



# NEWSLETTER

## Genealogy and Local History Section

### Newsletter Number 12 / June 2008

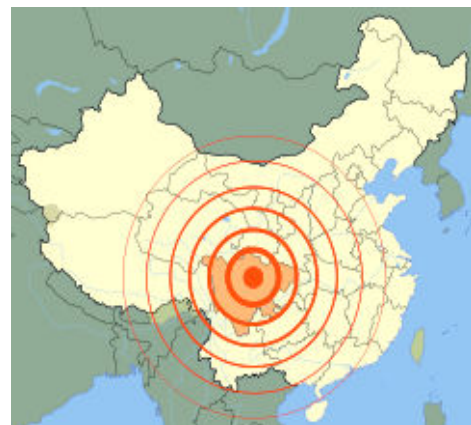


*l to r: Quebec province; Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (Wikipedia); Robert Bruce Holmes (1885-1916), b. Scotland, emigrated to Canada, joined the Mounties, signed up to 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment), Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force, 1<sup>st</sup> World War, d. Ypres, Belgium, June 1916*

### Contents

The Chinese Earthquake.....	1
News from the Chair .....	2
GENLOC at IFLA Quebec.....	3
The IFLA GENLOC Study Tour 2008.....	3
GENLOC/RISS Satellite Meeting, Ottawa 2008.....	3
Preserving the oral story.....	4
Life stories and narratives of exile.....	5
Modern Serbian genealogy.....	7
The Taiwan Digitization Project.....	9
The State Library of Western Australia's Genealogy Centre.....	10
Who do you think you are? Olympia - National Library of Wales.....	11
FamilySearch wiki.....	12
GENLOC Conference papers published 2008.....	12

### The Chinese Earthquake 12 May 2008 The IFLA Disaster Fund



The terrifying earthquake that struck the Wenchuan County of SW China's Sichuan Province caused immense damage to so many cities and villages. Approximately 15 million people lived in the affected area – very many are still missing.

The tremors were felt 1,500 km. away in Beijing. IFLA is following the events in Sichuan Province with great concern and mourns the loss of life and property. For those who wish to contribute to the rebuilding and restoration of the Chinese library fraternity, the *IFLA Fund* is now open: [www.ifla.org/earthquake-china/earthquake-china-fund.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/earthquake-china/earthquake-china-fund.pdf)

Any donation, however small, will be used for the recovery of the Chinese library community and for the assistance of affected libraries and their staff.

## News from the Chair



**Ruth Hedegaard GENLOC Chair**

After having worked for 25 years at the Historical Archives in the Historical Museum of Vendsyssel, I have applied for and got a job in another municipality, Frederikshavn, of 63.000 inhabitants. I took up my new position on 2<sup>nd</sup> June – in a very empty office with a computer and a telephone, but no predecessors to give any guidance!

I am going to be the city archivist of Frederikshavn municipality. This means that I will be responsible for and keeper of the archives of this municipality. At the same time I shall be active in promoting the archives to the public and in encouraging other local archives in the area to become actively involved in co-operation - for the benefit of the researchers and interested people.

## Stages internationaux d'archives

At the end of last year I was on a course for archivists. The French National Archives have several international educational programmes that may be of interest to some of our readers.

Since 1951 the programme *Le stage technique international d'archives* has taken place every spring for approximately 2 months in Paris. The course is intended for professionals from all over the world working as archivists. The programme

consists of lectures, international debates, visits to archives and institutions etc.

I followed the programme in 1996, and had a great time in Paris together with 40 colleagues from around 20 countries. Everything is in French, so you have to know the language to participate, and you have to find your own lodgings. The course is at the expense of the National Archives.

There is another programme as well, that I followed in November-December 2007: *Stage Courants*, which has been running since 2001 in collaboration with La Maison des Cultures du Monde. There are several programmes, some of them bilingual. I chose the course called: *Stage theories et pratiques archivistiques, archives et nouveaux enjeux de l'information*. It lasted for 3 weeks and was intended for responsible staff in the archives. The programme included records management, treatment of the documents and digitisation.

This course, too, was a great experience. We had good lectures, interesting visits and fruitful debates with the 20 participants also from all over the world. We learned a lot and had great fun being closely together for 3 weeks.

If this small article has encouraged you to learn more about the international educational activities of the National Archives and La Maison des Cultures du Monde, I can refer you to the following webpages:

[www.mcm.asso.fr/site02/courants/programme/dossiers-tele-COURANTS/synthese\\_2008.pdf](http://www.mcm.asso.fr/site02/courants/programme/dossiers-tele-COURANTS/synthese_2008.pdf)

and

[www.archivesdefrance.culture.gouv.fr/fr/formation/](http://www.archivesdefrance.culture.gouv.fr/fr/formation/)

This will give you an impression of the many interesting things that are going on in the international archives and library world.

You are also very welcome to contact me at [rhe@stofanet.dk](mailto:rhe@stofanet.dk) if you want some more information.



**Ville de Paris. City Coat of Arms**

**GENLOC at IFLA  
Quebec  
10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008**



**Tuesday  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

**GENLOC Open  
Session with  
FAIFE**

**Access to  
genealogical  
data: data  
protection  
versus  
unlocking the  
records**

An excellent programme for IFLA Quebec has been organised by Janice McFarlane of GENLOC and the Committee of FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression).

This joint bilingual Session is being held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at 13.45 – 15.45 hours

The theme for the Open Session is:

**Access to genealogical data: data protection versus unlocking the records**

The programme is as follows:

- Serving the genealogical and historical research communities: an overview of records access and data privacy issues  
*Wayne J Metcalfe & Melvin P Thatcher (Genealogical Society of Utah/FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, USA)*
- What a pistorckle! Access to Caribbean records for family history research  
*Susan Laura Lugo (Government of the Virgin Islands, USA)*
- Protection des personnes et exigences scientifique: les enjeux de la réforme sur l'accès aux archives en France  
*Philippe Colomb (Université de Paris, Paris, France)*
- The release of Canada's Historic Census  
*Senator Lorna Milne (The Senate, The Parliament of Canada, Ottawa, Canada)*

**The IFLA GENLOC Study Tour**

**Grosse-Île Quarantine Station, Quebec  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2008 9.30am – 6.00pm**

GENLOC plans a study tour to Grosse-Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site in Québec.



**Quarantine Station on Grosse-Île, Quebec  
D.A. McLaughlin / Library and Archives Canada**

Grosse-Île was a quarantine station in the St Lawrence River, used from 1832 to 1937 – the Canadian equivalent of New York's Ellis Island. In 1832, the Lower Canadian Government set up this depot to contain the Cholera epidemic of the time, supposedly caused by the large influx of European immigrants.

It has particularly strong associations with Irish immigration, housing Irish Immigrants coming to Canada to escape the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1849. Grosse-Île is the largest Irish Famine burial ground located outside of Ireland.

**Advance registration for this exciting visit is required by 25<sup>th</sup> July. See the website:**

[www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/field-trip\\_20080813.htm](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/field-trip_20080813.htm)

**Download, then mail/fax the completed form.  
Or complete & send the form on GENLOC  
Newsletter page 13**

The GENLOC Section welcomes everyone who can join our members on this historic visit.

**Important Satellite Meeting in Ottawa**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008  
Genealogy and Local History for All: Services to Multicultural Communities**

For full details please see the Conference website:

[www3.telus.net/public/cv910081/GenLoc/](http://www3.telus.net/public/cv910081/GenLoc/)



In advance of the IFLA Quebec Conference, the Genealogy and Local History Section and the IFLA Reference and Information Services Section will be hosting a joint satellite conference:

### **Genealogy and Local History for All: Services to Multicultural Communities**

This will take place in Ottawa, Ontario on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Library and Archives Canada, and will include tours of the Canadian Genealogy Centre and Gatineau Preservation Centre.



*The Gatineau Preservation Centre (Wikipedia)*

Librarians, archivists and those who provide library services to the genealogy and local history public are invited to join Section members in Ottawa for a conference that highlights the services and techniques required to respond to the needs of multi-cultural communities.

No. 15012

ATTESTATION PAPER. Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

Is your name Robert B. Holmes

Is your name as given at birth, and in the Country where you were born? Edinburgh, Scotland

Is the name of your next-of-kin? Miss A. Holmes

Is the address of your next-of-kin? 27th September 1940

Is the date of your birth? Edinburgh

Is your Trade or Calling? Police

Are you married? No

Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? No

Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No

Have you ever served in any Military Force? 6 Coy 4th Buff Regt Scot

I do, under penalties of perjury, certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original.

11 12

*Copy of Canadian Attestation Paper, 1915 (Libraries and Archives Canada)*

The conference will feature presentations on a wide variety of topics including DNA and genealogy, resources and services for specific ethnic groups, and global initiatives being undertaken by FamilySearch. It will also provide an excellent opportunity to make new contacts with librarians and archivists working in the area of

genealogy and local history. Over two days this conference will explore aspects of genealogical research relating to specific ethnic and cultural communities, such as African-American, First Nations, French-Canadian, Caribbean, Chinese and Continental European.

There will be time to visit and associate with those who are working in the libraries providing services to genealogists and historians.

The conference will take place at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, approximately 450 kilometres (275 miles) west of Quebec City. This is the country's premier heritage institution and home of the Canadian Genealogy Centre. Some events will take place at Library and Archives Canada's premier preservation facility in nearby Gatineau, Quebec.

Don't delay – register today!

[www3.telus.net/public/cv910081/GenLoc/index.html](http://www3.telus.net/public/cv910081/GenLoc/index.html)

For a French version of the website:

[www3.telus.net/public/cv910081/GenLoc/conferenciers-f.html](http://www3.telus.net/public/cv910081/GenLoc/conferenciers-f.html)

### **Preserving the oral story**

Oral history is in danger. There is an African proverb: *When an old man dies, it is as if a library has been burnt down.*

This sentence came from the Ghanaese Osei-Agyemang Bonus' presentation of his paper: *African oral genealogy, collecting and preserving yesterday for tomorrow* - one of the papers presented at the IFLA conference in Durban in South Africa in August 2007.

In Africa such a great part of the population dies from AIDS that a whole generation of young people cannot have their history passed to them. The elder family members die before they tell their life stories. In other words, many libraries are burnt down in Africa today. Is it possible to succeed in preserving the oral history for the future?

### **People without a written language**

For many of the original people have had no written language, and oral history is often the only source. Moreover, the oppression of foreign rulers in forbidding the people to use their original language has meant that the oral tradition has been nearly impossible. The result is that their

history disappears, making it even more important to save the oral sources.



*Zulu warriors, late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Wikipedia)*

Efforts are being taken throughout the world to preserve the oral history tradition. There are many projects aimed at collecting history in the form of, among other things, tape recordings, photographs and the collection of artefacts. Overall, archives, libraries and museums have played a leading role in this process. It means that importance is given to the fact that the material, after its collection, will be catalogued and made accessible to research and communication.

Different visits to institutions and enterprises in South Africa after the conference showed us more examples of the use of an oral tradition in communication. At Sasol Art Museum in Stellenbosch there was a photographic exhibition by the well-known South African photographer Jürgen Schadeberg *Voices of the land*. Here you could see beautiful black and white photos with extensive captions quoting from interviews with the farmers and workers being photographed.

In the town of Franschhoek we were encouraged to visit a slave museum close by. It turned out to be a vineyard, *Solms Delta*, offering wine tasting and selling, but the sales room was fitted out as a small museum telling the history of the region. An extensive part of the exhibition was dedicated to earlier work conditions in the vineyard. Impressive and powerful records of former workers, explaining about the harsh working life in previous years, were shown.

At both visits the oral tradition demonstrated an extra dimension to each exhibition. It is my hope that the IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section's focus on the oral tradition and the preservation of these spoken chronicles has drawn more attention to this important field for archives, libraries and museums.

**Ruth Hedegaard, Chair, GENLOC**  
*translated from her article in Bibliotekspressen (The Library Press, published by The Danish Union of Librarians) 2007, no. 17, p. 34.*

## Life-Stories and Narratives of Exile - the recovery of Memory in South Africa

Life histories contribute to memory-making by helping us see the connections between past and present, thus aiding us to remember our history and better make sense of our lives. We need to tell our stories in order to heal ourselves - an important component of writing, especially narratives of trauma. Biographies can also be inspirational. Pick up a book and read about someone else's life. They may have triumphed over extreme adversity - as so many did in South Africa - or they may reflect your life in some way.

Life stories demonstrate what is at stake when certain narratives are hidden (such as stories of exile and the quest for freedom). It serves certain systems of domination when the connections between narratives are disrupted and obscured - as happened during apartheid - and continues in some ways today. It is imperative to experience as many historical and biographical narratives as possible so that we can know what exactly has changed over time, and what hasn't, a strategy of seeing connections across time and space. The post-colonial feminist critic Pumla Dineo Gqola in her work on hidden slave narratives (2004) argues that to understand South Africa's history, we must look beyond apartheid and colonialism, and understand how these systems of domination sought to continue where slavery had left off. And life-stories in so far as they reflect history can be useful in that regard.

Another post-colonial feminist critic, Desire Lewis, has written extensively about the importance of understanding and having access to biographies: *When we consider the construction of individual lives in, for example, television documentaries, magazine profiles or newspaper columns, it becomes clear that biography is an influential site of cultural politics and prescribed identities and roles* (2005)

If there are silences in narrative, and blanks in our telling and access of our individual and collective stories, we will then develop a distorted view of ourselves. Much is at stake in keeping certain narratives hidden, and censorship has arrested the development of narratives within South Africa, and narratives of exile.

Phaswane Mpe, in writing about the history of publishing in Africa makes useful points about the stark difference between the growing West African publishing arena during the 1950s and 60s and the increasing clamp down on publishing and life in general in South Africa. Only in the eighties and

nineties did the Heinemann African Writers Series focus attention on South Africa. Rapid decolonisation, and the resultant environment of freedom allowed publishers like Heinemann to operate with relative ease in West Africa - and collect their profits unhindered, whilst in South Africa, there was increasing repression. *Censorship took many forms. ... in South Africa (the novel) 'Mhudi' suffered crippling editing. A second form took the shape of patronising reviews of the novel. A third, perhaps subtler than the others, involved omitting literature written by blacks from the category known as South African literature. A fourth, and more well known expression of censorship, came in blunt terms from politicians and governments...the apartheid state introduced deliberate measures such as the passing of the Suppression of Communism Act (1953), the Publications and Entertainment Act (1963) and later the Publications Act. (1999).*

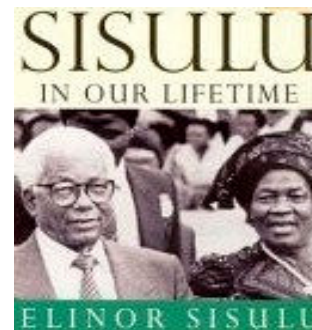
Increasing apartheid repression in the fifties and sixties led to the banning of many books and the banning or arrest of their authors. Many writers left South Africa for exile, cutting short the explosive energy of the Drum writers of the fifties, among whom were luminaries such as ESKIA MPHAHLELE, Bloke Modisane, Lewis Nkosi and Bessie Head. This exodus resulted in the splitting of South African narratives into 'a severely curtailed local production, on the one hand, and a literature of exile on the other'. Heinemann editor James Currey attested to the fact that the political situation in South Africa also severely restricted literatures of exile because 'black writers were mainly scattered in exile and therefore could not provide a readily accessible pool of works.' Writers did not want to broadcast their whereabouts, and the recording of life stories would have alerted apartheid authorities of their whereabouts.

In the late 80s the censorship situation seemed to shift slightly. The state tried to find more sophisticated ways to block subversive forms of storytelling.

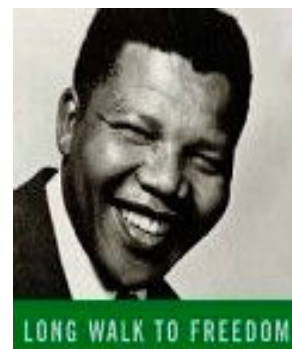
*Censorship continued through the 1980s, along with an increasingly vicious political repression, although a set of deft manoeuvres on the part of the censorship authorities made it appear as if South Africans were in fact gaining access to greater intellectual freedom: the censors continued to ban 'populist' writing said to be designed to provoke racial hatred or to lead to social unrest, but permitted oppositional texts unlikely to have mass appeal. Moreover, academics could read banned books in the various libraries 'banned book rooms' and apply*

*for permission to own them and even request that their students be allowed to read them. (1996)*

It is important to note at this point that progressive local publishing houses such as Ravan Press, Skotaville and David Phillips found ways to quickly publish and distribute literature before it was banned. For example Ingoapele Madingoane's well known revolutionary poem *Africa My Beginning, Africa my Ending* was published by Ravan Press in 1979 and sold thousands of copies before it was quickly banned. Skotaville managed to publish Mphahlele's poignant exile narrative *Bury Me at the Marketplace: Selected Letters of ESKIA MPHAHLE 1943-1980* (1984) about the desolation of constantly moving from country to country.



When most of the censorship laws were removed in 1990, a steady number of autobiographical and biographical narratives started to emerge locally, focussing mainly on prominent political leaders, writers, and artists. Eleanor Sisulu's biography on Walter and Albertina Sisulu, *In Our Lifetime*, Luli Callinicos' story on Oliver Tambo *Beyond the Engeni Mountains*, Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*. Another form of life writing, which includes narratives of struggle and exile, is contained in a few collections such as one titled *Exiles* However the challenge again is that these latter collections are difficult to come by.





A narrative of exile by John Matsikiza appears in a collection titled *Soweto 76 - Reflections on the Liberation Struggles - Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of June 16*. Matsikiza narrates how he and other exiles witnessed the explosion of 16<sup>th</sup> June courtesy of the BBC in London; and how they later received the young leaders of that revolution, Tsietsi Mashinini and Kgotso Seathlolo: *...they [Mashinini and Seathlolo] were tough teetotallers and rarely deigned, in those early days to crack a smile as they sized us up. We felt debauched and flabby. We had to get our act together in a hurry learn a new language of serious revolution, if we were to have any chance of keeping abreast or even being allowed to participate in our own struggle.*

Collections such as these are an inclusive and effective way to publish diverse life-stories. Limited funding from government and other sources is available to support the writing and publishing of books that attempt to narrate histories with some degree of representivity.

In addition to such collections, narrating a variety of stories, there are other publishing initiatives. The South African Broadcasting Authority has in recent years shown some documentaries about South Africans in exile and here at home. Most recently they programmed the story of Blanche La Guma, who with her family spent many years abroad mobilising against apartheid.

Although apartheid style censorship no longer exists and in theory writers should be able to record and publish freely, there are still factors which still restrict access to writing and publishing. Writing obviously requires time and money, and only a few privileged writers have the resources to publish. All is not gloom and doom, however, as new technologies are making access to writing, research and publishing tools more accessible. In terms of research, websites such as [sahistory.org](http://sahistory.org) and [disa.org](http://disa.org) have made access to information easier, enabling writers and aspirant writers to record and publish their stories with relative ease. Writers can now also publish their stories online individually, and collaboratively. For example, if, in the interest of inclusivity, writers wish to collaborate, they can publish their work online or in print form using a Creative Commons license.

Basically Creative Commons is the idea that knowledge can be disseminated as widely as possible, and that people can share ideas openly, borrow from each, write in groups etc. There are various ways to do this, depending on what the needs of the writer or writers are. I have written and published a collective biography, which is in

part a narrative of exile titled *Spring Offensive*, under a Creative Commons licence, which encourages other writers to expand and enrich the story. I do not own the copyright to the story, because it is not mine to own - it is the story of South Africa's collective liberation struggle. A knowledge commons approach to storytelling and access to information will enable more people to write individually and collectively. Many more narratives about the struggle for freedom and the lives of ordinary people who lived in South Africa and in exile still need to be told, and new media and technology can play a vital role in recording and making these stories accessible.

*This is a very abbreviated version of a presentation by Nokuthula Mazibuko (Wits) and Nhlanhla Mabaso (CSIR) given to the Cape Book Fair 2006. I would like to thank the authors for this paper and trust I have edited it sensitively to fit the space available..*

## Modern Serbian Genealogy and a review of the Project [Srdjevdan.org](http://Srdjevdan.org)



The website [Srdjevdan.org](http://Srdjevdan.org)

It is very hard to speak about modern Serbian genealogy, mostly because there is no single lasting institution in Serbia, which is organized and financed for research in genealogy or local history. All major history institutions in Belgrade focus their work on contemporary political or social history, so it is not strange that most of the historians regard genealogy as non-scientific work, while local history is left to the 'local enthusiasts' and non-historians. Significant genealogy research could be located in Local History Collections, as departments of all larger public libraries, but there is also a lack of skilled staff and the understanding of the importance of genealogy for communities

and the collective memory. Compared with the level of genealogy investigation in England (for instance), research on family histories, migrations and local history in the Balkans is still at its very beginning and is without clear organization.

With the emergence of the Internet at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, several websites appear, dedicated to the genealogy and origins of the population of the Western Balkans. One of the biggest and most useful is *Rodoslovlje/Genealogy* [www.rodoslovlje.com](http://www.rodoslovlje.com) of the Serbian Genealogical Society (established in 2002). It is clear that interest in genealogy arose from those parts of the population in the Western Balkans affected by the wars and tragic events in the 90's, when people were forced to leave their homes and families got separated. That's why there are a lot websites dealing with the origins of the populations or the local history of particular (micro)regions, where websites serve to preserve memory and allow some kind of re-gathering. Unfortunately, because of the poor development of present genealogy studies in the Balkans, information that is provided on those websites is often unchecked or belongs to an oral tradition only. One of the reasons for starting the Project *Srdjevdan.org* was the creation of a website that would be dedicated solely to research on genealogy and family history on a higher academic level.



The website *Srdjevdan.org*

The Project *Srdjevdan.org* [www.srdjevdan.org](http://www.srdjevdan.org) originated from the activities of a few individuals on the Internet, and the only linking chain was the celebration of the same *slava*, *Srdjevdan* (the day dedicated to the memory of the martyrdom of Ss Sergius and Bacchus, 7 October by the Julian calendar). *Slava* has an important role in the life of Orthodox Serbs and represents one of the features of confessing Orthodox Christianity

among the Serbs. *Slava* refers to marking the day in a year (according to Julian calendar), when a certain saint or a religious holiday is celebrated, which a family accepted as its *slava*.

The basic motives for starting the project *Srdjevdan.org* lie in the study of family origins. Those originally interested in the origins of their families have joined, through discussion forums and correspondence by email, a few individuals whose *slava* is *Srdjevdan*. Through new information, collected on the Internet and from bibliographies, as well as by swapping information, it has been noticed that the family origin of most participants is related to the common *slava*. Rare *slava*, in this case, can provide answers for personal and family history. This original curiosity has been broadened in time by new information from the field of genealogy - the migration of population; topics from general history in which some participants of the discussion showed interest (for example, the history of Christian persecution in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, the life and cult of Ss Sergius and Bacchus, etc.); the history of the church (by using the fragments from the history of Christian sacred architecture and foundation of churches); the history of the western part of Balkan Peninsula in the Middle and New Ages.

In this way the needs of the active participants in the discussion have arisen. They mostly broadened their knowledge from information gained from the Internet and from available book titles. Significantly, previous work showed characteristics of confusion and lack of order, with frequent repetitions, the constant avoidance of certain topics and the inevitable 'holes in knowledge'. So at the beginning of 2007 a website was built with a dependent forum which would systematically lead the whole future programme of collecting and processing the data and information on the following topics:

- the lives and the cult of Ss Sergius and Bacchus
- dedicated churches
- *slava Srdjevdan*
- families which celebrate *Srdjevdan* (creation of the surname database)
- family trees and family histories
- settlements from which the families that celebrate *Srdjevdan* originated



- ways and directions of family migrations from the invasion of the Osmanlis until the 20<sup>th</sup> century

The Project has no finite deadline for the completion of the research. The forum, as an integral part of the site, is conceived as a generator both for the creation of new members (potential researchers for the project) and for the content, which will be published on webpages. The forum is a partially open model – the administrator of the forum actively uses his administrative rights to limit the discussion and any members not respecting the aims and rules of the website and the forum. Despite an initial negative reaction from some members - with some leaving the forum - the moderators decided not to allow those topics of population origins that don't celebrate *Srdjevdan* (an intent of some newly registered members, and a direct consequence of the poor development of genealogical research), as well as all other topics that do not originate from the Project aims.

Beyond doubt the biggest contribution to the Project now lies in genealogical research and the relevant information that is to come. The active members pin their hopes on the results of their work in the field of population origins and migrations. One of the most important achievements compares the database of surnames of those families that celebrate *Srdjevdan* as their family patron's day, with the place where they live and data about their origins if known. This is very important for migration research and succeeding plans of work within the project. The list contains over 160 surnames. Most surnames have been checked through research work, in published books or with the data collected from the forum site.

So far, it has been concluded that, because of the frequent migrations of population throughout the Balkan region, there is no one family in the surname database that has been continuously settled in one place since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest credible written data for one family (the Grbić family) refers to a 1712 Austrian census in Lika and Krbava (today in Croatia).

Even now certain migration routes can be established thanks to the analysis of the data of population origins, kinship of families and their present residence. Future work in this area will be based on extending the database with new families, along with a constant check of the published data and more research into migration and population origins. It is also has planned to create *'Migration maps of the population that*

*celebrate the slava Srdjevdan'* for the region of the west Balkans, tracing the routes of population movement from the fatherland into new regions.

A bibliography of the Project is also in progress and this now comprises several dozens of bibliography titles.

*Bogdan Trifunovic, Local History Collections, Public Library, Cacak, Serbia*



Page from a Taiwan family generation chart

### Approaching a fruitful conclusion: the Taiwan digitization of genealogical microfilm materials Project

The Taiwan digitization of genealogical microfilm materials project is a co-operative Project between the Genealogical Society of Utah and the National Central Library (Taiwan), in operation since November 2004.

- At the beginning of 2004, the National Central Library started to contact the Family History Center of the Genealogical Society of Utah in Taipei.
- After an intensive one-year exchange of emails and onsite visits between the two parties, the National Central Library and the Genealogical Society of Utah signed a formal co-operative agreement on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2004. The five-year project got underway after the signing of this Agreement.
- Under the Agreement, the National Central Library will create and complete the digital images and indexes within five years from receipt of the 794 rolls of microfilm (about 9,000 titles) of Taiwan genealogies from the Genealogical Society of Utah. The National Central Library will deliver to the Genealogical Society a free copy of the digital images and

indexes on the completion of the project. The National Central Library can make the digital production available to users on the Taiwan Memory web site: [memory.ncl.edu.tw](http://memory.ncl.edu.tw)

- In August 2005, when the project successfully received the funding support, the National Central Library's representative, Director Hsiao-ming Yu, visited the Genealogical Society of Utah headquarters in Salt Lake City, and met Dr. Melvin P Thatcher and Mr. Derek B Dobson to further confirm the project's operation and the specification of the metadata format.
- By the end of 2007, the National Central Library had completed 440 rolls (with 6,261 titles, about 495,049 pages) of digitized images and related metadata. And, in April 2008, the digitization of the remaining 354 rolls of microfilm was smoothly contracted out.



*A Clan Genealogy ID Sheet*

Under the consistent funding support and with the continuing effort made by Director Chiao-min Lin and Editor Jenny Sung, we are anticipating an early completion of the digitization of 794 rolls of genealogical microfilm of Taiwan from the Genealogical Society Of Utah by the end of this year. These valuable resources can then be easily accessed by the general public.

*Hsiao-ming Yu, Director, National Central Library (Taiwan)*  
[hmyu@ncl.edu.tw](mailto:hmyu@ncl.edu.tw)

### What's new at the State Library of Western Australia's Genealogy Centre?

The State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) is located in the Perth Cultural Centre along with the State Records Office, the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Western Australia Museum and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts.

The Genealogy Centre was established in 1999 to cater for the increasing interest in family history

and, together with the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History, offers an extensive range of resources for family historians. The State Library is fortunate to have a partnering arrangement with the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. (WAGS.) whereby WAGS volunteers assist clients in their family history research in the Centre. WAGS provides assistance within the Centre from Tuesday to Thursday 9.30am – 1.00pm. WAGS volunteers are highly regarded by staff and patrons for their expertise and patience in assisting clients with research in specific areas.



*Leonie Hayes & Tricia Fairweather*

The Centre's Family History Subject Specialists, Tricia Fairweather and Leonie Hayes, have been very active over the past twelve months. The following describes just some of the ongoing activities.

### State Library of Western Australia – Reference Desks on Ma.gnolia

[ma.gnolia.com/groups/slwareference](http://ma.gnolia.com/groups/slwareference)

Library staff use the Ma.gnolia social bookmarking site to create a directory of useful websites under general subject headings. There is an another, separate Family History directory at <http://ma.gnolia.com/groups/slwfamhist>.

A milestone was reached recently when Tricia added the three hundredth bookmark. These are becoming increasingly useful sites for staff and patrons and a wonderful resource for remote clients and public librarians to tap into - in effect providing access to an online reference collection.

### State Library of Western Australia Blog

[slwa.wordpress.com/](http://slwa.wordpress.com/)

Another recent innovation is the SLWA Blog. Staff create short articles to profile items of interest from within the collections, promote Library activities and increase awareness of cultural activities that partner or complement our own. Of particular interest to genealogists are the articles under the headings *Family History* and *Western Australia*. The Family History Subject Specialists

use this tool to flag new or improved websites, recent additions to the Genealogy Centre's collections, and to promote seminars, exhibitions and other outreach activities including events within the Cultural Centre.

### First Wednesday Talks

[www.slwa.wa.gov.au/seak.html](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/seak.html)

The Family History Specialists deliver regular *First Wednesday* seminars on various topics including family history for beginners, vital records, and the use of the Library's subscription databases, *Ancestry.com (library edition)* and the *Times Digital Archive*. These have proved so popular that a reserve list has been created of persons wishing to attend additional sessions. The Subject Specialists: Western Australia also present seminars on using the *Battye Library indexes* to further both family and social history research.

### AskaSpecialist

[www.slwa.wa.gov.au/specstaff.html](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/specstaff.html)

Another new initiative is the *AskaSpecialist* service now offered via an online enquiry form on the website. The service is designed to assist clients with in-depth or complex enquiries relating to the areas of the Library's collection strengths. The Family History Subject Specialists will respond to all enquiries with information or advice on how to best proceed with research.

### Welcome Walls

[welcomewalls.museum.wa.gov.au/](http://welcomewalls.museum.wa.gov.au/)

This is an outdoor gallery designed as a tribute to Western Australia's migrant families. The Fremantle Maritime Museum's *Welcome Walls* project has caused an upsurge of interest in family history. This initiative encourages Western Australians to submit details of the arrival of the first members of their families to our shores. Families can also provide a brief history that is placed on the accompanying website. SLWA staff have assisted many of these people to explore their family origins and find the actual date and means of their arrival. The port of Albany is undertaking a similar project so it is expected that the increased level of interest will continue. Library staff have produced a guide to resources to assist clients to confirm arrival dates, and ship name, and to locate passenger lists.

### Family History Week 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August 2008

During Family History Week SLWA will offer a series of talks and training seminars aimed at both new and experienced family historians. Several of the talks will reflect the State Library's goal of encouraging the burgeoning interest of family

historians in the wider study of Western Australian social history.

### The State Library Website

Over the coming months the State Library will be introducing a new content management system that will allow the revamping of the website and provide multiple access points to the content. It is expected that this will make navigation of the site much easier. One aim of the Family History Subject Specialists is to broaden access to the more difficult European and Asian areas of research. To this end Tricia and Leonie will be developing online guides to what is available within the Library and online. So stay tuned....

[www.slwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au)

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and

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### The National Library of Wales & Rolf Harris at *Who do you think you are?* Olympia, London May 2008



**No, not Rolf himself but  
the National Library of Wales stand at Olympia!**

The National Library of Wales (NLW) booked a stand again at the *Who do you think you are? live Exhibition*, 2008. Due to the impromptu visit of Rolf Harris and his wife Alwen to last year's show and to the National Library's stand, it was decided to produce Rolf's family tree as the backdrop to our display.

It is well known that Rolf had roots in Merthyr Tydfil due to the BBC programme *Coming Home*. His grandfather George Frederick Harris was a portrait painter in the area. So it was decided to delve more into his Welsh ancestors on his



mother's side, Agnes Margaret Robbins (Marge). This side of the family was connected to the docklands of Cardiff - his maternal grandfather, Arthur J Robbins, was a Merchant's Clerk and his great grandfather, William Fifoot, was a Marine Surveyor.

After months of preparation the display was erected at the Show and was a great attraction. Rolf's photographs attracted many visitors to our stand because he is so recognisable. Many asked about the connection with the NLW. Realising that Rolf is Australian, few were aware of his strong connections with Wales.

The show was well organised and well-publicised with about 12,000 attending over the three days. The Library's stand looked very professional and eye catching and could be spotted from afar by the Welsh Dragon flag.

The four members of staff on duty throughout the weekend were kept busy answering queries, selling books and handing out information leaflets, and even being interviewed for Radio programmes in between.

On the Sunday afternoon, Beryl Evans, Family History Co-ordinator at NLW held one of the Society of Genealogists' workshops entitled *Welsh Family History at the National Library of Wales*. The workshop was very popular being over-subscribed with standing room only at the back. Once again a very successful show for NLW and preparations are already in hand for 2009.

**Beryl Evans, Family History Co-ordinator, National Library of Wales**

## A FamilySearch Wiki

My job, working for FamilySearch, is with the Research Support team where we operate the call center for phone and written correspondence sent to the Family History Library.

We have developed an internet tool, a wiki, just for genealogy research to help us and others provide and find genealogy research support. The site is open to the public at:

<https://wiki.familysearch.org>

Although the site is still quite new it has been very useful in our call center

**Darris G. Williams, AG England; Wales Community Management, Research Support Worldwide Support Services Division, FamilySearch**

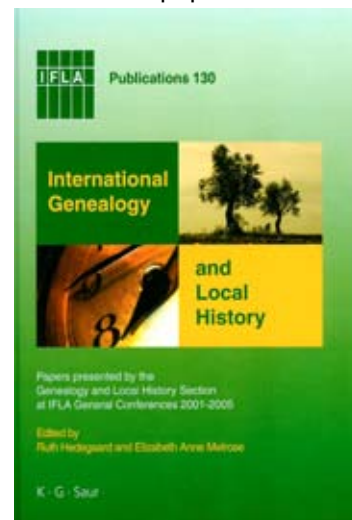
The GENLOC Standing Committee held an email committee meeting at the end of May 2008.

The agenda and discussion items included

- Strategic Plan review
- Activities at the conference in Quebec
- Satellite meeting in Ottawa
- Recruiting new section members
- Ideas for Newsletter content
- Conference programme, IFLA Milan, 2009

## Publication of GENLOC conference papers

The Section has compiled and published the IFLA GENLOC conference papers from 2001 to 2005.



The editors, Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Melrose, thank the authors and those Standing Committee members who helped with proof-reading. The volume was published in Spring 2008 by K.G.Saur Verlag.

**For more information about the Section and its activities, please visit our website:**

[www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm)

*Please email the Editor, GENLOC Newsletter at [elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com) with any comments on the Newsletter*

GENLOC Newsletter Appendix June 2008

**EXPEDITION TO GROSSE-ILE**  
**Section 37 - Genealogy and Local History Study Tour**  
**World Library and Information Congress**  
**Quebec City, Wednesday, 13 August 2008**

Registration form

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
<b>Name of association</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>City, Province / State, Country</b>	<b>Postal Code / Zip Code</b>
<b>Phone (area code)</b>	<b>Fax (area code)</b>
<b>Email :</b>	

Activity	Price	Number attending	Total
Field trip to Grosse Ile	80\$/CAN		
<b>Total</b>			

**Menu choice (included in the price)**

Lunch box including soup, stuffed bread (please select ONE of the three stuffing choices below), carrot muffin or cookies and soft beverage or juice.

1- Ham, tomatoes, salad cucumber, cheese	
2- Chicken, salad, cucumber, tomatoes, onions, cheese	
3- Egg, tomatoes, cucumber, salad	

Please note food allergies here: \_\_\_\_\_

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

Cheque in CAN \$ <input type="checkbox"/>	Money Order in CAN \$ <input type="checkbox"/>	Credit card <input type="checkbox"/>
Payable to: Library and Archives Canada, Grosse-Ile Study Tour 48-9813-0000-8900-27001-E		
VISA <input type="checkbox"/>	Master Card <input type="checkbox"/>	American Express <input type="checkbox"/>
Card Number	-	-
Expiry Date		
Name on Card		
<b>Credit card authorization</b>		
I authorize Library and Archives Canada, on behalf of GENLOC/RISS to charge the total owing to my credit card.		
Signature: _____		Date: _____

**Please note that no refund is available in the event of cancellation.**

Please print this form and send it by mail or by fax to:

Antonio Lechasseur  
 Library and Archives Canada  
 550 de la Cité Blvd  
 Gatineau, QC, Canada  
 K1A 0N4  
 Tel: 819-934-5860  
 Fax: 819-934-5835

**Please note that the number of places is limited to 40, first come, first served!**  
**You should register before JULY 25**

GENEALOGY and LOCAL HISTORY **FOR ALL**  
*Services to Multicultural Communities*

Photo: Vancouver Public Library Special Collections, VPL 72462, 80736, 8271, 27196, 15386

**august 6 & 7** 2008

A conference for librarians and archivists working with genealogy and local history patrons and collections, either as specialists or as part of a broader reference service. Activities will include tours of the Canadian Genealogy Centre and Gatineau Preservation Centre.

Library and Archives Canada  
 Ottawa, Ontario  
 Canada

Contact:  
 Antonio Lechasseur  
 p: 819-934-5860 f: 819-934-5834  
 antonio.lechasseur@lac-bac.gc.ca

For more information, or to register, please go to:  
[www3.telus.net/public/v910081/GenLocIndex.html](http://www3.telus.net/public/v910081/GenLocIndex.html)

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Posters with thanks to the Graphics Department, Vancouver Public Library, Canada

GÉNÉALOGIE et HISTOIRE LOCALE **POUR TOUS**  
*Des services pour les communautés multiculturelles*

Photo: Vancouver Public Library Collections générales, VPL 72462, 80736, 8271, 27196, 15386

**6 et 7 août** 2008

Une conférence destinée aux bibliothécaires et archivistes oeuvrant, à titre de spécialistes de collections ou comme membres d'équipes de référence, auprès de clients intéressés à la généalogie ou à l'histoire locale. Des visites au Centre canadien de généalogie et au Centre de préservation de Gatineau sont au programme.

Bibliothèque et Archives Canada  
 Ottawa, Ontario  
 Canada

Contact:  
 Antonio Lechasseur  
 p: 819-934-5860 f: 819-934-5834  
 antonio.lechasseur@lac-bac.gc.ca

Pour plus d'information ou pour s'inscrire, veuillez consulter:  
[www3.telus.net/public/v910081/GenLocIndex.html](http://www3.telus.net/public/v910081/GenLocIndex.html)

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 Section de généalogie et d'histoire locale

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