

In this issue:

Personal reflections on my first visit to Africa (By Terry Eastwood) *pg 10-16*

"...I found my first sojourn in Africa to be enormously rewarding. I much admire the spirit and commitment of the African archivists I met, and I shall ever remember the generosity and graciousness of our hosts in Botswana. I hope I may one day return for a longer time to learn more about the African scene"

ALSO Inside:

- **Events,** **pg 2-6**
- **Rockefeller fellowship** **pg 7-8**
- **Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship plan** **pg. 9**

ESARBICA NEWSLETTER

2006 Issue No: 17

November

For more information, contact the editors Mr. S. Katuu skatuu@yahoo.com or Dr. P Ngulube ngulubep@nu.ac.za

Events

Nov 2006

6th – 10th **Information and records management programme level 1** Workshop convened by Document Warehouse in Johannesburg. Contact Virginia Hendricks Tel: (+27)112980700 Email: virginia@documentwarehouse Website: <http://www.documentwarehouse.co.za/>

7th – 10th **Culture, memory and trauma – third annual national oral history conference** Convened by Oral History Association of South Africa in Richards Bay, South Africa. Deadline for proposal submission **15th July 2006**. Send proposals to: Third National Oral History Conference c/o Prof Philippe Denis, Sinomlando Centre for Oral History and Memory Work in Africa University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X01 Scottsville 3209 (South Africa) Phone: 033 260 55 44 E-mail: denis@ukzn.ac.za Website: http://www.national.archives.gov.za/oral_assoc.htm

13th -14th **Electronic documents and records management** convened by Marcus Evans in Johannesburg. Contact Hennie Potgeiter Tel: (+27)115161073 Fax (+27)115161004 Email: henniep@marcusevans.com Website: <http://marcusevans.datapro.co.za/pdfs/GI412J.pdf>

13th – 17th **Intermediate archives and records management** Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **3rd November 2006**. Contact Mr. Mathews Kokong Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email: mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

14th **Open day on information management** Convened by Document Warehouse in Johannesburg. Contact Virginia Hendricks Tel: (+27)112980700 Email: virginia@documentwarehouse Website: <http://www.documentwarehouse.co.za/>

20th - 25th **Information and records management programme level 2** Workshop convened by Document Warehouse in Johannesburg. Contact Virginia Hendricks Tel: (+27)112980700 Email: virginia@documentwarehouse Website: <http://www.documentwarehouse.co.za/>

23rd – 24th **East African Government Technology conference** To be convened in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Website: <http://new.aitecafrica.com/node/133>

26th – 27th **Electronic records and information management** Workshop convened by Document Warehouse in Johannesburg. Contact Virginia Hendricks Tel: (+27)112980700 Email: virginia@documentwarehouse Website: <http://www.documentwarehouse.co.za/>

26th – 29th **11th ISfTeH International Conference : e-Health for all. Developed and Developing countries. Common issues – Universal solutions?** To be convened

by the South African Department of Health and to be held in Cape Town, South

Africa. Website: <http://www.mrc.ac.za/conference/satelemedicine/index.htm>

27th – 1st Dec **Information and records management programme level 3**

Workshop convened by Document Warehouse in Johannesburg. Contact Virginia

Hendricks Tel: (+27)112980700 Email: virginia@documentwarehouse Website:

<http://www.documentwarehouse.co.za/>

30th – 1st Dec **Information Lifecycle Management** workshop convened by Longsight

Communication in Cape Town. Contact Saimon Chirume, Tel: (+27) 123206770, Fax:

(+27) 123265080, Cell: (+27) 726610714 E-mail: saimon@longsight.co.za Website:

<http://longsight.co.za/>

Dec 2007

1st **Electronic records and information management** Workshop convened by

Document Warehouse in Johannesburg. Contact Virginia Hendricks Tel:

(+27)112980700 Email: virginia@documentwarehouse Website:

<http://www.documentwarehouse.co.za/>

Jan 2007

29th – 9th March **Records and information management** Course convened by the

Institute of Development Management in Lesotho. **Deadline 29th December 2006.**

Contact: Matthias Chida Email: mchida@idmbis.com Website:

<http://www.idmbis.com/crs/crsrec.html>

Feb 2007

Feb-March **ICCROM Course on Conservation of Built Heritage** Application

deadline **31st July 2006** to ensure inclusion in our selection process. Contact

ICCROM - Sites Unit 13, via di San Michele I-00153 ROME RM, ITALY Tel (+39)

06585531 Fax (+39) 0658553349 E-mail: builtheritage07@iccrom.org Website:

www.iccrom.org

6-8th **Libraries and information management in Africa** conference and workshop

convened by Melrose Advanced Professional Training in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Contact Besa Simbeye Tel: (27)114841112 Fax (27)114841166 Email:

besa@melrosetraining.co.za Website: www.melroseadvanced.co.za

13th – 15th **Knowledge and information auditing and mapping short course**

Course convened by Knowledge Leadership Associates in Midrand, South Africa.

Contact contact Ben Fouche Tel: (27) 218545480 or Cell (27) 832916671 Email: bf@knowlead.co.za Website: <http://www.knowlead.co.za/course/audit/>

20th -22nd **Knowledge and information auditing and mapping short course**

Course convened by Knowledge Leadership Associates in Cape Town, South Africa.

Contact contact Ben Fouche Tel: (27) 218545480 or Cell (27) 832916671 Email: bf@knowlead.co.za Website: <http://www.knowlead.co.za/course/audit/>

Feb 20th – 23rd **Basic archives and records management**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **9th February 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email: mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

March 2007

Advanced international records management training program (phase 2)

Conducted by the Swedish National Archives. Deadline for application was 1st March

2006 Contact: Riksarkivet C/o Hanna Eriksson Box 12541 SE-102 29 Stockholm,

Sweden Fax +4687376474 Phone (+46)87376350 Website:

http://www.ra.se/ra/recordsmanagement/index_eng.asp

March 13th – 14th **Registry management workshop**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **2nd**

March 2007. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906

Email: mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

April 2007

April 11th – 12th **Records management – Managers' workshop**. Training course to

be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for

registration **2nd April 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27)

114713906 Email: mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

May 2007

May 14th – 18th **Intermediate archives and records management**. Training course

to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for

registration **4th May 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27)

114713906 Email: mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:
<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

June 2007

June 5th – 6th **Registry management workshop**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **25th May 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email: mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:
<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

July 2007

XIV Bi-Annual ESARBICA Conference to be convened in Tanzania, hosted by the National Archives of Tanzania. Call for papers deadlines:
22nd December 2006: Submissions of abstracts, sent to Prof. Ngulube, E-mail: ngulubep@ukzn.ac.za or Fax (+27)332605092.
15th January 2007: Notification of acceptance or rejection of the submitted abstract.
30th April 2007: Notification of paper acceptance.
15th May 2007: Final camera-ready copy of the paper to be submitted for publication in the conference proceedings.
For more information <http://www.geocities.com/esarbica/conf.html>

August 2007

August 7th – 8th **Registry management workshop**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **26th July 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:
<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>
Aug 28th – 31st **Basic archives and records management**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **17th August 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:
<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

September 2007

10th-13th **Influence with Integrity** recordkeeping conference convened by the Records Management Association of Australasia in Wellington, New Zealand.

Contact RMAA Marketing and Event Manager, Ms Kristen Keley email:
marketing@maa.com.au website <http://www.maa.com.au>

October 2007

Advanced international records management training program (phase 3)

Conducted by the Swedish National Archives. Deadline for application was 1st March 2006 Contact: Riksarkivet C/o Hanna Eriksson Box 12541 SE-102 29 Stockholm, Sweden Fax +4687376474 Phone +4687376350 Website:

http://www.ra.se/ra/recordsmanagement/index_eng.asp

October 2nd – 3rd **Registry management workshop**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **21st**

September 2007. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

November 2007

November 19th – 23rd **Intermediate archives and records management**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **9th November 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email: mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

November 29th – 30th **Records management – Managers' workshop**. Training course to be convened by the Centre of Applied Communication at UNISA. Deadline for registration **19th November 2007**. Contact Ms T Manganyi Tel: (+27) 114713896 Fax: (+27) 114713906 Email mkokong@unisa.ac.za Website:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=17563>

July 2008

XVIth International Congress on Archives to be convened in Kuala Lumpur, hosted by the International Council on Archives Website:

<http://www.ica.org/calendrier.php?pcalendrierid=237&plangue=eng>

Fellowship for a Visiting Archivist from the Developing World at the Rockefeller Archive Center

The Rockefeller Archive Center invites applications for a Visiting Archivist Fellowship for a professional archivist from the developing world.* The Rockefeller Archive Center will host a visiting archivist for up to one month for the purposes of enhancing professional development, and extending knowledge of the Center's collections. Applications must be postmarked by January 31st each year, and awards will be announced at the end of April.

Terms of Selection, Conditions of the Award, and Responsibilities

Candidates

Applicants must be, or recently have been, employed as archivists, and demonstrably able (1) to improve their archival skills through a fellowship at the Center, and (2) to contribute to a better understanding of the Center's documentation of the applicant's nation or region. The successful applicant will have a B.A. or equivalent, professional archival training, and 2-5 years experience as an archivist. He/she should be seeking to expand his/her experience in order to develop new services or technologies in his/her home institution. The candidate must have a strong command of spoken and written English, and must provide evidence to that effect. Application materials will be mailed to prospective applicants on request.

Responsibilities

At the Archive Center, the visiting archivist will first observe the Center's operations, and participate in the Center's activities. The visiting archivist will then undertake an archival project planned in consultation with the Center's executive director and staff prior to his/her arrival. Examples of appropriate projects include:

- Processing a series of documents related to the visiting archivist's interests
- Studying the preparation of documents for microfilming, and microfilming standards
- Learning about procedures and standards for assisting scholarly researchers
- Surveying the archival resources at the Center relevant to the visiting archivist's nation or region, including photographs and films
- Studying the Center's use of computers and computer databases to manage its collections

In accord with the visiting archivist's professional goals, Center staff also will arrange for the visiting archivist to tour other archival facilities. Since the Center is open only on weekdays,

the visiting archivist may use weekend days for professional and personal travel.

The visiting archivist will prepare a brief written result of his/her project at the Archive Center, possibly for publication on the Center's web site or in its Newsletter.

Stipend and Expenses The visiting archivist will receive a \$5000 stipend for a four-week fellowship, reduced proportionately if the fellowship is for a shorter period. The fellowship must be for at least two weeks.

The visiting archivist's stipend is intended to cover the costs of housing, food and local transportation. The visiting archivist also will be reimbursed for reasonable round-trip travel expenses from his/her place of residence. The visiting archivist is responsible for keeping round-trip travel costs to a minimum by purchasing the lowest-cost airfare. Round-trip travel costs must be kept under \$3500.

*South and Central America, including Mexico; the Caribbean; Africa; south and central Asia; China; Korea; Taiwan; the Philippines; Indonesia; and the Pacific Ocean states.

Additional information and for application forms see

<http://archive.rockefeller.edu/grants/visitingarchivist.php>

For additional information on other Rockefeller grants see

<http://archive.rockefeller.edu/grants/>

Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship plan (CSFP)

Since its inception in 1959, the Plan has grown to be one of the most prestigious schemes for international study and professional development in the world. Over 21,000 Commonwealth citizens have held awards - many going on to reach the very highest levels of their profession.

CSFP has several distinctive features. It is a genuine partnership between developed and developing countries, involving both home and host country in the selection process. It offers awards in a wide range of countries.

Further awards will be offered during 2006-07. The awards provide opportunities for individuals working in key occupations in developing Commonwealth countries to spend a short period of professional updating in the United Kingdom. The closing date for applications was 30 April 2006. Details of the next round of awards will be advertised on the CSFP website.

For more information on the application process see http://www.csfp-online.org/hostcountries/uk/proffell_prospectus.pdf

For additional information on CSF see <http://www.csfp-online.org>

Personal reflections on my first visit to Africa

By Terry Eastwood

I was honoured and absolutely delighted to receive an invitation to give the keynote address to the 13th Biennial Conference of ESARBICA in Gaborone, Botswana in late July 2005. The editors have asked me to look back and reflect on my first contact with the African archival scene, which I must say provided me with one of the highlights of my career.

Let me begin with a little personal history. I began my career in 1973 as an archivist in the Provincial Archives of British Columbia, the westernmost province in Canada, and since 1981 I have been a professor of archival studies at the University of British Columbia. The late 1960s and 1970s were a period of change and ferment in the Canadian archival scene. Reform was in the air. Archives all over the country strained to improve their work processes, to take a more active role in records management, and to promote the worth and dignity of preservation of the nation's archival documentary heritage. Several archival associations were established in this period, notably Quebec's French speaking Association des archivists du Québec and the English speaking Association of Canadian Archivists, both of which established journals to promote archival discourse. It was a time of hopes and dreams of making great improvement in all things archival, even though a national report published in 1980 spoke of archives as existing "in the shadows of Canadian society." The report identified 175 repositories for archives, but 75% of them had woefully inadequate budget, staff compliment, and storage space.¹

¹ *Canadian Archives: The Report of the Consultative Group on Archives* (Ottawa: The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 1980). The statement about archives existing in the shadows is given in the foreword by the President of the Research Council that funded and published the study.

Of course, Canada is a wealthy, flourishing democratic and multicultural society, which regularly ranks very high in international comparisons of all kinds. Archives have matured in many ways over the past quarter of a century since that 1980 report. The African scene, by comparison, faces its own difficulties, and in many countries, it is obvious, conditions are far less conducive to the development of archives than they are in Canada. Still, what struck me most during my visit was how much the current African scene reminded me of my early days in the field.

One of my strongest impressions was how important ESARBICA is to archivists. As is the case with our Canadian associations, ESARBICA provides a forum for exchange of ideas and education, and a vehicle for archival advocacy. I am firmly convinced that professional associations can do things that archival institutions cannot. Above all, they provide a means for mutual support and action that gives everyone an opportunity to look beyond their burdens and to fashion hopes and dreams, and even formulate visions for a better future, such as Patrick Ngulube and Rosemary Sibanda did in their conference paper on collaboration and partnerships in the ESARBICA region. In fact, many other papers, whether advocating development of integrated records and archives systems or dissecting some failure of record keeping, articulated in one way or another visions for betterment of some aspect of the archival scene. Much as I enjoyed the exchange of ideas, my most vivid impression was of the energy, enthusiasm, and camaraderie of the participants. The spirit of the occasion, indeed the very idea of articulating and pursuing an African agenda, reminded me of meetings in Canada in the 1970s when archivists were so eager and enthusiastic to find ways to raise archives from the shadows.

In Canada, before the 1970s, few archivists beyond the heads and senior officers of public archives took part in exchanges outside their institution. There is still not enough support for archivists to attend professional meetings, but most institutions try hard to support staff members who are making contributions to the program of conferences or to committee work. Younger members of the profession need to be encouraged to take part in archival affairs, for ultimately institutions benefit when horizons are broadened. It was therefore encouraging to see young archivists attending the ESARBICA conference and giving papers. I remember my own excitement as a young archivist going to his first conferences to listen to older hands. Even though we aim to make our conferences scholarly occasions, there is always an element of telling stories to each other or repeating archival gospels. Certainly, that kind of thing went on in Canada in my early days, and still goes on today. People attend a conference to hear from others in hopes of learning something or to measure their own sense of things against that of their colleagues. Such story telling episodes combat isolation and stimulate thinking about problems.

I want to highlight a couple issues that caught my attention during the meeting. Let me confess off the bat that I know I am straying into dangerous ground because I am sure I do not understand enough about the larger societal context in the countries of ESARBICA, but I hope it will be serve some purpose to give my perspective on how these issues were addressed.

Several speakers dwelled on the connection between record keeping and good governance, and on the need for transparency and accountability. I know that these

ideas are in the wind in Africa generally, so to speak, and archivists rightfully see the role they can play in furthering good governance and the kind of openness and accessibility that is a *sine qua non* for their work to succeed. These are very large issues, on which of course archivists must have a say. They are ultimately political issues, but we cannot be afraid of addressing them for all that. Archivists have knowledge and expertise that can contribute to the larger societal consideration of these issues. In particular, Chrispin Hamooya's paper stuck me as a bold and brave statement in this regard. His abstract reads: "Zambian Governments from the colonial masters to the post independence period ... have been running away from the issues of transparency and accountability by destroying records and not ... [enacting a] Freedom of Information bill." His paper brought back to mind a quotation by the legal scholar Maxwell Cohen that I used in the first article I ever published on archival subjects, on the practice in Canada in the 1970s of ministers of Canadian governments removing their records when they left office and disposing of them as they saw fit, often to destruction. "There is no escape from confidentiality in the exercise of power." Cohen wrote. "It is the degree, the timing and the correlative disclosures that mark the difference between a free political order where debate determines policy, and a silent tyranny where secrecy stands as a high barrier to any public share in, or surveillance over, decisions and their making."² Anyone committed to democratic principles needs to be able to know what his or her government is up to in order to give consent and authority to government actions. Archives have always stood on the side of revealing government actions so that, at an appropriate time, people can discover what went on in the past and consider its meaning for the present. No setting anywhere in the world is immune from the difficulties and even

² Quoted in Terry Eastwood, "The disposition of ministerial papers," *Archivaria* 4 (Summer 1977): 3-19.

the dangers archivists will face in speaking up about these issues, but, if they do not, who will?

The second issue was the subject of lively discussion at the conference when Catherine Moyo's paper "Capturing a fading national memory: Zimbabwe's efforts to document the liberation struggles testimonies" was read, with great passion, by her colleague because she was unable to attend the conference. I know I handle a hot potato here, full of political and professional overtones. I know how concerned Africans are to leave some record of oral traditions, to have some memory of things that were never recorded, as illustrated by Kgomotso Moahi's paper on "Documenting indigenous knowledge systems in Africa: prospects and challenges." We have similar concerns, for instance, in our aboriginal community in Canada. I sympathize with archivists who are skeptical of taking on the function of oral historian. They might say, archivists do not document things, records do. However, my angle on this is somewhat different. The concern to give voice to things that will not be remembered because there are no records to give voice to them is a valid one. The fundamental reason why we preserve archives is to foster people's sense of identity. As the Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor says, "identity is partly shaped by recognition or its absence ... so a person or group of people can suffer real damage, real distortion, if people or society around them mirror back to them a confining or demeaning or contemptible picture of themselves. Nonrecognition or misrecognition can inflict harm, can be a form of oppression, imprisoning someone in a false, distorted and reduced mode of being."³ Surely, however hot the potato is, archivists need to think a lot about how persons and various groups in society are

³ Charles Taylor, *Multiculturalism and "The Politics of Recognition": An Essay by Charles Taylor* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992), 25

represented in their holdings. Certainly non-representation equals non-recognition and imperils the sense of identity people healthily want to be able to create for themselves by consulting records about their experience. This is perhaps the most difficult problem of contemporary archival science. So far, we have just begun to see the problem, and have hardly begun to think how we can better meet this need all people in our societies have to identify themselves with the historical experience of their forebears, and to develop a sense of their continuity with their past. Of course, we do this on the national stage, but we also do it in much more localized stages right down to the family and the individual. If archives are ever to be truly democratic institutions of importance to all people we have to wrestle with this problem more than we have and find ways to foster recognition and identity. Archives can never be in favour of not remembering.

I could go on, but I have overreached my limit already. Just let me say in closing that I found my first sojourn in Africa to be enormously rewarding. I much admire the spirit and commitment of the African archivists I met, and I shall ever remember the generosity and graciousness of our hosts in Botswana. I hope I may one day return for a longer time to learn more about the African scene.

Contact

Prof. Terry Eastwood

School of Library, Archives and Information Studies

University of British Columbia

Vancouver Canada

Tel: +16048226326

Email: eastwood@interchange.ubc.ca

Website: <http://www.slais.ubc.ca/PEOPLE/faculty/faculty-bio/eastwood-bio.htm>

About the Author

Prof. Eastwood started his career he was an archivist in the Manuscript and Government Records Division of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia in Canada. He was the founding professor of the Master of Archival Studies program in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia, and served as Chair of the program from 1981-2000. He is a Past President of the Association of Canadian Archivists and editor of its journal, *Archivaria*, a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and past member of its Council. From 1991-1995, he was a member of the Planning Committee on Descriptive Standards of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists that developed the Canadian Rules for Archival Description.

For several years in the mid-1990s he was a visiting professor teaching part-time at Mid-Sweden University in Harnosand, Sweden. He is currently Editor in Chief of the *Archivist's Library Series* published by Kluwer academic publishers located in the Netherlands.