ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
IN OCEANIA

NEWSLETTER LX
FALL 1986

I. IN THIS ISSUE

Board election results; Session updates and new session proposals for the 1987 Monterey meetings; recent PhD's in Oceania; academic cooperation; notes, news, and bibliographic items.

II. 1987 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Reminder to all members - the 1987 annual meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn, Monterey, on February 18-22.

III. Board Elections

Congratulations are in order for Miriam Kahn and Dan Jorgensen who were elected to the board of ASAO on the Spring ballot.

IV. FROM THE EDITOR

a. REMINDER TO SESSION ORGANIZERS: The program for the 1987 meetings will be the most extensive yet offered at the ASAO annual meetings. Program Chair, Dorothy Counts, will need your full cooperation to schedule the events and to minimize potential conflicts. Please remember to get your lists of participants, paper titles, and (for working sessions and symposia) abstracts to her by December 1. ASAO rules state that a working session must have 7 participants with prepared papers. Without evidence that a sufficient number of participants have actually prepared papers, Dorothy must downgrade the session to an Informal session. Dorothy needs all this information in time for her to work out the program and get it to the Newsletter editor for inclusion in the Winter issue.
b. ADDRESS CHANGES: As stated in the Newsletter on a number of occasions, please forward all address changes and membership inquiries to the Secretary, Jim Boutilier. Jim's address appears on the back page of this Newsletter. I simply cannot check each of the 300+ mailing labels at each mailing to ensure that they carry your most recent address.

V. 1987 ANNUAL MEETINGS

With the addition of three new Informal Sessions, announced here for the first time (see sessions R, S, and T), 20 sessions have been proposed for the 1987 annual meetings in Monterey. This already makes the '87 meetings schedule one of the fullest in ASAO history. With 2 symposia, 7 Working Sessions, and 11 Informal Sessions, the schedule should remain full for some years to come.

Full accounts of the 17 sessions announced prior to the deadline for the Summer issue have been given in the Spring and Summer Newsletters and members are encouraged to check those accounts. Brief descriptions are given here merely to whet your appetite and/or jog your memory. Full descriptions of the three new Informal sessions are given in section VI below.

SYMPOSIA:

A. ENCOUNTERS WITH OUTSIDERS IN THE PACIFIC
B: PRIMOGENITURE IN PACIFIC SOCIETIES

WORKING SESSIONS:

C: ETHNOETHNOGRAPHY IN THE PACIFIC
D: HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH IN THE PACIFIC
E: FOOD AND THE EXCHANGE OF POWER
F: MARRIAGE IN TRANSITION IN OCEANIA
G: "FEMALE INITIATION" IN THE PACIFIC
H: BEYOND HIERARCHY
I: SCHOOLING AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF PACIFIC SOCIETIES

INFORMAL SESSIONS:

J: TEACHING PACIFIC ISLANDS ANTHROPOLOGY
K: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRATIFICATION IN MICRONESIA AND POLYNESIA
L: LINGUA FRANCA AND VERNACULAR: LANGUAGE CHANGE IN OCEANIA
M: THE UNITED STATES IN MICRONESIA
N: SEAMANSHIP IN MODERN OCEANIA
O: BEYOND THE VILLAGE
P: THE CULTURAL DETERMINANTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF INJURY IN THE PACIFIC
Q: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PACIFIC
R: COMPARATIVE ANATOMY OF SEPIK RIVER SOCIETIES
S: STRING BANDS
T: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
A: Symposium: THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PACIFIC
Organizer: JOHN BARKER
Dept. of Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

The symposium which has attracted a substantial number of participants focuses on contemporary Christianity in the Pacific. Going beyond missionary-indigenous interaction, the session explores the content of modern Pacific systems of religion. Charles Forman is acting as discussant.

A full description of the 1986 Working Session appears in the Spring issue of the Newsletter.

B: Symposium: PRIMOGENITUR IN PACIFIC SOCIETIES
Organizer: NAOMI SCALETTA
#403-268 Superior St., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8V 1T3.

This symposium focuses on the elaboration of customs and beliefs pertaining to the firstborn child and the ideology of primogeniture as a key structural and organizational feature of the societies represented. Peter Lawrence will act as discussant for the formal symposium.

A complete description of the 1986 Working session appears in the Spring Newsletter.

C: Working Session: ENCOUNTERS WITH OUTSIDERS IN THE PACIFIC
Formerly: ETHNOETHNOGRAPHY IN THE PACIFIC
Organizer: JOHN KIRKPATRICK
2340 Kuahea St., Honolulu, HI 96816.

Participants at the working session will present accounts of understandings of cultural differences and cultural strategies for dealing with and learning about "Others." Check the full description of ETHNOETHNOGRAPHY given in the Summer issue.

Anyone wishing to join this session should contact John Kirkpatrick at the address given above.

D: Working Session: HEALTH RELATED ISSUES IN THE PACIFIC
Organizer: LESLIE MARSHALL
University of Iowa College of Nursing, Iowa City, Iowa 52242

The proposed working session will focus on a number of significant issues concerning the interaction between indigenous and Western therapeutic systems, modernization, and implementation of appropriate public health measures. Leslie is particularly anxious that participants address issues of current concern for planners.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the 1987 working session must send a one-page abstract to Leslie Marshall at the address given above.
E. Working Session: FOOD AND THE EXCHANGE OF POWER
Organizers: JANE FAJANS AND ANNA MEIGS
Jane Fajans, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chicago, 1126 E. 59th St.,
Chicago, IL 60637
Anna Meigs, Dept. of Anthropology, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St.
Paul, Minnesota 55105.

This session explores the sociocultural use of food as an agent of social
and corporeal transformation and as a metaphor for the people themselves.
The session will explore the positive use of food as an agent of social
inclusion and exclusion and its negative manipulation through sorcery.

Those interested in addressing these issues should submit a 1-2 page
abstract of their proposed paper to either Anna Meigs or Jane Fajans at
the addresses given above as soon as possible.

F. Working Session: MARRIAGE IN TRANSITION IN OCEANIA
Organizer: RICK MARKSBURY
125 Gibson Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118

This session explores the changing definitions, contexts, and expectations
of marriage in the Pacific resulting from or related to the growing cash
economy, increasing male absenteeism, and the expanding role of women as
emerging social players in marriage arrangements.

Anyone with an interest in this topic who would like to participate in
next year’s session should contact Rick Marksbury at the address given
above. Those having data from either urban centers in Oceania and/or
Polynesia generally are especially encouraged.

G. Working Session: “FEMALE INITIATION” IN THE PACIFIC
Organizers: Nancy Lutkehaus and Paul Roscoe
Nancy Lutkehaus, Dept. of Anthropology, USC, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0661
Jim Roscoe, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, ME
04469

The central issues people are interested in include the definition of what
is meant by the term “female initiation” and the comparative analysis of
male and female initiation ceremonies, both within a single society and
cross-culturally.

All individuals, both past participants and new, who are interested in
participating in the 1987 Working Session should send a brief (1-2 page)
abstract of their proposed paper to either of the session organizers at
the addresses given above.

H. Working Session: Beyond Hierarchy
Organizer: JAMES G. FLANAGAN
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Southern Station Box 5074,
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406.

This session focuses on the strategies employed in the generation and
maintenance of interpersonal equality in Pacific Islands societies with a broader theoretical goal of contributing to a general discussion on the nature and definition of equality.

Anyone wishing to join this session should send a 1-2 page abstract of their proposed paper to Jim Flanagan at the address given above.

I. Working Session: SCHOOLING AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF PACIFIC SOCIETIES
Organizers: Paula Levin and Suzanne Falgout
Dept. of Anthropology, University of Hawaii - Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii 96720.

Papers presented in this session will explore the impact of formal schooling on cultural change in Oceania. In particular, the organizers want to explore the nature of the educational models employed in the Pacific, the interaction of these models with indigenous models of education, and their effects on culture change. Persons who wish to join the session should contact Suzanne Falgout at the address given above.

J: Informal Session: TEACHING PACIFIC ISLANDS ANTHROPOLOGY
ORGANIZER: ROBERT FRANCO
Dept of Social Sciences, Kapiolani Community College, 4303 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 96816.

The session will focus on curriculum (texts, videos, software) and instructional strategies that ASAO can develop for improving public awareness and understanding of Pacific peoples and cultures. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Bob.

K. Informal Session: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRATIFICATION IN MICRONESIA AND POLYNESIA.
Organizers: JIM PEOPLES and JIM ROSCOE

We hope to throw some new light on an old topic in this session. Anyone with an interest in stratification in these two areas is invited to participate, especially those with recently collected ethnographic data or novel ideas about the meaning or explanation of someone else's account. Write to Jim Peoples, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 74104. Details of this session (recently revitalized) were given in Spring and Summer.

L. Informal Session: LINGUA FRANCA AND VERNACULAR: LANGUAGE CHANGE IN OCEANIA
Organizer: BILL DONNER
Dept. of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

The session will examine the processes of language change and replacement. Of particular interest are changes in vernacular languages resulting from contact with regional and colonial languages. This session is not limited to Pidgin speaking areas of Oceania; similar processes may be occurring in the use of English or French and indigenous languages in Micronesia, Tonga, Samoa, New Zealand and elsewhere.
Those interested in pursuing this topic should contact Bill Donner.

M: Informal Session: THE UNITED STATES IN OCEANIA
Organizer: LARRY MAYO
Dept. of Anthropology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2110

The session focuses on the impact of the American colonial presence in Micronesia. As an initial strategy the organizer will consider all aspects of contact. A more narrowly defined focus will develop for a future working session. Please send a title for your paper to Larry Mayo at the address given above.

N: Informal Session: SEAMANSHIP IN MODERN OCEANIA
Organizer: RICK FEINBERG
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242.

In many cases, the incorporation of outboard motors, diesel-powered commercial ships, hydrographic charts, compasses, and sextants into islanders' cultural and social lives has not diminished the people's reliance on or attachment to their marine environment. Moreover, despite substantial diffusion of Western marine technology, Pacific Islanders' feelings about and use of the sea continues to be informed, in varying degrees, by earlier traditions. This session will explore contemporary use of the sea by Pacific Islanders.

Anyone who would like to participate in the proposed session should contact Rick Feinberg at the address given above.

O: Informal Session: BEYOND THE VILLAGE
Organizer: ANTON PLOEG
Sociological Institute, State University of Utrecht, Centrumgebouw Zuid, P.O. Box 80.108, 3508 TC, Utrecht, Netherlands.

Anton wants to reconvene this session which originally met in Salem. The session is to deal with social organization going beyond the traditional social boundaries and the ways in which this organization is taking shape. The term 'social' is used in a broad sense, incorporating also economic and political links.

All those interested in participating in the session should send a statement of interest to Anton at the address given above.

P: Informal Session: THE CULTURAL DETERMINANTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF INJURY IN THE PACIFIC
Organizer: Georgeda Buchbinder
Department of Community Health Development, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1960 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96822.

Injury is the major cause of death between the ages of 1 and 45 in the Pacific and was high on the agenda of the South Pacific Commission meeting involving the heads of ministries of health in the Pacific. Injury may be intentional (homicide and suicide), or unintentional (due to motor
Q: Informal Session: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PACIFIC
Organizer: DOROTHY COUNTS
2 Flamboro Courts, Dundas, Ontario, Canada. L9H 4Z3

Dorothy is proposing an Informal Session for the 1987 meetings on the
topic of domestic violence with an emphasis on the assault of wives.
Anyone interested in this topic should contact Dorothy at the address
given above.

VI. NEWLY PROPOSED SESSIONS

R. INFORMAL SESSION: A Comparative Anatomy of Sepik River Societies
Organizer: Ross Bowden, Dept. of Sociology, La Trobe University,
Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia.

The aim of the session will be to determine whether there is sufficient
interest among Papua New Guinea specialists to organize a working session
for the following annual conference on the above topic. The organizer
believes that sufficient research has now been carried out in the two Sepik
provinces of Papua New Guinea to enable similarities and differences in the
social structure of Sepik societies to be explored systematically. The
Sepik is a distinct culture area, and the intention in a working session
will be to do what anthropologists have always aspired to do (though have
rarely done in practice), viz. to document systematically themes and
variations in the social structure of a range of societies in a distinct
cultural and geographic region. The purpose of the informal session will
be to determine approximately how many people have worked in, and would be
prepared to offer papers on, the social organization of a society belonging
to a) the Sepik-Ramu Phylum of languages, or b) one of the other Papuan or
Austronesian languages in either of the two Sepik provinces. To enable
meaningful comparisons and contrasts to be made, discussion at a more
formal working session would need to focus on a limited number of clearly
defined topics. Those which the organizer is particularly keen to explore
are (i) the structure (descent or otherwise) of local exogamous groups (if
any); (ii) the marriage rules and practices that link such groups (whether
positive or negative, whether they concentrate or disperse marriages, and
so on; (iii) the political (or other) alliances that marriages create
between individuals or groups; and (iv) the implications of these alliances
for marriage rules and practices (e.g. are individuals or groups allied by
a previous marriage permitted to contract further marriages?). At Monterey
or beforehand, the organizer would like to hear from people who feel they
could contribute a paper at a Working Session structured around these
topics.

S. Informal Session: STRING BANDS: BLENDING OLD AND NEW
Organizer: Steven Albert.

The string band is an innovation of Pacific island peoples, representing a
blend of old and new influences. Its wide distribution and varying
significance in different societies make it a convenient focus for comparative study of art/music complexes. Among the Lak in southern New Ireland, the string band has been incorporated into the men's house system and has picked up all the facets of the traditional singsing: protective magic, competition, secret bilas, kongols, etc. On the other hand, it is a great source of innovation, as new songs and decorations are produced for each appearance. This informal session will focus on all aspects of string bands to see what continuities govern this Pacific gesamtkunstwerk.

All those interested can write to Steve at 1123 Federal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

T. Informal Session: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN OCEANIA
Organizer: CHUCK DE BURLO

Local government authorities in the Pacific islands (as in Third World countries) have been created to decentralize authority and support socioeconomic development. The implementation of local councils in Papua New Guinea was relatively early. In Vanuatu, by contrast, the legacy of French and British differences toward decentralization has held back the implementation of coordinated local government. The issues of local government systems and their roles in development which might be examined are: colonial legacies; transition from "native authorities" to local/regional councils; the organization, functions, and powers of local governments; sources of local revenue; size of jurisdiction; central-local division of authority; distribution of responsibility and decision making among formal government structures and traditional organizations; social boundaries and social integration of people in a local government unit; local politics, popular support, and management of development. The organizer hopes for discussion not only of power, authority, and politics at the local level, but also the relation of national goals and actions to responses by local government bodies.

Anyone wishing to participate, please write to Chuck at the Institute of Transportation, Travel and Tourism, Niagara University, New York 14109.

VII. RECENT DOCTORATES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Abe, Goh A comparative analysis of social change in Micronesia under Japan and the United States with special reference to Palau (Kansas 1986)

Anson, Dimitri Lapita pottery of the Bismarck Archipelago (Sydney 1984)

Barker, Judith C. Social organization and health services for preschool children on Niue Island, Western Polynesia (UCSF/UCB 1985)

Franco, Robert W. Samoan perceptions of work: moving up and moving around (Hawaii 1985)

Huber, Mary The ecclesiological frontier: an ethnohistorical study of Catholic missionaries in the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea (Pittsburgh 1985)
Johnson, Dianne The government women: gender and structural contradiction in Papua New Guinea (Sydney 1984)

O'Meara, Timothy Why is village agriculture stagnating? A test of social and economic explanations in Western Samoa (UCSB 1986)

Scaletta, Naomi Primogeniture and primogenitor: firstborn child and mortuary traditions among the Kabana (Bariai) of West New Britain, Papua New Guinea (McMaster 1985)

Spear, Robert L. Easter Island obsidian flake tools: site interpretation through use-wear analysis (Oregon 1986)

Turner, Diane M. Women's roles in Matailobau, Fiji Islands (Michigan State 1986)

Zimmer, Laura The losing game: exchange, migrating and inequality among the Gende people of Papua New Guinea (Bryn Mawr 1985)

VIII. ACADEMIC COOPERATION

a. L. Bryce Boyer M.D. is seeking cooperation and help from anthropologists working in the Pacific who may have used, or know of persons who have used, Rorschach protocols. Dr. Boyer heads a research group who are working on cross-cultural comparisons of Rorschach protocols. They are having difficulty locating Rorschach protocols from the insular Pacific. Of over 4000 protocols only those of Fitz Poole and Derek Freeman are currently known to them. Anyone who can be of assistance can contact Bryce at 3021 Telegraph Av., Berkeley, CA 94705.

b. The Pacific Information Center at the University of the South Pacific, (P.O. Box 1168, Suva, Fiji) compiles and publishes annually the South Pacific Research Register. For this they are dependent on receiving information about persons undertaking research relating to the South Pacific (Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia). The Register lists names, official positions, addresses, research interests and sponsorship of persons doing research in Oceania. Many of you will have received their questionnaire recently. If you haven't already done so, please return the questionnaire to PIC and bring the existence of the register to the attention of your colleagues who may not have received such a questionnaire.

IX. NEWS

a. The Micronesia Institute announces the establishment of the Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation, an independent body incorporated in Majuro, Marshall Islands. The creation of the private, non-profit organization is the first concerted effort by Micronesia to tap international sources of funds and support for historic preservation programs in the islands. Local private sector Historic Preservation Boards will work with the Endowment Directors in selecting and developing
programs. The politically independent corporation was formed in cooperation with the Micronesia Institute. Tax-deductible contributions may be earmarked "endowment" and made payable to the Micronesia Institute at 2152 Wyoming Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

b. Kathy Barlow and David Lipset spent the summer of 1986 in the Sepik, working for the Australian Museum, documenting their lower Sepik collection of artifacts and studying change in coastal trade in the villages between Yakamul and the Murik Lakes. They were working with Lissant Bolton, the Pacific collections manager of the Australian Museum, and Johnny Salau, the assistant anthropology curator at the PNG National Museum.

   Theme: Problems of Racial and Ethnic Relations: National and International Perspectives.
   Benjamin B. Wolman, President of the organization invites members and non-members to submit papers for presentation at the conference. Three copies of abstracts and complete papers should be sent by January 15, 1987, to:
   Joseph B. Sittler, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030.

The International Journal of Group Tensions is the official publication of the organization.

d. Hiro Kurashina, Acting Director of the Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam, and Rebecca A. Stephenson spent the summer leading three teams of Earthwatch Volunteers on a project entitled "The Sacred Stones of the Cook Islands." The work, which involved historic preservation of marae sites, took the team members to Aitutaki, Atiu and Rarotonga. Partial funding for the project was generously provided by the South Pacific Commission.
   While in the Cook Islands, Becky Stephenson had the opportunity to pursue ongoing fieldwork concerning tradition and change with members of the Atiu community at Atiu and Rarotonga.

e. As the grand finale of its centennial year celebration, the Burke Museum at the University of Washington is sponsoring the first American appearance of the exhibition:
   AUTHORITY AND ORNAMENT: ART OF THE SEPIK RIVER.
   The exhibition which runs from August 8 - December 28, 1986 is curated by Suzanne Greub, Director of the Tribal Arts Centre of Basel, Switzerland.
   The exhibition, which consists of 160 pieces from museums and private collections in Europe, is accompanied by a "profusely illustrated 217 page catalog" and a lecture/film series.
   From the Burke Museum, the exhibition moves to the IBM Gallery in New York.
X. BIBLIOGRAPHIC


c) Working Papers Series, Pacific Islands Studies Program, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa

In collaboration with the Pacific Islands Development Program, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.


Hezel, Francis X., Donald H. Rubenstein, & Geoffrey M. White (eds.) 1985 Culture, Youth and Suicide in the Pacific: Papers from an East-West Center Conference. 216pp.


d) The Bishop Museum (1525 Bernice Street, P.O. Box 19000-A, Honolulu, HI 96817) has just re-issued in hard covers Voices on the Wind by Katherine Luomala. This work has been out of print for some years. Price, $18.95 with a 20% discount for Museum members.
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