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I. FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to all who submitted session announcements and other information for this Newsletter by the September 1 deadline, and to everyone who sent in their ballots for the Board election.

This issue features a preview of sessions for the 2000 ASAO Annual Meeting, to be held at the Chateau Granville hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, February 15–19, 2000. Along with a hotel brochure, members will find enclosed:

ASAO Annual Meeting Preregistration form: To take advantage of the US$5 preregistration discount, please complete and send this form with your payment to the address below, postmarked no later than February 1, 2000. If you wish, you may pay your 2000 dues, make a donation to the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund, and order your 2000 ASAO Membership Directory at the same time.

The deadline to submit information for the next issue of the Newsletter is November 1, 1999. This is also the deadline for session organizers to have all information to the Program Coordinator for the final program of the 2000 meeting (see Rick Feinberg’s message, pages 4–5).

Jan Rensel, ASAO
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e-mail <rensel@hawaii.edu>
II. 2000 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 15-19, VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

The 1999 ASAO Annual Meeting will take place Wednesday afternoon, February 16, through Saturday evening, February 19, at the Best Western Chateau Granville in Vancouver, British Columbia. (The Board meeting will convene on Tuesday evening, February 15.)

Hotel Reservations
The Best Western Chateau Granville is a recently renovated, suite-style hotel; each guest suite has a separate bedroom and living room. Many rooms have spectacular views over the city. The hotel has a good restaurant and bar. The main dining areas in Vancouver—Robson Street and Granville Island—are both within easy walking distance, as is the Vancouver Art Museum, beaches, the downtown shopping district, the new Coliseum-style public library, the major theatres and much else. Granville Street also forms the central artery for public transport in Vancouver, making it easy for people to get to most parts of the city.

The Chateau Granville is holding a block of guest rooms for us at a special conference rate of $80 (Canadian) single or double occupancy (not including 10% provincial tax and 7% GST). The cut-off date for reservations at the conference rate is January 25, 2000; reservations will be accepted at the conference rate after that date if there is space available. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or deposit; cancellations must be made 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid charges. To make your reservations, call 1-800-663-0575 (toll-free in Canada and the USA) or (604) 669-7070; fax (604) 669-4928; or write to the Best Western Chateau Granville, 1100 Granville Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6Z 2B6, CANADA. Be sure to quote group number 2004, or tell them it’s the group block for the ASAO.

Meeting Registration: Preregistration Discount (Deadline: postmarked by February 1)
Registration fees must cover all conference expenses, including refreshments during breaks, AV equipment rental, lecture honorarium, supplies, etc. Because the Chateau Granville has agreed to waive meeting room rental charges, we have been able to set registration fees even lower for this year than for last year’s meeting.

For the 2000 ASAO Annual Meeting, on-site registration fees will be US$30 general and US$20 student. But those who send in their preregistration forms and payment can take advantage of a US$5 discount: Preregistration fees are US$25 general and US$15 student. Please use the enclosed form to preregister, sending it with your payment in US dollars (cash or check) to ASAO c/o Jan Rensel, 2499 Kapi‘olani Blvd. #2403, Honolulu HI 96826.

ASAO Visit to University of British Columbia’s Museum of Anthropology
John Barker is making arrangements to facilitate an ASAO group visit to the University of British Columbia’s Museum of Anthropology on Sunday, February 20. He estimates the cost, including bus transportation and museum admission, would be about $10 (Canadian). For planning purposes, please indicate on your preregistration form whether you would be interested in taking part (but do not send the money now for the museum visit; payment will be collected separately, on-site during the meeting).

The Museum of Anthropology (MOA) is one of Canada’s favorite museums—well known for its stunning architecture and unique collections of Northwest Coast and other materials from around the world, including Europe, Asia, Africa, the South Pacific, and Classical Greece and Rome. The Museum’s founding collection is Oceanic, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

MOA is also renowned for its creative teaching and research initiatives, its award-winning exhibitions and stimulating public and educational programs, and its innovative collaborative activities with originating communities. The museum was the first to employ an open display storage system, allowing visitors to see all of the collection (with the exception of archaeological remains and delicate fabrics).

For more information on the MOA, see their website: http://www.moa.ubc.ca/

Meeting Schedule Preview
The final schedule will be published in the December 1999 ASAO Newsletter, but for planning purposes, here is an overview:
Conference registration and the book display will open Wednesday afternoon, and will be open again all day Thursday and Friday, and Saturday morning.

The Opening Plenary will take place Wednesday evening, February 16. Before the Plenary there will be a special mini-reception for ALL session organizers. And because it was so successful last year, we will once again be holding a no-host open-bar social gathering, especially to welcome PISF awardees and new participants, on Wednesday evening following the Opening Plenary.

As usual, all sessions (symposia, working sessions, and informal sessions) will be scheduled during the day, Thursday through Saturday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

The distinguished lecture, to be given this year by Patrick V. Kirch, will take place on Friday evening.

Note: Session organizers, PISF awardees, and newcomers especially should plan to attend the Wednesday evening events, and session organizers in particular are expected to stay through the Closing Plenary on Saturday evening.

III. FROM THE CHAIR
Newly elected to the Board are Margaret Rodman (York University, Canada) and Larry Carucci (Montana State University). We welcome them and look forward to learning from their experience with ASAO; Margaret is a former ASAO Monograph Series Editor, and Larry served the Association as Program Coordinator for three years.

Warm thanks to our new Program Coordinator, Rick Feinberg, and Board Chair-Elect John Barker for all the work they are doing to make our Vancouver meeting a success. And thanks as well to Jan Rensel for keeping the Board abreast of all the varied strands of ASAO interests!

Thinking ahead: Just a reminder that our 2001 meeting will be held on the East Coast, and in 2002 we are scheduled to meet in Auckland, New Zealand! Those who are organizing informal sessions for Vancouver in particular should keep this in mind, as in the normal course of events these will result in formal symposia by the time of our Auckland meeting.

At the American Anthropological Meetings in Chicago, ASAO will be hosting a reception (no refreshments, however) for new and old ASAO members on Friday, November 19, from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Boulevard Room B, Second Floor of the Hilton Hotel. Hope to see a lot of you there. Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi

IV. ASAO MONOGRAPH SERIES UPDATE
Two volumes, “Identity Work” and “Colonialism in the Pacific,” are under evaluation for publication by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Adolescence in the Pacific and Money and Modernity are both currently available, with good sales performance and potentials for the future. We would like to see “Identity Work” and “Colonialism in the Pacific” through to final decision-making, and to production for the Series, if these volumes are accepted eventually by the Press. Another volume, on Repatriation, to be edited by Sjoerd Jaarsma, may emerge from a Symposium session to be held in Vancouver next year. We wish, owing to the pressure of other commitments, to hand over editorial work for the Series in Vancouver next year. This notice will provide an opportunity to the Association membership at large and to the Board of the Association to give some advance thought to the future of the Monograph Series as a whole. We shall be glad to contribute to this process if asked to do so. We thank the Board and the Association Members at large for the opportunity to serve them over the past years. Andrew Strathern, ASAO Monograph Series Editor; Pamela J. Stewart-Strathern, ASAO Monograph Series Associate Editor

V. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND
The success of the PISF program depends on all of us:

• your continuing generosity in the form of donations. Warm thanks to all of you who included contributions with your annual dues or conference registration. Again we want to thank those who signed over their royalties checks to ASAO for the PISF—a very appropriate way of “giving back” to the Pacific community. REMEMBER: ASAO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and in the US, your contributions are tax-deductible.

• the PISF committee members Paul Shankman, Cluny Macpherson, and Karen Nero.

• the involvement of session organizers in encouraging and supporting Pacific Islands scholars’ participation and applications.
Reminder: Session organizers whose participants are PISF award recipients, please work closely with the PISF committee, the Program Coordinator, and the Secretary-Treasurer to arrange air and ground transportation and hotel accommodations for the scholars.

PISF Mini-Awards
Pacific Islands scholars who are contributing to an ASAO session, but do not need or want to apply for transportation funding, may be eligible for a “PISF mini-award,” that is, a conference registration fee waiver. This award is especially intended for scholars who live in the vicinity of the meeting. The application process is simple: Any session organizer may submit the name of such an individual, along with the title of his or her presentation and a description of how she or he will be contributing to the session, to the address below.

Submit PISF mini-grant applications to:
Paul Shankman
Department of Anthropology CB 233
University of Colorado
Boulder CO 80309 USA
Or fax: 303/492-1871
Or email: paul.shankman@colorado.edu

VI. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
All session organizers are responsible for providing the following information to the Program Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor by NOVEMBER 1, 1998:

SYMPOSIA:
The Program Coordinator must receive the first and last page of each paper along with a note from the Session Organizer indicating when each paper was circulated and whether the author of each submission plans to be physically present at the session. In addition, the organizer should let the Program Coordinator know how much time the session will require. Remember, the presence of seven participants with pre-circulated papers is required for full Symposium status. Sessions that do not meet these criteria will be listed on the Program of the Annual Meeting as Informal Sessions or Working Sessions, according to the level of preparedness of the session. Complete information (description of topic, list of participants by name, paper title, and order of presentation) will be included in the December Newsletter if such material is received the Program Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor by November 1.

WORKING SESSIONS:
Organizers must send the Program Coordinator the names, paper titles, copies of the abstract/synopsis of all papers, and a realistic indication of how many participants will actually attend the meetings. A Working Session also requires the presence of seven participants with papers. A session that does not meet these criteria by November 1 will be listed on the Program as an Informal Session. Complete information (description of topic, list of participants by name, paper title, and order of presentation) will be included in the December Newsletter if such material is received the Program Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor by November 1. Available time will be allocated according to the number of participants attending and presenting papers.

INFORMAL SESSIONS:
Descriptions of all Informal Sessions to appear on the program should have been submitted to the Program Coordinator and Newsletter Editor by September 1 and appear in this issue of the Newsletter. Organizers of Informal Sessions are responsible for keeping the Program Coordinator posted regarding the number, the names, and the level of preparedness expected of each participant. This information will facilitate scheduling and allow for the appropriate allocation of time and space. Organizers of Informal Sessions should send all information to be published in the December Newsletter to the Program Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor by November 1. Descriptions of sessions, names of participants, paper titles, and order of presentation will be published if received by the deadline.
Session organizers who fail to contact the Program Coordinator will not have their session on the Final Program of the Annual Meeting. Please remember that time and space are limited and will be allocated on the basis of number of papers, the number of participants expecting to attend the meetings, and the level of organization of the session, as well as the desires of the session organizers.

FOLLOW-UP FOR SESSION CONTINUITY:
All session organizers are expected to deliver to the closing Plenary Session a summary of the results of their sessions and indications of future plans. If you cannot be present at the Plenary Session please appoint a participant to deliver the report for you. Remember: The Newsletter Editor must receive a written copy of the report by April 1 to publish in the April Newsletter.

SPECIAL NEEDS:
Scheduling Conflicts
Participation in more than one session: Members are urged to limit themselves to participation in one session. In no case should they be involved in more than two. If you are in two sessions, it is essential that you send the Program Coordinator a note indicating your priority. Since ASAO sessions are lengthy and relatively few in number, there is no guarantee that scheduling conflicts can be avoided.

Scheduling and Audio-Visual Equipment
Session organizers or participants who have particular scheduling needs (e.g., must arrive late or leave early), or who require audio-visual equipment such as slide projectors and screens, should contact the Program Coordinator by November 1. It may be impossible to honor late requests, in which case the session organizer will have to find an alternative source of equipment. To keep conference costs down, please request such equipment only if you are sure you need it, and advise the Program Coordinator immediately if you find it is no longer necessary. The hotel is responsible for providing equipment for meeting participants with disabilities. In all other cases, the rental of equipment is expensive for ASAO. If at all possible, session organizers should encourage their participants to make their own arrangements for costly equipment.

Roommates
Those persons needing roommates for the Vancouver meeting should contact Rick Feinberg as soon as possible, and preferably by the end of November/beginning of December, with the following information: your name, phone number, sex, whether you're a smoker or nonsmoker, and whether you want to share a double or triple.

Rick Feinberg
Department of Anthropology
Kent State University
Kent OH 44242 USA
tel 330/672-2722
fax 330/672-2999
email <rfeinber@kent.edu>

VII. 2000 PROPOSED SESSIONS

Proposed Symposia

Pacific Dreams
Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

Interest in producing a volume on dreaming in Oceanic and Australian Aboriginal societies has remained strong. This year we will be moving to the symposium level, and sharing advanced papers. All participants need to send your completed papers via email to Roger Lohmann by October 20th. Please be prepared to send out copies of your paper to all participants by January 15 at the latest, so that we have time to offer careful written comments for each other at the meeting to expedite final revisions.
Negotiated Space and the Construction of Community in the South Pacific
Organizer: Anne Allen (Indiana University Southeast)

For details on the focus of this proposed symposium, see previous ASAO Newsletters or the session description on the ASAO website. Participants include Larry Carucci, Eric Metzger, Anne Allen, Leslie Butt (new address: lbuttt@uvic.ca), Dan Shaw, Naomi McPherson, Keith and Anne Chambers, Yoshitaka Ota, Wende Marshall, and Gwendoline Malogne. Drafts of papers are to be circulated to all participants by September 15. Comments are to be returned to writers by October 1. Copies of revised papers are due to Anne Allen by October 15.

Repatriation of Field Material: Possibilities, Prospects, and Problems
Organizer: Sjoerd R. Jaarsma (Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies, Nijmegen University)

Over the past two years we have brought the discussion on the repatriation of field materials a long way. Not only did we provide in the various papers presented a wide-ranging inventory of the problems and prospects involved, we also showed these issues to be very much at the core of future developments in and of anthropology. During this symposium we expect to finalize our efforts in drawing together eleven papers into one volume. The volume will consist of three main sections, dealing respectively with general considerations on the practice of repatriation, repatriation from museum and archive collections, and repatriation in the field. We also expect to discuss concept texts of an introduction to the volume and (we hope) a closing chapter drawing together its presently very multivocal argument. Participants/contributions:

Dorothy and David Counts
Talking to Ourselves, or Getting the Word Out
Alan Howard (University of Hawai‘i)
Repatriated Ethnography on the World Wide Web
Sjoerd Jaarsma (Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies, Nijmegen University)
Repatriating Ethnography: The Wish, the Need and the Dilemma
Mary McCutcheon (George Mason University)
You Can’t Die Till You Clean Up Your Mess
Kathy Creely and David Akin (Melanesian Studies Resource Centre, UCSD)
Ethnographers’ Gifts and Archivists’ Dilemmas: A Case Study from the Melanesian Archive
Suzanne Falgout (University of Hawai‘i)
Archiving the Past: Jack Fischer’s Micronesian Fieldnotes and Issues of Access
Karen Peacock (University of Hawai‘i Library)
Returning History: The Trust Territory Archives: A Case Study in Preservation and Repatriation
Amy Ku‘uleialoha Stillman (University of Michigan)
De-institutionalizing Cultural Knowledge: Some Considerations in Resurrecting Archival Repertoire for Hawaiian Hula
Keith and Ann Chambers (Southern Oregon University)
Ethnographer as Taker and Maker: Dilemmas in the Return of Anthropological Field Materials
Bryan Oles (University of Pittsburgh)
Dangerous Data: A Case Study of the Repatriation of Anthropological Studies on Mokil Atoll
Nancy Guy (University of California - San Diego)
Owning Your Own Voice: Music, Cultural Ownership, and the Ami’s Copyright Struggle
Proposed Working Sessions

Anthropologists and Consultancy Issues
Organizers: Andrew Strathern and Pamela J. Stewart-Strathern (both University of Pittsburgh), and Martha Macintyre (University of Melbourne)

This session addresses the process of how consultancy work is done by anthropologists and how anthropological investigation and writing is impacted and altered through working as a consultant. Martha Macintyre will be running the session at the conference. We ask contributors to please submit their abstracts to the organizers before October 15, and to complete their session papers and have them ready to be circulated at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to join the session.

Pamela J. Stewart-Strathern, Andrew J. Strathern, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh, 3H01 Forbes Quadrangle Building, Pittsburgh PA 15260 USA; tel 412/648-7519 (o), fax 412/648-7535, email <pamjan+@pitts.edu> or <strather+@pitt.edu> and Martha Macintyre, Centre for the Study of Health and Society, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052 AUSTRALIA; tel +61-3-9344-0834, fax +61-3-9344-0824, email <m.macintyre@medicine.unimelb.edu.au>

Diasporic Politics and Pacific Islander Communities in the Continental United States
Organizers: J. Kehaulani Kauanui (University of California - Santa Cruz) and Linda Allen (Kirkwood Community College)

During Informal Sessions held in 1998 and 1999, two separate, but not unrelated general topic areas emerged as participants in each group shared their thoughts. The 1998 group of participants focused on exploring the nature of diasporic political formations and dynamics within and among Pacific Islander communities in the continental United States. Participants in the 1999 session expanded that geographic focus to include the activities of diasporic Pacific Islander communities outside the continental boundaries of the United States. The 2000 Working Session proposes to examine both topics in an attempt to build upon the groundwork laid at both Informal Sessions.

Additional topics identified for discussion at the 2000 session include: movement, politicization, community formation; pan-Pacific & pan-Native alliances; questions of political status and contestations of “American” and/or “immigrant” identities/identification processes; forms of racialization as they relate to and may be inextricably bound up with gender, sexuality, class and/or rank differences; varying political classifications of Pacific Island peoples; neo-colonial resistance, nationalist expression/activism, organization; the post-proposition 209 and 187 climate in California which affects affirmative action policies and practices and immigration rights and may determine access to health, welfare, and educational resources as well as hinder the securing of citizenship, residency; performative identities and cultural production in political contexts; the globalization of “human resources” flows from the Pacific Islands; the pace, quantity and forms of migration flows from the Pacific; the impact of technology on the social/political activities of Pacific migrants; the formation of “social capital” through strategic migration from the Pacific; Pacific identity as political “capital”; multilevel ethnic identification; the selective visibility/invisibility of Pacific migrants; interracial marriage and the cultural liminality of children produced from these marriages; America’s racial climate and Pacific Islander choices; gangs and Pacific Island youth identity.

The co-chairs had initiated a current bibliography and are soliciting abstracts from participants who attended either or both previous Informal sessions. The list of participants includes: Amy K. Stillman, Nancy Guy, Merrily Stover, Antoinette Charfauros McDaniel, Helen Morton, Charley Scull, Paul Shankman, Bob Franco, Jim Hess, Mac Marshall, Cynthia Compton, Karen Keeney, and Rebekah Matagi-Walker.

We welcome additional contributors. If interested, please send a proposed title and abstract before November 1 to:
Love Songs of the South Seas
Organizers: Lin Poyer (Univ. of Wyoming) and Amy Ku’uleialoha Stillman (Univ. of Michigan)

Love Songs of the South Seas will proceed as a Working Session in Vancouver, with participants exploring specific song texts and performances with a focus on poetic expressions of affect and emotion intended for performance as song.

Participants will send both organizers an initial draft of their papers by October 1, and circulate a complete draft to the entire group of participants by January 1. We would also like to prepare a cassette recording of examples; participants should send Amy one song text with translation and a cassette recording by October 1.

Those interested in joining the Working Session should contact:

Lin Poyer, Department of Anthropology, University of Wyoming, Laramie WY 82071 USA; tel 307/766-5140 (o); 307/721-9443 (h); fax 307/766-2473; email <lapoyer@uwyo.edu> or Amy K. Stillman (School of Music, University of Michigan), 2845 Whippoorwill Lane, Ann Arbor MI 48103 USA; tel 734/763-5634 (o); tel/ fax 734/665-5461 (h); email <akstill@umich.edu>

Historical and Contemporary Transformations in Pacific Island Exchange
Organizers: Paula Brown Glick and Maria Lepowsky (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
Discussant: Maurice Godelier (Ecole Des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

At ASAO 1999, most participants in the Informal Session on exchange and transformation focused particularly on aspects of change or transformation that included uses of money and manufactured goods in ongoing exchange systems, and in some instances, during new exchange situations. Another key theme was exchange systems, situations, valuables, and ideologies that were more impervious to the most obvious impacts of cash economies and manufactured goods—although in all the cases we discussed, there were clearly direct consequences of colonialism, postcolonialism, and global economies for “traditional exchange,” one widespread example being inflationary spirals in shell valuables.

For our Working Session at ASAO 2000, we expect to have several papers on pre-colonial, contact period, and colonial period exchange and historical transformations. Another set of papers will be more focused on recent colonial and post-colonial transformations, addressing issues such as monetization, individual and corporate exchange, and the interrelations of exchange with global economy, church, and state. Additional themes that will appear in both sets of papers are the interplay of rank (of persons or objects), status, and newer forms of social position with exchange; and the place, within contexts of transformation, of sacred objects and that which is not exchanged.

We are asking session participants to be prepared to discuss one or more of these themes in theoretical and comparative perspective at ASAO 2000.

We would welcome a paper or papers on exchange and transformation in Australia. We otherwise have broad coverage of the island Pacific.

Abstracts should be circulated to all participants by October 1. Working Session papers should be circulated to all participants by December 1.

Participants include: Cluny Macpherson, John Liep, Kimberlee Kihleng, Billai Laba, Shankar Aswani & Peter Sheppard, Paula Brown, Maria Lepowsky, Anton Ploeg, Lilli Perez Iyechad, Martha Macintyre, Martin Orans, Rena Lederman, Nicole Santos, Douglas Dalton, and Polly Wiessner. Unable to participate in ASAO 2000 but interested in rejoining a planned formal symposium at ASAO 2001: Petra M. Autio, Melissa Demian, Andrew Strathern & Pamela Stewart Strathern, and Richard Scaglion.
Pacific Seascapes: Practical Knowledge of the Maritime Environment
Organizer: Gene Ammarell (Ohio University)

At the close of an highly stimulating and well-attended informal session in Hawai‘i, it was unanimously decided to move to a working session in Vancouver. As stated in the December 1998 Newsletter, we are concerned with “features of the maritime environment as locally construed and applied and with their meanings and historical transformations within both local and global areas of power.” In our initial explorations, several themes emerged which we plan to continue to pursue. They include the logic of underlying features of the maritime environment; cognitive mapping of land and sea and their juxtaposition; knowledge as property; knowledge and identity; portability of knowledge; the valuation of indigenous knowledge by governments and development agencies; and the place of such knowledge in national and international development projects. New participants are invited to join. All those who plan to participate must submit paper titles and abstracts by October 15 and drafts of papers for precirculation by December 1.

Transformations of Food and Drink
Organizers: Eric Silverman (DePauw University), Heather Young Leslie (University of Alberta), Nancy Pollock (Victoria University - Wellington)

This session follows upon a well-attended informal session in Hilo last year (Food, Identity and Bodies in the Contemporary Pacific), which itself was sparked by a lively and creative ASAONET thread on Pacific edibles. Papers address one or a combination of seven key themes: food as symbol; food as communication; food and ethnicity/identity; ethnonutrition; food and the body; issues of production and consumption; new food habits and cuisines. Participants agreed that Anne Becker’s Body, Identity and Society was a text to be read and addressed, thus providing the papers with a centralizing analytic focus.

All participants were asked to email the organizers with a list of 5 references on the anthropology of food that would be key to their presentation. These were due mid-May 1999, and will be used to create a common bibliography. Each continuing participant must submit a 5-page paper (yes, only five pages) to all three session organizers by October 15, 1999. Papers may be submitted electronically (preferred) or in hard copy. Please consult with us first as to word-processing packages used in e-copies. We will then assign two other members to read and comment (in writing) on each paper at the meetings in Vancouver, 2000.

Participants (current and potential) may contact the session organizers as follows: Eric Silverman <erics@depauw.edu>, Heather Young Leslie <hyleslie@ualberta.ca> and Nancy Pollock <Nancy.Pollock@vuw.ac.nz>. We look forward to reading your papers in October, and to seeing you in February.
Reconsidering the Compacts of Free Association in Micronesia
Organizers: Jim Hess (University of California - Irvine) and Ted Lowe (UCLA)

The goal of this session is to consider the relevance of our research to: (1) understanding the experiences of the peoples of the Freely Associated States (FAS) under the Compacts, and (2) questions and considerations arising in the context of the renegotiation of certain provisions of the Compacts, said negotiations due to begin this fall. We are proposing a modification of our plans for the Vancouver meeting from those announced at the closing plenary and in the previous newsletter, as issues of logistics and funding preclude our ability to expand participation by FAS citizens. We will explore other venues for such activities outside of ASAO.

In Vancouver we propose to hold a working session, inviting participants to present draft papers addressing the audiences and topics of their choice. Email discussions among this year’s participants have identified two main audiences of interest. Policy makers and officials who will be involved in the coming negotiations or in administering programs and agencies of the FAS have suggested assessments of research and findings, particularly in the areas of health and nutrition, education, economics, and the structure of funding under the Compacts. Teachers and administrators have also identified a need for materials addressed to students, whose pasts and futures are shaped by the structures established under the Compact and who will be moving into positions of responsibility when the Compacts next come up for reconsideration.

Multiple audiences also suggests a need to analyze and write at multiple levels. Considering first the immediate context and circumscribed field of the upcoming renegotiations, what are the practical implications of our research for the challenges of the next decade or so? The longer term, however, brings the possibility of more fundamental rethinking of the relationships written into the Compacts. Here we wish to emphasize a common element that emerged in many of the presentations in Hilo and draws on the particular strength of anthropology, giving attention to the underlying models and premises expressed and contested in negotiations, planning and evaluation: conceptions of nation, state, and economy; of the local and the foreign; of leadership, authority, and responsibility; of consumption, production, exchange, and reproduction; of health and nutrition; of injury and compensation. Can making these conceptions explicit inform our understanding of history? How are they used by various people in producing accountings of the performances of the FAS and the US under the Compacts? What new possibilities emerge once preconceptions are open to discussion?

People who wish to contribute to this effort, particularly those who will attend the Vancouver meeting, are asked to submit an abstract by October 15th, and encouraged to join in the ongoing email discussion.

Proposed Informal Sessions

Computer Applications in Oceanic Anthropology
Organizer: Cathy Small (Northern Arizona University)

As a follow-up to our first meeting at the Hilo meetings in 1999, we are convening a second informal session for those who are using computer representation, analysis and simulation to investigate archaeological, physical/medical anthropology, and ethnographic problems in Oceania. The session will give participants an opportunity to demonstrate their computer-based projects as well as discuss common issues about the use of computer technology in research and teaching. Interested scholars include: Barbara Glowczewski-Barker, Anne DiPiazza, Erik Peartree, Pierre Maranda, and Lynne Molfort. We welcome new participants in the session! Please email me about your interest by October 15.

Cathy A. Small, Department of Anthropology, Box 15200, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ 86011 USA; tel 520/523-1090; fax 520/523-9135; email <cathy.small@nau.edu>
Back in the Field Again  
Organizers: John Barker (University of British Columbia) and Ann Chowning (Auckland)

Most anthropologists who have the opportunity to return to their “field” after a long absence find the experience exhilarating and challenging. A few, such as Margaret Mead, Kenneth Read and recently Don Tuzin, have written powerful memoirs of their experience. Most fieldwork accounts, however, focus on an individual’s initial research. Among other things, this reinforces the stereotype of the lone ethnographer who, after working under difficult conditions in a distant and exotic land, packs up her data and returns home, never to return again. If this was ever generally the case—and there are reasons for skepticism—it is certainly less true as travel and communications have become steadily easier and, usually, cheaper. Fieldwork for many professionals implies a strong and lasting commitment to the people with whom they work.

We invite to this Informal Session those who have gone back to the field again as well as those studying the long-term collaborations between anthropologists and their host communities. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss how returns to the field affect fieldworkers’ perceptions of their hosts and of themselves and their discipline; the identification of research topics and the ways that research is carried out; the generation of collaborative projects; and social relations. We would also like to extend an invitation to Pacific Island scholars who might talk about their own fieldwork experiences as well as local perceptions of returning foreign researchers in their home countries. Those interested in participating in this informal session are asked to contact:

John Barker, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1, CANADA; tel 604/822-4982, fax 604/822-6161; email <barker@interchange.ubc.ca> and Ann Chowning, 32 Wiremu St., Mt. Eden, Auckland 1004, NEW ZEALAND; tel +64-9-630-7630; fax +64-9-373-7441.

Social and Economic Transformations in Samoan Island and Continental Communities  
Organizers: Penelope Schoeffel (University of Auckland) and Bob Franco (Kapi'olani Community College/University of Hawai'i)

This informal session will engage Samoan and non-Samoan scholars in a discussion of contemporary social and economic developments in Samoan island and continental communities. The session will provide a forum to share current research findings and identify new collaborative projects, including the publication of materials in both Samoan and English.

Penelope Schoeffel, c/- Malama S. Meleisea, UNESCO, 920 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110 THAILAND; email <melsco@ksc.th.com> and Bob Franco, Kapi'olani Community College, 4303 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu HI 96818; tel 808/734-9438; fax 808/734-9828; email <bfranco@hawaii.edu>

Meetings as Cross-Cultural Context among Pacific Islanders  
Organizer: Eve Pinsker (University of Illinois - Chicago)

I propose to call an informal session for the meeting in Vancouver on Meetings as Cross-Cultural Context among Pacific Islanders, to continue the discussion begun in last year’s informal session Meetings in Context in the Pacific with a more specific focus. For the purposes of this session, meetings will still be broadly defined, as multiparty discursive gatherings in which there are shared assumptions about the context that can be articulated, including some sense of an expected collective focus and/or outcome. Data examined can include a range of meeting types or genres in terms of context, format, and audience—from public to restricted, from legislatively or judicially structured congresses, hearings, or trials to village-based “traditional” forms of meeting oratory, from therapeutic sessions to kava gatherings. In this broad area, what we will focus on is how meeting contexts, contents, and formats reflect and create cross-cultural boundaries and blendings—such as the adaptations of Western-imported
legislative or court formats to Pacific contexts, how clinical therapeutic practice can include multiple participants and indigenous forms of “disentangling discourse” (cf. Watson-Gegeo and White 1990), or how Pacific Island immigrants use kava sessions or other community gatherings to maintain an ethnic field within mainland society. Anyone who wishes to participate please contact (preferably by email):

Eve Pinsker, visiting research assistant professor, Office of Social Science Research (MC 307), B-111 Behavioral Sciences Building, 1007 W. Harrison Street, University of Illinois - Chicago, Chicago IL 60607-7136 USA; tel 773/665-2738 (home office); 312/996-9876 (office); fax 312/996-9876; email <epinsker@uic.edu>

Critical Ethnography in the Pacific
Organizers: Laurence Carucci (Montana State University) and Michèle Dominy (Bard College)

This session offers an opportunity to reassess the positioning of anthropology as a discipline not only in relation to the neocolonial and post-colonial persons and communities with whom anthropologists continue to interact, but equally with the academy’s emergent multicultural framework. We wish to invite interested participants to examine with us the ways in which anthropologists and anthropological practice are being essentialized, reified and challenged at a moment when anthropology increasingly seems to be “othered.” Our own co-authored contribution, tentatively titled “Anthropology in the Savage Slot: Reflections on the Epistemology of Knowledge,” derives from our shared attempt to make sense of the radical critique of anthropology posed in the field and in the classroom. We invite participants in this ASAO session to draw on the specificity of their own fieldwork and cultural practices as ethnographers in order to (1) assess the complex dynamics of these current interactions (both academic and disciplinary) and to (2) work collectively to salvage what is of value in our own anthropological practices and identities. We wish to include aspects of the following: an examination of culture as contested commodity in the multicultural era, consideration of poststructuralism as colonialist and postcolonialist discourse, reconciling fieldwork of the local and the particular with a shift in focus to transnational flows of information and multi-sited ethnography, critical engagement with the new ways of conversing that the centrality of intercultural sites and border/contact zones invite; and the relationship of ethnographic to literary and visual modes of representation. If you’d like to join us, please contact us by October 15th with an expression of interest and request for a working list of pertinent sources. We request a three- to five-page discussion statement for circulation by January 5th, outlining your proposed contribution to the 2000 meetings.

Laurence M. Carucci, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717-0238 USA, tel 406/994-5255 (w), fax 406/994-6879, email <lamaca@montana.edu>; Michèle D. Dominy, Anthropology Program, PO Box 5000, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504-5000 USA, tel 914/758-7215, fax 914/758-7628, email <dominy@bard.edu>

Studying Religion in Oceania
Organizer: Mary MacDonald (Harvard University)

This session welcomes discussion of themes, methods, and theories related to the study of religion in Oceania. The informal session could, depending on the interests of participants, lead to a working session in 2001 on the history of the study of religion in Oceania. If you have ideas for the informal session please send them to:

Mary N. MacDonald, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, 42 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02128 USA; tel 617/493-4075; email <mmmacd@aol.com>
Short, Sweet and To the Point: Pacific Anthropology for General Audiences
Organizer: Ali Pomponio (St. Lawrence University)

This informal session seeks to explore ways for anthropologists to reach a wider audience than the normal academic research-to-professional colleagues-or-classroom formula we usually follow. We will be discussing such items as: appropriate topics for a general audience; appropriate target audience for particular pieces; specific genres; and likely venues for publication of our pieces as a theme volume. Rather than add to the international discussions taking place at the theoretical level (which are considerable and varied and already have their venues staked out), this session will focus on the process of writing ethnographically correct, informative, and entertaining pieces to educate audiences about Pacific Island peoples and cultures without exoticizing them. Anyone who has such a piece in progress or already written (published or not) should consider bringing copies to the meeting for discussion. Preliminary investigation into the kinds of publications I had in mind (e.g., National Geographic, Faces, Discovery) indicates that contributions should range between 300-1000 words. Those interested in joining this informal session should contact Ali Pomponio, Anthropology Department, St. Lawrence University, Canton NY 13617 USA; office tel (315) 229-5797 or 229-5106; fax (315) 229-5803; email <apom@ccmaillink.stlawu.edu>; will change November 1 to <apomponio@stlawu.edu>

New Healths and Old: Living the Health Transition in the Pacific
Organizer: Douglass Drozdow-St.Christian (University of Western Ontario)

Though not without its critics, the concept of the health transition has proved useful as a framing model for the examination of health and illness behavior, health care economics, and health and illness surveillance under conditions of social and economic change. The advantage of this approach is that it moves the debate beyond discussions of simple medical pluralism, traditional and Western Bio-Medical syntheses and the subtext of victimization that underlies a great deal of the discussion of globalization and global culture change. By viewing shifts in health and illness behavior as historically, culturally and structurally dynamic and poly-directional, health transition studies offer an opportunity for understanding the indivisibility of embodied practice and social-historical process.

There are a multiplicity of approaches to health and illness change in the Pacific, although all to often these do not speak to each other. I would like to invite as diverse a group as ASAO can muster to get together in Vancouver to map out the terrain that needs to be covered in addressing a critical apprehension of the various forms the health transition is taking across the Pacific. This would need to begin with a Pacific-specific definition or refinement of the health transition models, but could not be limited solely to a critique of the inadequacy of studies done elsewhere for grasping the dynamics of health and illness change in Pacific societies. Rather, I think we have ground breaking work on health and illness in the Pacific on which to build a detailed analysis of the current state of health and illness affairs among the Pacific peoples we work with, a body of work that can enhance and refine the health transition model.

As we end a century bracketed by two great epidemics, it is also timely and useful that we explore what we have come to understand about health and illness and social change in the Pacific as part of our ongoing commitment to contribute-back, proactively, to the people we work with.

Some issues we may want to discuss, though I list them here more as indications of my own interests and not as limiting factors, could include:
- the importance of governmentalism (Foucault) in the prosecution of the health transition in Pacific societies
- the impact, both medically, culturally, and ideologically, of HIV/AIDS
- the political economy of “imported” disease and treatment models
- the role of international aid and disease surveillance structures on the directions the health transition is taking in different societies
- the importance of "diasporic" identities in the changing health and healing practices of Islanders
- changes in the concepts and practices surrounding risk, risk behaviors, and risk groups
- demographic shifts, in infant mortality, longevity, life-course disease burden and so on, and their effect on the processes of the health transition
- changes in patterns of Non-communicable or “lifestyle” disease epidemiology
- the effect of medical globalization on who owns and controls health and illness knowledge

I would like to invite anyone interested in health in general in the Pacific to join in this discussion in Vancouver. Please contact me by no later than October 15 if you would be interested in participating in this informal session. Then, if there is sufficient interest, I would ask participants to pre-circulate, by no later than January 5, 2000, a brief (not more than 3 or 4 pages) discussion paper outlining the kinds of issues you feel need to be addressed and the ethnographic ground on which you wish to explore them.

Douglass Drozdow-St.Christian, Department of Anthropology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5C2, CANADA; home tel (anytime): 416/234-9978; office: 519/679-2111 Ext 5067; email: <stchri@julian.uwo.ca> or <pacifichealth@jackoo.net>

Worth, Morality, and Modern Success in the Western Pacific
Organizers: Bruce Knauft (Emory University) and Joel Robbins (Univ. of California - San Diego)

This session will address issues and new research that emerge through the developing relationship between notions of worth, morality, and success in the contemporary Western Pacific. Clearly Western in provenience, these terms encompass a range of issues that are nonetheless locally and regionally important. The hybrid character of "worth," “morality,” and “success”—at once part of Western modernity and of indigenous concern—recommends them to us. It is our hope that they can serve as handles to provide us a better analytic grip on aspects of Pacific cultures that are currently in quite turbulent motion. In our session, these terms provide an entree to local or national constructions that fundamentally recast our understanding of issues such as so-called “modernity” or “development, on the one hand, and “kastom” or “tradition” on the other.

“Worth” as we understand it here includes senses of value, merit, importance, and esteem. But it also takes in ideas of monetary worth and its role in the construction of social life. Though Melanesians and others would not all agree with Webster’s prime definition of worth as “material value, especially as expressed in terms of money...” this is nonetheless of increasing import in relation to more long-standing notions of worth in the Western Pacific. (Notions of collective monetary worth complement those of customary relationality, for example.)

“Morality” pertains to beliefs about right and wrong, about ethical behavior versus that which is improper or evil. In the contemporary Western Pacific, moral ideas are in variable relationship to those of worth, both in customary terms and in terms of monetary valuation. This can happen in ways counterintuitive from a Western perspective (for instance, money can increase the “goodness” of customary exchange, while overemphasis on the things money can buy may be critiqued as “unchristian.”) Morality also introduces an almost intrinsically gendered component to our concerns, since morality contains or evokes notions of sexual propriety which may be inflected differently for men and women and which resonate with other connotations of goodness or worth. These in turn relate to contemporary notions of masculinity and femininity -in their myriad forms and tensions. Furthermore, in situations of rapid social change, behavior that is immoral either in relation to traditional or modern canons of goodness can fundamentally influence the direction in which personal and collective lives are heading.

“Modern success” puts the question of progress and other vectors of innovative self-fashioning squarely into our concerns. Increasingly in the Pacific, notions of worth and morality engage standards of development and progressiveness that are locally configured in both moral and economic terms. This does not imply that customary or renegotiated dimensions of indigenous success are being dispensed with, but rather that their assertion is increasingly configured in the context of alternative or competing standards of being successful—e.g., through self-designated and/or non-traditional means.
The type of contributions we envisage for this session can range across diverse roles or tracks in personal development in contemporary Melanesia, and especially their interdigitation, conflict, and articulation in the life course of social communities or individuals. These can involve the contexts and trajectories and valuations of hunting, feast-giving, being a person of knowledge, student, wage-worker, raskol, passenger meri, Christian (or non-Christian), church leader, man or meri bilong bisnis, man or meri bilong gavman, and so on. Issues of collective relationality as well as individuation or personal agency are often important and importantly related in these contexts. Our larger goal is two-fold: first, to come to greater appreciation of the ways worth, morality, and success are being expressed and manifested in contemporary Melanesia, and second, to reflect on the cultural and subjective and political economic processes that are at stake in these developments. In this respect, the renowned cultural diversity of Pacific peoples is perhaps not being effaced through contemporary developments so much as refracted yet further through the diverse negotiation of contemporary developments.

Those interested in participating in this session should contact either Joel Robbins at or Bruce Knauft before October 29. As this is an “informal session,” participants will not be expected to submit formal papers. To focus discussion and pave the way for a subsequent session, however, we would like all participants to submit a provisional title and a two-page statement concerning ethnographic and analytic interests in this topic prior to the meetings.

Exploring Models of Collaboration for Anthropology and Community in Chuuk
Organizers: Joakim Peter (College of Micronesia - Chuuk) and James Nason (Burke Museum, University of Washington)

This informal session will focus on ways to establish, promote, and maintain collaborative and supportive work between anthropologists and indigenous scholarly projects in Chuuk, particularly at the College of Micronesia in Chuuk. The growing interest by indigenous scholars in Chuuk to study their own cultures and histories has led to a number of initiatives such as the Chuuk Culture and Education Studies Program. The focus of the Program is to bring Chuukese cultures, languages, traditional skills and practices, and contemporary problems and issues as driving forces in curriculum development, instruction, and preservation activities. These efforts depend on the collection or re-collection of relevant written materials, oral narratives, object collections, images, and other significant primary and secondary sources of information. All of these are vital for the enrichment of the current educational system, and, because of resource limitations, really depend on the support and collaboration of anthropologists who have so importantly generated such materials and made such collections.

The increasing sensitivity of anthropologists to indigenous community needs and efforts is often matched by local concerns that anthropologists do need to “give back,” or contribute, to those communities in which they’ve lived and worked. As noted in the recent Marshall and Kiste volume (American Anthropology in Micronesia), communities in Chuuk have served as a training ground for generations of anthropologists. In this session we’ll explore models to initiate on-going supportive collaborations between those anthropologists who’ve worked in Chuuk and indigenous scholars and educators in Chuuk who now seek assistance in establishing and promoting new educational programs for the preservation and advancement of Chuuk language and culture.

Joakim Peter, Chuuk Culture and Education Studies Program, College of Micronesia - Chuuk Campus, P. O. Box 879, Weno, Chuuk FM 96942; tel (691) 330-2689; fax (691) 330-2740; email <jojo@mail.fm>; James D. Nason, Burke Museum, University of Washington, Box 353010, Seattle WA 98195 USA; tel 206/543-9680; fax 206/685-3039; email <jnason@u.washington.edu>
The expanding diasporic communities of Pacific Islanders in New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and elsewhere is the topic for the University of Hawai‘i Center for Pacific Islands Studies conference “Out of Oceania: Diaspora, Community, and Identity,” to be held 20-23 October 1999 in Honolulu. Featured speakers will be noted Samoan novelist, poet, and short-story author Albert Wendt, now teaching at the University of Auckland; Vicente Díaz, University of Guam; Kehaulani Kauanui, University of California, Santa Cruz; and writer Sia Figiel, from Samoa. The conference will examine the economic, social, and cultural dynamics of these vibrant communities in sessions that look at identity issues, cultures of movement, performing culture, representations of diaspora, and communities and networks. The conference will be open to the public. Registration is US$20 (US$5 for students).

For more information, see the Out of Oceania website <www.hawaii.edu/cpis/conference> or contact Tisha Hickson, UH CPIS, 1890 East-West Road, Moore Hall 215, Honolulu Hawai‘i 96822; tel: 808-956-2652; email: <ctisha@hawaii.edu> or conference convener Terence Wesley-Smith at the same address; tel: 808-956-2668, email: <twsmit@hawaii.edu>.

The Melanesia Interest Group will be sponsoring two events at the upcoming AAA meetings in Chicago. Here are the dates and times:

Melanesia Interest Group Business Meeting, Friday 11/19, 12:15 - 1:30 pm.

The main item on the agenda is a discussion of MIG initiatives for the year 2000, such as creating a web site for the AAA home page; planning another panel discussion for the annual meetings; providing intellectual and social resources for graduate students thinking about fieldwork in Melanesia; and so forth.

Panel Discussion: The Future of Regional Anthropologies, Saturday 11/20, 6:15 - 7:30 pm. KEY WORDS: globalization, culture areas, area studies, comparison, marginality, place, Melanesia

In the last decade, anthropology has faced challenges to its self-definition associated both with new worldly circumstances and scholarly trends inside and outside the discipline. Recent interest in globalization has provoked discussion concerning what anthropology should be about, how it might be done, and what its relationships are to other bodies of literature and knowledge practices. Unsettling questions have been raised about working concepts of culture, ethnography, the field, fieldwork, and comparative analysis. Extending the rethinking of “place” in anthropology begun by Appadurai, this panel discussion will consider the future of “culture areas” as discursive frameworks for organizing disciplinary practices. What are the characteristics of anthropological regionalism? How might they be contrasted to interdisciplinary area studies, insofar as globalization poses apparently similar challenges to each? Because of their iconic disciplinary status as an exemplar of “real” anthropology, Melanesian studies are particularly implicated in this general discussion.

Panelists: Robert Foster (Chair), University of Rochester; Rena Lederman, Princeton University; James Peacock, University of North Carolina; Michael Herzfeld, Harvard University; Sylvia Yanagisako, Stanford University; Daniel Segal, Pitzer College; Geoffrey White, University of Hawai‘i.

For further information, contact Robert Foster, Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester, Rochester NY 14627-0161 USA; email <rftr@mail.rochester.edu>

The ninth annual Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA) conference will be held 17-19 November 1999 in the Palau Community College Cafeteria, Koror, Republic of Palau. The keynote speaker will be The Honorable Senator Sandra Sumang Pierantozzi, who will address the conference theme, “A Meleketek a Didil a Chais” (Building Information Bridges). The closing ceremony will feature Patrick Ubal Tellei, President, Palau Community College, who will speak on “The Role of Libraries and Archives in Micronesia’s Educational System.”

A preconference training workshop on library automation will be conducted 15-16 November by Larry Gilbert of the Follett Software Company made possible through the
generous contributions of Palau Community College and the COM-FSM Title III Program. A
two-part “Library Skills Workshop” will be held during the conference proper by Wendy
Maxwell, Mid-Pacific Institute, Honolulu, with assistance from PIALA President Mary Silk, and
Albious Dawos, both of the College of the Marshall Islands Library. A post conference
workshop, “Is the Answer on the Internet? Using the Web for Reference Questions” will be
offered on 21 November by Eileen Herring, Science & Technology Reference Librarian at the
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. Space is limited for the pre- and post-conference workshops so
participants are encouraged to register early. Participants in this conference will also enjoy a
day at the Rock Islands together on Saturday, 20 November.

Conference sessions will cover such diverse topics as starting an archives, oral history
collections, reading games, telemedicine, regional ILL development, Micronesian bibliography,
image collection preservation options, information networks, and publishing in the Pacific. The
program will offer sessions for personnel from every type of library and archives—college,
public, school, and special.

For further information about the conference and workshops, registration fees, and hotel and
car rental, please contact Jane Barnwell, Co-Chair of the Planning Committee
<janeb@belau.org>. Make reservations with PIALA Logistics Chair, Imengel Mad
<iimengelm@belau.org>. Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA), C/O
Palau Association of Libraries, P. O. Box 9052, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940; tel 680/488-
3540 or 488-2471, fax: 680/488-2447.

The Millennial Conference of the Pacific History Association, “Bursting Boundaries: Places,
Persons, Gender and Disciplines,” will be held at the Australian National University in
Canberra, 26-29 June 2000. The Organising Committee includes Donald Denoon, Alaine
Chanter, Bronwen Douglas, Greg Fry, Brij Lal, Michael Morgan, Hank Nelson, Greg Rawlings,
Katerina Teaiwa and Christine Weir.

According to Donald Denoon, “This will be our coldest conference ever, but we aspire to be
warm and inclusive, to accommodate all branches of historical scholarship. Fee levels will be
decided later. Each day begins with a common session, separating into Sites of Eruption. We
invite participants to add other Sites or Strands; and this is our first Cry for Papers.”

Themes identified so far: Multimedia History (Paul Turnbull); The Burdens of Citizenship
(Michael Moran); Negotiating Indigenous Identities in Australia (Being Aboriginal, Torres Strait
Islander and South Sea Islander) (Jennifer Martiniello); Gender and Cultural Identities
(Katerina Teaiwa); Being Non-indigenous in Bicultural and Multicultural Contexts (Alaine
Chanter); Pacific History Beyond the Bound(aries) of History (Bronwen Douglas);
Interpenetrating Australian, New Zealand and Island Histories (Donald Denoon); Participants
as Historians, and Historians as Participants (Brij Lal); Globalisation as Myth, Threat and
Promise (Greg Rawlings); Beyond Missionaries (Christine Weir & Tevita Baleiwaqa); Outside the
Frame/Edge—Pacific Images in Film and Photography (Max Quanchi). Katerina Teaiwa also
wants to organize a meeting of a forum she is creating, called “Islanders Abroad: Government,
Diaspora, and Inter-Ethnic Relations.”

For further information please contact Donald Denoon, Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS,
Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200, AUSTRALIA; tel +61 2 6249 2298; fax +61
2 6249 5525; email <dxd@coombs.anu.edu.au>

A conference entitled “Building Bridges with Traditional Knowledge II: An Exploration of Issues
Involving Indigenous Peoples, Conservation, Development and Ethnosciences for the New
Millennium,” will be held 28 May-3 June 2001 in Honolulu. Co-hosted by the University of
Hawaii’i - Manoa and the Juliflora Foundation, the conference is intended to bring together
indigenous and traditional people, researchers, academic institutions, government
representatives, natural product industry leaders and nonprofit organizations. The purpose is
to open dialogues between disparate groups who have, or use, traditional knowledge and
natural resources, through presentations, workshops, discussions and problem-solving
sessions. The conference will also feature exhibits, field trips, and banquets. Conference
themes are ethnobiological research, cultural diversity and property rights, biodiversity and development, and traditional and biological conservation.

Contact Building Bridges Conference, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu HI 96822-2279; fax 808/956-3923; email <bbt2@hawaii.edu>; or The Juliflora Foundation, 1303 North Riverside Avenue #35, Provo UT 84604 USA; tel 801/356-7203; fax 801/356-0623; email <apaul@traditionalknowledge.com> or website <http://www.traditionalknowledge.com>

Conference Reports:
The fourth conference of the European Society of Oceanists was held in Leiden, The Netherlands, 25-27 June 1999. It attracted approximately 175 participants (including several ASAO members) from 14 countries in Europe and elsewhere. The new ESfO Board was elected: Austria/Eastern Europe: Hermann Mückler (interim chairman), Borut Telban; Southern Europe: Beatriz Moral, Elisabetta Gnecci-Ruscone; France: Daniel de Coppet, Barbara Glowczewski-Barker; Germany: Elfriede Hermann, Gabriele Weichart; The Netherlands: Toon van Meijl, Jelle Miedema; Scandinavia: Bente Wolff, Jonathan Friedman; Switzerland: Christian Kaufmann, Nigel Stephenson; United Kingdom: Paul Sillitoe, Tony Crook. The venue for the next conference has not yet been decided, but the members of the new ESfO board are currently discussing this. The latest version of the ESfO membership directory and information about previous conferences, including the 1999 meeting, can be found on the Society’s homepage, accessible at <http://www.joensuu.fi/esfo> or via the Australian mirror site <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/~marck/esfo/esfo.htm>.

Austronesian Cultural Festival held in Taitung, Taiwan, June 26-July 4, 1999
A consortium of the Aboriginal tribes of Taiwan convened an Austronesian Festival in Taitung, in the south east corner of Taiwan, where most of them are currently located. This Festival brought together peoples from across the Pacific around the theme of a shared Austronesian heritage, with Taiwan as the likely homeland.

The Festival included five days of performances by Aboriginal tribal groups and groups from seven parts of Oceania, namely the Solomons, Fiji, Palau, New Zealand Maori, Hawai'i, Guam and Iban from Malaysia. Some of the groups performed two and three times a day to large audiences, some in the Cultural Centre in Taitung city, others on school grounds in outlying small towns. The Amis and the Paiwan and the other Taiwan aboriginal groups wanted to be photographed with their Pacific cousins, and the media also highlighted the coming together of peoples who had not met before. The programme listed this activity as “Joy Sharing.”

Most of the Taiwan aboriginal tribal groups reside in the Taitung province, and have a confederation that looks after their interests, and, as in this case, bids to central government for funds to stage this Festival. Many of the Aboriginal tribes have inter-married over time with the incoming Chinese groups from various parts of the mainland. However the Festival made it apparent that the Aboriginal tribes have maintained some of their cultural heritage. They appeared to enjoy the strengthening of their identities by being able to dance and sing alongside peoples from across the Pacific Ocean. Both groups found new links. They presented us with several books of photographs of their tribal groups and their activities. A doctor who is also the representative of aboriginal groups on national Public Health committees took us to see some of the markers of their tribal heritage, such as the shrine to mark the place where the first aborigines were believed to have come ashore, and to Paiwan villages. We met a hunter who was just coming out from the upland forest which is now deemed a national conservation area so aboriginals are not supposed to hunt there.

At the same time as the cultural performances were going on a programme of academic papers was being presented, mainly by scholars from Academia Sinica and National University of Taiwan. These papers given in Chinese focused on current research with the main tribal groups. The nine groups are very distinct in language and customs, some being matrilineal, while others are patrilineal or bilateral in their social organisation. They identify clearly as Amis or Paiwan or one of the other tribes, but were interested when Peter Bellwood from Australian National University, who gave the leading address on 5000 years of Austronesian History and Culture, referred to key words that appear in many of the Austronesian languages. Similarly, foods such as taro and seafood, particularly shellfish, were a recognised shared factor across the various groups; Nancy Pollock’s address spoke of Food as a Cultural Bridge.
across Oceania. Peter Kedit, an Iban scholar, showed the cultural customs of the Iban in his address on The Retention of Culture: Iban and Austronesian. Ron Crocombe came in later in the week to speak on Austronesian Heritage in the 21st century. These four papers were given in English and translated into Chinese, with wide-ranging discussions resulting. All these papers will be published by Academia Sinica with Abstracts in English of the papers on Taiwan aborigines by Chinese scholars.

The Taiwan Council for Cultural Affairs and the members of Taitung County Government and the Director of Taitung County Cultural Center are to be strongly congratulated for this innovative experience. “The Tie that Binds” was a strong feature of this Austronesian Cultural Festival that brought together small groups such as the Aboriginal tribes and the peoples of Oceania to celebrate their unique heritage. Such active sharing through songs, performances, as well as academic papers marks a positive step into the new millennium to celebrate similarities amid differences. Nancy J. Pollock

Five ASAO members contributed to the recent symposium, “Pacific Identities,” held in Noumea, New Caledonia from July 15-16, 1999. John Barker, Maurice Godelier, Marshal Sahlins, Pamela J. Stewart, and Andrew Strathern all discussed aspects of Pacific identities in the making. The symposium brought together academics, politicians, and citizen activists to consider the dynamic arena of identity formation in the Pacific today. The proceedings of the symposium are scheduled to be published in 2000.

IX. IN MEMORIAM: JOHN W. M. WHITING
June 12, 1999, from Mac Marshall to ASAONET: This morning’s New York Times reports that John W. M. Whiting, emeritus professor at Harvard, died at age 90 at home in the house where he was born. Most of you know that Whiting was one of the very few American anthropologists to have done cultural anthropology research in Oceania (outside of Hawai'i) before World War II, when he carried out dissertation research in what is now Papua New Guinea. This, of course, was published in 1941 as Becoming a Kwoma: Teaching and Learning in a New Guinea Tribe. Although he was never active in ASAO, Whiting served as dissertation chair for four Pacific anthropologists, three of whom have been active in ASAO over the years: Ruth Finney, Paul Shankman, Tisha Hickson, and Catherine Lutz.

June 14, 1999, from Mike Burton to ASAONET: John Whiting was also involved with the group organized by Murdock that planned the anthropological research project in Micronesia. I used to visit John and Bea almost every summer on Martha’s Vineyard. On one visit John showed me his collection of Navy-funded ethnographic profiles of Micronesian cultures. He was involved with that project when he was in the Navy during the war. He was also part of a team that was involved with applying anthropological knowledge during the occupation of Okinawa, and spent time there for that project.

Another Pacific island person who was greatly influenced by the Whitings was Klaus Koch, who unfortunately died prematurely in a fall in Cairo. John’s last publication was on the history of his own home island—Martha’s Vineyard—where his family settled in the 1600’s.

X. GENERAL NEWS

National University of Samoa Request for Anthropology Books, Journals, and Articles
The National University of Samoa is offering its first anthropology courses next year (2000). There is very little anthropology material in their university library, and their Dean of Arts (who is an anthropologist) is desperately looking for books.

• If you, as an individual or your institution would like to help, and have duplicate copies of ethnographies, collections of articles, or copies of journals, and you want them to go where they will be appreciated, please contact Dr. Unasa Va’a at the address below.

• If you, or someone you know, is retiring and would like to donate your professional library to a place where it will be treasured and used, please contact him.

Dr. Va’a has the full support of the Vice Chancellor who has funds to pay shipping costs. There are a number of ways the book shipments can be accomplished. Depending on where you are, it may be less expensive to ship things first to American Samoa where Dr. Va’a can
arrange to have them sent here to Western Samoa. Please contact him first for information and to work out details. If you are able to provide him with the comparative costs of shipping books to both American and Western Samoa, then he can advise you how he would like you to proceed.

Institutions wishing to make a large shipment might be able to interest an aid agency (such as US Aid, the Canada Fund, or AusAID) in helping defray shipping costs. Co-operation between institutions, donor agencies, and the National University of Samoa would be of public relations benefit to both the donor institution and the donor agency, and would help NUS obtain the books they need to develop an excellent program.

The message below from Dr. Va’a explains what the university needs. He says that he has some money to pay for shipping. This would be supporting a good cause. Dorothy Counts <Countsd@lesamoa.net>

“In my position as Dean of Faculty of Arts, National University of Samoa, I have discussed with David and Dorothy Counts, who are presently doing research in Samoa, the possibility of donating books on anthropology, both texts and ethnographies, particularly ethnographies dealing with Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia, to the National University of Samoa.

The reason for this is that the National University of Samoa is introducing two 100 level introductory courses in social and cultural anthropology as from early next year. The problem is that there is a scarcity of such books in the library. We also discussed the possibility of their approaching their friends for any donations in the areas mentioned. The question of date of arrival is not significant, as long as we eventually get the resources. Also if you need any help with costs of shipment, please let me know.

The addresses you can use are: Unasa Dr. L. F. Va’a, Dean of Arts, National University of Samoa, P. O. Box 5768, Apia, Samoa. Fax: (685) 20938 or 21370. My private address is: Unasa Dr. L. F. Va’a, P. O. Box 1227, Apia, Samoa; email: <ulfv@samoa.net>

“The National University of Samoa is a government-funded university founded in 1984 to cater to the needs of the increasing number of secondary school leavers. The BA programme started in 1988, at the same time as a BEd programme in conjunction with the United States International University. Currently there are five faculties: Nursing, Education, Science, Commerce and Arts. A BComm. programme had its first graduates last year, and next year we hope to introduce a BSc programme (almost a certainty). The nursing and education faculties have only diploma courses but they are moving towards degree programmes probably within the next two years. So you can say we are moving forward. We are young, fresh, innovative and challenging, and any help we can get would be appropriately acknowledged. Incidentally we have memorandums of cooperation with several overseas universities including the University of the South Pacific, Auckland University, Australian National University, University of Hawai‘i and Brigham Young University, La‘ie. We are also beginning to cater to an increasing number of foreign students (we accept cross credits from American universities). With best wishes. Unasa L. F. Va’a.”

These-Pac Association Prizes
The These-Pac Association, based in New Caledonia, each year awards two prizes of $1000 to reward (1) the best university work on the South Pacific Islands and Australasia, and (2) the best university work about New Caledonia. The work (dissertation, thesis, or other documents submitted for the award of a higher education degree) does not need to have been written recently, but it can be submitted only once; deadline each year is December 31. The catch is that you have to send a copy of the entire work to These-Pac (B. P. 920, Noumea, NEW CALEDONIA; tel +687-25-15-98).

Member News:
A number of ASAO members were recently elected to AAA offices. President-elect: Donald Brenneis; Executive Board - Undesignated #1: Geoffrey White; Long-Range Planning Committee - Undesignated #2: Sally E. Merry; Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology - Undesignated #4: Michéle D. Dominy. Thanks to Mac Marshall for passing along these results.
Pamela J. Stewart (Strathern) has been awarded a Collections Fellowship from the American Museum of Natural History in New York to examine items in their Pacific collection. This work will be in conjunction with the AMNH’s exhibition “Body Arts: Marks of Identity,” which will include a number of objects from the Strathern/Stewart collection of decorative pieces from the Highlands.

Edward D. “Ted” Lowe has been awarded a two-year postdoc at the Culture and Health Center, Dept. of Psychiatry, UCLA.

Deborah Gewertz has been awarded a senior research grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, and Fred Errington has received a faculty research grant from Trinity College to complete their new research—an ethnographically embedded social history of Ramu Sugar.

XI. ASAO HONORARY FELLOW: JAMES B. WATSON

James B. Watson was born on August 10, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois. His early education was in the public schools of Bangor, Maine, and he finished his first year of college at the University of Maine. He spent two years at New Jersey State College, Montclair, then transferred to the University of Chicago where he completed his undergraduate education in 1941. He went on at Chicago to finish his A.M. in 1945 and his Ph.D. in 1948, the latter under the supervision of Fred Eggan.

Watson’s teaching career began in the 1940s with positions at the Escala Livre de Sociologia e Politica, Sao Paula (1944-45), Beloit College (1945-46), University of Oklahoma (1946-47), and Washington University, St. Louis (1947-1955). He moved to the University of Washington, Seattle, where he spent the majority of his career and is now Professor Emeritus.

For members of the ASAO, Watson is most noted for his work in the Papua New Guinea Highlands, where he was one of the first generation of Highland ethnographers. His earliest research, however, was conducted with the Hopi, and it was the Hopi and their economy that was the topic of his Chicago master’s thesis. His interests shifted to Brazil for his dissertation research, where he examined the process of culture change among the Cayua people. This work was published later in the American Anthropological Association Memoir series (1952).

Watson took his interests in cultural change with him to the Pacific where his work centered on the Kainantu peoples of the Eastern Highlands. His first research there with the Agarabi dealt with change. Still interested in the effects of one group upon another, as well as the dynamics of regional systems, his work shifted to a neighboring Kainantu group, the Tairora, in the 1960s. This research resulted in a number of important papers on patterns of leadership and social organization in the Highlands. The Tairora work was most fully described in his monograph, *Tairora Culture: Contingency and Pragmatism* (1983). Watson’s contributions to our understanding of the Highlands also were embodied in several comparative projects. As editor of the *American Anthropologist* special publication on the Highlands (1964), he was responsible for one of the first general compilations of information on the region. Other publications of his looked at the environmental transitions the region had undergone, such as the shift from hunting to horticulture. As the principal investigator of the “Micro-evolution Study in New Guinea,” he directed a team of researchers examining the interconnections of the Kainantu peoples from the perspectives of ethnography, linguistics, archaeology, and physical anthropology. Along with his University of Washington colleague, Kenneth Read, he was co-principal investigator on a Bollingen Foundation funded comparative study of New Guinea religions. In addition to his own work, these projects funded several generations of students who have added to our store of knowledge of the Highlands. With retirement, Watson had continued to be an active participant in ASAO sessions and publications, along with other contributions in teaching and reviewing articles and books concerned with Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. George Westermark
XII. ANTHROPOLOGY PhDs


XIII. RECENT JOURNALS

Recent issues of the *Journal of the Polynesian Society* contain, along with reviews and shorter communications, the following articles:


March 1999 (108:1): Richard Sundt on the techniques used by nineteenth century Maori to raise and position the ridge-pole of the large Christian churches they built; Heather Booth on youth suicide of Fijian Indians and Samoans; Pamela Stewart and Andrew Strathern on meanings and uses of special stone objects in Papua New Guinea.

June 1999 (108:2): A Special Issue on "...Treasured Textiles of Samoa and Tonga" (revised essays from 1996 ASAO): Penelope Schoeffel's historical reconsideration of Samoan 'ie toga 'fine mats'; Phyllis Herda on changing types and uses of textiles in Tonga—including quilts; Adrienne Kaeppler's detailed discussion of the meaning and uses of Tongan kie hingoa 'named mats'.

Upcoming 1999 issues (108:3&4) will feature articles by David Chappell on transnationalism in recent Oceanian politics; Diedre Brown on Maori School of Arts and Crafts architecture; Kerry Howe on "new learning" constructions of Maori/Polynesian origins; Glenn Peterson on rank in the Carolines; and Mason Durie on Maori psychology. A Special Issue scheduled for March 2000 (109:1) on Western Solomons head-hunting will contain articles by archaeologists, historians, and ethnographers.

The Polynesian Society welcomes ASAO member to join. Annual dues are NZ$50 for which members receive the quarterly *JPS* (c. 450 pp. per annum) and discounts on publications and earlier journal issues.

For membership application and dues payment contact the Society's Assistant Secretary, Arepa Morehu, c/o Maori Studies, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND, or email <jps@auckland.ac.nz>. For information about the *Journal* contact Judith Huntsman, Honorary Editor, email <j.huntsman@auckland.ac.nz>

*Paideuma, Mitteilungen zur Kulturkunde* is the official scientific publication of the Frobenius-Institut at the J. W. Goethe University (Frankfurt am Main), and is edited under the auspices of the Frobenius-Gesellschaft. Founded in 1938 by Leo Frobenius, *Paideuma* is one of the oldest anthropological journals in Germany. It has incorporated articles on African societies and history, as well as on other regions and topics of general theoretical interest. Although Volume 45 (1999) included only one article that refers to Oceania directly ("Dressing the Hula. Iconography, Performance and Cultural Identity Formation in late nineteenth century Hawai'i" by Christopher B. Balme), the managing editor of the journal, Holger Jebens, is an ASAO member and it is his goal to widen the focus to include Eastern Indonesia and Oceania, areas which were of special interest to Ad. E. Jensen and C. A. Schmitz, former directors of the Frobenius Institute. Manuscripts in English, German or French, and of no more than 10,000 words, are welcome any time. They should be submitted as hard copy and a document file on DOS/WINDOWS formatted disk, or as an attachment to an email. Formatting and the use of tabs and spaces should be kept to an absolute minimum. Citations, references, footnotes and bibliographies should follow the conventions used in this issue of *Paideuma*. Submissions are reviewed anonymously by the scientific advisory board. Upon acceptance of an article, provisional page proofs are sent to the author for correction within seven days. Finally, authors receive 25 free offprints of their articles. Please address all correspondence to:
The Fall 1999 issue (11:2) of *The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs* is now available. Articles include:
Alan Rumsey, “Social Segmentation, Voting, and Violence in Papua New Guinea”
Lissant Bolton, “Radio and the Redefinition of Kastom in Vanuatu”
Sarina Pearson, “Subversion and Ambivalence: Pacific Islanders on New Zealand Prime Time”

The Dialogue section features “The Vibrant Shimmer,” by Barry Barclay, and the Resources department has “Islands on the Internet” by Michael R. Ogden. Stewart Firth provides a review of international issues and events in the region for 1998, and reviewing issues and events in Melanesia during 1998 are David A. Chappell, Alumita Durutalo, Tarcisius Tara Kabutaulaka, and Terence Wesley-Smith.

For subscriptions and copies of the current issue of *The Contemporary Pacific*, contact the Journals Department, University of Hawai‘i Press, 2840 Kolowalu Street, Honolulu HI 96822; tel 808/956-8833. Note: discounted student subscription rates are available, with photocopy of valid student identification.

The September 1999 issue (34:2) of *The Journal of Pacific History* features the following:
Chris Ballard, “Blanks in the writing: Possible histories for West New Guinea”
Jan Pouwer, “The colonisation, decolonisation and recolonisation of West New Guinea”
Benny Giay, “The conversion of Weakebo: A big man of the Me Community in the 1930s”
Anton Ploeg, “Colonial land law in Dutch New Guinea”
Greg Poulgrain, “Delaying the ‘discovery’ of oil in West New Guinea”

and a contribution by Jan A. Godschalk, entitled “A. C. de Kock’s encounter with the ‘Goliath pygmies’: The first ethnographic data from the Mek culture in the Eastern Highlands of Irian Jaya.” There are also ten book reviews.

Send queries about subscriptions to the *Journal of Pacific History* to Stefan Lacny, Subscriptions Manager, Carfax Publishing Ltd., P O Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3UE, UNITED KINGDOM; tel +44-1235-401000, fax +44-1235-401550, email <stafan.lacny@carfax.co.uk>; home page <http://www.carfax.co.uk/SARA.htm>


South Pacific Peoples Foundation, 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria BC V8T 2Y6, CANADA; tel 250/381-4131, fax 250/388-5258, email <sppf@sppf.org>; webpage <http://www.sppf.org>
XIV. VIDEO RESOURCES

Since its inception in 1994, the Micronesian Seminar’s video studio has produced seventeen videos, looking primarily at health and social and development issues. “The Strangers among Us” (Parts 1 and 2) is a new video from Blanca Amado and the Micronesian Seminar in Pohnpei. Produced with a grant from the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Council for the Humanities, it describes the situations of Asians who have come to Micronesia to work. Video price is US$20, plus postage.

“Kava: The Drink of the Gods,” written, directed, and filmed by Thorolf Lipp in conjunction with the Institute of Pacific Studies and the Media Center of the University of the South Pacific, explores the ritual and increasingly non-ritual use of kava (Piper methysticum) in Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa. It also addresses issues of intellectual property rights, kava’s current commodification (particularly in overseas markets), and its evolution as a symbol of Pacific Islander identity. The video is about 80 minutes long and will be available in PAL format later this year and the cost is F$40 or US$20, plus postage.

XV. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION


What actually happened as Europeans and peoples of the Pacific discovered each other? How have their respective senses of the past influenced their understanding of the present? And what are the consequences of their meeting? In this collection of essays, scholars from European, Polynesian, and Settler backgrounds provide answers to these questions. Writing from, and between, a variety of disciplines (history, anthropology, Maori Studies, literary criticism, law, cultural studies, art history, Pacific Studies), they show how the Pacific reveals a more various and contradictory history than that supposed by such homogenizing metropolitan myths as the introduction of civilization to savage peoples, the general ruin of indigenous cultures by an imperial juggernaut, or the mimicry of European models by an abject population. They examine contact from both sides of beaches throughout Polynesia, exposing the many inconsistencies from which Pacific history is made. [from the publisher’s catalog]


This accessible and pioneering study of social class in contemporary Papua New Guinea deals with the new elite, its culture and institutions, and its relationship to the broader society. The Papua New Guinea described here is not a place of exotic tribesmen, but a modernizing society, shaped by global forces, and increasingly divided on class lines. Focusing on Wewak, a typical commercial centre, the authors describe the lifestyle of the elite who frequent its golf clubs and Rotary gatherings. In so doing, they bring home the ways in which differences of status are created, experienced, and justified. In a country with a long tradition of egalitarianism, it has become at once possible and plausible for relatively affluent “nationals” to present themselves in a wide range of contexts as fundamentally superior to “bushy” people, to blame the poor for their misfortunes, and to turn their backs on their less successful neighbours and relatives. [Posted by Deborah Gewertz on ASAONET.]
Forbes, David W.

This comprehensive, annotated, multivolume bibliography is a record of all printed works touching on some aspect of the political, religious, cultural, or social history of the Hawaiian Islands—from the first printed notice mentioning the Islands (in a German periodical of January 1780) to the beginning of the twentieth century, when the Islands ceased to be a separate political entity. Volume I covers the period from 1780 to 1830, when exploratory voyages to the northern Pacific had largely concluded and the arrival of improved printing equipment in the Islands resulted in a substantial increase in the number of works printed by the Mission Press in Honolulu.

Hereniko, Vilsoni, and Rob Wilson, eds.

This far-reaching volume provides a comprehensive set of essays and interviews, by and with noted Pacific writers and critics, on the emergent literatures of the New Pacific. Hereniko is a playwright and literature, drama, and film specialist with the University of Hawai‘i’s Center for Pacific Islands Studies. In 1994 he convened the center’s first conference on Pacific Islands literature, which generated a number of the contributions to the volume. Wilson, a poet and professor in the UH Department of English, was involved in the conference. The book fills a gap in critical commentary on the literatures of the Pacific and is the definitive resource for anyone teaching or researching these literatures.

Keck, Verena, ed.

In Pacific societies, local knowledge, which has been accumulated over thousands of years and is irreplaceable, is rapidly disappearing. With the extinction of languages, the ability to observe and interpret the world from varying perspectives is also being lost. At the same time, an enormous body of knowledge about nature, plants, and animals is vanishing. However, in parallel with these developments, the people of the Pacific are confronted with new modes of knowledge and newly introduced technologies through imported educational systems, missions of various denominations, and the media. They do not passively assimilate this knowledge but adopt, adapt, and apply it in a syncretistic way. These changes will have permanent effects on the individual lives of people in the region and their knowledge about themselves and their surrounding world. This book tracks the course of these developments and offers revealing insights into the complexity of Pacific peoples’ responses to the process of globalization. Contributors include Ronald Adams, Raymond Firth, Andrée Grau, Ingjerd Hoëm, Monique Jeudy-Ballini, Lisette Josephides, Pierre Lemonnier, Beatriz Moral, Brigit Obrist van Eeuwijk, Anna Paini, Milan Stanek, Andrew Strathern, Marilyn Strathern, Borut Telban, Christina Toren, Eric Venbrux, and Florence Weiss. [from the publisher’s announcement]

Lipset, David

This is the first modern ethnography of the Murik, a small but regionally important community settled on the Sepik River estuary in Papua New Guinea. It is also the first
full-length account of a non-Western culture to make comprehensive use of the conceptual framework of the Russian literary theorist, Mikhail Bakhtin. Among the Murik, as in other Pacific societies, women are conceptualized as the source of nurture, generosity and love. However, this conceptualization creates a kind of ambivalent dialogue for men, who have political power, but must claim to sustain and reproduce society by mimicking the nurturant qualities of women. So they must, in a discursive sense, model certain aspects of themselves after women. A “maternal schema” or “poetics of the female body” therefore underlines the sociocultural patterns of these societies. Lipset shows how this schema or poetics expresses itself in a number of domains of Murik life: in kinship relations, life-cycle rituals, the men’s cults, and disputes and processes of conflict resolution. These issues are important for Melanesian anthropology more broadly, and related to one of the major contemporary debates in the social sciences: the relationship between ideas of male and female power.


This book combines the scholarship and research of forty-five notable contributors in a volume suitable as a text for university-level courses in geography, anthropology, or area studies. Its thirty-three referenced chapters cover physical environment, living environment, history, culture, population, and economy. The comprehensive, up-to-date text is enhanced by hundreds of maps, photographs, tables, and diagrams, thirty-two pages of color plates and sectional maps, an island gazetteer, and indexes. Contributors in the section on culture include Andrew Pawley (Language), Lamont Lindstrom (Social Relations), Tenure (Ron Crocombe), Richard Scaglion (Law), John Barker (Religion), and Deborah Waite (Art); former PISF awardee Selina Tusitala Marsh contributed a chapter on Pacific indigenous literature in English, and the light this literature sheds on the history and geography of the region. Bob Kiste says, “The Pacific Islands: Environment and Society is a significant contribution to Pacific Islands Studies. It is the only comprehensive survey of the contemporary Pacific Islands found between two covers today.” [Adapted from the back cover and the press release.]


This monograph highlights, discusses and analyses the many facets of the prevalent discourse on the Millennium in rural Papua New Guinea. The introduction aims at drawing a general picture, exploring the extent and the character of the millennial discourse in Papua New Guinea, and making visible and obvious the permeable membranes between culture, nature and the Bible. Some of the authors are “insiders,” Papua New Guineans who report and discuss events and opinions of their home areas, and explore their own and their relatives’ position within the millennial discourse, while others are “outsiders,” anthropologists who were recently confronted with the discourse on the Millennium or have long-standing ties with the people concerned. Thus, the Millennium is seen filtered by two screens: the local, cultural screen and then the screen used by the observer and analyst. Every contributor to the volume of course emphasises other points according to his or her background and interests but there are also different cultural interpretations of the Millennium present in the different
Local people, who are the carriers of this discourse, have been exposed to different influences and stimuli, and of course they also follow their own agendas when discussing the Millennium. The volume concludes with an epilogue written by Peter Worsley. He takes a fresh look at millennial beliefs 40 years after publishing a book on “cargo cults” which is one of the standard sources for anybody dealing with millennial concepts in Melanesia. [Posted by the Christin Kocher Schmid on ASAONET.]

Shineberg, Dorothy

The story of the people from the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) and the Solomon Islands who left their homes to work in the French colony of New Caledonia has long remained a missing piece of Pacific Islands history. Now Dorothy Shineberg has brought these laborers to life by painstakingly assembling fragments from a wide variety of scattered records and documents. She sketches the workers’ lives during and after recruitment, describing the contractual agreements, the kinds of work they did, their living conditions, how they spent their free time, the large numbers who sickened and died, and the difficult choice at the end of the contract to remain in the colony as a free worker or to return home. [from the publisher’s catalog]

Strathern, Andrew, and Pamela J. Stewart

This is an updated version of the life story narrative by Ongka, a leader among the Kawelka people of Mount Hagen in the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. A particular feature is a chapter on Ongka’s daughter Yara, who was prominent in local Christian activities in the mid- to late-1990s. The authors have provided an introduction which brings the narrative up to 1999 and sets it into the context of the perplexing changes that have emerged since Papua New Guinea’s Independence in 1975. [Submitted by Pamela Stewart.]

Young, Michael W.

Bronislaw Malinowski took more than 1,000 pictures during his fieldwork in Kiriwina, the largest of the Trobriand Islands in eastern Papua New Guinea, where he conducted his path-breaking fieldwork. This volume contains nearly 200 previously unpublished photographs, selected by anthropologist Michael Young, Malinowski’s authorized biographer. Divided into fourteen sections, *Malinowski’s Kiriwina* is a series of linked photo-essays based on Trobriand institutions and cultural themes as described by Malinowski. The introductory essay by Young appraises the founding anthropologist’s photographic oeuvre, explains the historical circumstances and technical aspects of the images, and puts them in their colonial context. Young illuminates the photographs with quotations from Malinowski’s diaries, letters, and field notes, thereby giving a biographical dimension to the collection. Commentaries on the images by contemporary Trobrianders add a further layer of interpretation. The result is a stunning record not only of a fascinating place, but of the mutual relationship between ethnography and the visual. [adapted from publisher’s announcement]
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