



# e- Abhilekh

## QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

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### Editors' Note

During this quarter, National Archives of India celebrated its 124<sup>th</sup> foundation day on 11 March 2014. The premier archival institution of India came into existence as Imperial Record Department in 1891 with the intention to facilitate the immediate weeding out of ephemeral records generated by the British Indian offices. Even though the department has been actively associated with the development of archival activities in India since more than one hundred and twenty four years, desired results are yet to be achieved.

We have yet to inculcate awareness with regard to the importance of archival heritage of the nation among the creators, users and common men. This is the correct time to put things in perspective: learning from past mistakes and moving forward with a clear vision.

The changing trends in the field of archival science around the world should be examined and its adoption in the Indian perspective is the need of the hour.

It will be our pleasure if readers will send their valuable inputs to enable us to improve the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter.

**V. Srinivas, IAS**  
Director General of Archives

*“Of all national assets Archives are the most precious: they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization.”*

*-Arthur G. Dougherty*  
Dominion Archivist

## Opinion...

Congratulations for bringing out **e-Abhilekh**, the NAI newsletter. This was so long overdue. I look forward to future editions. I also hope that the valuable documents housed in the Archives are getting the conservation and digitization overhaul that they so desperately need.

I remain a well-wisher and a scholar.

**Veena Oldenburg**  
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**e-Abhilekh** has opened up a new horizon of Archival fraternity to share their activities. I welcome this initiative as it is providing global information alongwith the national perspectives in the field of archives. This venture will certainly inspire Northeast archival society for further enhancing their knowledge of paper heritage.

**Dr. Sushila Devi**  
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It is a very appropriate step to spread the word about the archives and it was need of the hour. The newsletter has immense potential to portray the diverse range of the heritage at National and International levels. Important information regarding latest trends and happenings in the field of archives on quarterly basis will not only be very useful but it will motivate as well. If the outreach is systemized, it will doubtlessly create awareness among people at all levels. E-Abhilekh can also produce a nationwide directory of all the Digital Libraries with brief descriptions about their work and collections, which will further serve as a resource for all those doing archival work.

**Davinder Pal Singh,**  
Co-founder and Executive Director,  
Panjab Digital Library.  
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**e- Abhilekh** is an eye opener for the Archival community regarding the current happenings in the archival field. Archivists and researchers of History from India and abroad will be benefitted by the latest information available. The details regarding digital information available online in the NAI website should also be indicated in the newsletter. Some suggestions-a separate column in the Newsletter regarding various data bases available online, both at central and state archives can be incorporated, the newsletter should be sent to schools for increasing awareness and more information regarding the e-records of Government of India can be provided via **e-Abhilekh**.

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## News from National Archives of India

### Foundation Day



### National Archives Foundation Day Celebrations, 11 March 2014

The National Archives of India celebrated its 124th Foundation Day on 11 March 2014. It was on 11 March 1891 that the Department was established as Imperial Records Department at Imperial Secretariat Building, Calcutta with G.W. Forrest as the First Officer incharge of the Department. The foundation day celebrations were formally inaugurated by Shri K.K.Mittal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture. A Foundation Day Lecture was also delivered by noted Historian and Tagore Fellow Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Former Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi.

The theme of the lecture was **The Foundations of the Archival Policy of the Indian Government: Towards Independence**. Two bilateral agreements on co-operation in the field of Archives were also signed by National Archives of India with the National Archives of Portugal and NRAA, Oman 2014-2015.

On this occasion, two exhibitions entitled **Commemorating 100 years of Ghadar Party (1913-2013)** and **1913: The Historic Transvaal March – 100 years** were mounted in the premises of National Archives of India and were inaugurated by Shri K.K.Mittal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture in the presence of eminent scholars, media and distinguished guests. The exhibition on the 100 years of Transvaal March was earlier organized by National Archives of India in the Volkrust Prison, South Africa as a part of commemorative function, jointly organized by the Ministry of Culture and Government of South Africa in the month of November 2013; similarly the exhibition on 100 years of Ghadar Party as part of National Celebrations of this Historical event was also organized at Kolkata and Chandigarh during the National and International Seminar in the months of February and March 2014 respectively.

Subsequently, the celebrations were followed by the Foundation Day Lecture Series delivered by Prof. Mushirul Hasan on **The Future of Archives** on 12 March 2014, Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Hussain on **Mughal Emperor Akbar's contribution for Development of Archives** on 13 March 2014 and Prof. Radhika Singha on **The Short career of the Indian Labour Corps in France: experiences and representations 1917-1919** on 14 March 2014.

## Records Management

Advice and guidance on Records Management was rendered to Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Chavara (Kerala). The 117<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> Orientation courses on Records Management were conducted at Record Centre, Bhubaneswar, NAI (6-10, January 2014) and National Archives of India, New Delhi (10-14 February 2014), respectively. 36 Officers from various Ministries/Departments participated in these courses.

35,680 files from non-current records of Ministries/Departments namely, Rehabilitation Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, Kota House, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi were appraised by the team.

## Arrangement and Accession of Public Records

During this quarter, a total of **10,705 files** of Ministry of Urban Development, Land & Development were entered on Archival Information Management System (AIMS) for online reference and **5,027 files** were amalgamated in the regular series of records. The department received a total of **4,734 files** from Rehabilitation Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and M.R.T.P. Commission, Kota House (CAT), New Delhi.

## Outreach Programmes

An exhibition on the occasion of centenary celebration of the **Ghadhar Party** was organized at Kolkata from 7-9 February 2014 and at Chandigarh from 6-8 March 2014 on the sidelines of the National Seminar organized by Indian Council of Historical Research. Shri Rajmani, Assistant Director of Archives was deputed to mount the said exhibitions. In Kolkata, Shri M.K. Narayanan, Governor, West Bengal visited the exhibition and Professor Arun Bandopadhyay, Department of History, University of Calcutta and Professor Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University alongwith other dignitaries and participants of the seminar were present during the inauguration. A set of digital prints of the exhibition were gifted to Professor Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University. The exhibition at Chandigarh was inaugurated by Professor Arun K Grover, Vice-Chancellor, Punjab University in the presence of other dignitaries and participants of the seminar.

On the occasion of 124<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of National Archives of India, two exhibitions entitled **Ghadhar Party** and **1913- The Historic Transvaal March** were organized. These exhibitions were inaugurated by Shri K.K. Mittal, Additional Secretary, in the presence of Shri V. Srinivas, Joint Secretary (Culture) and Director General of National Archives of India and other distinguished guests on 11 March 2014 at Archives Museum, National Archives of India, New Delhi.

## Cultural Exchange Programmes/Deputations/Visits

A tri-party agreement was signed on 20 January 2014 between National Archives of India, and INTACH, Delhi regarding continuation of the project entitled **Preservation and Conservation of Archival materials in Viswabharati Shantiniketan**. This project commenced from 1 February 2014.

H.E Mr. Dong Junxin, Vice President of China, International Cultural Association, China, Mr. Zhang Zhihong, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of China, New Delhi, Mr. Yuan Zhiguo, Second Secretary (Culture), Embassy of China, New Delhi, Mr. Zhu Hongbin, Office of the Ministry of Culture, China visited National Archives of India on 19 February 2014 to discuss the implementation of roadmap for Indo-China CEP (2013-15). In this connection, they met Director General of Archives and other Officers of the Department.

H.E. Mr. Jorge Roza de Olivura, Ambassador of Portugal in New Delhi visited National Archives of India on 26 February 2014 at JS Chamber, Shastri Bhawan and held meeting with Director General of Archives and other Officers of the Department.

H.E. Hamed Saif Al Rawahi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in India alongwith a delegation of three members headed by Mr. Abdul Mohsin Al Hinai, Director General, National Records and Archives Authority, Sultanate of Oman visited National Archives of India on 13 March 2014. They held meeting with the Director General of Archives and other Senior Officers of the Department.

A delegation, comprising eight members along with an official from the Embassy of Germany headed by H.E Mrs. Prof. Dr. Sabine Von Sehoriemer, Minister for Research and the Art of the Federal State of Saxony in German paid a visit to National Archives of India on 19 March 2014. They held meeting with the Director General of Archives and other Senior Officers of the ICR Division, Ministry of Culture and National Archives of India to explore vistas of Cultural cooperation between the two countries.

### **Research facilities**

**263** Indian and **44** foreign scholars were enrolled in the Research Room of the Department. Altogether, **1216 visits** were made by the scholars and **15826** requisitions for records were processed.

### **Reprographic Services**

**75,000 images** of microfilm of records were scanned. Besides, **317** images were uploaded on NAI website.

### **School of Archival Studies**

During this period the 33<sup>rd</sup> Short Term Certificate Course in Archives Management (10 February 2014 to 21 March 2014) was conducted and 22 candidates were selected out of which 10 trainees joined the course which includes eight private candidates and two sponsored candidates.

### **Grants -in Aid**

During this period, financial Assistance was given to four government institutions for the amount of **Rs. 35, 23, 69/-** under the financial scheme provided to Government Institutions. Under another scheme of financial assistance to registered voluntary organization/individuals the first and second installment of an amount of **Rs.48, 13,065/-** were released to 33 organizations.

### **Regional Office, Bhopal**

An exhibition titled ***Daricha*** was held from 4 to 10 March 2014 at Bhopal, Regional Office. It was inaugurated by Dr. Tariq Zaffar, Vice Chancellor of the Bhoj Open University, Bhopal. A One day workshop entitled, **Erstwhile History of Bhopal State** was also organized at the Regional Office, Bhopal on 4 March 2014.

## Record Centre, Bhubaneswar



On 2 January 2014, a quarterly talk programme was organised in the conference hall of the Record Centre, Bhubaneswar. Prof (Ms) Ishita Banerjee Dube, Centre for Asian Studies, Mexico City, Mexico delivered a talk on **Ideas and Approaches in transformation of History**. Prof Hermann Kulke, Keil University, Germany presided over the programme. Eminent scholars and individuals who participated in this session were Dr Panchanan Kanungo, ex-finance Minister of Odisha, Prof G.N Dash, Dr Nibedita Mohanty, Prof A.K. Pattanayak, Prof S. Pani ,Prof B.K. Mallik , Prof. S. Acharya and Prof P. Kar 1,823 books and 605 rare books and journals of late Prof Janaki Ballav Mohanty were donated to the centre by his son Dr Srikumar Mohanty. The rare books were in Odia, in English and Bengali. The first modern Odia drama **Babajee**

by Jaganmohan Lal, published in 1877 is the oldest rare book in this collection. 20 students of P.G. Department of History, Ravenshaw University visited the centre along with their teacher Dr P. Kar on a study tour on 21 February 2014.



Few rare books in Odia and Bengali of late Prof Janaki Ballav Mohanty



Post Graduate Students, Department of History, Ravenshaw University during the visit to Record centre, Bhubaneswar.

## State/UT Archives

### Bihar

On 27 February 2014, an exhibition was organised at Dr.Jagarnath Mishra College, Muzaffarpur on Archival documents related to Swami Sahajanand Saraswati. This exhibition was organised to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this great peasant leader of Bihar. It was inaugurated by Honourable Minister for Revenue, Mr. Ramai Ram.



To mark the 157<sup>th</sup> Victory Day of Veer Kunwar Singh, an exhibition was organised at the Veer Kunwar Singh University, Arrah on 23 April 2014 depicting the importance of first freedom struggle of India and the vital role played by Veer Kunwar Singh. The exhibition was inaugurated by Retired Chief Justice, Mr.Uday Pratap Singh and was presided by Dr.Azhar Hussain, Vice-Chancellor, Veer Kunwar Singh University.

### Manipur

Four hundred and seventy three manuscripts pertaining to different subjects ranging from migration to genealogical accounts were digitized during this period.

#### Index sample of digitized documents, Manipur State Archives.

S.No	Name of Document of Record/ Manuscripts/ Documents.	Type of Records	Time	Description	Language	Nos. of Page	Date of scanning
1	Chakparol	Manuscript	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	Account of origin and genealogy of Chakpa ethnic group of Manipur.	Old Archaic Manipuri	8	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2014

## Other Institutions

### Vrindavan Research Institute



Founded in 1968 by Dr. R.D. Gupta, a lecturer in the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, the Institute has come up as a premier institution of research on **Braj** culture and literature. It has a full-fledged manuscript library having approximately 35,000 manuscripts covering different fields of learning. Besides, it has a rich library of 15,000 printed reference books. Designated as a research centre of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra for conducting research in Hindi and Sanskrit subjects, the Institute has so far produced 26 Ph.D. scholars. The Institute has well equipped Conservation, Reprography and Publication units. National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi designated the Institute as a centre of MRC and MCC Projects since 2006. Supported by the Grant of Govt. of India, the Institute is working on several projects viz. Encyclopaedia of **Braj** Culture, Survey & Documentation of Braj Region, Publication of VRI manuscripts, cataloguing of manuscripts etc. It has a separate museum denominated as **Braj Culture Museum**.

#### ➤ Research & Publication

Editing work of a rare manuscript of VRI collection **Ragmala** was completed and press copy prepared for print. The manuscript was composed by Tansen, the great musician and one of the *Navaratnas* of the *Darbar* of Emperor Akbar. The other publication **Bhartiya Lok Vaarta Mein Srikrishna**, a collection of 22 research articles presented at the National Seminar held in VRI in 2011 was brought out. The next issue of the quarterly magazine **Braj Salila** (Year-10, issue 1-2) containing articles on various aspects of Braj culture was published.

#### ➤ Survey and Documentation Project

The survey and documentation work is an ongoing project. So far four publications viz. **Braj Ki Phool Bangla Kala, Mallyavidya Parampara, Braj Ki Kanthi Mala, Sri Rangmandir Ka Brahmotsava** have been brought out based on thorough survey, oral accounts and the relevant manuscripts.



➤ **Library**

The work for preparation of a **Descriptive Catalogue Of Sanskrit Manuscripts, Part-VII** has been taken up. 112 entries of manuscript have been made in this regard. 27 research scholars from India and 1 Scholar from USA conducted research work at the Library.

➤ **Braj Culture Museum**



An essay competition was organized on **Sangrahalya: Sanskritik Dharohar ka Pratibimb** on 18 February, 2014.

15 Students from 5 schools participated in the competition. 138 visitors visited the museum and necessary information was provided to them regarding the material displayed at the Braj Culture Museum.

➤ **Conservation**

In the Conservation Unit fumigation, cleaning, de-acidification, pagination, and wrapping of 926 folios, separation and repairing of 74 folios were done. Besides, Ink-fixation of 242 folios was also done.

➤ **Reprography & Photography**

2293 folios of 40 manuscripts available at Nimbark Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Vrindavan were digitalized to enrich the digital manuscript collection of the Institute.

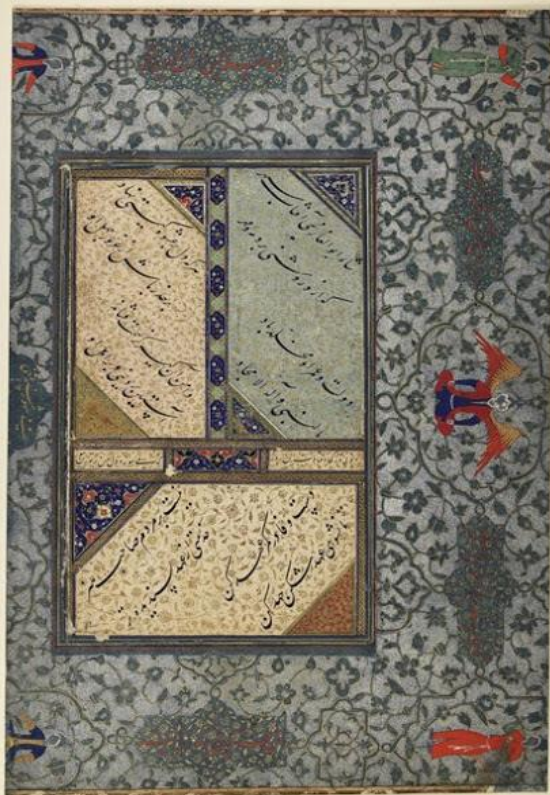
## **Kolkata Port Trust Maritime Archives and Heritage Centre**

While records are ephemeral tools of administrative work, archives play a pivotal role in mapping out the history of an organization. The main objective of Kolkata Port Trust Maritime Archives and Heritage Centre is to preserve the documentary heritage of the premier Port in India. The Port of Kolkata is inextricably linked with the urban development of the city of Kolkata. The trading settlement of Kolkata developed into the capital of British India and the port system and urban development reinforced each other. The story of the Kolkata Port symbolizes the commercial and political power of the British in India. With the termination of the British rule, the Port system in Kolkata became an integral part of the nation building programme of Independent India.

The Maritime Archives showcases the history of this grand organization from its inception of its present status, to understand its ethos and to appreciate the quality of the people who formed it. Kept in the repository are thousands of documents, maps, charts, photographs, memorabilia and audio visual recordings of organizational development of the Kolkata Port Trust.

The Kolkata Port records convey invaluable archival material for reference and research. It is a storehouse of information for the employees, Research Scholars and seekers of knowledge who are interested to know the perspectives of the maritime past of the Hooghly. It is also immensely motivating for the Kolkata Port Trust employees to realize that there is a tradition that they are part of and one which that they can hold on to.

This repository of information is housed in a 100 years old heritage building, Fairlie Warehouse on Strand Road, which was the hub of commercial activity a century ago. For the benefit of those who would like to have a preliminary glimpse at the Archives without physically coming to the Centre, a click on the exhibition panel of the website of the Kolkata Port Trust Maritime Archives and Heritage Centre provides a view of the exhibition panel. Hindi version of the book on history of Kolkata Port by Prof. Nilmoni Mukherjee can also be viewed on the website.



### **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts**

A public lecture by Professor Kavita Singh, Associate Professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, entitled **The Mughal Album: Cultures of Collecting**, was organised under the auspices of IGNCA on 7 February, 2014. The focus of this lecture was the phenomenon of the Mughal album **Ormuraqqa** which brought together diverse paintings, drawings and calligraphies and bound them into a harmonious whole. The Persian word **muraqqa** means "patched" or "patched garment," similar to those worn by Islamic mystics (Sufis) as a sign of poverty and humility. This study delved into the world of Mughal **muraqqas**, showing their likely principles of organization and suggesting that they may be seen as a form of collecting, akin to the cabinets of curiosity that were being assembled in Europe at nearly the same time. Due to the overriding commercial concerns, miniature Mughal paintings were cut out from books and sold page by page as isolated images, decontextualizing them beyond recognition. It is only recently that the **muraqqa** or album has

begun to be studied in some detail, though historically this was an extremely important form of Mughal book.

**A History in Bromide**, a film on photographer Kulwant Roy by Dr. G. S. Raina was screened at IGNCA on 10 January 2014. Kulwant Roy photographed several iconic images of the Indian independence movement and the early years of the Republic of India. He left his surviving photographic negatives and archives to his nephew Aditya Arya. The Cultural Archives of IGNCA organized an exhibition of its rare photographic collection of Raja Deen Dayal's photographs at the University of Delhi from 14 to 16 February 2014 on the occasion of its **Antardhvani** Cultural Festival 2014 at Sports Complex, University of Delhi, North Campus. Raja Deen Dayal extensively photographed archaeological sites, architectural monuments, including palaces and forts, places of worship and the landscape, and acted as the architectural photographer for Sir Lepel Griffin, the British agent in Central India.

### **International Conference on Asiatic Society, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College**

An international conference was organized from 21 to 23 February 2014 by Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, University of Delhi and was convened by Dr. Radha Madhav Bharadwaj, Associate Professor in History, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College. The focus of this conference was to deliberate upon the role of academic bodies like the Asiatic Society which took the responsibility of finding, restoring, preserving, translating and publishing manuscripts and books related to India and to study their significant contribution in the reconstruction of the history, culture and heritage of India.



The present day educational, scientific and culturally developed status of India owes a great deal to the beginning of the Indian Renaissance during the late 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries which was, to a great extent, made possible by the establishment of the Asiatic Society in 1784, at Calcutta by Sir William Jones, a great scholar of languages and a jurist of eminence. Incidentally, in January 2014, the Asiatic Society of Kolkata completed its 230<sup>th</sup> year. This conference was organised at this momentous juncture and witnessed the attendance of over 150 people and delegates who studied the multi-dimensional roles of academic societies in the light of new research and studies.



Delegate speech during the Conference

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### IRD to NAI: A Retrospect

11 March 1891 is an important date in the history of Archives in India because on this date, the Imperial Records Department (IRD) came into existence in Imperial Secretariat Building at Calcutta (Kolkata). This could only happen due to the report of Prof. G. W. Forrest who made a strong plea for transferring all records of the administration of East India Company to a Central Repository. Professor G.W. Forrest of Elphinstone College, Bombay was entrusted the job to examine the records of the Foreign Department of the Government of India and he had earned reputation as an Archivist for his work in the Bombay Records Office. Although, genesis of an Archives of India may be traced back to the year 1860 when Sandeman, the Civil Auditor, in his report stressed the need of relieving the offices of congestion by destruction of the papers of routine nature and transfer of all valuable records to a 'Grand Central Archive'.

Professor G.W. Forrest, as Officer in Charge of IRD was assigned the main task was to examine, transfer, arrange and catalogue records of all the Departments and to organise a Central Library in place of various Departmental Libraries. After G.W. Forrest, the work at Imperial Records Department (IRD) progressed well under S.C. Hill (1900), C.R. Wilson (1902), N.L. Hallward (1904), E. Denison Ross (1905), A.F. Scholfield (1915), R.A. Blaker (1919), J.M. Mitra (1920) and Rai Bahadur A.F.M. Abdul Ali (1922-1938) who were scholars as well as Records Keepers in their own right. Subsequent to the transfer of the National Capital from Calcutta (Kolkata) to New Delhi in 1911, Imperial Records Department (IRD) shifted to the present building in 1926. After independence, the IRD was rechristened as National Archives of India (NAI) and Head of the Organisation was designated as Director of Archives from Keeper of Records

Dr. S.N. Sen, (1939- 49) who succeeded A.F.M. Abdul Ali, gave an overall orientation to the activities of Imperial Records Department/ National Archives of India. For the first time, records were thrown open for bonafide research in 1939 and by 1947 all pre 1902 records were available for consultation. A Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL) was also established in 1940 to conduct researches into problems relating to conservation which was Dr Sen's visionary contribution. Training in Archives Keeping was introduced in 1941 and in 1944; a scheme of Post War Re-organisation of Archives offices in India was laid down by the Indian Historical Records Commission.

In 1947, the Departmental Journal **The Indian Archives** came into existence which contains research papers on source material of modern Indian history, conservation of documents, records-management, reprographics, archival awareness and all other allied aspects of functional archives.

Thus, National Archives of India marched towards the path of progress after independence to play a more dynamic and inspiring role in the archival field of the entire country. It witnessed manifold expansion of its activities since then in the field of accession of public records, acquisition of private papers/ collections and library material, records management, research and reference, publication, training, conservation, reprography, outreach programmes, coordination at national and international level and expansion of office at regional areas. The Department witnessed further impetus to its status in June 1990 when the office of the Director of Archives was re designated as Director General of Archives. Subsequently, after the enactment of the Public Records Act in 1993 and Public Record Rules, 1997 have not only made the NAI responsible for keeping in safe custody, the permanent records of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

At present NAI is an attached office under the Ministry of Culture and has a Regional Office at Bhopal and Records Centres at Jaipur, Puducherry and Bhubaneswar.

## Archives around the World

### International Council of Archives

Some of the most important historical documents concerning the history of central Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century are feared lost after a fire at the state archives in **Bosnia –Herzegovina in Sarajevo**. ICA confirmed about this incident on 10 February 2014 from the Director of Archives of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

The Archives not only housed many important documents from the period from 1878 to 1918, when the Austro-Hungarian Ministry of Finance administered Bosnia, but also the records relating to the Ottoman period and later archives of the war crimes commission after world war two.

Regretting the extent of the damage caused to the archival global community because of this incident, ICA condemned unreservedly the destruction that has already taken place, because the memory loss will be permanent. Some appropriate counter-measures are being taken to prevent any further destruction. Further, ICA expressed solidarity with colleagues in the Archives of the Federation who will be facing immense challenges in rebuilding their institution.

### Australia

The National Archives of Australia continued its commendable efforts in presenting archival history in a relatable and contextual way. Their efforts are particularly remarkable as they seek to contextualize the disparate elements of their nation's history within the realm of present understanding and acceptance.

Seven documents in the gallery, known collectively as the nation's 'birth certificates', include the original Constitution Act passed by the British Parliament – enabling the federation of the Australian colonies – and the Royal Commission of Assent signed by Queen Victoria on 9 July 1900 were on public view from 25 to 27 January 2014.

Commonwealth Government Records about Tasmania by Michael Piggott was launched by David Fricker, Director-General of the National Archives at the LINC Tasmania building in Murray Street. According to Mr. Fricker, 'This guide provides another way of ensuring that our archives on Tasmania are accessible and easy to find'. The guide explores the broad themes of Commonwealth-Tasmanian financial relations, disasters, the environment and lighthouses – including messages sent by carrier pigeon from early lighthouse keepers. It also covers the history of the people of Tasmania and records on many well-known Tasmanians from Joseph and Enid Lyons to Peter Cundall and Bob Brown. Commonwealth Government Records about Tasmania is available for sale and can also be downloaded free of charge at [naa.gov.au](http://naa.gov.au).

On 21 February, 2014, National Archives of Australia and the Australian Historical Association (AHA) announced their latest awards for postgraduate archival research into Australia's history. These scholarships help talented postgraduate scholars with the cost of digitising records held in the National Archives of Australia. The scholarships provide postgraduate scholars with \$650 worth of digital copies of records from the National Archives' collection.

On 8 March, Award-winning Indigenous singer-songwriter Troy Brady performed at the National Archives in Canberra, celebrating stories of Indigenous rail workers in Australia through song. For one night only, during the Enlighten festival, Troy performed specially written songs based on personal stories from the exhibition **I've Been Working on the Railway**, which is currently on view at the National Archives .

Based on Australia's nation-building records, a very interesting perspective emerged In March 2014. Greg Cope, Director, National Archives' Brisbane office undertook this job. According to the recorded views, Brisbane never had a chance of becoming the capital city of Australia because of its warm climate as there existed a strong, albeit a mistaken view that colder climates resulted in better intellect.

Cope also discovered that, when Brisbane residents thronged into the streets to celebrate the new Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901, some of them may have had a change of heart since

voting in the referendum about the Federation some time earlier. The results of the Queensland referendum in 1899 were close and the outcome could have gone either way, making the colony of Queensland for or against Federation. In researching the grand schemes, events and plans, Cope found many interesting links to Queensland. In two public talks held in March, he interconnected the stories behind the dreams, plans and schemes that helped create Australia.

In its media release dated 12 March 2014, The National Archives of Australia announced the launch of a new website Discovering Anzacs in collaboration with Archives New Zealand. The acronym ANZAC stands for [Australian and New Zealand Army Corps](#), whose soldiers were known as Anzacs. Anzac Day is one of the most important national occasions of both Australia and New Zealand, a rare instance of two sovereign countries not only sharing the same Remembrance Day, but making reference to both countries in its name. This website will have a unique profile of every Anzac who enlisted in World War I, linked to their service record. The Discovering Anzacs website will be launched in mid-July.



On 20 March 2014, the National Archives of Australia launched a website raising awareness of the issue to Australians affected by forced adoption policies and practices. The [forcedadoptions.naa.gov.au](#) website shares the history of forced adoptions through documents, images and personal experiences.

Director-General of the National Archives said, 'The aim of this website is to increase Australians' understanding of the history and impact of forced adoptions. Documenting what happened in this way will help ensure we, as a nation, don't repeat the mistakes of our past.' This website has been created as part of the government's response to recommendations of the 2012 Senate Report into the Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices. A touring exhibition, which is the second part of the Forced Adoptions History Project, would be central to the second anniversary of the National Apology on 21 March 2015.

## **New Zealand**

In New Zealand, World War I records are now much more easily available than ever. Under the on-line plan, a total of 73,674 records are on-line for public viewing, which is almost half of the total 160,740 records. Additionally, 65,438 records have been digitised and would be made available shortly.

As the acting Chief Archivist, John Roberts, said "As Chief Archivist, my principal concern is that this vast number of records are preserved safely in their original state as far as possible, digitised in a way which will make them permanently accessible, and made available to the public."

Ms. Marilyn Little took over as the new Chief Archivist and General Manager of Archives, New Zealand in February 2014. The appointment came after the resignation of the previous Chief Archivist, Greg Goulding.

As the official guardian of New Zealand's public records, Archives New Zealand collects stores and protects a range of material including important heritage documents. Every year, Waitangi Day is celebrated on 6 February as New Zealand Day and display of the original 1840 Treaty of Waitangi adds to the special nature of the occasion. Te Tiriti is not one single large sheet of paper, but a group of nine documents; seven on paper and two on parchment. This document represents an agreement drawn-up between representatives of the British Crown on the one hand and representatives of Māori, iwi and hapū on the other.

## United Kingdom

Thousands of digitised First World War unit war diaries from France and Flanders were made available online by the National Archives from 4 January 2014. The unit war diaries are among the most popular records from the First World War collection (file series WO 95) and the first in a series of First World War records to be digitised as part of the centenary programme - **First World War 100** of The National Archives of United Kingdom. On 3 March 2014, The National Archives released the second batch of 3,987 digitised First World War unit war diaries from France and Flanders which is available online via its First World War 100 portal.

William Spencer, military records specialist at The National Archives said: 'Making the First World War unit diaries available online allows people across the world to discover the daily activities, stories and battles of each unit for themselves.'

On 10 January 2014, a collection of Second World War Royal Air Force casualty packs was made available for viewing. These records were produced by the Air Ministry's casualty branch following the loss of an aircraft or personnel and include accident reports and correspondence with next of kin.



In February 2014, The National Archives released more than a hundred Security Service files, including never-seen-before material on the actor Michael Redgrave and the playwright J.B Priestley. Personal Files (KV 2) on the actor Michael Redgrave provides interesting new details about Guy Burgess, a member of the **Cambridge Five spy ring** who defected to the Soviet Union and met

Redgrave in Moscow while the actor was playing the part of Hamlet on stage. Other notable files in this release include: five files on post-war Jewish terrorism

activities in the UK (including assassination targets), the remarkable wartime story of the British fascist sympathisers and 'Fifth Columnists' exposed by an MI5 agent posing as a representative of the Gestapo and files relating to Russian espionage in the USA and penetration of the Manhattan Project. In March 2014, **The Triennial review of the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives (ACNRA)** concluded that there is a need for the ACNRA to continue its current functions in its current form. The review found that the case for retaining the ACNRA as an independent advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB) is widely and strongly supported.

## National Archives of Ireland

Established on 1 June 1988, The National Archives of Ireland took over the functions previously performed by the State Paper Office (1702) and the Public Record Office of Ireland (1867). The former office was established in 1702 as a repository for records relating to the administrations of the various Lords Lieutenant (the English monarch's representative in Ireland) who until that date had taken all of their records with them on leaving office. The State Paper Office was situated in Dublin Castle until 1990.

Located in the Four Courts complex, the Public Record Office of Ireland was established under the Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867 to acquire administrative, court and probate records over twenty years old. During the Civil War, the Four Courts was seized and the repository building destroyed by fire in June 1922, along with most of the records, some dating back to the 13th century.

Following the establishment of the modern Irish state in 1922, the Public Record Office and State Paper Office continued to function until 1986 when the National Archives Act abolished these offices and transferred their functions and holdings to the newly established National Archives. Under this legislation, records of Government Departments and their agencies are transferred to the National Archives when they are thirty years old.



In 1989 the Government assigned premises at Bishop Street in Dublin to the National Archives. The premises of the former State Paper Office in the Record Tower at Dublin Castle were vacated in August 1991 and the headquarters of the National Archives moved from the Four Courts to Bishop Street in September 1992 which is the present location of the archives.

Almost all the records acquired by the Public Record Office of Ireland before 1922 were destroyed by fire and explosion at the beginning of the Civil War in June 1922 and as a result, the material now held by the National Archives dates mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries, although there are a few surviving court and exchequer rolls dating to the early 14th century.

#### **National Archives of Scotland**

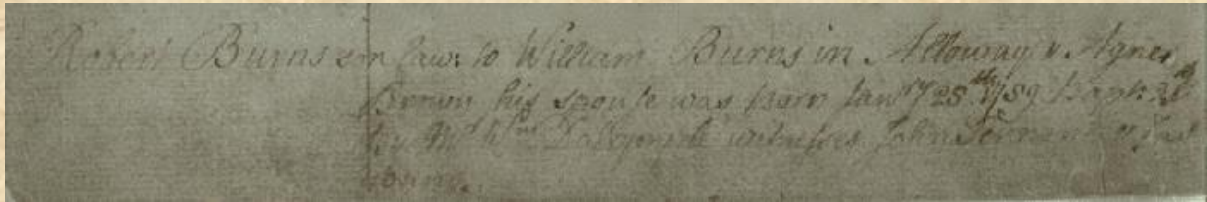
The mandate of the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) is to select, preserve, and make available the public records of Scotland in whatever medium and to promote the growth and maintenance of proper archive provision throughout the country.

The NAS also holds historical records created by businesses, landed estates, families, churches and other corporate bodies. In addition to advising Scottish Ministers on records and information policy, the NAS advises Scottish public authorities about the creation and management of their records, public and private owners about their historical records and it provides a reference service to the public on all aspects of the national archives. The NAS is also an agency of the Scottish Government: the devolved Scottish part of the United Kingdom's central government.

In Scotland, legislation designed specifically to protect and preserve archives was precipitated by the destruction of thousands of records in the looked-after children sector. This left many people who had gone through the care system without any way of accessing records which document their formative years. The Historical Abuse Systemic Review (Shaw Report) set up in 2007 highlighted this and recommended corrective legislation to prevent this in the future. To address this issue, Parliament passed the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 (PRSA), which came into effect on 1 January 2013. This landmark public records legislation sets out a scheme for improving record-keeping across the Scottish public sector and is a result of extensive consultation with the Scottish public sector and the records management community and 250 named Scottish public authorities would be benefitting through the implementation of this Act.

Under the Act, it is obligatory for the public authorities to prepare, implement and review a records management plan setting out arrangements for the management of records either created or held by the authority. Subsequently it is mandatory to submit their plan to the Keeper of the Records of Scotland (the Keeper) for his agreement. This delegation is aimed to implement the mutually vetted plans to help improve governance within authorities and increase accountability at a local level.





The rarely-seen original parish register recording the birth of Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet, displayed by the National Records of Scotland to mark the anniversary of his birth on 25th January 1759

A PRSA Assessment Team, based in the National Records of Scotland (NRS) in Edinburgh, has assessed 19 plans and these have been agreed by the Keeper. Over the next four years all scheduled authorities will be invited to submit plans for assessment. The Keeper's Model Plan and Guidance, issued to support public bodies develop their plans, has proven to be very useful. There is evidence that the Act is influencing practice elsewhere in Europe and in North America. This is extremely encouraging as the Assessment Team aims to continue working with authorities in Scotland to encourage best practice records management.

On 3 January 2013, the Scottish Government and the National Records of Scotland (NRS) made available almost 400 Government files which would previously have remained closed for 30 years. But in order to increase accessibility, the Scottish Government and NRS are releasing files up to 15 years earlier than had previously been the case, prior to the Scottish Ministers' decision in June 2009 to reduce restrictions on 'historical' records. In total, more than 12,000 files have been released under this initiative since 2009, covering the period from 1979-1997.

The statistics published on 19 Mar 2014 by the Registrar General for Scotland on the [Scotland's Census](#) website, present further details from the 2011 Census in Scotland on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion, from national to local level.



## The National Archives Service of Finland

The primary function of the National Archives Service is to ensure that records representing the national cultural heritage of Finland are preserved and to promote research based on them. The National Archives Service consists of the National Archives and seven Provincial Archives operating under it, namely, Hämeenlinna, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Mikkeli, Oulu, Turku and Vaasa. Launched in February 2012, Sámi Archives, located in the Sámi Cultural Centre of Sajos in Inari is also part of the National Archives Service. The Sámi Archives support and promote research related to Sámi people. The Sami people, also spelled Sámi or Saami, are the indigenous Finno-Ugric people inhabiting the Arctic area of Sámi, which today encompasses parts of far northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Kola Peninsula of Russia, and the border area between south and middle Sweden and Norway. The Sami are the only indigenous people of Scandinavia recognized and protected under the international conventions of indigenous peoples, and are hence the northernmost indigenous people of Europe.

Finland was governed from Stockholm during the era of Swedish reign and was annexed to Russia in 1809 as an autonomous grand duchy with a separate Finnish central administration. Records concerning Finland were transferred from Sweden to the Senate Archives which eventually began receiving material from other offices. In 1869, the Senate Archives was renamed to the State Archives, and in 1994 to the National Archives.

So far, The National Archives Service's digital storage and presentation system digitised and uploaded only those documents which were more than 125 years old. However, from the beginning of 2014, digitised material which is 100–125 years old was made available in the Digital Archive of the National Archives Service and this change was made applicable to material created in 1913 or earlier, which was previously subject to viewing limitations. Following the change, 441,000 files of population register material from parish registers has been included in the Digital Archive. This constitutes almost 10% of digitised material. The change makes a total of 246,000 files of totally new census lists available online.



The National Archives Service of Finland and the Sámi Archives have proposed including the Skolt Sámi archives in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Only 301 items have been listed in the register so far. UNESCO will announce the approved items in June or July 2015. The Pechanga area was annexed to Finland by a peace treaty signed in Tartu in 1920. Finnish border officials saved the archive casing they found in an abandoned village. It was first delivered to the headquarters of the Lapland Border Guard District in Rovaniemi and then, in 1942, to the state archives in Helsinki (the National Archives Service of Finland as of 1994). The National Archives Service of Finland returned the archives to the Skolt community, who in turn submitted them to the Sámi Archives for permanent preservation. Thus, the historically and culturally unique archives were returned to the Sámi district.



The archives from Suonjel, Pechanga, are the most significant body of documentation in the cultural heritage of the Skolt Sámi. The oldest document in the archives dates to 1601 and the most recent document to 1775. The archives were stored in a secret location known only to three trusted men, who all came from different families. The Skolt community did not know the archives had been preserved but thought them destroyed in the turmoil of the war. The archives were not “discovered” until in 1996. The documents, which form an over nine-metre scroll, comprise edicts issued by Russian emperors, confirming the rights of the Skolt Sámi to their pasture and fishing territories. The documents are of symbolic significance to the entire Skolt Sámi population and to indigenous people in general.

**Sami woman and child, Enare, Finland (early 19th Century)**

# Officer in Charge of Imperial Records Department

(1891- 1900)



**Professor G.W Forrest**

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