

APPRAISAL REPORT

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Film and Video

File Number: 98/101

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Appraisal Circumstances

In July 1998 a contract was signed between National Archives and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop a schedule for the disposal of film and video material held by New Zealand Posts around the world (job file 98/101). Film and video material is being recalled from these posts and arriving at MFAT Head Office over an indeterminate period of time. It was therefore felt that an on-going disposal authority would be most appropriate.

A number of films and video cassettes were offered to National Archives in December 1995 by [name removed] from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The material was from the High Commission in Canberra who had no further use for these films (refer to job file 96/16). The material from this appraisal is similar to that held by other New Zealand Posts. It was decided to incorporate this first appraisal into the schedule.

The idea of developing a schedule and the criteria to be used was discussed with [name removed], Film Archivist, and [name removed] from the Statutory Regulatory Group. We not only considered the films held by MFAT but also wider issues surrounding the transfer of film, and the possibility of developing a General Disposal Schedule for material from the National Film Unit.

Agency Information

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade conducts the Government's business with foreign countries and their governments, and with international organisations.

The Ministry is responsible for the administration of New Zealand's Official Development Assistance, for the negotiation of treaties, and for advice to the New Zealand Government on questions of international law and matters arising from New Zealand's treaty relationships. In the past, the Ministry's Information Division was also responsible for the overseas information and publicity programme¹.

Each division and Post of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has its own records registry and records staff Policy relating to the administration of records, and the assignment of record references is determined by the Central Registry. Closed files are transferred to the Central Registry.

GAIMS agency documentation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade [ABHS] is attached as Appendix B.

Description of Record Values

The film and video covered by this appraisal were created by a variety of agencies both government and non-government, and from New Zealand and overseas. These films were collected and distributed by MFAT as part of their function to promote the image of New Zealand overseas. Any attempt to group the films together would create a very artificial series at best.

Date range: c.1960-c.1990

Quantity: 128 items are held at Head Office at this time. It is not possible to estimate how many more may be received.

Format: mostly 16 mm film and VHS video cassettes but also includes 35mm film and 2 inch video tape. Other formats may also be included.

APPRAISAL CRITERIA

A small number of films were produced by agencies such as the State Services Commission and were used by MFAT for the training of Staff. The remaining films in this appraisal provide evidence of the way in which the government wished to portray New Zealand overseas. The main appraisal criteria applied however was whether the item is a record of New Zealand government, or a record of a non-government or overseas agency. This core criteria was applied to the various classes of film listed below and to all film and video formats.

Where films are recommended for transfer as archives they must first be assessed by the Film Archivist for their condition, completeness, and quality. Films which are of poor quality, incomplete, or which are already held by National Archives in sufficient quantities in each format, are recommended for destruction.

¹ This programme included distributing New Zealand publications, films and other items to overseas posts. Directory of Official Information 1993, p.607.

² This includes films commissioned by a government department from a private agency on a commercial basis.

Although non-government productions are not part of National Archives mandate, they have a known value to film and social/cultural historians. It is recommended that these films are first offered to a more appropriate institution rather than be destroyed, providing that the institution is an approved repository. Where such films are identified by the agency, they should be listed and sent to National Archives for disposal either by transfer to an approved repository or by destruction. It is important that the receiving institution is aware of any copyright issues which may restrict distribution and exhibition of the film.

Films that are not required by National Archives or an approved repository are recommended for destruction.

RECORD CLASSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS 1. New

Zealand (Central) Government film and video.

- National Film Unit. It is hoped that the disposal of these films will soon be able to be determined by a general disposal schedule which describes the titles and formats required by National Archives, and those which are surplus. Until this schedule is developed, films will need to be transferred for assessment by National Archives.
- New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation. Transfer to National Archives for examination and comparison with the holdings of the TVNZ archive.
- Films made by other government agencies. Transfer to National Archives for examination and comparison with our current holdings.
- Films commissioned by government agencies. Transfer to National Archives for examination and comparison with our current holdings.

2. New Zealand Local Government film and video.

Local government (i.e. Wellington Harbour Board). Transfer to a local government authority institution. If an appropriate approved repository is not available, the material is recommended for transfer to National Archives.

3. Non-(New Zealand) government film and video.

- Private/Commercial release films. These are recommended for destruction, although they should first be offered to another appropriate institution. Note: this class of films is probably the easiest for the agency to dispose of
- Film and television programmes about New Zealand, created overseas. These are recommended for destruction, although they should first be offered to another appropriate institution. The agency may be able to identify the origin of the film from the can label, but it is more likely that this will have to be determined by National Archives staff.

IMPLEMENTATION

An important consideration in the development of a schedule is the fact that it may not be possible for the agency to view the actual film and video without specialised

equipment. Any identification of records by the agency would therefore be limited to the information provided on the film can/cassette case label which is often little more than the title. There is some risk that the label information will not accurately describe the contents but this risk is not considered sufficient to require the physical inspection of each film.

It was decided that a schedule that could be easily implemented by MFAT staff would allow for the disposal of films based on title. This could be achieved by providing a list of films which MFAT are likely to have issued to overseas posts and which are known to be non-government records; e.g. commercially released and some overseas productions'. This list is intended as a guide only, to assist with the implementation of the schedule. Other information (from the label for example) may exist which will allow the agency to identify disposal actions. When this method was applied to the list of film titles provided by the agency approximately 35% of the titles were identified for destruction.

Films identified by the agency as being non-government (i.e. for destruction) should be separated, listed, and sent to National Archives Wellington. National Archives will take responsibility for offering such films to an approved repository, and will also arrange the destruction of any films not required by either National Archives or approved repositories.

All films which are not easily identified as non-government productions are to be transferred to National Archives Wellington for examination and disposal according to the criteria described above.

Access Provisions

[has been removed]

³ A list was compiled from the New Zealand film Commission's web site, from the publication A Decade of New Zealand Film: Sleeping Dogs to Came A Hot Friday. (Reid, Nicholas. 1986), and from NA job file OPS 96/16. This list is attached as Appendix C

Disposal Recommendations

Records to be destroyed or transferred to an approved repository: c.35%

Records to be transferred to National Archives for further assessment: c.65%

[name removed]
23 July 1999

Appendices

A NA 10

B Agency documentation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade [ABHS] C

List of Non (New Zealand) Government film produced in New Zealand.

APPENDIX C

A list of films produced commercially in New Zealand compiled from:

- **Reid, Nicholas (1986) *A Decade of New Zealand Film: Sleeping Dogs to Came a Hot Friday***
- **New Zealand Film Commission, <http://www.nzfilm.co.nz/search/features.html>**
- **National Archives job file 96/16.**

A Big Country: Kiwis (1984)

A Woman of Good Character

Absent Without Leave Alex

Among the Cinders An

Angel At My Table

Angel Mine (1978)

Arriving Tuesday (1985-1986)

Bad Blood

Bad Taste

Battle truck

Beyond Reasonable Doubt (1980)

Bonjour Timothy

Braindead

Bread and Roses

Bridge to Nowhere (1985)

Broken English

Came a Hot Friday (1985)

Carry Me Back (1982)

Channelling Baby Chicken

Chunuk Bair

Close Contact Stuff: Success in the Ruck and Maul (1979)

Constance (1984)

Cops and Robbers

Crush

Dangerous Orphans (1985)

Dead Kids

Death Warmed Up (1984)

Desperate Remedies

Flight of the Albatross

Flying Fox in a Freedom Tree

Footrot Flats (1986)

Going International: Part IV Welcome Home, Stranger (1983)

Goodbye Pork Pie (1981)

Heart of the Stag (1985)

Heavenly Creatures

I'll Make You Happy

Illustrious Energy

In the Powerhouse: Good Possession from the Scrum (1977)

Iris

Jack Be Nimble
Jack Brown Genius
Kingpin (1985)
Leave all Fair (1985)
Loaded
Mark II
Mauri
Meet the Feebles
Memory and Desire
Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence
Mesmerised
Middle Age Spread (1979)
Moonrise/Grampire
Mr Wrong (1985)
Nambassa
Never Say Die
Ngati (1986)
Off the Edge
Old Scores
Once Were Warriors
Other Halves (1985)
Pallet on the Floor (1986)
Patu
Prisoners
Queen City Rocker (1985)
Race, for the Yankee Zephyr
Restless
Ruby and Rata
Savage Islands
Saving Grace
Second Time Lucky
Send a Gorilla
Shaker Run
Should I be Good? (1985)
Skin Deep (1979)
Sleeping Dogs (1977)
Smash Palace (1982) Solo
Some Of My Best Friends Are Women (1975)
Sons for the Return Home (1979)
Squeeze (1980)
Starlight Hotel
Strata (1983)
Sylvia (1985)
Te Rua
Test Pictures (1973)
The Bounty
the End of the Golden Weather
The Footstep Man

The Last Tattoo
The Leading Edge
The Lie of the Land (1984)
The Lost Tribe (1985)
The Lunatic's Ball
The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey
The Neglected Miracle
The Other New Zealand
The Quiet Earth (1986)
The Returning
The Silent One
The Thinking Boot (1977)
The Ugly
The Whole of the Moon
Theory K: Kiwi Excellence in Management (1987)
Topless Women Talk About Their Lives
Trespasses (1984)
Trial Run
Undercover
User Friendly
Utu (1983)
Via Satellite
Vigil
War Stories
When Love Comes Along
Wild Horses (1982) Wild
Man (1977)
Working With... GST (c.1986)
Zilch

Note: A list of New Zealand short films, which have also been produced by non-government agencies is also available on the New Zealand Film Commission web site at <<http://www.nzfilm.co.nz/index> search.html>