I. MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Results of Spring Elections for ASAO Board of Directors

The Secretary reports that the three vacancies on the ASAO Board of Directors will be filled by Jim Boutilier and Eugene Ogan, both of whom were re-elected, and Katherine Kesolei. Their two-year terms expire August 31, 1980. Dan Hughes and Bob Tonkinson, Chairman, continue in office until August 31, 1979.

B. Julia Hecht of Lawrence University will formally assume the responsibilities of ASAO Secretary at the spring 1979 meetings in Florida. She will take over from Sharon Tiffany, who has held office since 1976. Further details will be forthcoming in a later issue of the Newsletter.

C. Vern Carroll strongly urges those ASAO members who plan on attending the 1979 meetings in Florida to make both hotel and flight reservations as soon as possible. February and March are peak tourist months.

At the end of the Newsletter you will find information on the ASAO annual meetings. If you plan to attend, please fill out this form and send it to the hotel. Reservations must be made as early as possible. In the next Newsletter, another advance reservation form will be printed so that you may send your deposit and final confirmation before the meetings.
A. Mac Marshall reports that substantial progress has been made over the summer on the ASAO Monograph Series. ASAO Monograph No. 6, MISSION, CHURCH, AND SECT IN OCEANIA, edited by James Boutilier, Daniel Hughes, and Sharon Tiffany will appear in September 1978 as the first volume in the Series to be published under our new arrangement with the University of Michigan Press and University Microfilms International. UMP/UMI will send direct mail advertising to all ASAO members in the near future with an offer of a pre-publication discount. ASAO Monograph No. 7, THE PACIFICATION OF MELANESIA, edited by Margaret Rodman and Matthew Cooper is scheduled to appear in late October or early November 1978. Substantial progress has also been made on another MSS slated for the ASAO Series: THE MEANING OF SIBLING IN OCEANIA, edited by Mac Marshall, although it is too early as yet to provide an anticipated publication date. Word on the application to the Wenner-Gren Foundation on behalf of the ASAO Publications Fund should be received early this fall.

II. PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1979 MEETINGS

A. Mac Marshall, Program Chair, wishes to remind anyone planning a symposium, working session, or informal session of the necessity of contacting him as soon as possible in order to be assured of a place on the program. Session organizers are expected to keep Mac informed of their progress.

B. Symposia Planned for 1979:

**Formal Symposium: Male Initiation in New Guinea: New Findings**

Organized by Gilbert Herdt  
Neuropsychiatric Institute  
Department of Psychiatry  
UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Current Participants: Donald F. Tuzin, Sepik (U.C., San Diego); Fitz J. P. Poole, Telefomin (Rochester); Gilbert H. Herdt, Eastern Highlands (UCLA); Edward L. Schieffelin, Great Papuan Plateau (Center for the Study of Man); Terence E. Hays, Eastern Highlands (Rhode Island); L.L. Langness, Discussant (UCLA).

The focus of this symposium is new or unreported research data on male initiation rituals and cults in Papua New Guinea and innovative ways of understanding them.
For some years initiation rituals and symbolism remained a dormant topic among Melanesianists. The phenomena seemed exotic in the classical mold and widespread throughout many parts of the region. But early descriptive data were generally accommodated to the social structuralist paradigm of the '40's, '50's and '60's. This served less to enlighten than to effectively deaden interest in the hoary issues of symbolic behavior, the semantics of ritual language, and the phenomenology of initiation. Highlands languages, too, proved difficult enough that seasoned fieldworkers doubted if much of this kind of research could really be done. They sent their students in pursuit of other data. So little new material on male initiation appeared until quite recently.

Paralleling the emergence of American "symbolic anthropology" in the early '70's, new research on kindred subjects began in Papua New Guinea. Recent reports by Barth, Gell, Godelier, Herdt, Kelly, Langness, Poole, Schieffelin, Tuzin and others have re-awakened discussions in America and abroad on initiation behavior and symbolism.

What is needed is more data, better data, and a new lens through which to examine them. Traditionally-oriented initiation has virtually vanished throughout seaboard Melanesia. It faces the same fate in all but the remotest areas of the Highlands.

Also needed is a forum: to describe chinks of data and to formulate new concepts and techniques. In particular the organizer invites the presentation of new research findings through consideration of the following perspectives.

(a) Ritual as cultural performance: its context, expressive content, and symbolic system implications;

(b) The subjective experience of ritual: its phenomenology, psychological frames, and psychosocial consequences;

(c) The ethology of ritual: its verbal and non-verbal behavior, its behavioral cycles, its sexual and emotional channels.

The symposium will be held in two parts (morning, afternoon) on a single day.

Papers in final draft form must be circulated to Gilbert Herdt no later than January. At the Florida session each speaker will address his subject for approximately 30 minutes. In accord with ASAO rules, he or she shall not read it but may expand upon, summarize, and generally state the case of the paper.

Interested persons should contact Gil Herdt at the address above.
C. Working Sessions Planned for 1979

(1) Working Session: Dependency and Development in Oceania

Organized by Paul Shankman and Michael Howard

Current Participants: Paul Shankman (Colorado); Michael Howard (Houston); Glenn Peterson (Baruch College City University of New York); Daniel Hughes (Ohio State); Craig Severence (University of Hawaii, Hilo); Rick Marksbury (Tulane).

Dependency has emerged as one of the primary concepts in the study of underdevelopment. To date, however, few attempts have been made to apply dependency models or concepts in Oceania. This working session has two principal aims. First, it is intended to explore to what extent particular concepts in the dependency literature are applicable to a variety of settings in the Pacific, especially the concept of dependent development. Second, it is hoped that the papers will link a macro-level or structural perspective with local-level situations in order to provide a more dynamic and comprehensive analysis of the economic transformations now occurring in the Pacific region.

Please address all correspondence to Paul Shankman, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

(2) Working Session: Women in Oceania

Organized by Denise O'Brien and Sharon Tiffany

Contributions on women's economic, political, family, or ritual roles as well as theoretical approaches to the comparative study of women are invited by the organizers of this working session. Participants are expected to circulate a one page summary of interest to the organizers and other participants by January 1, 1979. A two to three page statement of interest in women's roles and a brief summary of relevant ethnographic information should be prepared and available for circulation at the meetings, at which time the possibility of organizing a formal symposium in 1980 will also be considered.

Interested persons should contact both organizers at the addresses listed below:

Denise O'Brien, Department of Anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Sharon Tiffany, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; Whitewater, WI 53190.
(3) **Working Session:** Language and Politics in Oceania

Organized by Don Brenneis and Fred Myers

This session will provide an opportunity for discussing the ethnography of political language in a variety of Pacific Island societies. Among the issues to be considered are: access to speaking as a resource, contexts for political performances, the genres of political discourse available in individual societies, verbal strategies for competition and conflict, the role of speech specialists such as talking chiefs, bi- and multilingualism and political assets, and the more general question of the political effectiveness of verbal artistry.

Interested people should contact:

Don Brenneis OR Fred Myers
Pitzer College Pitzer College
Claremont, CA 91711 Claremont, CA 91711

(4) **Working Session:** Contemporary Sorcery in Oceania

Organized by Marty Zelenietz
Department of Anthropology
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8S 4L9

D. Informal Sessions Planned for 1979

**Informal Session:** Anthropology in Micronesia (Follow-up to last year's formal symposium)

Organized by Bill Alexander and Mark Borthwick

III. NEWS AND NOTES

A. Frank J. Mahony, formerly with the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia, died on September 2. Prior to taking a position with the South Pacific Commission, Frank served as District Anthropologist in both the Ponape and Truk Districts in Micronesia, taught at the University of Hawaii, and worked as an applied anthropologist in Africa. His dissertation was a study of Trukese medicine, and he received his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1970. He is survived by his wife, Pat, now living in La Jolla, California, and their children.

B. The *Newsletter* has received the following communication concerning services provided by Pacificana:

*Pacifcana* issues quarterly lists of out of print books, maps, etc., having to do with the Pacific Islands, free for the
asking for one year and free indefinitely when an occasional purchase is made, these lists are sent first class in the United States and Canada and by air to other places. Pacificana also offers a free book search service, orders new books for a nominal charge, and can assist with the preparation of manuscripts for publication by supplying photographic prints from its collection of negatives of non-copyrighted engravings and woodcuts of the Pacific area. For more information contact Mary Browning, Pacificana P.O. Box 398, Jamestown, North Carolina 27282. Phone numbers are 919-454-4938 (day) and 919-454-3534 (evenings).


Rick has also contributed a paper on the Anutan ranking system to the festschrift for Raymond Firth entitled Adaptation and Symbolism: Essays on Social Organization, edited by Karen Ann Watson-Gegeo and S. Lee Seaton and published by the University of Hawaii Press. Other contributions of interest to ASAO members include an article on leadership among the Toaripi of Papua, New Guinea by Dawn Ryan; a paper on social structure and verbal interaction among part-Hawaiian children by Stephen Boggs, a reanalysis of Yali movement by James Peoples, and a paper on Chinese immigrants to New Guinea by David Wu.

D. John Byron Thomas and Mary Durand Thomas have completed their respective dissertations: "Adoption, Filiation, and Matrilineal Descent on Namonuito Atoll, Caroline Islands" and "Transmission of Culture to Children on Namonuito Atoll, Caroline Islands." They both received Ph.D. degrees from the University of Hawaii in August, 1978.

E. John L. Fischer of Tulane University will be attending a conference on traditional birth practices December 8-10 in Goettingen, Germany. Jack will be happy to receive any information on Ponapean birth customs which ethnographers of Ponape are willing to provide. The conference is sponsored by the German Ethnomedical Society.

F. Walter Tiffany and Sharon Tiffany spent six weeks in Western Samoa last summer filming and documenting the installation of their good friend to the Mata'afa title, one of the four paramount ranking titles of the islands. Some $3,000 in cash, 1,500 finely woven pandanus mats (including some believed to be well over a hundred years old), many pigs, and enormous quantities of canned foods were redistributed the day of the installation. In addition, they documented the hundreds of transactions that occurred several weeks prior to the formal
redistribution. Later in the summer, Sharon spent a month in the Solomon Islands, where she made a preliminary survey of government sponsored tenure conversion plans and assessed the role of local courts in managing land disputes. This research was financed by the Land Tenure Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

G. Richard Marksbury has returned to Tulane University following the completion of twenty-four months of field research in Yap, Western Caroline Islands. His dissertation topic is modernization and culture change.

H. Len Mason, who organized the Symposium on the Role of Anthropology in Contemporary Micronesia at the Asilomar meetings, has announced a revised schedule for the publication of the Proceedings. As previously announced, he has published and distributed the Situation Report to participants and discussants of the symposium. Even with a grant from Wenner-Gren and the assistance of Dirk Ballendorf (President, Community College of Micronesia) the costs are higher than estimated and the time schedule will be revised. The Proceedings should be available at the March 1979 annual meetings in Tampa.

I. Applications are invited for the Pacific Islands Chair in Anthropology. Applicants should have a distinguished record of research in one or preferably more areas of the Pacific Islands (Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia including New Guinea). The successful applicant will teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and will be expected to participate in university programs focusing on the Pacific. Send application letters, curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees to Ben Finney, Chairman, Pacific Chair Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822. Applications should be received by October 15, 1978. The University of Hawaii is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

J. Applications are invited for the post of Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Papua New Guinea. Appointee must have a background in social anthropology or sociology and a proven interest and experience in applied problems, social planning or policy in developing countries. Experience in Melanesia would be an advantage. Will be expected to provide leadership within the department in both teaching and research. He/she will be expected to participate in the Staff Development Programme for National Academic Staff and provide supervision for higher degree students. The Professor need not necessarily carry any administrative responsibilities although he/she is eligible for election to positions carrying such responsibilities. Salary: K20,104 pa (K1 = $1.48). In addition: an allowance of K1,300 pa if single is payable. An extra K1,000 Marriage Allowance and K156 per child Child Allowance.
may also be payable. Family passages; housing; annual leave fares; study leave and FSSU. In some cases it may be possible to make an appointment on secondment. Detailed applications (two copies) with curriculum vitae, a recent small photograph and the names of three referees to be sent to Secretary, University of Papua New Guinea Box 4820, University PO, Papua New Guinea, by 30 November 1978. Applicants resident in the United Kingdom should also send one copy to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P ODT. Further details may be obtained from either address.

John Kirkpatrick has forwarded this letter from G. H. Sawtell, Secretary of the Premier's Department of the Cook Islands, describing conditions for research clearance. While the memorandum is intended for prospective field workers in the Cook Islands, other anthropologists may be interested.

"Increasing concern has been expressed by the Government of the Cook Islands over the intrusion of students undertaking research into various sciences and disciplines without formal approval. Let it be understood that the Cook Islands is a completely self-governing nation and reserves the right to refuse research clearance in the Cook Islands unless formal application has been made, considered and approved.

While it is recognised that most research workers are sympathetic, understand local customs and attitudes, and pursue their projects in an appropriate manner, there are unfortunately others who take this right in a more authoritative manner. A recent research fellow upset an outsider in the Cook group by his rather aggressive approach in demanding a questionnaire to be completed which contained some embarrassing questions. A subsequent investigation revealed that this person had entered the country on a normal 31 day visa and was conducting his research without formal approval, albeit with the knowledge of a subordinate education officer.

In an endeavor to control the quality and quantity of research being done in the Cook Islands at any given time, my Government now insists that:

(1) Applications to do research in the Cook Islands must be made in writing to:

The Secretary of the Premier's Department
Government of the Cook Islands
P. O. Box 106
Rarotonga
COOK ISLANDS
(2) Applications must be accompanied by:

(a) A research protocol outlining in detail the specific aspect of study and the area or island location desired.

(b) A letter of introduction supporting the project and vouchsafing the good character of the applicant from the Registrar of the supporting university.

In most cases where the project has been approved, reasonable assistance and cooperation will be given by the appropriate section of Government to facilitate the success of the research. In return, the researcher* is expected to enter an agreement to submit at least two copies of the final research data or thesis at the conclusion of the project. One of these copies will ultimately be lodged with the Cook Islands Library for the use of Cook Island students, subject to any reservations requested by the author.

*and/or sponsoring organization.

IV. A WORD FROM THE EDITORS AND THE SECRETARY

We would like to print more information which can only come from the readership of this Newsletter. Do any of you have letters, reports, editorial comments or observations on the organization or events in the Pacific which would interest some segment of the membership? If so, please send these to us, the Newsletter editors.

Dr. Martha Ward
Department of Anthropology & Geography
University of New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

Dr. Roger Ward
1037 Fern Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Dues and other correspondence should be sent to:

Dr. Sharon Tiffany
Department of Anthropology-Sociology
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Whitewater, Wisconsin USA 53190

ASAO Membership dues are $US15.00 and $US10.00 for students. Institutions subscriptions are $US12.00. Dues are payable in March of each year.
V. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

The next annual meeting of ASAO will be held at the Belleview Biltmore, Clearwater, Florida (near Tampa), from 2 p.m. Wednesday, to 10 a.m. Sunday, February 28 - March 4, 1979. This site has been chosen, after much searching, and on-site inspection, to provide congenial surroundings for productive academic and social interchange. There is good tennis, spectacular golf, a small swimming pool, comfortable meeting rooms, decent food - and not much else in the immediate vicinity. The resort is a large frame 1885 structure of about 300 rooms which caters mostly to those who still think in terms of "The Season." Jackets and ties are required in the main bar and dining room after 6 p.m., a custom in much of the South. Otherwise, the atmosphere is relaxed. We will have our own area to party in - so that the sleeping areas can be kept quiet. We shall also make arrangements for a group buffet, apart from the main dining room, on Wednesday and Saturday nights. We can also arrange for group buffets on the other two nights if a large percentage of those attending request it. (See attached form) The alternative is semi-formal dining in a gigantic, palatial, dining room.

Transportation from the Tampa airport is easy: in the limousine area ask for the "Clearwater" one (there are many, going to different general destinations). The limos leave continuously, day and night every half hour or whenever filled and will drop you at the door for $7.50. If you see other ASAO types you can hire a cab for $22.50 at the same rate or lower per person. Return transportation to the airport of the same type will be arranged for you.

The weather will be in the 60s or even the 70s if all goes well. But it could drop to the 50s--not lower one hopes--so bring a few warm things, a bathing suit, tennis racket, golf clubs and something "Dressy".

Please fill out the attached form after Xeroxing copies for students, colleagues in the Oceania business who are not ASAO members and others whom you might invite to participate in symposia but who are not on the ASAO mailing list. Return it directly to the resort as soon as possible. You will not be asked for a deposit before next winter so you are risking nothing by responding NOW. We must reserve the space, and this is the way to do it. Please don't procrastinate on this. If you think there is any chance at all of your coming you must reserve the space NOW.

If there are any questions, feel free to call me.

Vern Carroll
(313) 769-7661
Belleview Biltmore at Bellaire  
Clearwater, Florida 33517

As of now I expect to attend the ASAO Conference (28 February-4 March 1979)

I expect to arrive about (time):                  on (date):
and to leave on (date):

I will require the following accommodations:

☐ single ($35)*
☐ double ($60)* My partner will be ____________________________
☐ twin ($30 each)*

☐ My roommate will be ____________________________
☐ Please assign roommate.

☐ double twin (connecting bath) ($25 each, only if combination has four occupants)*

check one

☐ My twin bed roommate will be ____________________________
☐ Please assign roommate (if available).

check one

☐ Our connecting couple will be ____________________________
☐ Please assign couple (if available).

I will arrive in time for the Wednesday evening buffet.   yes  no

I will remain for the Saturday night buffet.     yes   no

I would prefer a buffet supper (to the dining room) on Thursday and Friday evenings.

yes   no   uncertain

*To the basic price will be added 4% Florida sales tax and $3.00 per person per day for gratuities to housekeeping crew and bellmen (but not waiters, waitresses, valets, pool boys or cabana boys, whom it is the responsibility of the individual served to take care of.)
I will take the regular limo to the hotel ("Suncoast Limo"). yes no

(If the following information is provided, extra cabs and limos can be ordered, to insure no delay. If not available now, please provide [directly to the hotel] at least thirty days in advance of the Conference):

In coming flight: Airline_________________Flight #_____________ETA________________pm

Departing flight: ETD______________________ (can be given on arrival).

Check one:

I [ ] A deposit equal to one night's room rental is enclosed (to confirm reservations now - balance due at check-out). This will be applied to the last night of your stay and is refundable upon notification to the hotel up to one week prior to scheduled arrival.

I [ ] No deposit is enclosed. I understand that a deposit (as above) must be received in the hotel office at least thirty days prior to arrival date, otherwise the reservation will be cancelled automatically.

Name_________________________________________________________ /s/________________________________________________________

Permanent mailing address:

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Notes to Local Arrangements Person:

I will need the following special consideration:

Personal:

Audio-visual:

Other: