A Rapid Assessment of the Library of the Joachim deBrum House, Likiep Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands

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Albury Australia
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The deBrum House on Likiep Island, Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands is a cultural heritage site, which is unique in the Marshall Islands, in Micronesia and in fact in most of the Pacific. As a complete colonial period homestead replete with much of the original furnishings, including ornaments, books, phonograph rolls and glass plate negatives, it provides a unique insight into both the living conditions of affluent planters during the late 19th and early 20th century, as well as into the mind of an exceptional Marshallese man, Joachim deBrum.

**Survey History**

The fieldwork of Jon O’Neill as part of his Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) project into the management of German colonial heritage,\(^1\) provided an opportunity to conduct a rapid assessment of the library of the deBrum house and to assess its condition in a very general manner, Joan O’Neill, accompanying her husband, agreed to record the books as well as possible. The data collection was limited by two constraints: the bad preservation of many books and the bibliographic inexperience of the recorder. During the Likiep documentation, many books were deemed too fragile to remove from the shelf for inspection. As a result, only information discernable from the spine was obtained.

Six bookcases were found arranged in the southern bedroom of the deBrum house. This room has one internal and two external doors, all of which were securely locked and barred. It also has two windows (both on the southern wall) that were also locked and nailed fast with wooden shutters. Each bookcase had glass doors that were also shut and locked. Only on rare occasions when the veranda and parlour doors were opened could light and fresh air enter the room.

Where their condition permitted, books were removed from the shelves and catalogued. However, many were so damaged that it was not possible to decipher all their bibliographic details. In some cases, books were accreted together and the paper so fragile that it was not possible to get any details without severe risk of further extensive damage – these books are listed as “unknown”. Where books could be removed from the shelves but were in especially poor condition, they were simply dusted and returned unopened—they are listed as “Unable to Identify”.

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\(^1\) Reference is to the fieldwork conducted by Joachim deBrum and Jon O’Neill.
Pangelinan reported there were approximately 1,500 books stored on shelves in the house in 1977.\(^2\) In 1999, only 736 books that could be separated and catalogued individually were found in the bookcases. After books had been catalogued, cleaned and dusted, the shelves were also cleaned before the books were returned.

**Notes to the Chapter**


Coral atolls form from extinct and submerged volcanic mountains with fringing coral reefs. Dynamic processes of oceanic erosion and deposition construct islands of unconsolidated sand and coral rubble that are gradually colonised by vegetation. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) extends over about 1,950,000 km² of the Pacific Ocean but has only 171 km² of land. It comprises 29 coral atolls and five islands (Figure 1) that are arranged geographically in two chains trending north-west to north-east in an area between 4° - 19° North latitude and 160° - 175° East longitude.

**Likiep Atoll**

Likiep Atoll (Figure 2) forms part of the eastern-most chain (Ratak or sunrise) and is located at 10° North, 169° East, about 450 kilometres northwest of Majuro, the capital of the RMI. With a lagoon area of 425 Km², it includes 65 islands totalling only ten km² of land. According to the 1988 census¹ the total population was 482 resulting in a population density of 48 per km².

Pre-European colonisation of this part of the vast Pacific Ocean by Melanesians involved voyages that were heroic in proportion. Bellwood² states that many facets of these voyages “demonstrate great skill and daring” and Irwin³ described the exploration, discovery and settlement of the Pacific as “remarkable episodes in human prehistory”. At a time when Europeans rarely ventured beyond sight of land, these explorers sailed large voyaging canoes into a truly vast ocean with little knowledge of what lay beyond their horizons. As they explored, their knowledge grew, their technology developed, and navigation improved. Their methods were not European methods but they were successful, and cultural and social structures adapted to suit the circumstances. Irwin⁴ also suggests that this first human exploration of the Pacific was rapid, purposeful, systematic, and “involved less loss of human life than conventionally thought.” Rather than a series of accidents whereby primitive, flimsy and unseaworthy vessels were carried uncontrollably into a terrifying unknown, it is now generally acknowledged that voyages of exploration and colonisation were deliberate and planned.
The Library of the Joachim deBrum House, Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands
By the time Europeans arrived in their waters perhaps more than 1,000 years later, the Marshallese people had established a viable and dynamic society. Complex lines of trade, responsibility, and political authority linked all the islands and atolls in a series of cultural, familial and economic networks. Dramatic change began in the latter part of the 19th century and continued through the 20th century as different colonial powers exerted control.

Developments on Jaluit first, then on Likiep provided impetus for change in the Marshall Islands. Two expatriate traders, a German named Adolph Capelle and a Portuguese named Jose Anton deBrum, played key roles in the development of present-day Likiep. Independently of each other, they decided to make their homes in the Marshall Islands and subsequently married Marshallese women.

Jose deBrum married a woman of Maloelap, an atoll that was then under the control of Jortoka, the Iroij Laplap of the Ratak chain. Mason shows that deBrum purchased Likiep Atoll in 1877 from Jortoka, paying with goods valued then at US$1,250. In 1878, he transferred it to A. Capelle & Co. for US$886.73, which Mason suggests was the wholesale value of the trade goods paid to Jortoka. Capelle and deBrum formed a highly effective and enduring partnership that passed beyond a merely commercial transaction. They both produced large and influential families that have since intermarried and between them have founded what may almost be described as a Marshallese dynasty. Their social, political and commercial legacies remain very significant in the RMI today.
Likiep's physical environment was doubtless a significant factor in the partners’ decision to acquire the atoll, as it must also have been for Likiep's original settlers. It has also contributed significantly to the type and extent of historical and cultural property remaining. Likiep is further north of the main track of tropical cyclones than are other atolls, and has consequently not suffered as much damage from tropical cyclones as have Majuro and Jaluit for example. Yet it is not immune from such events. Reliable rainfall maintained a supply of potable water in the form of freshwater lenses, and reasonable soil fertility led to extensive coconut plantations being established on most islands of the atoll using successful German patterns first introduced on Samoa.

The great significance of Likiep Atoll results directly from its unique history and the life of its most celebrated son, Joachim deBrum. The first historic site in Micronesia to have been included on the Historic Site Register of the United States is on Likiep Island. Joachim deBrum’s house and associated buildings form its centrepiece.

**Figure 2.3- Joachim deBrum**

**Joachim deBrum and the deBrum House**

Joachim deBrum has been described as a sophisticated and urbane “Marshallese renaissance man who might have stepped out of a James Michener novel.” The eldest son of José and Likemeto deBrum, he was born on Jalu Atoll on February 22, 1860. His success as a self-taught businessman, builder, artist, engineer, shipbuilder, and scientist is remarkable, especially considering the remoteness of his island home. It is astounding to consider that he also learned sufficient medical skills to provide basic medical services, and established clinics at his own expense on Likiep and nearby islands.
The emerging science of photography fascinated him as both engineer and scientist. Its potential as an art form and a means of recording images of his Marshallese heritage seems to have particularly appealed to him as an artist. In what had already become a trademark characteristic, he focussed on learning everything he could about photography and ordered several appropriate books, some of which remain in his library. He built, equipped and operated his own darkrooms to develop and print his photographs. He devised a simple and effective method of cooling his darkroom to protect the stored chemicals and special photographic papers from the tropical heat. He became an artist of clearly remarkable ability and vision, producing a spectacular portfolio of photographs that is highly significant from artistic, medical, cultural and historical viewpoints. Despite being exposed, developed, printed and stored in tropical conditions (in some cases for over 100 years), more than 2,000 glass plate negatives remain in good to excellent condition, illustrating his artistic and technical skills.

A prolific builder, many of the houses he designed and constructed between 1890 and 1920 are still used by descendants of those for whom they were originally built. Most remain substantially unchanged. Although a few houses use small generators to provide lighting, kerosene lamps are still much more common. In many cases rainwater is stored in cisterns that are also original, and it remains the major source of drinking water. A near-original curtilage is a common feature throughout Likiep Village and original coral blocks are still edging coral paths constructed more than 100 years ago.

The extent and variety of Joachim deBrum’s personal achievements parallel his lifelong thirst for learning. The variety of books and manuscripts in his library illustrate the extraordinary breadth of his interests. For example, existing library books have been collated into various categories such as Religious, Scientific (natural and physical), Medical (including surgical, dentistry and geriatrics), Technical (engineering, wood working, house building), Maritime (navigation, boat building), Photographic, History, and Fiction. Publication dates imply that he probably obtained his books over many years and suggest that his interest in a broad range of subjects remained throughout his whole life. Development of this library portrays a person with an unquenchable thirst to learn about a remarkable variety of subjects. For him, learning was an exciting part of life.

Joachim died at the age of 77, leaving his library and tools to his family. He stated in his Will that all his tools and books should be “kept as a memorial” of him and that while both could be loaned out, they could “not be sold”. This simple request provides a fascinating insight into the man. He wanted his library and other tools to be used, not lost, sold or locked away. He was not interested in ostentatious tombstones or statues and insisted that he be buried simply “in a small plot of ground… by the Protestant Church, Likiep” which he and Edward Capelle built together in 1906. The memorial he wanted was a living and useful legacy of knowledge, and he even established specific rules by which books could be borrowed, including a maximum loan period of “three weeks”.

The most outstanding building complex in Likiep Village Historic Site is the Joachim deBrum House (figure 2.4) and curtilage which is now maintained and operated as a family museum. Joachim’s house itself is a simple though large, timber frame structure (figure 2.5) and was originally built using Californian Redwood planks and local hardwoods. It consists of only three rooms, a central Parlour, a northern and a southern bedroom, but has a large veranda on all four sides, a high loft for cooling and storage, and
an external kitchen and dining room. This separate kitchen and dining room was built about thirty metres southwest of the house, a sensible practice which reduced the fire hazard and also helped to keep the main house cool.

The house and associated outbuildings contains many items directly connected with this remarkable man, including furniture, tools, household items, personal effects, and what remains of his once extensive library. In September 1982, the Government of the RMI formed and chartered the Joachim deBrum Memorial Trust Corporation. It is now the legal entity owning and managing the house, a large variety of personal items and several outbuildings. A not-for-profit organisation, it is chaired by Joachim’s youngest son Leonard, and was formed specifically to preserve this valuable and highly significant cultural property. At first the roof was thatched, but sometime after 1910 the thatch was removed and the house was re-roofed with corrugated iron instead. Later again, this very substantial house was raised and the original short concrete piers replaced by local hardwood piers. In doing so, the headroom underneath the house was raised to almost two metres.

Figure 2.4 - Joachim deBrum House looking northeast
Figure 2.5 - Joachim deBrum House – Floorplan and Spatial Arrangement of Furniture
Notes to the Chapter


4. Irwin, Prehistoric Exploration… p. 118


9. Ghyben-Herzberg lenses occur within the porous interior of many coral atolls. They are shallow and result from the tendency for freshwater to 'float' on top of saltwater in undisturbed conditions because of the differential between their comparative densities. However, tidal movement can cause the two to mix with the consequence that lenses can become thin and contain water that is saline. Inundations through cyclonic storms and associated oceanic waves can so contaminate the lenses that they cannot provide potable water until flushed by sufficient rainfall.


11. De Brum, Leonard (Pers. Com.) 29th October, 1999 - advised that his father had a regular schedule of visits to islands to provide medical and dental services.

12. De Brum, Elmo (Pers. Com.) In a conversation held on 28th October, 1999, Elmo, Leonard's grandson, advised J.O'N. that he was now the supervisor of Likiep's Medical Centre built and supported by funding from the Australian Government.


14. Pers. Obs. The present cataloguing of books that have been stored in the bookcases alone has displayed a remarkable variety of books, and an intense interest in scientific, medical, (continued)
technical and religious matters. There are many works of fiction also including such authors as Dickens, Twain, Sinclair Lewis and Winston Churchill.


16 In his report on the 1977 Preservation Project, Jelks (1978, p. 18) reported there were “thousands of books”. Referring specifically to books that were “stored on the shelves in his house”, Pangelinan reported there were “1,500 books” (1978, p. 8). The present cataloguing revealed there were 700 books that were in a condition permitting them to be identified.

17 A copy of this Will is held by Leonard De Brum and was shown to J.O’N. on November 2, 1999.

18 United States Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, Item number 7, page 7.

19 These instructions were set out in his Will.

The early history of public libraries in the Pacific outside of Hawai‘i has so far attracted only limited academic attention. Goetzfridt has researched issues of American libraries in Micronesia and the role of Daniel Peacock, while Spennemann has looked at the development of the nineteenth century public library in Apia, Samoa. Problems of modern libraries in Micronesia have been addressed by Loeak.

The main period we need to be concerned about is the period of the German colonial administration in the Marshall Islands (1886-1914) and that of the Japanese administration (1914-1945) in the same area. In the following we will address the nature of public libraries in the German colonies in Africa and the Pacific, before we concentrate on the situation in the Marshall Islands. This chapter will conclude with an overview of the Japanese period.

**Libraries in the German colonies in Africa**

The need for the establishment of public libraries in the colonies was clearly understood in the first decade of the 20th century. While the speaking of German as an official language, and the need to teach German in schools was government policy in most colonies, there was little appreciation of the possible need of the resident indigenous population for books. This was different, however, where a considerable German population existed. Unlike the Pacific, the German colonies in Africa were run by large administrative staff and had a large number of resident German planters and traders. Hence it is not surprising that the more organized push for public libraries started here.

The *Deutsche Kolonialzeitung*, the official organ of the German colonial society, of November 1909 carried an appeal for the donation of books for the colonies, which seems to have originated from requests by the colonial occupation troops in German South-West Africa. Some of the libraries were assembled and donated by German communities. Most of the libraries thus assembled were sent to German South-West Africa, with libraries destined to Arahoab, Chamis, Kanus, Okawajo, Keetmanshoop (books donated by the city of Berlin), Otavi (donated by the city of Bremen), and Aus (books donated by the German colonial society for South-West Africa). Two additional libraries each had been compiled for German Cameroon, some locations in South-West Africa and German
East Africa. To facilitate the establishment, the libraries were sent out in fully-stocked library cupboards ready for set-up.

In 1900 the German citizen, Baurat Hoech, donated RMK 2,000 to the establishment of a public library in Windhoek, German South Africa. Through the offices of the German colonial society a selection of books was made and the first volumes sent there in mid 1901. The concept of the library is that of a community and school library (Volks- und Schulbibliothek). The holdings were systematically expanded through donations and purchases, so that by the end of 1909 some 1700 volumes were held.

In the Pacific, however, formal public libraries did not exist in German Samoa, German Micronesia or German New Guinea.

**German vs British Public Libraries in the Pacific**

Concomitant with the establishment of British supremacy in an area and the establishment of a civilian administration went the development of a public library system. Almost perversely, the colonies and outposts of Empire were deemed much more in need of such facilities than the British homeland. Consider that Public Libraries attached to Athenaeums and the like were established in Barbados in 1821 and Jamaica in 1827, yet the public library system of Cambridgeshire (outside the Universities) did not commence until the 1850s.

In Australia public libraries were founded early. In South Australia a Literary Institute was formed before the ships set sail and books were shipped out. A Mechanics Institute was founded in 1838 with the help of a Government Grant. The institute, initially too exclusive (due to costs) became more popular when the membership fee was reduced, but
lost income in the process. The Hobart public library was founded in 1849, with Melbourne following in 1853, and the Free Public Library in Sydney, in 1869.

**SAMOA**

The German Rudolf Indra, in 1901 travelling through Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, commented on the presence of well equipped public libraries in Levuka and Suva, Fiji. Indeed, even Apia on Samoa, with an expatriate community of less than 280, was in possession of a public library prior to the commencement of the German rule. One of the reasons for these colonial developments rested in the fear held by administrators and consuls that Englishmen would lose their identity without continual cultural reinforcement.

In January 1893 Sir Thomas Berry Cusack-Smith, British Consul to Samoa wrote a letter to the Editor of the *London Evening Standard*, asking the readers of that paper for donations for the Apia Public Library. In his letter, Cusack-Smith appealed to the English audience:

“There are, in the Isles of the Pacific, Englishmen who pass year after year, seldom seeing any human beings except the native—solitary among a crowd. They almost forget their mother tongue from long disuse. Even books they cannot get, and the long evenings are dull indeed. I venture to appeal for gifts of books from our fellow countrymen at home, which they have read and done with. Novels, yellow backs, science, history, school books, and standard works will be equally acceptable provided they are bound. Paper-bound books will not bear the wear and tear of a lending library.”

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*Figure 3.2. Example of the library cupboards sent out to Africa.*

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And the books came flooding in, as by late April over 500 volumes had been received and readied for shipment to Samoa.

This was not the case with German Pacific colonies. One reason why public libraries may have been more prevalent in the British Pacific than in the German colonies may rest in the fact that in Germany proper the libraries were regarded by many as hallowed halls. Thus only students and the intelligentsia of German society (Bildungsbürgertum) patronised the facilities. The German visitor Indra, for example, marvelled at the holdings of the libraries in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and stressed that all walks of life could be found using them. One reason may well be the saturation of urban and rural Australia with School of Arts and Mechanics Institutes, which led to a general sense of ‘ownership’ of libraries. And this sense, then, was exported to the colonies.

Another good example of the difference in attitudes between British and German colonial attitudes is also the representation of fiction published in the local newspapers. Despite frequent changes in ownership, Samoan newspapers prior to the establishment of a German colony, ie pre 1900, regularly ran fiction items, both poetry and short fiction, the latter frequently gleaned from contemporary Australian weeklies, such as The Bulletin. In this the Samoan papers were similar to other regional colonial newspapers in Australia. Yet, once Samoa had become a German colony and the newspaper turned into the bilingual German-owned Samoanische Zeitung, fiction was only very rarely included.

During the German administration the public library continued but on a smaller scale, with a sprinkling of German-language books included. The journal of the Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft (German Colonial Society) opined in 1902 that the establishment of a German Public Library was an urgent need, as the average German settler in Samoa, albeit not impecunious, did not have the disposable income to acquire a large personal library. And without such the ‘Germandom’ of the settlers was under threat. A public ‘call to arms’ to provide books, akin to the call made by Cusack-Smith a decade earlier, was issued. As contact address the brother of one of the planters, Richard Deeken, was given, suggesting that he was behind the scheme. We do not know how many books were thus obtained.

**School Libraries**

The German school in Apia was founded in 1891. Until 1903 it was run as a private school subsidised by the German government, when it was taken over as a government school. At that time it had a small library, but that was normally not open to the general public. New buildings were erected in 1905. The Cyclopaedia of Samoa comments in 1907 that the school has ‘a well stocked library,’ but does not elaborate on its contents.

**Libraries in German Micronesia**

What was the situation in German Micronesia? The area comprised the Marshall Islands, acquired from Spain in 1886, and the Caroline, Palau and Mariana Islands, acquired from Spain in 1899, following the Spanish-American War. The German administration in Micronesia comprised of district administrations with seats in Saipan (for the Marianas),
Yap (for the Western Carolines and Palau), and Pohnpei (for the Eastern Carolines). These were subordinate to the Governor of German New Guinea, residing in Herbertshöhe (later in Rabaul), in New Britain, who in turn was answerable to Berlin. The Marshall Islands were a separate colony until 1906 when they too were made districts subordinate to German New Guinea.

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**Figure 3-3 Map of the German Pacific**

**Extent of the expatriate population**

Before we comment on the presence or the nature of libraries in German Micronesia we need to consider that the size of the expatriate population in the area was not only very small (table 3-1) but also geographically very dispersed—thus the demand for a public library was virtually non-existent.

**Table 3-1 Extent of non-indigenous population in the Micronesia 1886 to 1914 (excluding Chinese labourers)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Marshalls</th>
<th>Eastern Carolines</th>
<th>Western Carolines</th>
<th>Marianas</th>
<th>Marshalls</th>
<th>Eastern Carolines</th>
<th>Western Carolines</th>
<th>Marianas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Library of the Joachim deBrum House, Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADMINISTRATION LIBRARIES**

The German district administration on Saipan, Marianas, owned a library, for use by the government officials and appropriate members of the public. This library was saved through concerted efforts by the colonial administrators during the 2/3 October 1909 typhoon that severely affected the island.²⁹

There were no public libraries in any of district centres of the German administration in Micronesia: Kolonia (Pohnpei), Kolonia (Yap), Jaluit (Marshall Islands), Saipan (Marianas). Yet, clearly private citizens as well as some of the companies held books. The German naval physician and ethnographer Dr. Augustin Krämer commented that in 1892 the separate dining (and presumably also lounge room (‘Speisehaus’) of the Jaluit Gesellschaft on Jaluit contained a nice (‘hübsche’) library, where he found many useful items on the Marshalls.³⁰ The Pacific Phosphate company, a joint venture between the Jaluit Gesellschaft and the Pacific Island Company, mined phosphate on Nauru. As part of the amenities provided for the 60 expatriate staff, the company maintained, *inter alia* a reading and billiard room with piano, newspapers and a close to 1000 volume library of German and English-language books.³¹
### Table 3-2 Nationality of non-indigenous population in the Marshall Islands 1886 to 1908

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>British</th>
<th>colonial</th>
<th>American</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Norwegian</th>
<th>Swedish</th>
<th>Danish</th>
<th>Portuguese</th>
<th>Brazilian</th>
<th>Swiss</th>
<th>Russian</th>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>Dutch</th>
<th>Austrians without</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
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The Library of the Joachim deBrum House, Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands

### Table 3-3 Non-indigenous population in the Marshall Islands by language group 1886 to 1908

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>German</th>
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<th>Nordic</th>
<th>Dutch</th>
<th>Portuguese</th>
<th>Other</th>
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### Table 3-4 Presence of non-indigenous population on outer atolls of the Marshall Islands in 1892 and 1893

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<td>1 trader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arno</td>
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<td>5 traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebon</td>
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<td>3 traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kili</td>
<td>1 planter</td>
<td>1 planter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likiep</td>
<td>2 planters &amp; 2 artisans</td>
<td>2 planters &amp; 3 artisans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majuro</td>
<td>7 traders</td>
<td>7 traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maloelap</td>
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<td>2 trader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mejit</td>
<td>1 trader</td>
<td>1 trader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mile</td>
<td>3 traders</td>
<td>3 traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namorik</td>
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<td>3 traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ujelang</td>
<td>1 planter</td>
<td>2 planters</td>
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German Schools in Micronesia

The German education system in Micronesia was in the hands of Protestant and Catholic missionaries, with the exception of a Government school on Saipan. Catholic schools existed on Pohnpei, Yap, Palau and Saipan, all run by the Capuchins, and on Jaluit, and Arno, Likiep and Nauru, run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Protestant schools, operated by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and later in part by the (German) Liebenzeller Mission, operated on Kosrae, Pohnpei, Pingelap, Mokil, Chuuk, Nauru and Majuro.33

We do not know the extent of the libraries held by the mission schools, but know that some of them were destroyed in the typhoons that ravaged the islands on 20 April 1905 (Kosrae and Pohnpei) and 30 June 1905 (Jaluit).

Libraries were an integral part of German schools, and when in 1905 the government school was opened on Saipan, a school library for use by the pupils was planned.34

The role of individuals

Private individuals always kept their own professional and recreational libraries. As reading matter was ordered and shipped by mail and the arrival of the mail bag of great importance. Newspapers were the most significant, with books taking a comparative backseat. The obsession of the arriving mailbag, and the anticipation of reading the, albeit several weeks old, news in the *Times* and other newspapers, is nicely captured in Somerset Maugham’s short story *The Outstation.*35

Yet we need to read this with some caution. While the main trading companies placed administrators in charge, the bulk of the traders operating in the islands were self-made men with an adventurous streak, often with limited education. While most of them would have been readers, few would have acquired libraries of their own.

Volume of Book Imports

As a rule, import statistics of reading matter to the colonies are rare. A snapshot of the volume of reading matter reaching Samoa can be obtained for 1885. In his annual report, post master John Davis mentions that for the period 3 January to 30 November 1885 he received 3168 letters, 6253 newspapers and 377 books.36 Unfortunately no other similar accounts could be found in the files. As there is no reason to assume that 1885 was a special year, we can estimate that the annual volume of book imports would have been similar for the 1890s.37 Worth noting is that the number of newspapers far exceeds that of the numbers of letters and other mail.

We have no such data for the German colonial period. For some years, however, we have in hand the figures of newspapers delivered by mail, while books would have been summarised under parcels. The fragmentary data available from the annual reports and other sources are shown in tables 3-5 and 3-6. For most years we only have the total numbers of issues carried (table 3-5), but for a few years we also have in hand the number of subscriptions (table 3-6). Comparing these with the non-indigenous population the low rate of newspaper subscription becomes obvious. This is exacerbated if we look at the
number of subscriptions per household, as represented by the number of males over 15 (table 3-1). Moreover, the number of newspapers carried by mail is less than half the number of letters carried, a reversal to the pre-German situation in Samoa.

**Table 3-5 Imports of newspapers (issues) to the German Pacific colonies.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jaluit</th>
<th>Eastern Carolines</th>
<th>Western Carolines</th>
<th>Marianas</th>
<th>German Micronesia Total</th>
<th>German Samoa</th>
<th>German New Guinea</th>
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**Table 3-6 Imports of newspapers (subscriptions) to the German Pacific colonies.**

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<th>Western Carolines</th>
<th>Marianas</th>
<th>German Micronesia Total</th>
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### Table 3-7 Total Imports of paper products to German Micronesia

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<th>Value (Rmk)</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Value (Rmk)</th>
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### Table 3-8 Origin of imports of paper products to German Micronesia

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The only other statistics available to gauge book imports to German Micronesia are the annual trade statistics, which list Papier und Pappwaren, literarische und Kunstgegenstände (Paper and cardboard stationery, literary and art items). These statistics did not start until 1905; before that statistics are available for German New Guinea proper, but not for the ‘Islands Territory of the Carolines, Palau and Mariana Islands,’ where paper products were summarised under the heading ‘sundries.’ Unfortunately the published statistics (table 3-7) do not discriminate between printed matter and stationery. The same applies to the archival sources of the Reichskolonialamt.

The published data allow for two conclusions, however. The role of government in importing matter was small, with the bulk of the material imported for private use (table 3-7). The other demonstrates the nature of supply. While the bulk of paper goods came from German sources, Australian suppliers figure well, particularly in Eastern Micronesia. As stationers often acted as book distributors and vice versa, this has a bearing on the origin of books traded into the region. Asian suppliers are well represented in the west, but also in the eastern Micronesia. These sources are both Japanese and Chinese, the latter via the German colony of Jiazhou (Qingdao).
To cater for this market, special ‘Colonial Series’ were produced by the major publishers, such as Macmillan, T. Fisher Unwin, John Murray, T. Werner Laurie and others. These editions were offered in cheaper bindings and often on cheaper paper, solely for sale in the British Colonies, where they were distributed not only by book sellers but also by mail order houses. To a degree these ‘Colonial Series’ were the forerunner of the book club editions as they ensured a ‘captive’ market and thus made a print run profitable.

However, the ‘fare’ offered by these British colonial libraries was limited and avid readers yearned for more and for variation. Somerset Maugham describes in his short story ‘The Bookbag’ the desperation some planters and plantation managers experienced in isolation. Visitors were likely to be accosted for the news as well as the books they might bring with them.

In the Micronesian setting the nature of colonialism differed from that in South East Asia. In his short story ‘A Point of Theology on Majuro’ the Australian trader turned novelist Louis Becke describes a resident trader with a small religious library:

“The only signs of superiority he showed over the rest of his fellow traders being the display on the rough table in his sitting room of a quantity of theological literature by the Reverend James MacBain, of Aberdeen. Still he was not proud, and would lend any of his books or pamphlets to any white man who visited the island.”

We need to consider that while Micronesia was a German colony (with the exception of Guam), quite a few of the residents in Micronesia were British and American traders who would acquire British colonial editions. Not all of the reading matter offered in these series was to the taste of the German traders and administrators. The Australian short story author Louis Becke, for example, was a favourite with many of the Pacific trading community for he had once been one of them. He was widely distributed in T. Fisher Unwin’s colonial series. Becke’s anti-German stance, however, and his negative portrayal,
if not stereotyping of German traders, against a background of German population engrossed in Imperial colonial ambitions did not endear him to the German audience.\(^4\)

While some German publishers, such as Süßerrott of Berlin, began to publish a series of colonial handbooks destined for the budding tropical farmer, mainstream publishers never had a colonial fiction series, largely because the readership and most certainly the well-to-do market in the German colonies was limited.

Those who could afford books obtained directly from the publishers who advertised in the two main colonial journals the *Deutsche Kolonialzeitung* and the *Deutsches Kolonialblatt* (figure 3-5). Overall, however, the quantity of advertisements by publishers or booksellers is very small. In addition, some of the export booksellers also issued their own catalogues of publications on and for the colonies (figure 3-6), which added to the sales markets.

The pages of colonial journals show that comments on the changes to the book rate in the German postal system to the colonies were quite common,\(^5\) reflecting the importance expatriates placed on this service. In his 1904 assessment of the contemporary German
postal system in the colonies, Herzog argued that the fact that the newspaper rate for the colonies was the same as the newspaper rate for domestic Germany was seen as an important contributor to the colonisation process.

**ARNO SENFFT**

The German district administrator for the Western Carolines, Dr. Arno Senfft, must have possessed a small private library as well as a nice collection of artefacts from his previous posting in Jaluit. Most of this was stored with his parents. Upon return from home leave in Germany in 1903 he brought with him a rare book, the German first edition of Anson’s voyage around the world. He wrote two articles on Tinian for the *Deutsches Kolonialblatt* drawing on that particular book. The volume brought out by him would have most probably been

“*Des Herrn Admirals, Lord Ansons Reise um die Welt, welche er als Oberbefehlsaher über ein Geschwader von Sr. Grossbritannischen Majestät Kriegs Schiffen, die Zu einer Unternehmung in die Südsee ausgeschickt worden, in den Jahren 1740, 41, 42, 44 44 verrichtet hat, aus dessen Aufsätzen und Urkunden zusammengetragen und unter seiner Aufsicht und das Licht gestellet von M. Richard Walstern, Capetan Sr. Majestät Schiff, dem Centurion, in diesem Kriegszuge.*”


We do not know what happened to Senfft’s library in Micronesia after his death on 14 February 1909 in Hong Kong, but we can assume that the material left behind in Germany was eventually dispersed.

**OTHER GOVERNMENT PHYSICIANS**

The tropical climate of the typhoon–affected islands of Micronesia, however, was not at all conducive to maintaining a library, let alone one containing rare books. We know, for example, that the professional library owned by Dr. Max Girschner, government physician on Pohnpei, was destroyed during the 20 April 1905 typhoon that totally levelled the German settlement there. Girschner, who was absent on a different island group, also lost all his patient records. The German government physician on Saipan, Dr. Paul Schnee, comments on the leaking nature of the Japanese tile roofs, mentioning in his annual report that he had to wrap all his books in towels when rain set in.

There is no documentation of the actual contents of libraries in German Micronesia, with the exception of the library established by Joachim deBrum on Likiep Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

**MISSIONARIES**

Missionaries can be expected to have maintained small working libraries of religious texts. We have but little detail on the existence of the libraries. The German physician Kretschmar comments in his account of Nauru on the Catholic missionary’s library as containing a number of large folios which impressed the local population no end.
Notes to the Chapter


10 Ifill op. cit. p. 76.


15 Even though a Australian Subscription Library, existed since 1826

16 Source: Deutsche Kolonialgellschaft.


(continued)


25 Anon. (1902) Eine deutsche Bibliothek auf Samoa. Deutsche Kolonialzeitung vol. 19 n° 17, p. 166


37 The consular trade statistics, as limited as they are, do not provide detail on the volume or value of book imports.


(continued)
299.—Reichskolonialamt. 1912. *Etat für das Schutzgebiet Neu Guinea einschliesslich der Inselbezirke der Südsee auf das Rechnungsjahr 1913.* [Berlin]: [Reichskolonialamt].


Sources: Top left: *Deutsches Kolonialblatt* vol. 9 nº 3, 1900, p. 44.—Bottom left: *Deutsches Kolonialblatt* vol. 16 nº 2, 1905, p. 63.—Middle: *Deutsches Kolonialblatt* vol. 16 nº 2, 1905, p. 62.—Right: *Deutsche Kolonialzeitung* vol. 27 nº 1, 1910, p. 16.


(continued)
52 Thiel, Friedrich (1900) Unsere Bezirks- und Landeshauptleute auf den Karolinen. Deutsche Kolonialzeitung 17(29), 258-259.


54 Senfft, Arno.—*1864 (Weimar, in Thuringia), † 14 February 1909 (HongKong).—son of a typesetter; completes middle school, joins middle level public service on a non-established position (‘Supernumerar’) working in the Judiciary of Thuringia; administrator Deutsche Neu Guinea Compagnie 1891-November 1894; Berlin 1895; Colonial service 1895; Deputy Secretary Jaluit April 1895; Secretary 1896–1900; acting Landeshauptmann Jaluit 1897-1898; Bezirksamtmann Eastern Carolines (seat: Yap 1899–March 1907; Bezirksamtmann Eastern Carolines and Marianas (seat: Yap April 1907–27 January 1909; 1902 on furlough, March 1906–March 1907 on extended furlough;.—1901 Order of the Red Eagle IV. Class; 1902 Knight’s Cross of the Royal Württemberg Peace Order; 1902 Knight’s Cross of the Royal Spanish Order of Carl III.


Developing a library on a remote atoll

Clearly, establishing a library in Micronesia was far from easy. The main problems faced were distance and access to information about new publications. The latter was actually not that difficult for publishers advertised in the back matter of their own literary and general interest magazines (such as *Century Magazine*), some of which included pre-printed order cards for both publications and trade catalogues (figure 4-3). Furthermore, most publishers included publication lists in the back of books published by them. Once on the mailing list of publishers, announcements of new publications would be sent out as a matter of courtesy.

The distance, however, was a fact that added both to the delivery time and to the actual cost of acquisition. In the 1910s there were four shipping connections in Micronesia (figure 4-1), the most important being the Jaluit Line which operated the mail steamer *Germania* on three to four round trips between Sydney and Hong Kong, stopping at all German islands en route. Additional communications between Jaluit and Sydney were maintained by the Burns Philp copra steamers, as well as by the phosphate ships arriving at Nauru (and from there by sailing vessel to Jaluit). Average mail time between Micronesia depended on the location of the point of despatch and the direction of the *Germania*. For Jaluit this could vary from 45 to 62 days. Assuming the order was filled immediately and the book ordered was sent via the more expensive rail connecting with the German mail steamers in Genoa or Naples, the item could be in Jaluit after about 90 to 120 days. Material sent as parcel post would have been routed via the German ports of Hamburg or Bremerhaven, which would have added another 14 to 28 days depending on sailing dates of vessels. Orders filled from Sydney would have been back in Jaluit after 30 to 60 days, again depending on whether the *Germania* was en route to Sydney or to Hong Kong at the time of posting the letter. Clearly, compared to somebody developing a library in, say Australia, Joachim deBrum had to spend more money and especially much more time on his collection.
ORDERING BOOKS

We are not informed as to when Joachim deBrum began establishing his library. However, we have in hand correspondence which sheds some light on the issue. It would appear that when Joachim deBrum decided to develop a library, that he pulled in as many books and magazines as he could. Adolph Capelle wrote in May 1894 that he had posted copies of *Century Magazine* as well as *Forest and Stream* to deBrum in Likiep. Also, that he had received a packet of books from the trader James Milne in Ebon.\(^5\) We can assume that deBrum requested to be allowed to retain the items, for in December of the same year Adolph Capelle informs deBrum that he is prepared to let him have his run of *Forest and Stream* covering the years 1884 to 1889.\(^6\)

In the beginning, most of his acquisitions seem to have been confined to copies of newspapers and weekly and monthly magazines, as well as books that he could obtain from other residents in the Marshalls.
As with any post office in Germany proper, the Imperial Post Office in Jaluit took and filled orders for daily and weekly newspapers sent at the newspaper rate. Serials, however were not covered by this arrangement. Joachim de Brum seems to have ordered books and magazines he had heard about from passing visitors and traders. On occasion this information was insufficient to procure the desired item. For example, on 1 September 1903 Karl Domnick, Postmaster in Jaluit, wrote to Joachim de Brum with the news that the *New York Weekly* which de Brum had ordered, could not be procured due to the incomplete reference provided.

By 1909 Joachim de Brum obtained his magazines via the Burns Philp steamers from Australia and had his book and magazine orders sent via the Burns Philp Office in Sydney. For example, he ordered from F. Lasseter, Sydney, the book *Do you know it?* as well as *Chum’s Annual* 1908 and 1909, and *Chatterbox Annual* (either 1908 or 1909). In 1911 he subscribed to: *Cassell’s, Cosmopolitan, English Illustrated, Family Herald London, McClure’s, Munsey, Outing, Pearsons, Royal, Windsor and Everybody’s.* This clearly represents a wide range of newspapers and journals.

Through the offices of the Jaluit Gesellschaft in Jaluit, Joachim de Brum had standing orders for a number of newspapers and journals: for 1914 his subscriptions comprised of *Answer, Dresdner Anzeiger, British Medical Journal, Continental Times, Graphic, Home Cookery,*
Illustrated Carpenter & Builder and Yachtsman. The magazine *Yachting World*, which he also wanted, could not be supplied.12

Some items were sourced from general purchasing departments, such as that of *The Strand Magazine* in London. Among an order of seeds, for example, we also find the order for *Cook, Gardening made easy*.14 The American company Montgomery and Ward & Co. in Chicago were a major supplier of trade and private goods, among them books.15 In 1911,
for example, he purchased a prayer book and a pulpit Bible with nickle clasp. In 1909 he also ordered a 70 by 37 inch combination book case from Montgomery and Ward & Co. in Chicago at the cost of US $ 8.98.

Joachim deBrum also responded to advertising in the back of magazines for brochures, details of offers and the like (figure 4-3).

The Verlagsgesellschaft Berlin sent Joachim deBrum a book catalogue and a number of (unspecified) publications he had ordered in 1908. He obtained book catalogues from book dealers as well as directly from publishers. C.Boysen Buchhandlung, Hamburg sent Joachim deBrum a book catalogue and a number of (unspecified) publications he had ordered in 1909. Alfred Wilson, book seller in London provided unspecified books in 1912. In the same year, Joachim received a book catalogue by the Times Book Club, book announcements by Doubleday, Page & Co., and a book catalogue of the Rudder Publishing Co., a company that also published the magazine ‘Rudder,’ as well as an advertisement by the Clarendon Press for a new 1913 edition of the Bible and advertisement by the Modern Book Society for their Personal Help Series.

Some of his book orders were very specific, and most probably in response to advertisements seen in magazines. In 1911, for example, Joachim deBrum ordered a book on eyes and eye infections from the Neu-Vita Eye Institute, while in 1912 he ordered the Photographic History of the Civil War, 1861-1865, produced by the Company Review of Reviews.

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![Figure 4-4](image)

**Figure 4-4.** Total book imprint dates against the major phases of Marshallese history

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— [37] —
Matters became more complicated after the beginning of World War I in August 1914, as the trade and the postal connections with Australia were severed. The German administrators and traders were expelled, and the Japanese administration worked against a continuation of the shipping connections operated by Burns Philp. This was a severe blow to Joachim deBrum’s Australian connections. On the other hand, he had some windfall, as some of the libraries of the expelled Germans came his way. For example, the deBrum library contains GA Henty’s, *On the Pampas, or, the Young Settlers*, which carries the previous owner’s stamp ‘HAUPT AGENTUR DER JALUIT GESELLSCHAFT’.

Yet, no books seem to have come his way, or were not requested, when the German school on Likiep, run by Catholic missionaries of the Sacred Heart, closed down during World War I as a result of the Japanese occupation of the German Marshalls.

**Figure 4-5. Countries of Imprint**

*Book acquisition over time*

Figure 4-4 plots the frequency of book imprint dates against time, with the major phases of Marshallese history marked off. The growth in acquisitions in the German period is
evident, as is the continual growth during the period. It appears that the book acquisition dropped dramatically before the end of the German administration. If we consider, however, that the graph represents the *imprint* dates and not the acquisition dates, then we have to let elapse about eighteen months to two years between publication and arrival in the Marshalls.

In that light, then, the abrupt drop in acquisitions coincides with the commencement of the Japanese military administration following the Japanese occupation at the beginning of World War II. Acquisitions pick up again slightly after 1922, when the Japanese administration in the Marshalls was transferred to a civilian administration, and when mail services and outside orders were more easily accomplished.

The drop during the German period would have occurred in the mid 1890s, which might be attributed to the recession of the mid-1890s and the slump in copra prices, which would have forced deBrum and others to tighten spending.

Clearly, this analysis is limited inasmuch as deBrum could have acquired titles printed earlier at a later date.

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**Figure 4-6. Sourcing books over time: books sourced from the UK versus books sourced from the USA (in % of books from each country, in triennial increments).**

**ORIGIN OF THE BOOKS**

Figure 4-5 shows the country break down of the imprints contained in the library. The bulk of the imprints are British followed by those of the USA. A few books came from other countries, such as Australia. We need to be aware, however, that most British
manufactured books would have been available in Australia, and that Australia, at that
time, had only a small local book printing industry. Thus it is likely that most of the British
books would have been sourced from there.

What is important to note, however, is the almost universal absence of books
published in Germany. The imbalance is stark. In the light of the Marshall Islands being a
German colony, this is somewhat surprising, especially as Joachim deBrum would have
spoken fluent German. Indeed, in 1914 he had subscribed to the *Dresdner Anzeiger* a daily
newspaper.30 There are three possible explanations for this absence.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nd</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The first interpretation assumes that German publications did exist, but that they were discarded after World War II as none of Joachim deBrum’s surviving relatives spoke German and the Marshall Islands had passed to the USA. While possible, this is unlikely in the light of Joachim’s Will that the house, and specifically the library, should be kept together and not dispersed.

The second explanation might be that Joachim did have a range of German books, but that these were discarded after World War I, when the Japanese administration expelled all German traders, planters and missionaries, and tried hard to eradicate any traces of German culture and influence in Micronesia. This is certainly a possibility.

The third interpretation is that Joachim deBrum did not have any interest in German publications and German (language) literature and deliberately did not order or collect any. That interpretation is strengthened by the fact that of the eleven journals and magazines subscribed to in 1911 none were German, and that among the nine magazines subscribed to (or requested) in 1914 only one was German (see above).

Another analysis of interest is a comparison of the imprint dates of books sourced from the United Kingdom/Australia and the United States (figure 3-12). The books sourced from UK publishers show a ‘norm’ distribution, with a gradual rise until 1910 and then a gradual drop. The decline of book acquisitions in the early 1930s can be attributed both to Joachim deBrum’s increasing age, and to an increasing isolation of Micronesia from the outside world, which would have made foreign-language book acquisition even more complicated than it already was.

The books sources from the USA show a bipolar distribution, with a peak in the mid 1890s and a second peak in the 1910s. The US imprints drop off dramatically after Japanese occupation and remain low until the early 1940s, with the exception of a small rise in the late 1920s. This nicely parallels the overall trading situation as well as the political realities in Micronesia when Japan terminated all direct and indirect access to US markets. The British imprints, on the other hand, could be sourced from Japan which had an amicable relationship with the United Kingdom until the mid-1930s when Japan terminated the Arms Limitation Treaty and left the League of Nations.

The spike in American publications in the mid 1890s could coincide with an increased tolerance of the German administration of the Marshall Islands during Georg Irmer’s period as Landeshauptmann, and the subsequent once more tougher stance against American influences, including the American missionaries who also ran the mission vessel *Morning Star* which also engaged in some trading.

**The legacy**

Joachim deBrum’s last will clearly stipulates that his library was to be maintained. We do not know to what extent this was actually carried out, and to what extent losses occurred. Some of this will be discussed in chapter 5. We do know, however, that the material available for analysis is smaller than the number of books encountered by Jelks in the late 1970s.
Looking at the imprint dates, it is likewise obvious that the library was added to, albeit at a very small rate, after Joachim deBrum’s death in 1937.
Notes to the Chapter


(continued)

Verlagsgesellschaft Berlin to Joachim deBrum, dated Berlin 28 December 1908 1909. deBrum Papers 1909 #41B.

C. Boysen Buchhandlung to Joachim deBrum, dated Hamburg 13 August 1909. Alele Museum and National Archives, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands. deBrum Papers 1909 #41B.


Doubleday, Page & Co to Joachim deBrum, dated Likiep, 10 July 1912. Alele Museum and National Archives, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands. deBrum Papers 1912 #27P.

The data are expressed in percent of total dates


Main station of the Jaluit Gesellschaft.

The catalogue of the recorded components of the library is set out in the Appendix. In this chapter we will look at the composition of the library and the implications that has both on the understanding of the collector and on the community in general.

In total 826 items are available for analysis either because of their presence in 1999 or because they could be identified in correspondence or previous reports on the deBrum house. About 16% of those encountered in the shelves remained unidentified because the condition was so fragile, or the pages were stuck together to such an extent that the recorder (Joan O'Neill) did not feel confident opening them. In the light of the inadequate environmental conditions (see chapter 7) and the fact that many of the unrecorded items, which seemed to all belong to the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, were decayed to such a degree that conservation intervention was no longer feasible or even desirable, the information on the nature of the books would have been more important than the items themselves.

**Discrepancies between the 1977 enumeration and today**

The 1977 report 'Stabilisation and Inventory, 1977' by Edward Jelks and Jelks listed some material, but did so selectively.1 Jelks and Trail, who was in charge of the microfilming, found a large number of books. In his final report, Trail commented:

> “We had agreed to shoot the title pages of those books that seemed valuable to us. Joachim was, evidently, a very religious man from a Christian point of view. There are many volumes dating back as far as 1836. There are about fifteen hundred volumes altogether and we have separated out about 150 volumes that are mostly first editions. In addition to the books there are two or three trunks full of old magazines. Most are issues from the early 1920s.”

In total, Jelks listed 79 books. Of these 32 items (41.8%), mainly relating to boat building and other maritime pursuits, were no longer present in 1999 (see listing in Appendix). While it is of course possible that some of these titles are among those that were not recorded in 1999 because of their fragile condition, it is more likely that these items have been removed from the library for their obvious practical uses. This interpretation is somewhat strengthened by the fact that description of those book not
assessed mainly refers to ‘normal’ paper backs. The loss of books specifically listed by Jelks is slightly higher than the average attrition since 1977.

Trail estimated that there were some 1500 books. The 1999 documentation found only 726 volumes (48.2%). While it can be assumed that Trail’s 1977 estimate would have been based on rough estimation, it is unlikely that it would have been that wildly incorrect. It is unclear where the remaining 700-odd volumes went. There is mention of some books being kept in locked sea chests, which were not examined (see chapter 6). It is most probable that these contain company records or the like. Clearly, the new shelving installed in 1983 (see chapter 6) was made to suit the then available volume of books. The 1999 assessment found a total of six book cases with 33 shelves, five of which were empty. Another five shelves contained books that were not extracted for identification because of their preservation. The remaining 23 shelves contained 726 books—an average of 31.5 books per shelf. Thus the five shelves of accreted books, which were not separated for identification, sum up to about another 160 books. A further 160 books could have been in the five shelves that are now empty. However, photos of the final conservation action in 1983 showing the bookshelves (figure 6-3; 6-4) demonstrate that some shelves were not wholly full. Overall, the extrapolated count for 1983 comes in at between 900 and 1050 books, suggesting a loss of some 450 to 600 books, or about one third of the library, between 1977 and 1983.

We can only guess where these books would have gone. Some may well have been removed to the Alele Museum where they ended up in the Pacific Studies room without specific notation as to the provenance. Others may have been dispersed on Likiep, over time and in small number, while others may well have been removed by unauthorised visitors. At least one instance of theft by visiting yacht people is on record, which relates to an item whose absence was readily noted. It is very unlikely that the theft of individual books would have been noted. Yet these mechanisms can only explain a smaller number of losses.

In view of the fact that some 40% of the library seems to be missing, the following discussion of the composition of the library needs to be read with some caution.

Composition in 1999

The composition of the assessed 829 items is set out by subject area in table 5-1 (see also figure 5-1). Two categories dominate by far: religious books and pamphlets with 30.4% and fiction with 24.4%. The next highest category, maritime books, comes in at 5.2%. The range of books is wide, from Astronomy (albeit only one item) to gardening and medicine. Even within the subject matter, the range of books is broad, for example ranging from various texts on aspects of medicine and health to guides to surgery and dentistry and other ‘self-help’ books. All items can be reclassified into four broad categories: religious, fiction, technical and general literature (table 5-2).

The high number of fiction books is understandable, but is less than what would be expected in many private libraries, which comprise mainly of divertive reading.

The high frequency of religious books and pamphlets contained in the library tallies with Joachim deBrum’s role as lay preacher and spiritual head of the extended family on
Likiep. Even though originally a Catholic, deBrum converted to Protestantism (American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions) in the late 1880s or early 1890s. The library well reflects this orientation, both with a number of mainstream Protestant texts, as well as a plethora of religious pamphlets of generally Protestant Christian literature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>24.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>5.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>30.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>825</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, again based on the imprint dates, the composition of the library changed over time. The acquisition history of the four main categories has been set out in figures 5-1 (technical and general literature) and 5-2 (fiction and religious literature).

The acquisition of technical books (figure 5-1) went through several phases with bursts of activity, mainly in the period between 1895 and 1914.

Intriguingly, the initial period of library development in the 1890s seems to also have the highest frequency of general subject matter books. It is possible that this might indicate that at that time deBrum was acquiring as many books as he could, whereas later on he became more selective and purposeful.

The acquisition curves for fiction and religious books, on the other hand, are markedly different from the technical and the general books (figure 5-2). Both fiction and religious literature curves show generally similar development with a peak in the 1900-1910 and a second, but less pronounced peak in the 1920s after the commencement of the Japanese civilian administration.

Based on the interpretation of the acquisition curves it would seem that Joachim deBrum first acquired any books that he could obtain locally, which explains the large number of general subject matter books in the early years. As he got older and increased in spiritual leadership status in his community, he acquired more religious books. Parallel to this, and peaking soon after, was a major sequence of acquisition of books of fiction. Both the acquisition of fiction and in particular religious books increased after the
commencement of the Japanese civilian administration in 1922 reflecting the eased restrictions on commerce in Micronesia. By that time, however, deBrum was in his 60s and no longer in need to acquire general subject matter or technical books.

Table 5-2 - Agglomerated subject area of the books (imprints) by triennium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triennium</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Religious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
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<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
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<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>1.45</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.12</td>
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<td>1944</td>
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<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>1947</td>
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<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nd</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>27.74</td>
<td>17.44</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>35.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 5-1 - Imprint dates of books by triennium—Technical and General Literature

Figure 5-2 - Imprint dates of books by triennium—Religion and Fiction
Notes to the Chapter


4 The balance to 826 volumes was found in the Alele Archives, identified from correspondence or from Jelks report.

5 See chapter 6 footnote 5.

6 Comprised of the 726 books in the shelves, the books listed by Jelks but seemingly missing and the books inferred from the archival files in the Alele Museum Majuro.
This chapter provides an overview of the management history of the deBrum house in general and the library in particular.

**Status quo in 1999**

Elements of Joachim deBrum's library that have been stored in locked bookcases in the southern bedroom of his house on Likiep were inventoried during a recent survey. Further documentary material including letters and photographs that were badly accreted and could not be identified were stored in a separate wooden cupboard in the same bedroom. Additionally, several locked sea chests in which other books and documents of both private and commercial nature are stored are stacked behind the bookcases. The chests were not opened and neither their contents nor those of the wooden cupboard were included in this inventory.

A musty smell characteristic of mould was very noticeable when the locked bookcases were opened. A thick layer of dust and termite frass covered shelves and books, and silverfish frequently hid as books were removed for recording. Damage was extensive throughout the library. Pages and covers of many books were very brittle, and accretion of pages was common. In many books a substantial number of pages had accreted, and in the worst case several individual books had accreted together. This library's condition continues to deteriorate as it suffers the natural ravages of decay in largely unprotected tropical conditions. The main physical causes of this deterioration are insect damage and moisture, both of which are closely linked to lack of regular use. It is possible that the books were too tightly packed in the shelves which compounded the effect of moisture ingress.

Environmental conditions on Likiep were essentially the same before Joachim deBrum died in 1937 as they are now. The one major difference is the factor of management – while he remained alive his library was well used and books and bookcases were regularly cleaned, aired and dusted. The house itself was aired and well maintained. A leaking roof would not have been tolerated for long when the house was occupied, but it leaks now. Panels of roofing material are missing and galvanised iron roof capping has corroded so badly that it now offers little protection. Water stains are evident in the parlour, and rafters were twice seen to be wet following typically brief but heavy squalls of rain.
The eastern veranda was protected from prevailing weather by sliding windows but they have since been removed and are stacked against the eastern wall of the house. Consequently, exposed timbers are suffering from damp, termites and rot. The northern veranda has been covered by rubberised canvas fastened to veranda timbers which provides an ideal micro-climate for termites and the entire length of the veranda is now infested. Blue plastic sheeting is fastened from top to bottom at the eastern end of the southern veranda in a similar fashion, and rubberised canvas from floor to veranda handrail along the remainder of the veranda. The consequences on both verandas are the same - damp, rot, and termites.

There are two large windows in the northern wall of the northern bedroom and southern wall of the southern bedroom. When they and the large doors were opened, air would circulate freely in each room and throughout the house. However, when a valuable family heirloom was stolen, the family decided to seal the house more securely, lock all doors and lock and board up the windows. Except for irregular visits by Leonard deBrum, Joachim’s youngest son and family patriarch, the house now normally remains shut up. Thus the three doors and two windows in both bedrooms, the large double doors opening from the parlour to the veranda, and the large vents to the gable roof are all tightly sealed. The flow of air within the house has been reduced to an absolute minimum.

Following work undertaken during the restoration programme in 1984, books were transferred to six new bookcases purpose built of mahogany for storage of this valuable collection. Although not airtight, these bookcases are well built and have close-fitting and lockable glass doors. When closed and locked they further restrict airflow within the bookcase.

Jelks reported in 1978 that almost all of the books stored in bookcases on the veranda were “insect damaged, many seriously.” Pangelinan reported that the “majority of the books…along with business correspondence were damaged from roof leaks”, and that they “found books and documents piled on the floor and (sic) appeared to be wet”.

That this potentially invaluable and highly significant material is continuing to deteriorate is hardly surprising. High temperatures, high humidity, and high levels of atmospheric salt are a normal part of life on low coral atolls. Without appropriate management they are not conducive to long-term preservation of books and fragile documentary material. Minute salt crystals cover everything to a greater or lesser extent and available moisture is absorbed and retained, creating damp conditions for longer periods of time. In this instance, naturally occurring high temperatures and humidity combine with limited circulation to result in higher humidity over a longer period – ideal conditions for insects to breed, and moulds and fungi to propagate.
Management

Figure 6-1. Library Books before conservation action in 1983.11

Figure 6-2. Library Books before conservation action in 1983.12
Figure 6-3. Library Books after conservation action in 1983.\textsuperscript{13}

Figure 6-4. Library Books after conservation action in 1983.\textsuperscript{14}
Combine this environment with a lack of maintenance and physical care, and the consequence is that insects and moulds are again present despite extensive cleaning and treatment during the preservation project in 1984. Their destructive capabilities are well known and in fifteen years have again become very obvious. Some lower quality paper absorbs moisture more readily than other paper and consequently may suffer damage from damp, mould and mildew more easily. Many books are now so badly damaged as to be almost unidentifiable.

In earlier times, some of the library material was stored in cupboards, not all of which were enclosed, and kept on the veranda. Here, air was able to circulate freely thus restricting insect attack and reducing the potential for damage caused by damp. On other occasions the bookcases were stored in either the northern or southern bedrooms of the house, but with doors and windows open, air circulation in these rooms would have been almost as good as on the veranda. Jelks had stated that if the library and its associated books, documents and photographs were left on Likiep, they would all “continue to be exposed to the depredations of insects and weather.” This seems to be exactly what has happened.

It is probable that several factors contribute to these continuing processes of decay. Frequency of access to and use of the library has reduced to the point where it is very rare for any book to be touched. When Joachim was alive and using his library, researching or just browsing or reading his books, they received constant care. He was an avid reader and Leonard deBrum related that he did not talk a great deal with his father who was always extremely busy and even at meal times, would be reading or referencing one of his books. The deBrum children no longer regularly remove every book, and clean and dust both the books and bookcases.

**Chronology of Management**

Management of Joachim deBrum’s library underwent significant changes in probably five clearly defined phases:

**PHASE ONE.**

This first development period seems to have continued for several years and involved a comparatively slow and perhaps haphazard expansion of the library as his business and personal networks across the Pacific were established. His voracious appetite for information and knowledge developed along with a catholic taste in literature that was entirely characteristic. It may be that his book purchases were not as organised as they later became. They were frequently, after all, bulk purchases from several different bookshops in America and Australia. When Joachim deBrum and Frank H. Phillips of Sydney met, they quickly formed a lasting friendship that ended this first phase of library development.
**PHASE TWO.**

This second period lasted until Joachim's death in 1937. Involving consolidation and continuing expansion both in number of books and variety of subjects, it is closely associated with his friendship with Frank Phillips. Throughout his life, Joachim continued to use and expand his library with whatever material aroused his interest. Phillips organised regular shipments to Likiep of selections of books that he obtained from several sources. Joachim regarded this personal relationship as very important and held Frank Phillips in high regard. So much so, in fact, that he specifically requested in his Will that Phillips be a guide and mentor for his children. Similarly, he advised them to seek advice from Frank Phillips should they ever feel a need for it.

Joachim deBrum accessed his library regularly and extensively before his death. Other people on Likiep, particularly the immediate family, also seem to have used it as a general library. Children do not appear to have been excluded and some of the library resources (including religious books, indoor and outdoor recreation, and games books) are clearly intended for their use or by those responsible for them. Leonard deBrum recalled that he and his other brothers and sisters were responsible for dusting and cleaning every book in the library as well as each bookcase at least once every year, and certainly every Christmas. The children considered this duty a considerable honour and those entrusted with the task undertook it seriously. The Christmas cleaning of the bookcases continued for some years out of respect, but gradually became less important and was performed less frequently. The present condition of the books and bookcases suggests it is no longer done at all.

**PHASE THREE.**

The third period followed Joachim's death in 1937 and lasted until 1947, which was another pivotal year in the history of the deBrum site. In 1947 the family secured the house, arranged for it to be protected by local caretakers, and moved away. During these ten years, the library gradually became less and less a feature of life in the deBrum household. Joachim deBrum was held in the deepest of respect and everything associated with him was treated with the same respect. But, nobody used the library as intensively as Joachim did and there was probably little further acquisition of books. Nevertheless, the house remained in continual use by members of the family as their home. Consequently, the library and other elements of the house and curtilage were better maintained than later.
Figure 6-5. State of appearance of one of the 1984 bookshelves in 1999
The Library of the Joachim deBrum House, Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands

Figure 6-6. Library Books and Teak Statuette in 1999. Joachim deBrum House, Likiep, RMI

Figure 6-7. Library Books in 1999. Joachim deBrum House, Likiep, RMI.
PHASE FOUR.

The fourth period continued from 1947 until the late 1970's. Its major feature is continued decay through disuse. Nobody lived in the house regularly during this period although Leonard deBrum would usually stay there whenever he visited Likiep. Once family members vacated the house and moved\textsuperscript{27} to other islands or other houses on Likiep, decay and deterioration were inevitable. Reports from both the 1977\textsuperscript{28} and 1984\textsuperscript{29} preservation and maintenance projects describe the decay in some detail. Naturally, the library and all the books, documents and photographs associated with it decayed along with everything else.

PHASE FIVE.

Extending from the late 1970's through to today, this final period has seen several notable events that have impacted on Joachim deBrum's library. Active steps have been taken to preserve the house and curtilage as a registered Historic Site and two major preservation projects have been undertaken. The first was in 1977 under the supervision of Edward B. Jelks from the University of Illinois\textsuperscript{30}. The second was in 1984 when, under the supervision of Gerald R. Knight, further preservation and maintenance\textsuperscript{31} of the site was completed with Noel Bigler as Project Manager. In September 1982, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands chartered\textsuperscript{32} the Joachim deBrum Memorial Trust Corporation as a not-for-profit organisation. Formed to preserve this highly significant site, it continues today under the chairmanship of Leonard deBrum, Joachim's youngest son. In 2001 an Australian aid funded project began to digitise the glass plate negatives.\textsuperscript{33}
Figure 6-9 Books removed from two shelves and stacked on a table in February 2000.\textsuperscript{34}

Figure 6-10 Close-up of the books removed from the shelves and stacked on a table in February 2000.\textsuperscript{35}
Figure 6-11 Books in the current shelves in February 2000.\textsuperscript{36}

Figure 6-12 Books in the current shelves in February 2000.\textsuperscript{37}
The Library of the Joachim deBrum House, Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands

Figure 6-13 Books in the current shelves in February 2003.38

Figure 6-14 Books in the current shelves in February 2003.39
Figure 6-15 Books in the current shelves in February 2003.
Figure 6-16 Books in the current shelves in February 2003.41
### Table 6-1 Chronology of events, deBrum house Likiep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>General Context</th>
<th>Event on Likiep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jose Anton deBrum purchases land rights to Likiep Atoll from Jortoka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td></td>
<td>Land is transferred to Capelle and Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td></td>
<td>Germany annexes the Marshall Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1900</td>
<td></td>
<td>Management of Capelle &amp; Co passes to Joachim deBrum and William Capelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901, 22 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jose deBrum died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joachim deBrum becomes Imperial German postal agent on Likiep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905, 30 September</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adolph Capelle dies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904/1905</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joachim deBrum builds the house on low concrete piers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td></td>
<td>Likomju deBrum’s house is built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-1915</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thatched roof is replaced with corrugated iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914, October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Japan replaces Germany as colonial authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1920</td>
<td></td>
<td>Raymond deBrum’s house burns down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td></td>
<td>House raised on 2 metre high wooden posts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937, 10 January</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joachim deBrum dies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944, April</td>
<td></td>
<td>United States of America replaces Japan on Likiep during WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945, September</td>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese administration in Micronesia end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td></td>
<td>DeBrum family moves off-island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td></td>
<td>Congress of Micronesia established</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 6-1 Chronology of events, deBrum house Likiep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>General Context</th>
<th>Event on Likiep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>National Historic Preservation Act of the United States enacted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April, 1976</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joachim deBrum house nominated for inclusion on US National Register of Historic Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September, 1976</td>
<td></td>
<td>Approved for inclusion on US National Register of Historic Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td></td>
<td>First Stabilisation and Preservation Project (Jelks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977, February</td>
<td></td>
<td>Listed in Supplemental Publication of the National Register of Historic Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Government of the Marshall Islands established</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Preservation Project (Knight and Bigler)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Compact of Free Association approved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dining Room and Kitchen building badly damaged by a severe tropical storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999, October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Survey by Jon O’Neill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000, February</td>
<td></td>
<td>Books apparently taken out of the shelves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td>Glass plate negatives digitisation project begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes to the Chapter

1. Conducted by Jon G. O’Neill and Joan C. O’Neill in October/November, 1999
3. Some books were in such poor condition that they were not removed from the bookcase shelves for identification because it was feared that without appropriate treatment they could be damaged further before they can be properly curated.
5. De Brum, Leonard (Pers. Com., October, 1999) advised that some European tourists who had arrived unannounced in Likiep Lagoon on their own yacht had been welcomed in (continued)
typical Likiep fashion, and given a conducted tour of the premises. Later that evening they apparently returned to the house and removed one particular family heirloom in which they had shown particular interest during their earlier tour. The theft was not noticed until Leonard next visited Likiep.

Leonard De Brum (Pers. Com. October, 1999) advised that he now held the only set of keys in his home on Majuro.


Roberts (1984, p. 10) reports that on advice from Ms. Mary Lee, Director of the Pacific Conservation Centre, the original airtight design for the bookcases was changed to “allow free passage of air.”


Although no obvious action to preserve this library was evident other than locking the house and restricting access, there is a deep respect on Likiep for both Joachim De Brum and his son Leonard.


Some photographs of the desk, cupboards and bookcases containing Joachim's books clearly show that the furniture was in either of the two bedrooms because wall studs can be seen. Neither bedroom was lined internally, the Parlour was the only room to be lined.


De Brum, Leonard (Pers Com., 3rd November, 1999)

At the same November 2nd meeting with Leonard De Brum mentioned above, J O’N. was also shown a handwritten draft copy of his father's Will which was contained in one of Joachim's diaries.


(continued)
Bigler, Noel (Pers. Com.) In a conversation held 13th October, 1999, Mr Bigler advised that De Brum family members continued to live in the main house until the early 1950's and afterwards only used the house for occasional sleepovers. Note that Jelks (1978) is specific that the year the house was locked up was 1947.

De Brum, Elmo (Pers. Com.) showed J. O’N. a sleeping mat stored in the northern bedroom which Leonard De Brum used to use whenever he visited Likiep from his home on Majuro and stayed over.

See Jelks and Jelks.


Several reports exist documenting this project. Refer for example to Edward B. and Juliet C. Jelks, and another by Jesus B. Pangelinan


Photo David W Look, San Francisco.

Photo David W Look, San Francisco.

Photo David W Look, San Francisco.

Photo David W Look, San Francisco.

Photo Sue Rossoff, Kwajalein.

Photo Sue Rossoff, Kwajalein.

Photo Sue Rossoff, Kwajalein.

Photo Sue Rossoff, Kwajalein.
Environmental conditions at Likiep

Likiep Island is at the south-eastern most point of Likiep Atoll. Although far enough north to escape most of the typhoons that develop in the northern Pacific, Likiep has endured its share of these devastating storms. The highest point in the Marshall Islands (12 metres) occurs on Likiep and is a direct result of the power of a typhoon as coral rubble was torn from the reef platform, combined with coral aggregate from the island and piled into a wall by storm driven waves.

At its widest point Likiep Island is less than 200 metres from ocean to lagoon. In most places it is less than 50 metres. Trade winds are an almost constant presence as they gently blow across the island bringing moisture, salt laden air, and a perception of coolness into every house and building. Average temperature is about 28 degrees Celsius with a variation between summer and winter of only 2 or 3 degrees. Coral sands, swaying coconut palms, tall spreading breadfruit trees, translucent water and sun combine to present a stereotypical picture of a quintessential tropical coral island. Such descriptions sound ideal to many and perhaps they are, but they are also ideal conditions for most elements of decay.

It is true that decay is inevitable, but in the warm, moist, tropical conditions of Likiep it is accelerated markedly. Micro fauna and flora are abundant and prolific in these conditions and are critical to the environment on coral atolls such as Likiep which are the most marginal human habitats on earth. Their impact on cultural heritage material is just as marked and they provide continuing and very considerable difficulties for preservation management.

Decay processes observed

All cultural property is subject to naturally occurring processes of decay, and Lowenthal\(^1\) says that regardless of its origin none can “…survive without interference” for long. Decay factors may be categorised by their origin and speed of action\(^2\) and it is unlikely that any individual process or decay factor will operate alone\(^3\). Several factors usually combine to contribute substantially to the strength and speed of these processes. Even issues that may
not be direct causes of decay themselves may still contribute to deterioration of historic property by providing enhanced conditions for other factors. Under such circumstances preservation management can become a difficult and complex task.

Determining the possible combinations of factors involved in any decay process is an essential step in planning effective management of historic property. Several were seen to be active during the survey on Likiep (Table 7-1). Those most immediately relevant to books stored in the bookcases in Joachim deBrum’s house and others found in Likomju deBrum’s house were biological in nature and included moulds and fungi, and insects. However, it must be acknowledged that anthropological factors have also contributed. This may be most clearly seen through neglect of basic maintenance procedures, which if properly implemented could have reduced the impact of these biological factors, and lack of use.

### Table 7-1. Observed Decay Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decay Factor</th>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Likiep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEATHERING</td>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chemical</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOLOGICAL</td>
<td>Moulds and Fungi</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Plants</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTHROPOGENIC</td>
<td>War</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salvage and Reuse</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction/Maintenance</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATOLOGICAL</td>
<td>Moisture</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEMICAL</td>
<td>Biological</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corrosion</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EROSION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURAL DISASTER</td>
<td>Tropical Cyclones</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optimal conditions for cryptogamic growth (fungi, algae, mosses and lichens) at the tropical temperatures of 25°C to 30°C occur at a relative humidity of 70 per cent or higher. The definitive tropical climate (such as experienced on Likiep) with its regime of high average temperature, small diurnal range and abundant moisture is a close match.

Timber is a hygroscopic material subject to damage by higher lignivorous fungi and Ebeling refers to the complex relationships existing between several wood-damaging insects and fungi that are usually beneficial to the insects. Some fungi provide important
nutrients, others provide the entire food supply for some wood-destroying insects. Ebeling also suggests that fungi probably cause as much damage to wood structures as termites and shows they require similar environmental conditions, an important observation from a control perspective. Lyon shows that most wood decay fungi will only grow on wood with a moisture content of 20 percent or more. This factor varies with relative humidity and ambient air temperature but occurs frequently in tropical regions, particularly when timber is exposed without effective protection. Damage to the timber frame and cladding of Likomju deBrum’s house on Likiep is an effective example (Figure 8).

Paper and other materials used in books are also hygroscopic in character and excessive humidity or damp will permit development of moulds and fungi particularly when those conditions are allied with high temperatures.

Apart from cryptogamic growth, tropical climates also provide ideal conditions for insects involved in processes of decay. Two insect Orders in particular are damaging in the tropics. During this survey both were active on Likiep: Isoptera (termites), and Thysanura (silverfish).

Termites represent some of the most destructive pests of structural timber in the tropics. They are an ancient group belonging to the order Isoptera and have a highly developed social structure consisting of three main classes of individuals – workers, soldiers and reproducitives. As they have very thin cuticles, most require high humidity to survive and are cryptobiotic, living in enclosed passageways. Szent-Ivany claims colonies can sometimes consist of several million individuals. Ebeling refers to a study by Gay and Wetherly who estimated one colony to contain more than 2.5 million individuals of which “…about 87% were of the wood destroying worker caste.” Hadlington and Marsden and Creffield show that all cellulose material is vulnerable to termites.

Various species of silverfish are recognised as potential pests in libraries and three occur frequently throughout the tropics. The common silverfish Lepisma saccharina is probably the best known and is abundant on Likiep. It is an 8-13 mm long shiny, silvery-grey insect that is cosmopolitan and common throughout the world. Silverfish feed on the paper, starch and sizing in the bindings of bound volumes and the linen in some book covers, and stored papers, books and other printed material are especially susceptible to damage. Temperature is the most important factor influencing these insects while low relative humidity restricts population growth and can even eliminate them. They prefer 75 to 95 percent relative humidity, which is very common on Likiep in normal circumstances. In sealed timber houses with little ventilation such as occurred in both houses on Likiep these conditions are even more common.

Regular monitoring, enclosure of vulnerable material in insect-proof containers, and unfavourable environmental conditions are simple but effective controls of silverfish. The management regime of the Joachim deBrum library at the time of this survey did not include any of these controls with the result that the insects were very active.

An issue of paramount importance to heritage preservation generally is that involving knowledge of, interest in, and ownership of, historic property. Government interest in Joachim deBrum’s library as part of Marshallese heritage is high. Ownership is clearly recognised and accepted. Nevertheless, historically and culturally important books were found stacked in very poor environmental conditions in a disused and leaking house. This happened only because they were not recognised by local villagers as having any relevance.
to the Capelle/deBrum heritage so much a part of their history. When their historic importance was recognised, immediate steps were taken to protect them temporarily until more permanent and effective archival could be arranged.

**JOACHIM DEBRUM’S HOUSE, LIKIEP ATOLL**

When surveyed, this highly significant example of early 1900s domestic architecture, influenced by a combination of island trader, German colonial, and Marshallese history, had been sealed to protect its contents from damage or theft. Although it would not greatly hinder a determined attempt to enter, the manner in which this was done detracted greatly from the site’s visual appeal and ambience.

All external doors were locked and barred, and windows were locked with wooden shutters fastened over them. A piece of heavy plywood was nailed to the veranda posts at the front steps and blocked access to the veranda. To restrict access to the underfloor area, nine strands of barbed wire were nailed to the wooden piers below the veranda and ran around the house. Access doors to the attic were also fastened shut. Unfortunately, in most cases these well-meant measures contributed to further deterioration. Apart from the physical damage caused by nailing timber planks to window frames and veranda posts and a consequent highly negative visual impact, other damage is occurring from follow-on influences.

For example, airflow within the house was greatly reduced by the closed doors, windows and shutters and naturally humid conditions retained for extended periods, particularly in the northern and southern rooms. These conditions permitted several critical elements of decay such as mould, termites, and silverfish to become very active in a largely undisturbed environment. A rubberised canvas wall extended the length of the northern veranda (Photo) and was securely nailed to the facia, handrail and floor. Similar material was fastened between floor and handrail on the southern veranda, with a section of blue tarpaulin extending from floor to the facia attached along the eastern end of this veranda for approximately six metres. In both circumstances an ideal environment had been established for termites. As a consequence, the northern veranda was infested for its entire length, while the southern was also infested for most of the length of canvas.

The north-eastern floor of the veranda was repaired during the 1977 Stabilisation Project\(^\text{16}\). New Californian Redwood planks were used to replace original timbers destroyed by termites and rot and to maintain historical integrity with the original material. However, because it was no longer available in the same size (twelve inches by one inch) or quality as that used by Joachim deBrum, smaller (six inches by 5/8 inch) and lower quality timber had to be used instead. At the time of this survey this section of the veranda had again become so badly affected by termites and rot that it was unsafe to walk on. Sliding windows were intended to protect the eastern veranda and house from extremes of weather but these had been removed, with many stacked against the wall of the eastern wall of the house. The wooden rails on which these windows were intended to slide had also deteriorated through exposure and rot. Paint was weathered in many areas, particularly on the eastern or weatherly side where extensive areas of timber were almost totally stripped of protection from the elements. Sections of roof capping had corroded, some roof panels were missing, and water stains were apparent on the eastern internal
parlour wall. Although of only brief duration, some typically heavy showers of rain resulted in rafters becoming wet\textsuperscript{17}.

**LIKOMJU deBRUM’S HOUSE, LIKIEP ATOLL**

Likomju deBrum\textsuperscript{18} lived in a smaller dwelling built by Joachim in 1907\textsuperscript{19} that was about 80 metres north of his own house. Although this house had the same basic layout as Joachim’s own house (three rooms surrounded by a substantial veranda), it was smaller and built on a concrete slab (Figure 7-1) rather than elevated on piers. As with Joachim’s house, the parlour was lined with timber and had four doors, two of which were external and one internal door on each of the northern and southern walls opening into the other rooms. Two small windows were mounted, one above each of the two external doors opening onto the eastern and western sides of the veranda. Two large windows in each of the southern and northern walls opened wide and together with the six external doors provided an excellent and uninterrupted flow of air throughout the building. The gable roof also had a large vent at each of the northern and southern ends that could open to grant access and permit air to flow through the roof to reduce heat build-up. Several other constructions associated with this house were also present. They included a well, a large fish pond, a kitchen, a dining room and a bathroom, although the latter was not built until the Japanese period.

*Figure 7-1 - Likomju deBrum house - looking southwest and showing eastern and northern veranda. Likiep, Republic of the Marshall Islands.*

When surveyed, the house and curtilage were in poor condition. Veranda supports had collapsed, rubbish (including a dog carcase) covered the western veranda, and doors and windows were sealed. On the eastern side of the house, external doors to the northern and southern rooms had lengths of laminated timber nailed across the doorways. Other external doors had lengths of timber securely fastened across them on the inside. Fungal decay had rotted timber frames and cladding so extensively in the south-eastern corner.
(Figure 7-2) that cladding had completely separated from the corner stud. The corrugated iron roof had extensive corrosion, some sheets were completely missing and others were loose or had large holes resulting in extensive water ingress and consequent damage. The eastern veranda and southern room were the worst affected areas while the central and northern rooms were in reasonably good condition. The southern room was wet, mouldy and filled with rubbish, discarded timber, and corroding tools. A corner stand, a larger decorative stand, and a display stand with three drawers and cupboards were the only items of furniture remaining in the house. All were constructed of solid timber and in a surprisingly good condition, indicating that they were used until fairly recently. Three photographs were found in a drawer of the large display stand. When shown to Leonard deBrum, they were identified as being of various family members and have now been included in his personal collection.

*Figure 7-2 - Likomju deBrum House – looking northwest and showing decay of the southeastern corner. Likiep, Republic of the Marshall Islands*
Preservation

Figure 7-3 - Business Books standing in rubbish and water in the northern room; Likomju deBrum House, Likiep, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Figure 7-4 Books spread out to dry, Likomju deBrum House, Likiep, RMI
During this survey, forty historically and culturally significant business books (Figure 7-3) were found roughly stacked in a broken styro-foam container and resting in a pool of water surrounded by corroding tools and decaying rubbish. Ledgers, journals, invoice books, and receipt books associated with Jaluit Gesellschaft and A. Capelle & Co. recorded transactions dating between 1908 and 1920.

Naturally, despite the high quality of material from which these books were made, they were deteriorating in the poor conditions. Pending professional curation by the RMI's Historic Preservation Office, they were removed from the southern room, carefully separated and placed on wooden palettes and other stands in the parlour to dry and air.

ALELE MUSEUM, MAURO ATOLL

An ‘alele’ is a traditional Marshallese container that is tightly woven from Pandanus leaves and made specifically to hold cultural property that is highly valued. This concept of a lightweight bag capable of safely holding and transporting a society’s most valued possessions contrasts powerfully with ‘western’ ideas of treasures stored in bank vaults made from super-hardened steel. Alele Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that was chartered in 1970 and operates a museum, library, small retail store, video production unit as well as providing archival storage.

When working through the archived material held in the Alele Museum, Spennemann encountered a file folder replete with gecko eggs, some of them freshly laid. The presence of these eggs suggests that geckos find ample food in the supposedly vermin-free environment. The air conditioner, which is constantly running, also served to cool and adjacent office and the door was left wide open. The free flow of air within the collection was also inhibited by packaging material inappropriately stored in a archival storage facility.

While researching material in the Pacific Studies room, O’Neill also found silverfish, spiders, gecko lizards and their eggs in folders and filing cabinets. Unindexed material was stacked in several areas. Environmental control consisted of a single overloaded air conditioner in a corner of the Pacific Studies room operating off an unreliable power supply. Filing cabinets placed around the air conditioner vents inhibited the flow of conditioned air. The door to this archival room was intentionally kept open to allow some “cool air” to reach library staff working in the much larger but not air-conditioned office outside. Additionally, some archival material was stored separately in an ex-US Army shipping container that had been placed on foundations on the southern side of the building, air-conditioned and converted into an office and archival storage area.

During heavy rain, substantial water leaks were observed in the building particularly in the stairwell between the Museum and the Library. It is not known how extensive these leaks were throughout the building.
Notes to the Chapter

18. United States Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, Item number 7, page 4 and see also (PLATE 24)
20. These books included details of voyages between various islands to collect copra, as well as standard books of business accounting.

(continued)
In a coastal tropical environment such as Micronesia organic material culture dating to the 1880s to the 1930s does not often survive. Climatic events, such as typhoons, as well as biological agents such as termites and fungi destroy what human disinterest and neglect does not achieve earlier. Moreover, much of Micronesia was ravaged by the fighting and bombing during World War II, resulting in wide-spread destruction.

As a result heritage properties dating to that period are rare. Even more rare are properties that have retained much of their original appearance and, moreover, still contain much of the original furnishings. Historically, large private libraries were rare throughout Micronesia. There is only one library that dates to the late 1890s to 1930s: the deBrum library on Likiep.

In the light of the discussion set out in the preceding chapters the deBrum library on Likiep is culturally significant because:

1. it forms an integral part of the deBrum House, a unique entity comprising of the building itself, outbuildings and curtilage, as well the material culture associated with the property, namely the furniture, the glass plate negatives, the phonograph records and recordings and, last but not least the library;

2. it is associated with Joachim deBrum, a largely self-educated true ‘renaissance man’ who through his interests and activities was the ‘pater familias’ for Likiep Atoll and as such shaped the fate of Likiep Atoll and its inhabitants during part of the German and the critical early part of the Japanese administration period;

3. has been compiled by an individual of mixed Portuguese and Marshallese parentage, thus bridging indigenous Marshallese and colonial European cultural traditions, against a background of German administrative and business concepts and spiritual influences by American Protestantism of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

4. it is the only surviving privately collected colonial period library in Micronesia and as such demonstrative of the reading habits of colonial planters in Micronesia and has informative value for the entire Pacific;
5. it spans the period from the 1890s to the 1930s and in its composition (through
the imprint dates) is reflective of the political and trading history of the region;

Figure 8-1. Children reading and studying on the verandah of the deBrum House in the
1910s.¹

¹ United States Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places Inventory -
Nomination Form
What does the future hold for Joachim deBrum's once extensive library? Such an eclectic collection of books, journals, magazines, business ledgers and other personal documents has enormous historical and cultural significance.

The condition of the books is an issue of considerable concern. In many cases the decay is very far advanced and as a result current and potential future loss is severe. In addition, substantial losses have occurred between 1977 and 1984 and between 1984 and today.

We need to ask, whether in that state of decay the books can be saved and whether they are indeed worth saving. Many of the books in the collection can be easily and cheaply obtained on the second-hand book market and thus are neither unique or rare items. Following this line of thought, the knowledge of the contents of the library as such and the combination of books kept by deBrum is of greater significance than the individual books themselves. It is therefore recommended that a detailed recording of all books be undertaken. This process has been complicated by the fact many books have been taken out of the shelves and piled on a table, thus mixing the shelf order of books as recorded by Joan O’Neill in 1999 (figure 6-9 to 6-12). Since then, the books have been reshelved (figures 6-13 to 6-16). In this light then, a complete reassessment needs to be carried out rather than just an assessment of those books and shelves which O’Neill did not extract and document.

While the printed material has lower cultural value as individual items, the same cannot be said for the non-printed material. Jon O’Neill found forty highly significant business journals and diaries relating to the business operations of the Jaluit Gesellschaft between 1908 and 1920. Many of the books contained entries in Joachim deBrum’s own distinctive handwriting. Diaries were filled with careful records of trading visits to several atolls and islands with details of goods delivered and copra loaded. These records were piled haphazardly in a box that was itself standing in a pool of water and rubbish on the floor of an old timber house on Likiep. More material is supposedly kept in sea chests, the internal condition of which is unknown. In 2003, staff from the Micronesian Cultural Center, Kwajalein Atoll, visited Likiep to research material relating to the digitisation project involving Joachim deBrum’s photographs. Sue Rosof advised these books were no longer in the parlour but it was not known who was holding them, where they had been taken, or whether they were being conserved.
There is an urgent need for a paper conservator to assess the state of preservation of the non-printed material, which was supposed to have been taken to the Alele Museum and archives for safe-keeping.

An abundance of authoritative material on preventing decay of books, other printed material, and other paper-based records (such as hand-written diaries, business ledgers, personal correspondence, etc.) is available. Much of it concentrates on the particular problems associated with historic preservation in tropical climates. Knowing how to preserve such fragile historical material is one thing, having the desire and the resources to do so is another.

The Alele Museum and Archives have clearly failed in their mission. There appears to be little attempt at regularly assessing the state of preservation of the material under its tutelage. Despite the shortcomings at that institution, the conditions for preservation are still much better than at Likiep itself.

**Notes to the Chapter**

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1. This was reported to the RMI Historic Preservation Office on Majuro in a Preliminary Report of the research (Permit No. 003/1999 issued 12th October, 1999) dated November, 1999.


Becke, Louis (1898b) Rodman the Boatssteerer and Other Stories. London: T. Fisher Unwin.


Rejcek, Peter (2001) Likiep house also in need of preservation ... *The Kwajalein Hourglass* vol. 41 nº 27, 6 April 2001, p. 4.


References


Thiel, Friedrich (1900) Unsere Bezirks- und Landeshauptleute auf den Karolinen. Deutsche Kolonialzeitung 17(29), 258-259.


The Catalogue has been arranged based on the original order in which the books and pamphlets were encountered in 1999. There is evidence that the order of the books as found in 1999 was largely based on a reshelving which occurred in 1984 on occasion of the last conservation action. The contents of the deBrum library were documented by Joan O’Neill while the holdings at the Alele Museum were recorded by Dirk HR. Spennemann. The latter amended the catalogue descriptions of the Likiep material, if this could be done equivocally. A number of books were not retrieved from the shelves on Likiep as they were deemed too fragile. In view of their overall condition, the low market value, and overall quite common nature of the items, and in particular in view of the almost unretrievable condition of the items, this was in hindsight a mistake. As the future of the library in place is uncertain, and as many of the items have decayed past a reading condition, a complete catalogue would have been more desirable.

DeBrum house Likiep, Book case #1

SHELF 1


Nº 10. Unable to Identify.
Nº 11. Unable to Identify.
Nº 12. Unable to Identify.
Nº 13. Unable to Identify.
Nº 15. Unable to Identify.
Nº 16. Unable to Identify.
Nº 18. Unable to Identify.

**SHELF 2**
Nº 1. Unable to Identify.
Nº 4. Unable to Identify.
Nº 5. Unable to Identify. Paperback.


Nº 23. Unable to Identify.


Nº 28. Unable to Identify.


The Library of the Joachim deBrum House, Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands

as told by eyewitnesses: together with a sketch of Evan Roberts and his message to the world.

Nº 33. Unable to Identify.
Nº 35. Unable to Identify.
Nº 36. Unable to Identify.

SHELF 3
Nº 1. Unable to Identify.
Nº 2. Unable to Identify.
Nº 3. Unable to Identify.
Nº 4. Unable to Identify.
Nº 5. Unable to Identify.
Nº 6. Unable to Identify.
Nº 7. Unable to Identify.
Nº 8. Unable to Identify.
Nº 9. Unable to Identify.
Nº 10. Unable to Identify.
Nº 11. Unable to Identify.
Nº 12. Unable to Identify.
Nº 23. Rosveno. (?). Yachts and Boats.
Nº 24. Unable to Identify.
Nº 25. Unable to Identify.
Nº 26. Unable to Identify.
Nº 28. Unable to Identify.
Nº 29. Unable to Identify.
Nº 30. Unable to Identify.
Nº 31. Unable to Identify.
Nº 32. Unable to Identify.
Nº 39. Unable to Identify.

**SHELF 4**

Nº 1. Unable to Identify.
Nº 2. Unable to Identify.
Nº 4. Unable to Identify.
Nº 5. Unable to Identify.
Nº 11. Unable to Identify.


---

**DeBrum house Likiep, Book case #2**

**SHELF 1**


Nº 11. Unable to Identify.


Nº 13. Unable to Identify.


Nº 15. Anon. (??). *Eminent Workers for Christ*.


Nº 20. Unable to Identify.

Nº 21. Unable to Identify.

Nº 22. Unable to Identify.


Nº 30. Zangwill, Israel. (?). The Children of the Ghetto. [various editions, cannot be identified from title alone]


Nº 37. Unable to Identify.


**SHELF 2**


Nº 10. Anon. (?). The Church School Hymnal.

Nº 11. Unable to Identify.

Nº 12. Unable to Identify.


Nº 14. Unable to Identify.
Nº 15. Unable to Identify.
Nº 16. Unable to Identify.
Nº 17. Unable to Identify.
Nº 18. Unable to Identify.

Nº 20. *Life and Sermons of Dwight L. Moody*


**SHELF 3**


Nº 8. Unable to Identify.


Nº 10. Unable to Identify.


**SHELF 4**


**SHELF 5**


Nº 5. Unable to Identify.


Nº 9. Unable to Identify.


Nº 12. Unable to Identify.


Nº 16. Unable to Identify.


Nº 18. Unable to Identify.


DeBrum house Likiep, Book case #3

SHELF 1

Nº 1. Unable to Identify.
Nº 5. Unable to Identify.
Nº 6. Unable to Identify.
Nº 8. Unable to Identify.
Nº 10. Unable to Identify.
Nº 12. Unable to Identify.
Nº 13. Unable to Identify.
Nº 26. Unable to Identify.
Nº 28. Unable to Identify.
Nº 29. Unable to Identify.

**SHELF 2**

Nº 1. Anon. (?) *A Little Garden of Verses.* pamphlet
Nº 16. Unable to Identify.
Nº 17. Unable to Identify.
Nº 18. De Quincey, Thomas. (nd). *Confessions of an English Opium Eater: murder considered as one of the fine arts, the English male-coach of a selection from suspira de profundis.* Cassell & Company Ltd.: London.


Nº 20. Dickens, Charles. (??). *Domby and Sons.*


Nº 22. Unable to Identify.


Nº 24. Unable to Identify.

Nº 25. Unable to Identify.


Nº 27. Unable to Identify.


Nº 30. Unable to Identify.


Nº 35. Unable to Identify.


Nº 37. Unable to Identify.

**SHELF 3**


Nº 3. Unable to Identify.

Nº 4. Unable to Identify.


Nº 6. Unable to Identify.


Nº 10. Goldsmith, Oliver. (??). *The Vicar of Wakefield.*


Nº 13. Unable to Identify.

Nº 14. Unable to Identify.


Nº 16. Unable to Identify.


Nº 20. Scott, Walter. (??). *Tales of my Landlord*.


Inscribed: To my all time friend Jocham deBrum, that he may judge of the accuracy of a story to setting of which is near his home and birthplace, with complements of Dr. C.A. Rife.


--- [ 105 ] ---
N° 5. Twain, Mark. (??). *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveas County and other Sketches*. George Routledge and Sons Ltd: London.


Prior owner's inscription by Kathryn ONeill


Previous owner's stamp a “Haupt Agentur der Jaluit Gesellschaft”


**SHELF 5**

This shelf comprises mostly of paper back novels with some hard back covers in very poor condition. These books have not been identified.

— [106] —
**Shelf 6**

This shelf comprises mostly of paperbacks in very poor condition, Joan O'Neill could not remove them from the shelf to see the titles of the books. These books have not been identified.
DeBrum house Likiep, Book case #4

SHELF 1
This shelf is empty.

SHELF 2
N° 11. Garvice, Charles. (??). In Fine Feathers.
CATALOGUE


Nº 30. Unable to Identify. Paperback.


SHELF 3


Nº 19. Anon. (??). *Indoor games for Children and Young People*.

**SHelf 4**

Nº 1. Unable to Identify.


**SHELF 5**


Nº 12. Anon. (?). *Heart to Heart - Letters Being Extracts From the Letters of Margaret Bottome to a Son.* Hodder & Stoughton: London.


**SHELF 6**


Catalogue

DeBrum house Likiep, Book case #5

SHELF 1
No Books on this shelf only ornaments.

SHELF 2
No Books on this shelf only ornaments.

SHELF 3


**SHELF 4**

Nº 1. Unable to Identify. Paperback.

Nº 2. Unable to Identify. Paperback.


Nº 4. Unable to Identify. Paperback.

Nº 5. Unable to Identify. Paperback.

Nº 6. Unable to Identify. Paperback.

Nº 7. Unable to Identify. Paperback.

Nº 8. Unable to Identify. Paperback.


Nº 10. Unable to Identify. Paperback.

Nº 11. Unable to Identify. Paperback.


Nº 14. Unable to Identify.


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<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher 1</th>
<th>Publisher 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pop, Joseph J.</td>
<td>Number one and How to Take Care of H</td>
<td>Funk &amp; Wagnalls &amp; Co.</td>
<td>New York &amp; London</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Kawai, Michi.</td>
<td>Japanese Women Speak</td>
<td>Ochimi Kubushiro</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
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<td>Unable to Identify</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Kenealy, Arabella.</td>
<td>Belinda's Beaux</td>
<td>London</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Baldwin, T. Stith.</td>
<td>Picture Making for Pleasure and Prof</td>
<td>Frederick J Drake</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Chesterton, G. K.</td>
<td>The Innocence of Father Brown</td>
<td>Cassell &amp; Company Ltd.</td>
<td>London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Unable to Identify</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Thorne, Guy.</td>
<td>I Believe and Other Essays</td>
<td>George Bell and Sons</td>
<td>London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Farnol, Jeffery.</td>
<td>The Broad Highway a Romance of Kent</td>
<td>Sampson Low Marston &amp; Co. Ltd.</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Williamson, C. N. &amp; A.</td>
<td>The Brightener</td>
<td>Hutchinson &amp; Co.</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Gee, George E.</td>
<td>The Silversmith's Handbook</td>
<td>Crosby Lockwood and Son</td>
<td>London</td>
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**SHELF 5**

Books in bad condition and not identified

**SHELF 6**

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<th>Publisher 1</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wagner, Charles.</td>
<td>Howard the Heights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Crane, Dr Frank.</td>
<td>Why I am a Christian</td>
<td>Wm H Wise &amp; Co.</td>
<td>New York</td>
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Most items in the shelf were in bad condition and not identified.
DeBrum house Likiep, Book case #6

SHELF 1
Empty Shelf.

SHELF 2
Empty Shelf.

SHELF 3
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/Editor</th>
<th>Publisher/Date</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tarbell's Teachers Guide to Sunday School</td>
<td>Tarbell, Martha (1932)</td>
<td>Fleming H. Revell Co: NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Great Assie</td>
<td>Anon. (??)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Contemporary Pulpit, Second Series.</td>
<td>Anon. (1890)</td>
<td>Swan Sonnenschein &amp; Co: L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fifty Two Sundays with the Children</td>
<td>Learnmont. (??)</td>
<td>Allenson:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Student Teacher</td>
<td>Anon. (??)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dr. Barnardo, The Foster Father of Nobodys Children</td>
<td>Batt, Rev. John Herridge (1904)</td>
<td>S.W. Partridge &amp; Co: L</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gospel Themes</td>
<td>Finney, Charles Grandison (1876)</td>
<td>E. J. Goodrich: O</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Knickerbocker's History of New York</td>
<td>Irving, Washington (c1894)</td>
<td>Hurst &amp; Co: NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Abraham or the Obedience of Faith</td>
<td>Meyer, F.B. (??)</td>
<td>Morgan &amp; Scott: L</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Shorter Works</td>
<td>Barclay, Florence L. (1924)</td>
<td>Putnam: NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>The Battle of Tsushima</td>
<td>Semenoff, Vladimir. (1906)</td>
<td>John Murray: L</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Dictionary of Photography</td>
<td>Wall, E. J. (1890?)</td>
<td>Hazell, Watson, &amp; Viney Ltd: L</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>The Bible Remembrancer, being an analysis of teh whole bible.</td>
<td>Anon. (1890s)</td>
<td>Morgan &amp; Scott: L</td>
</tr>
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**SHELF 5**


Nº 4. Unable to Identify.

Nº 5. Unable to Identify.

Nº 6. Unable to Identify.

Nº 7. Unable to Identify.

Nº 8. Unable to Identify.

Nº 9. Unable to Identify.


Nº 20. Unable to Identify.

Nº 21. Unable to Identify.

Nº 22. Unable to Identify.

Nº 23. Unable to Identify.


Nº 30. Anon. (??). *Love is All*.

Nº 31. Unable to Identify.

**SHELF 6**


Nº 2. Brum, Joachim De. (??). Estate ofJose DeBrum. 
This Exercise Book shows money loaned by Jose to several people and how much they had paid back starting in 1901.

Most books in this shelf were in bad condition and not identified

**Items listed by Edward Jelks but no longer extant**

The following items are listed in Jelks 1977 report but have not been documented in the identified items. They may be contained in the trunks, may be part of the decayed book matter on the shelves, or may have been removed since 1977.


Items contained in deBrum papers, Alele Museum, Majuro Atoll

A number of smaller printed items were taken from the deBrum house in the early 1980s and together with the glass plate negatives were deposited in the Alele Archives. The files were inspected by Dirk Spennemann in October 1999.

FILE 1894-95 #9 P-2

“The fight in the Far East.”
several torn out pages from the Illustrated London News.

FILE 1912 # 27P

Cosmopolitan, July 1912.
several torn out pages, mainly with advertisements on schools for Boys and Girls.

A Child's History of the World
Single page (pp. 417-418).

The Clash of World Forces.
Single page (pp. 56-56) 'The World Programme of Bolshevism'.

German cook book.
Single page (pp. 111-112).

German Bible/ New Testament.
Single page.

FILE 1912 # 44B-2

Cosmopolitan, July 1912.
several torn out pages

FILE 1914 # 29P

12 mo, 4p folded.—Condition: good.

12 mo, 4p folded.—Condition: good.

12 mo, 4p folded.—Condition: good.

12 mo, 8p.—Condition: good.

12 mo, 8 pp.—Condition: good.


Brooks, Keith L. (nd) *The only gateway into heaven, the way of the †*. Los Angeles: Biola Book Room, Bible Institute of. Los Angeles. 12 mo, 8pp folded.—Condition: good.


Rhodes, Peter (nd) *How to make your salary with 10% to 30% more*. Los Angeles: Biola Book Room, Bible Institute of. Los Angeles. 12 mo, 8p folded.—Condition: good.


1914 #46B-2

Page of a Marshallese Bible (Book of Job)

*Amtsblatt des Reichspostamtes* N° 33, May 1914, pp. 147-156.

Condition: good.


Condition: good.


Condition: good.

1914 #46B-3


blue paper wrappers, 8pp.—Condition: good.
**BUNDLE, NO NUMBER**


**UNDATED FOLDER**


Panton, D.M (nd) *A message of rest for troublesome times from the story of the man with the pitcher of water*. Los Angeles: Biola Book Room, Bible Institute of Los Angeles. 12mo, 6p folded.—Condition: good.


Items not located but referenced in deBrum correspondence

A number of items are referred to in correspondence kept in the deBrum collection, but could not be found in the deBrum House or the material removed from to the archives. As this mainly refers to magazines, it is possible that they were contained in the trunks.

BOOKS

Cook (<1909) *Gardening made easy*
220 pp.—order letter contained in file 1909 #41B

(<1894) *Edison’s Encyclopedia*
Mentioned in correspondence in file 1894 #9P

(<1909) *Do you know it*
order letter contained in file 1909 #41B

ANNUALS

*Chum’s Annual* 1908–1909
order letter contained in file 1909 #41B
Some volumes of Chum’s annual have been encountered on the shelves, but their years have not been ascertained (Case 1 Shelf 4 items 4-10). It is likely that the two volumes mentioned in the correspondence are included there.

*Chatterbox Annual* 1908 or 1909
order letter contained in file 1909 #41B

MAGAZINES

*Answer* 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1

*British Medical Journal* 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1

*Cassell’s* 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

*Century Magazine* 1894
Mentioned in correspondence in file 1894 #9P

*Cosmopolitan* 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

*English Illustrated* 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

*Everybody’s* 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

*Family Herald London* 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

*Forest and Stream* 1884-1889
Mentioned in correspondence in file 1894 #9P

*Forest and Stream* 1894
Mentioned in correspondence in file 1894 #9P
Graphic 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1

Home Cookery 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1

Illustrated Carpenter & Builder 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1

McClure’s 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

Munsey 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

Outing 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

Pearsons 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

Royal Windsor 1911
order letter contained in file 1910 #25P

Yachtsman 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1

NEWSPAPERS

Continental Times 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1

Dresdner Anzeiger 1914
order letter contained in file 1913 #45B-1
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author List</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Disciple,</td>
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<td>A Gentleman with a duster</td>
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<td>Adams, John</td>
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<td>Ainsworth, H. William</td>
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<td>Allan, Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen's Wife, Mrs. Josiah</td>
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<td>Anderson, Henry E.</td>
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<td>Anderson, R. P.</td>
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<td>Angus, Joseph</td>
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<td>Arnold, Augusta Foote</td>
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<td>Arthur Goodrich, B.A., Rev. G., Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.A., Rev. Evan Hopkins, and others,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Askew, Alice &amp; Askew, Claude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacon, Admiral Sir Reginald</td>
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Why I Am What I Am
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Ye must be born again
You, me or anybody else
Young Peoples' Prayer Meeting

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Allenson 1
Allison & Co 1
American Optical Company 1
American Tract Society 2
Andrew Melrose Ltd 1
Angus & Robertson & Co. 1
Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. 1
Arnold 1
Arthur Pearson & Co. Ltd 1
Australia Cornstalk Publishing Company 1
Bailliere, Tindall and Cox 1
Bernhard Tauchnitz 2
Bible Institute of Los Angeles 28
Blackie & Son Ltd. 3
Bobbs-Merrill Co. 2
Burnett & Co 1
Burroughs, Wellcome & Co 2
C. Keegan Paul & Co 1
C.V. Mosby & Co 2
Cambridge University Press 3
Cassell & Co 25
Cassel, Petter, Galpin & Co 5
Century Co. 5
Charles C. Thompson & Co. 3
Charles H. Kelly 1
Charles Scribners Sons 2
Christian World 3
Clariion Press 1
Cokebury Press 1
Constable And Company 1
Crosby, Lockwood and Son 4
D. Appleton & Co. 2
D. Estes & Company 1
D.C. Heath & Co 1
Darling & Son Limited 1
David McKay 1
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