the

foundation for library associations to assist their work in representing the interests of library users, telling the story of libraries and gaining policymaker support and partnership. See more at: www.ifla.org/node/8358, and www.ifla.org/node/8181.

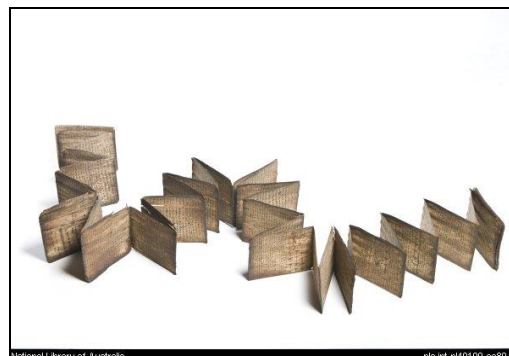
Any contributions to the June issue of the IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Newsletter are most welcome and can be forwarded to Janice Ow at Janice_OW@nlb.gov.sg by 17 April.

Keep up with IFLA RSCAO by subscribing to the RSCAO mailing list : rscao-l@infoserv.inist.fr

Book Treasures from Indonesia's Past

"Old, Rare and Beautiful Books on Indonesia" by Andrew Gosling, appears in *The National Library of Australia Magazine*, March 2014 pp.10-13
<http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2014/mar14/March-2014-magazine.pdf>.

The article describes a selection of important early holdings about the Indonesian archipelago. There are palm-leaf manuscripts from Bali and bark books from the Batak people of Sumatra. Western language titles published between 1550 and 1900 range from early travel accounts to pioneering scholarly studies of Indonesian history, geography, society, culture, flora and fauna. Many are lavishly illustrated.



Miniature Batak bark book, NLA

While developing its outstanding modern Indonesian collection the National Library is continuing to acquire rare, beautiful and historically significant books about Australia's northern neighbour produced before the twentieth century.

Buk bilong Pikinini project



Photo : Ness Kerton, Madness Photography

Incite April 2014 has a great article "Dream into reality" about the Buk bilong Pikinini project. Well worth looking at. Dame Quentin Bryce, the former Australian Governor-General, is shown here with Anne-Sophie Hermann (centre) in a recent visit to PNG. www.bukbilongpikinini.org

Pacific artefacts online

The British Museum is putting thousands of artefacts from across the Pacific online, allowing Pacific Islands the chance to see treasures from their own histories.



Figure-head for a canoe, of wood, black with pearl-shell inlay, from Solomon Islands (Supplied: The Trustees of the British Museum/Ben Burt)

The British Museum's Melanesian, Polynesian and Micronesian collections include every conceivable item from a geographic range stretching from Indonesia's provinces in Papua in the west to Rapanui (Easter Island) in the east.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-20/an-british-museum-puts-pacific-artefacts-online/5208124>

Cai Guo-Qiang: Falling Back to Earth

Currently on display until 11 May in Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art is an exhibition by renowned Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang who is internationally recognised for his ambitious, large-scale works. 'Cai Guo-Qiang: Falling Back to Earth' is no exception. This major exhibition is Cai's first solo show in Australia and features four installations, including two newly commissioned works directly inspired by the landscapes of southeast Queensland, which Cai visited in 2011. The centrepiece of the exhibition — *Heritage 2013* — shows 99 replica animals from around the world, gathered together to drink from a blue lake surrounded by pristine white sand, reminiscent of the lakes of Moreton Bay's islands.



Installation view of *Heritage 2013* 99 life-sized replicas of animals Collection: QAGOMA Photo: Mark Sherwood

Shannon Robinson, Librarian, QAGOMA Research Library library@qagoma.qld.gov.au

Garden of the East : Photography in Indonesia 1850s - 1940s, 21 February-22 June 2014

Garden of the East is the first major exhibition in the southern hemisphere of the photographic art from the period spanning the last century of colonial rule until just prior to the establishment of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945. The exhibition provides the opportunity to view over two hundred and fifty photographs, albums and illustrated books of the photography of this era and provides a unique insight into the people, life and culture of Indonesia. The exhibition and accompanying catalogue reveals much new research and information regarding the rich photographic history of Indonesia. *Garden of the East* is on display in Canberra only.



Balinese dancing girl. c. 1925 Thilly Weissenborn Collection, NGA

The exhibition is comprised of images created by more than one hundred photographers and the majority have never been exhibited publicly before. The works

were captured by photographers of all races, making images of the beauty, bounty, antiquities and elaborate cultures of the diverse lands and peoples of the former Dutch East Indies. Among these photographers is the Javanese artist Kassian Céphas, whose genius as a photographer is not widely known at this time, a situation which the National Gallery of Australia hopes to address by growing the collection of holdings from this period and by continuing to stage focused exhibitions such as *Garden of the East*.

Edie Young, Coordinator, Learning Programs, National Gallery of Australia

Inaugural Australian Education Engagement Symposium

Following the White Paper on the Asian Century and Australia's role within it, and the new government's policy of a "New Colombo Plan", the Inaugural Australian Education Engagement Symposium took place in Melbourne on 31st March and 1st April 2014.

Leading thinkers and researchers on Asia from institutions around the country, including the new Australia-Indonesia Centre at Monash University, the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific and the Asia Research Centre at Murdoch University, encouraged attendees to consider the ways in which Asian learning can be better integrated within the curricula, how capacity building on Asia can be better embedded within tertiary strategies and how improvements can be made to institution to institution and people to people engagement between Australia and Asia.

For more details, visit the website: <http://www.informa.com.au/conferences/education-conference/australia-asia-education-engagement-symposium>

Wide-ranging reports on East Asian library collections

Well worth a look, the East Asian librarians again produce a diverse view of Australian and overseas collections. The EALRGA Newsletter (no. 63 January 2014) is now available online

<http://www.ealrga.org.au/newsletter.html>

Ayako Hatta
Editor, EALRGA Newsletter

Japanese Studies Librarian
Asian Studies Research Collection
Matheson Library
Monash University
Clayton, VIC 3800
Australia

Ayako.Hatta@monash.edu

APSIG / EALRGA Christmas lunch 2013 – funny hat time



ASAA 2014 Biennial Conference -Asiascapes: Contesting Borders

ASAA is pleased to announce that the 20th ASAA biennial conference will be held from 8 to 10 July 2014 at the University of Western Australia, Perth. This conference invites presentations addressing shifts, continuities, innovations and tensions in Asia. We welcome engagement from scholars and practitioners in the humanities, social sciences and other sciences, as well as interdisciplinary explorations of Asia and Asia-Australia relations.

APSIG Newsletter

Published three times a year : March, July and November. Address : PO Box 5051, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602, Australia. ISSN 1327 1024

Copy deadline for July 2014 is Friday 13 June. Contributions very welcome especially from the Asia/Pacific region.

Text should be in word.doc format and images as jpgs.

Contact : Marie Sexton, Editor
(msexton@netspeed.com.au).

Issues mounted on the APSIG homepage at
www.alia.org.au/groups/apsig/

