ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
IN OCEANIA

JUNE 1991

IN THIS ISSUE

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FROM THE EDITOR

It is an honor to take over as editor of the Newsletter, and it will be a challenge to maintain Rick Feinberg's consistent interesting features, accuracy, and timeliness in "going to press." The newsworthiness of any publication such as this depends on the continued help of an organization's members, and I urge all of you to please send me items of information that might be included.

ASAO's 20th Annual Meeting took place in Victoria, B.C. right at the end of March, and the quality and diversity of sessions was very high. Victoria's weather was beautiful for much of the conference, and those in attendance were most enthusiastic about the setting. Once more the association owes Suzy Pflanz-Cook a debt of gratitude for arranging another ideal meeting site.

Last, but by no means least, special thanks from all ASAO members are due Rick Feinberg for his four years of superb service as Newsletter editor.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT ON 1991 BOARD MEETING

The board decided to continue holding an ASAO open house at the American Anthropological Association meetings. They felt that opportunities for graduate students to meet and talk with members and for members themselves to meet and discuss sessions are well worth the cost ($100.00). The board elected Ali Pomponio as the new chair-elect, replacing Leslie Marshall, who became the new chair at
the final plenary session. The board nominated Bill Mitchell, Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi, Richard Scaglion, and Karen Nero as candidates for the two positions on the board being vacated by Nancy McDowell and Jocelyn Armstrong. Bill Rodman was nominated from the floor at the plenary session.

Officers presented their annual reports. Juliana Flinn, Secretary-Treasurer, reported that ASAO had 311 members and fellows, 15 honorary fellows, and 34 institutional members in 1990. The balance in the account at the end of the year was $14,747.72. Rick Feinberg, the outgoing Newsletter Editor, mentioned that the feature receiving the most attention in 1990 was the bibliographies of articles resulting from ASAO sessions. He brought a printed version of the current listing and plans to make it available to interested members, with the hope that it will be regularly updated. He also reported that the budget of $2,250.00 for the newsletter would probably be inadequate in 1991, so the board then voted to increase the amount to $2,500.00. Nancy McDowell reported that Andrew Strathern, the Monograph Series Editor, was in the field and that Richard Scaglion was temporarily dealing with the business affairs of the series. She reported that Bill Mitchell recently submitted his clowning manuscript, and Bob Franco added that the marriage volume has been revived as a possible publication as well. Nancy McDowell also spoke for Deborah Gewertz, the Special Publications Editor, reporting that Marilyn Strathern's book should soon be finished and that the editor approached Fredrik Barth about considering a Special Publication. Larry Mayo, Program Chair, reported that meeting rooms were still available for informal sessions. Susan Pflanz-Cook, Annual Meetings Coordinator, reported that she was exploring eastern sites for the 1992 meetings.

The board discussed the problems of finding grants when the Pacific Islands is not defined as an area for many agencies, such as SSRC. The chair will explore avenues for obtaining recognition as a culture area from funding agencies.

Since ASAO has begun to charge a meeting registration fee, the board voted that honorary fellows (who pay no dues) are exempt from the fee. Finally, the board appointed Mac Marshall as Newsletter Editor and reappointed the remaining officers.

IV. SESSION REPORTS FROM 1991 MEETING

SPECIAL SESSION

IN HONOR OF SIR RAYMOND FIRTH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Organizers: Rick Feinberg (Kent State) and Karen Watson-Gegeo (Hawai'i)
Participants:


Susan Montague (Northern Illinois). Trobriand Chiefs.

Alan Howard (Hawai'i). Wilson Inia and the Transformation of Leadership on Rotuma.

*Bradd Shore (Emory). The Person in Polynesian Worldview.

*Stephen Boggs (Hawai'i). Resistance to Plantations in the Western Pacific Before World War II.


Niko Besnier (Yale). Rumor in Nukulaelae.

*In absentia.

Sir Raymond Firth turned 91 on 25 March 1991, a few days before our session honoring him for his many contributions to Pacific anthropology and to the careers and personal lives of many of us. We had hoped that he would be able to attend ASAO, but his health precludes traveling long distances by air. Rick Feinberg opened the session by reviewing Sir Raymond's theoretical contributions, and Karen Watson-Gegeo followed with a brief biography of his career. Seven papers were then presented, 2 in absentia. The presentations led to lively and interesting discussion about such recurring themes as leadership and mana. Papers from the session will be bound and sent to Sir Raymond as a token of our appreciation and esteem. We are also planning a second conference in London in December 1991 which he will be able to attend, and we are in consultation over how that conference will articulate with the ASAO Special Session.

SYMPOSIA

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN MODERN OCEANIC SEAFARING

Organizer: Richard Feinberg (Kent State)

Participants:

Larry Carucci (Montana State). Symbolic Imagery of Enewetak Sailing Canoes.

Maria Lepowsky (Wisconsin, Madison). Seafaring and Worldview in the Louisiade Archipelago of PNG.
The Seafaring symposium included 11 papers, 3 of which were presented in absentia and 1 precirculated but not presented at the meeting. Papers covered all the major culture areas of Oceania, with a concentration on western Polynesia and island Melanesia. Communities discussed ranged from several in which a great deal of traditional seafaring knowledge and technology have been retained to those which depend heavily on boats and ships of European manufacture. The session participants are indebted to Ward Goodenough for incisive comments on the papers and for doing a great deal to pull disparate strands together. Participants agreed to revise their papers according to suggestions from the organizer and discussant, and to explore options for collective publication.

CUSTOM TODAY

Organizers: Geoffrey White (East-West Center) and Lamont Lindstrom (Tulsa)

Participants:

Robert Foster (Rochester). Commodity and the Emergence of Kastom as a Cultural Category: A New Ireland Case in Comparative Perspective.

Ton Otto (ANU). The Ways of Kastam: Tradition as Category and as Practice in a Manus Village.

Martha Kaplan (Vassar). The Law and the Net: On Contested Custom and Creativity in Fiji.

Adrian Tanner (Memorial, Newfoundland). Dialects of Symbolism and the Dialectics of Custom (Fiji).

Geoffrey White (East-West Center). Three Discourses of Kastom (Solomons).

Bill Donner (Kutztown). Kastom and Modernization on Sikaiana.


Michele Dominy (Bard). Lives Were Always Here, Lived in the Shadow of Magnificence: The Inhabited Landscape of the New Zealand High Country.

Glenn Petersen (Baruch). Not Without the Past, But Not About the Past: Some Pohnpeian Analyses of Pohnpeian Custom (Tiahk en Pohnpei).


Eve Pinsker (Chicago). The Invention of Tradition in Micronesian Political Rhetoric.


*Judith Fitzpatrick (Queensland). (Torres Strait Islanders and Australian Aborigines).

*John Kirkpatrick (Community Resources). We Are All Immigrants, But Some Are More Immigrant Than Others: Invocations of Tradition in Modern Hawaii.
Fourteen papers (and one discussion, from Jocelyn Linnekin) were circulated prior to the meeting, and 13 participants and 2 discussants were on hand to discuss them. (Anyone wishing copies of papers should contact individual authors.) The morning was devoted to brief summary presentations of 13 papers, and the afternoon was given to commentary from 2 discussants (Roger Keesing and Robert Tonkinson) and open discussion among participants. Building on the framework set out in last year's working session, participants offered ethnographic and historical accounts of ideologies of tradition, located within political and historical contexts where possible. Three issues organized discussion: (1) the significance of "custom" as a local category emerging in counterpoint with conceptions of modernity, business, Christianity, law, and other oppositional constructions; (2) uses of custom within contemporary discourses of national identity and unity on the one hand, and local autonomy and sovereignty on the other; (3) custom as a resource in asserting and maintaining particular regimes of knowledge, truth and power.

Keesing and Tonkinson noted several points on which session papers clarify and/or expand previous writings on Pacific custom and identity. In particular, they noted the more historicized accounting of custom that emerged in several papers, allowing a closer assessment of the effects of colonization upon self-conscious objectifications of culture. Discussions also addressed the extent to which custom in national political talk is an "empty symbol" that lends itself to numerous readings and rereadings. Participants met after the symposium to discuss plans for publication. The organizers will be working with authors and discussants to revise some of the papers from the session for publication as an edited collection.

WORKING SESSIONS

REPRESENTATIONS OF OCEANIA

Organizers:  Terry Hays (Rhode Island C.) and Paul Shankman (Colorado)

Participants:

Donna Winslow (Montreal). The Pacific in Western Imagination.


Nicholas Thomas (ANU). Religious and Secular Films from Papua, the Solomons and Vanuatu, 1915-1930.

*Allan Burns (Florida). Picture Micronesia: Representation Through Postcards and Participant Photography in Kosrae, FSM.


Sheila Clark (UCLA). The Mahu as Double Other.

Michele Dominy (Bard). Reading Popular Culture: An Analysis of Photojournalistic Representations of New Zealand's High Country.

*Paul Shankman (Colorado), Tracy Ehlers (Denver) and Linda Hodge (Colorado). Areal Representation in Cultural Anthropology: A Preliminary Study.

*In absentia.

For the second year in a row papers were delivered in a working session on Representations. Unfortunately, neither of the organizers was able to attend the meeting and 2 other scheduled participants also were absent. Nonetheless, the session included a total of 9 presentations—papers, videos, and slides—on a range of topics from religious representations to those from popular culture. At a post-session meeting the participants decided not to move forward to a symposium, and not to seek joint publication because of the great diversity of topics addressed. The two working sessions on Representations have resulted in a fruitful exchange of ideas, and in the likelihood that many of the papers prepared will be submitted independently for publication in the next year or two.

CHILDREN OF KILIBOB: CREATION, COSMOS AND CULTURE

Organizer: Ali Pomponio (St. Lawrence)

Participants:


*Thomas Harding (UC, Santa Barbara) and Stephen Clark (SIL). Sio's Story of Male.

*Romola McSwain. Kulbob and Manub: Past and Future Creator Deities of Karkar Island, PNG.
Ali Pomponio (St. Lawrence). Namor's Odyssey: Mythical Metaphors and History in Siassi.

Anton Ploeg (Utrecht). Mala Among the Kovai.

Naomi McPherson. The Legacy of Moro the Snake-man in Bariai, West New Britain.


Bill Thurston (McMaster). The Story of Titikolo: Ane'm History and Instruction.

*In absentia.

This memorial session to Peter Lawrence continued from last year's working session. Because of the number of international contributors and difficulties in travelling, there were 5 presenters and 3 papers offered in absentia, and the original symposium was scaled back to a working session. The level of discussion, however, might more accurately be described as a "working symposium." The session was organized around 3 central themes in Lawrence's work: The religiosity of these stories; the notion of religion as "technology," and all that that implies (cause/effects/patterns, instrumentality of religious ritual associated with the myth/legend[s]); and the epistemological value of these stories and their influence on behavior. A wide range of themes emanated from the papers, from definitions of humanity/non-human "persons," interpersonal and cross-gender behavior, important values, and morality tales, to concerted attempts to wrest political discourse and autonomy from colonial powers. After a full day's discussion, participants decided to publish the papers in a monograph dedicated to Peter Lawrence's memory.

SPIRITS IN THE PACIFIC

Organizers: Alan Howard (Hawai'i) and Jeanette Mageo (UC, San Diego/Hawai'i)

Participants:

Tamar Gordon (Bard). Tongan Spirits.


Mary MacDonald. [title unavailable].

Doug Hollan (UCLA). Spirit Possession Among the Toraja.

Jeanette Mageo (UC, San Diego/Hawai'i). Red Hibiscus: Decoding Possession in Samoa.

*Fran Hezel (Micronesian Seminar). Case Studies of Possessions in Micronesia.

*In absentia.

In addition to the 7 papers noted above, Niko Besnier, Dan Jorgensen and Ward Goodenough also presented ethnographic data and contributed to a lively discussion. Among topics discussed were: Types of spirits and distribution of spirit phenomena; localization versus generality of spirits; ritual performances involving or invoking spirits; cultural ends served by spirits; psychological ends served by spirits; the cultural logic of spiritual agency; talk and discourse about spirits; discourse and belief; historical change and spirits; competing ideologies and modes of discourse. Participants decided to move forward to a symposium at next year's annual meeting, and additional papers are welcomed addressing the above topics. For further information contact Alan Howard or Jeanette Mageo, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI 96822.

NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL CULTURES IN MELANESIA

Organizer: Robert Foster (Rochester)

Participants:

Edward LiPuma (Miami). Perspectives on the Construction of National Culture and Identity in Oceania.


Donna Winslow (Montreal). Kanak Custom and Independence in New Caledonia.


Pamela Rosi (Bryn Mawr). Bung Wanta'm: The Role of the National Arts School in the Creation of National Culture and Identity in Papua New Guinea.
Robert Foster (Rochester). Consuming the Nation: Mass Consumption and National Culture in Papua New Guinea.


*In absentia.

Participants met for a full day with a lively audience of between 20 and 30 people to discuss issues concerning the formation, transformation, and deformation of national cultures in Melanesia. The presentations divided into two related groups. One set addressed the limits to imagining the nation-as-community inherent in different representations of and discourses about the nation. Papers in this group analyzed political ideologies, as well as social constructions of custom, gender, and cosmological history. The other set of presentations focused on various practices that mediate the production of national culture and national citizens. Papers in this group analyzed the instrumental effects of education, consumerism, exchange, and ritual in disseminating national-cultural forms and inculcating new definitions of personhood. Several papers emphasized how such forms and definitions are variously appropriated, resisted, and given significance by local agents. LiPuma's introductory paper similarly emphasized that all attempts to understand the production of national cultures must recognize both the agency of local people and the encompassing constraints of a transnational capitalist economy.

The participants benefitted from the observations of many interested audience members; apologies to those who were unfortunately silenced by the dictates of time and the organizer. Special thanks are due the discussant, John Kelly, for his remarks and for his standing offer to provide individual participants with specific comments. Although it is not expected that the session will proceed to a symposium next year, all of the participants agreed to revise their papers and submit them for publication as an edited volume. Amy Burce and Ellen Facey have also expressed interest in contributing to this project.
DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN CULTURES IN OCEANIA

Organizers: Christine Jourdan (McGill) and Jean-Marc Philibert (Western Ontario)

Participants:

Rick Feinberg (Kent State). Outer Islanders and Urban Resettlement in the Solomon Islands: The Case of Anutans on Guadalcanal.

Roger Keesing (McGill). Foraging in the Urban Jungle: Notes from the Kwaio Underground.


Larry Mayo (DePaul). The Development of an Urban Culture in Guam.

*Jean-Marc Philibert (Western Ontario). [title unavailable].

Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi (Northeast Missouri). The Making of Urban, National, and Popular Cultures in PNG.

*In absentia.

This was the second working session on urban cultures. Seven papers were presented, 2 in absentia. Two running themes emerged from the collection of papers. The first dealt with the negotiation of urban identity and ethnic identity in an urban setting (papers by Feinberg, Keesing and Modell); the second dealt with the elaboration of urban modes of thought and cultural expression (papers by Jourdan, Mayo, Philibert and Zimmer-Tamakoshi). Discussion was lively and rich and addressed such topics as: generic culture; the creation of culture; contextuality and multivocality of identity, etc. Participants have agreed to go to joint publication, and to ask Ulf Hannerz (Stockholm) to write a conclusion to the set of essays.

INFORMAL SESSIONS

CULTURE AND DISABILITY IN THE PACIFIC

Organizers: Maureen Fitzgerald (Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research and Training Center) and Jocelyn Armstrong (Illinois, Urbana).

This informal session was convened to explore the social and cultural aspects of disability in Pacific societies, to help develop the anthropology of disability, and to expand the
knowledge base for the culturally informed training of rehabilitation practitioners. The session was planned with the encouragement of the Disability Studies Interest Group of the American Anthropological Association, and the support of both organizers’ institutions.

Six people attended the session and 3 others who were unable to attend expressed interest. Discussions elicited ideas and information on a variety of topics, including: Definitions of disability; attitudes to disability and to persons with disabilities; family responses to the presence of a disabled member; the myths and realities of society’s responses to disabled persons; the influences of modernization on the experience of disability; the epidemiology of disability; and culturally sensitive rehabilitation program development. Discussions referred to all major types of disability (physical, sensory, mental), and to both congenital and acquired conditions.

A working session is planned for the 1992 annual meeting. Prospective participants include: Jocelyn Armstrong (Illinois, Urbana), Judith Barker (UC, San Francisco), Maureen Fitzgerald (Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research and Training Center), Alan Howard (Hawai‘i), Mac Marshall (Iowa), Barbara McGrath (Washington), William McKellin (British Columbia), and Jan Rensel (Hawai‘i). Others interested in participating should contact one of the organizers:

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Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research and Training Center
226 North Kuakini St., Rm. 233
Honolulu, HI 96817

Jocelyn Armstrong
Institute for Research on Human Development
Univ. of Illinois
Champaign, IL 61820

CHANGES IN HOUSING AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE PACIFIC

Organizer: Jan Rensel (Hawai‘i).

Ten people attended the session, and judging from the animated discussion housing appears to provide a very fruitful common ground for examining and comparing economic and social changes. For rural island communities we discussed social impacts of changes such as: Shifting from native-style thatched houses to concrete houses; open-wall to closed-wall houses; clan houses to single family dwelling; building away from traditional foundations or malae; switching from reliance on island-based kin groups to dependence on remittances, bank loans or government aid. We also discussed the impact on social life of living in various types of urban housing, including single family dwellings in New Zealand (where garages are becoming important for Samoan kin group gatherings), and government projects and high rise dwelling in Hawai‘i.

We have decided to proceed to a working session at next year’s annual meeting. There are current commitments for papers about
Samoans in Hawai'i and New Zealand; Rotumans; Belauans; Pulapese; and desert Aborigines of Western Australia. Others, unable to attend the session, have expressed interest in contributing papers on social and housing change in Honiara and in Vanuatu, and an archaeologist has proposed looking at such change over the longue durée. Prospective participants include: Bob Franco (Kapi'olani C.C.) and Maureen Fitzgerald (Hawai'i); Cluny Macpherson (Auckland); Karen Nero (UC, Irvine); Juliana Flinn (Arkansas, Little Rock); Myrna Tonkinson (Western Australia); Christine Jourdan (McGill); Margaret Rodman (York); and Jan Rensel (Hawai'i).

For the working session we will examine our ethnographic data in terms of the following issues and themes: Consciousness and expressions of the value of tradition related to housing; factors favoring and inhibiting changes in house style, construction, and uses; construction processes, house style, and social status; changing patterns of support for house construction with outmigration and remittances; symbolism of changing house styles and settlement patterns; authority structures and access to resources for house construction and improvements; negotiating legal versus traditional claims to houses and house sites; openness versus hiddenness/social versus private spaces/communal versus individual property; ephemeral versus permanent housing and implications for dispute management; communal versus public buildings—who takes responsibility?; coping with governmental interference (aid, housing projects, regulations); coping with spatial constraints in urban housing.

Additional participants are welcome and should contact: Jan Rensel, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI 96822.

AGE STRATIFICATION AMONG WOMEN IN THE PACIFIC

Organizer: Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana, Indianapolis)

Seven persons met to explore how age and age stratification affect women's roles in particular communities and cultures. Discussion focused on how a woman's age affects her access to power, knowledge, and valued social roles and rewards. Some participants noted the sources of inequality in the opportunities and activities of younger and older women pre-contact. For example, among the pre-contact Bena-Bena the changes that occurred in women's lives following menopause and social adulthood formed the basis for age stratification among women. Other participants considered the ways that new or additional inequalities were created among women as an outcome of colonialism and the development process. In New Britain, for example, education afforded women greater opportunities and challenged older women's monopoly of reproductive knowledge.
A working session entitled "Women, Age and Power: The Politics of Age Differences Among Women" is planned for the 1992 annual meeting. Some important questions to be considered include: How does aging affect a woman's domestic authority, her control over resources, and her participation in extra-domestic activities? Do older women control important bodies of knowledge that could affect the lives of younger women, such as information about menstrual taboos, birth, contraception and abortion? Does older women's greater access to such knowledge form the basis for age inequality among women? Prospective participants include: Naomi McPherson (Okanagan); Jane Goodale (Bryn Mawr); Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi (Northeast Missouri); Dorothy Counts (Waterloo); and Victoria Garcia-Petersen (Lawrenceville). Contact the organizer if you are interested in joining: Jeanette Dickerson-Putman, Dept. of Anthropology, Indiana University at Indianapolis, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202

POLLUTION AND EMPOWERMENT

Organizers: Jocelyn Linnekin (Hawai'i) and Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana, Indianapolis)

Seven participants met to explore how concepts and ideas about pollution can be used as a source of power in various Pacific cultures. Questions to be addressed in the working session planned for the 1992 annual meeting include: To what extent and in what contexts do indigenous ideologies contrast "purity" and "defilement?" What are the sources and kinds of power that underlie the phenomena we have called "pollution?" How is this generative, spiritual, or ambivalent power named, conceptualized and channeled?

The list of prospective participants includes: Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana, Indianapolis); Naomi McPherson (Okanagan); Jocelyn Linnekin (Hawai'i); and Karen Sinclair (Eastern Michigan). Those wishing to join the session should contact: Jocelyn Linnekin, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI 96822

FOR THE CHILDREN: REPRESENTATIONS OF OCEANIA FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN AUDIENCE

Organizer: Ellen Facey (Mount Allison)

Six persons met over lunch to discuss writing stories about the Pacific for a youthful American and Canadian audience. We decided to aim at the 4-year-old, trying to write a short, original tale and/or to adapt an indigenous one. It should appeal to and be easily understood by Western children of that age, giving them an ethnographic slice of what life in that Pacific culture is like. The participants agreed to write their stories to be exchanged and read in a Special Session at next year's meeting. Participants include: Ellen Facey (Mount
Allison); Naomi McPherson (Okanagan); Dorothy Counts (Waterloo); Bill Thurston (McMaster); Rick Goulden (Mohawk C.); Victoria Garcia-Petersen (Lawrenceville); and Christine Jourdan (McGill). Additional participants are welcome and should contact: Ellen Facey, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada  E0A 3C0.

RELIGIOUS REVIVALS IN MELANESIA

Organizers:  Dan Jorgensen (Western Ontario) and Jan Godschaalk (Western Ontario)

Participants in the session included the organizers and Mary MacDonald, Amy Burce, Eytan Bercovitch, Stuart Kirsch, Robert Brumbaugh, and Dawn Ryan. George Westermark sat in as a friendly observer, while John Barker has agreed to act as a discussant for next year's working session. The emphasis will be on movements associated with Christianity; our attention is at present confined to Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, a focus that is open to revision if others are interested. The discussion revealed a diversity of preoccupations: Some stressed the traditional antagonism between Christian movements and indigenous culture, while others emphasized the indigenization of Christianity in contemporary communities. It was suggested that a historical perspective might help sort out conflicting readings in such ideologically polarized contexts. This seemed especially important in light of the fact that such movements seem to be at the center of struggles over cultural legitimacy in both local and larger arenas. The contested nature of this topic is likely to remain a persistent theme. Other issues raised included: Linkage between such movements and economic change; the gender dimensions of such movements; their relation to official religion; the perceived resemblance between Christian revivals and cargo cults; historical and regional patterns of transmission; rivalry between movements; and the relevance of national political contexts to an interpretation of local events (particularly appropriate in comparisons between PNG and Irian Jaya). We will move to a working session for next year, when we hope to attract scholars from the Irian Jaya scene. Those wishing to join should contact: Dan Jorgensen, Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada  N6A 5C2.

CHIEFS TODAY

Organizers:  Lamont Lindstrom (Tulsa) and Geoffrey White (East-West Center)

An impressive and chiefly group met briefly over breakfast to discuss the possibilities of a working session for 1992 under the loose rubric "Chiefs Today." The emergence, revaluation, and integration of "chiefs" within contemporary Pacific polities was one issue highlighted in the sessions on "Custom Today" that culminated in a symposium at the 1991 annual meeting.
on these earlier discussions, we propose to focus comparatively on contemporary chiefly status and practice in Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia, too, where many erstwhile bigmen are rapidly "Chiefifying" ("enchiefening?") themselves.

Those attending the meeting, and their areas of interest, included: Jocelyn Armstrong (Illinois, Urbana); Larry Carucci (Montana State—claims versus performative legitimations of Marshallese chiefs); Bill Donner (Kutztown--traditional to modern Sikaiana chiefs); Rick Feinberg (Kent State--Anutan chiefs as symbols of local identity vis-a-vis the nation); Bob Franco (Kapi'olani C.C.--history of Samoan chieftainship); Alan Howard and Jan Rensel (Hawaii--Rotuman chiefs in the context of Fijian politics); Elizabeth Keating (UCLA--Pohnpeian chiefs and kava); Roger Keesing (McGill--Kwaio "paramount chiefs" against the historical background of Maasina Rule); Monty Lindstrom (Tulsa--chiefs in Vanuatu's revised constitution); Cluny Macpherson (Auckland--chiefs and constitutional sleights of hand in Western Samoa); Karen Nero (UC, Irvine--chiefs in Palau's constitution and legal system); Ton Otto (ANU--revival and institutionalization of Manus Japan); Glenn Petersen (Baruch--chiefs in Pohnpei and FSM government); Eve Pinsker (Chicago--role of FSM chiefs in the nation, state and municipality); Bill Rodman (McMaster--"From Big Man to Chief: Changing Narratives of Local Leadership in Anthropological Discourse Concerning Melanesia"); Geoff White (East-West Center--Santa Isabel paramount chiefs and House of Chiefs); and Matori Yamamoto (UC, Berkeley--chiefs in Western Samoa). Others interested in contributing should send a 1-3 page "statement of interest" by November 15, 1991 to:

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REGIONAL HISTORIES IN OCEANIA

Organizer: Dan Jorgensen (Western Ontario)

This session was concocted on the spur of the moment but immediately struck a responsive chord among those present at the Victoria meetings. In addition to the organizer, participants included: Dorothy Counts (Waterloo); Karen Nero (UC, Irvine); Larry Carucci (Montana State); Bob Franco (Kapi'olani C.C.); Eytan Bercovitch (Chicago); Stuart Kirsch (Pennsylvania); Jim Watson (Washington); Richard Scaglion (Pittsburgh); and Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana, Indianapolis). Gene Ogan (Minnesota) and John Terrell (Field Museum) also expressed an interest, although they were unable to attend.

Ethnographic representation ranged from PNG to Micronesia and western Polynesia. Most discussion centered on clarifying the notion of region in precolonial, colonial, and post-colonial
contexts. A sampling of topics discussed includes: Different forms of regional configuration and the variety of processes that may constitute a region; the role of trade, ceremonial exchange, mythology and cults in the development of precolonial regional systems; historical dynamics of regional economic networks; regional systems and political boundaries; the emergence of regional consciousness and the state; the relation between different ethnohistories and "official" histories. No precise linkage among these topics was established, but the group adjourned with much enthusiasm and a commitment to reconvene as a working session in 1992. Those interested in joining should contact: Dan Jorgensen, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5C2.

CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC ISLANDER MIGRATION

Organizer: Karen Nero (UC, Irvine)

Fourteen people attended the session and 12 expressed an interest in participating in a working session next year. Among the major areas of interest that emerged from the discussion were the following: In much of the Pacific, history and cultural identity are constructed and marked through stories of peoples' movement through space—migration stories and the relationships with land and people thereby established. In what ways do contemporary step and circular migrations fit established frameworks? What are the push-pull factors of dispersed versus cohesive communities? Do processes of the construction and imposition of cultural identity vary in metropolitan nations and centers, and what is the effect of shifts within dialect chains as opposed to crossing linguistic and cultural boundaries? How are gender relationships affected, i.e., shifts in the locus of household based on the economic activities of the male, where they were previously centered on female activities? Do second and third generation cultural identity strategies always overturn those of the first generation? Education and employment are two major impetuses and purposes for migration and have differential constraints for continued legal access to metropolitan communities. What other differences relate to this type of access? What are the effects of islander migrations upon home communities, and at what point(s) do the extended families shift their center of gravity? The session is closely related to Jan Rensel's on the effects of new types of housing on familial relationships.

Current participants for next year's working session include Cluny Macpherson (Auckland), Matori Yamamoto (UC, Berkeley), Jocelyn Armstrong (Illinois, Urbana), Mac Marshall (Iowa), Dawn Ryan (Monash), Bob Franco (Kapi'olani C.C.), Eudene Luther (McMaster), Amy Burce (Texas, Austin), Juliana Flinn (Arkansas, Little Rock), Alan Howard (Hawai'i), and Jan Rensel (Hawai'i). We especially invite Pacific Islander participants, and others interested in joining. Please contact: Karen L. Nero, Dept. of
V. PROPOSED SESSIONS FOR 1992 ANNUAL MEETING

As the information on the 1991 annual meeting given above indicates, 1 symposium, 8 working sessions, and 1 special session have been proposed for next year's meeting. Specifically, these include the following:

Symposium
*Spirits in the Pacific.

Working Sessions
*Culture and Disability in the Pacific.
*Changes in Housing and Social Relationship in the Pacific.
*Women, Age and Power: The Politics of Age Difference Among Women.
*Pollution and Empowerment.
*Religious Revivals in Melanesia.
*Chiefs Today.
*Regional Histories in Oceania.
*Contemporary Pacific Islander Migration.

Special Session

Session organizers should keep the newsletter editor apprised of their session's status, so that the membership may, in turn, be kept informed. In addition to the session proposals noted above, the following sessions have been planned for the 1992 annual meeting:

WORKING SESSION

THE LEGITIMACY OF VIOLENCE IN MELANESIA--HISTORICAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Organizers: Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi (Northeast Missouri) and Dorothy Counts (Waterloo)

The purpose of this session is to look at the legitimacy of violence in Melanesia from both historical and cross-cultural perspectives. Types of violence include: Violence within the family (e.g., domestic violence, child and/or parent abuse, violence between siblings); intergroup violence and warfare; rebellion (e.g., violence against the state and big business); and violence against unknown or unrelated persons (e.g., gang rapes in Port Moresby or the gang rapes of unrelated village women). Topics to be investigated include: Changing definitions of acceptable and nonacceptable violence; changes in who defines what is and is not unacceptably violent behavior and who is more likely to be a victim of such acts and redefinitions; the
changing contexts of violence, as in urban-based rascal gangs, regional inequality and violence against the state or more favorably positioned neighbors, and high levels of violence among the educated, mostly urban elite.

Those interested in participating in this session should send a statement of interest and/or abstract to Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi. She will be at the East-West Center, Honolulu, HI 96848 from June 10--August 2, 1991, and thereafter at: Division of Social Science, Northeast Missouri State University, Kirksville, MO 63501.

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC

Organizers: Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana, Indianapolis) and Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi (Northeast Missouri)

Contact: Jeanette Dickerson-Putman, Dept. of Anthropology, Indiana University at Indianapolis, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

INFORMAL SESSION

THE EFFECTS OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON PACIFIC PEOPLE, GROUPS, CULTURES

Organizer: Ellen Facey (Mount Allison)

I am interested in hearing from people who would like to discuss some of the impacts their research (fieldwork and/or publication) have had on the people with whom they have lived and studied. Many variables may enter into the definition and limits of these events or experiences: Whether impacts are minor or major, known or unknown but, to various degrees, predictable; whether they are short-term, long-term or even permanent; deliberate versus unintended involvements and their effects. Different levels may be relevant, from effects on single individuals to those felt by whole families, villages, or societies. I am particularly interested in (1) ethical issues arising from these realizations, especially in relation to training future fieldworkers, and (2) instances in which gendered norms and expectations play a prominent part. These should not be taken as required elements; they are merely mentioned as possible areas on which to concentrate. Interested parties should contact: Ellen Facey, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Mount Allison UNiversity, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada E0A 3CO.
VI. HONORARY FELLOW: KENELM BURRIDGE

John Barker
University of British Columbia

In the Harry Hawthorn Lecture, delivered before the Canadian Anthropology Society in May 1989, Ken Burridge presents a "parable of history" in which he eloquently weaves a personal retrospective with a meditation on anthropology. The central theme of that stimulating talk is that anthropology has come "through a Vico spiral" and seems "to be returning to its etymological origins: a gossiping or talking about humankind" (1989:92). This talking continues to draw from listening "to the ignored, disadvantaged and disenfranchised—who will not necessarily be the same sorts of people, the same sorts of things, tomorrow as they are today or were yesterday" (1989:96). One is reminded of other dynamics Burridge has explored in Melanesia and beyond—millenarianism, the moral and the divine, structure and event, the encounter with the Other, missionary metanoias, and the person and the individual. A concern with renewal and transcendence runs through all of Burridge's writings.

These are heady themes and, indeed, Burridge often challenges his readers with the breadth of his interests and knowledge. He has never respected disciplinary boundaries. Beginning with his earliest work, Burridge broke with functionalist conventions by placing his rich ethnographic descriptions of the Tangu people of Papua New Guinea in the historical contexts of internal cultural innovations and colonialism. Anticipating current reflections on anthropological writing, he showed, in Encountering Aborigines (1973), that ethnographic portraits of aboriginal Australians had to be understood in the context of European intellectual and moral traditions and the long history of imagining the "Other." Burridge also insisted that anthropologists accord all subjects the ethnographic respect necessary to understand their motivations and actions. He thus began researching and writing about missionaries and new Christians in Third World countries long before these became acceptable topics within the anthropological tribe (1979a). His most ambitious book, Someone, No One (1979b), combines anthropology, history, philosophy and theology in a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of being an individual.

I suspect that Burridge's lack of respect for disciplinary fads and boundaries, along with his wide erudition, has at times cost him anthropological readers. In my experience it has mostly been historians and ethnohistorians who have expressed admiration for his work. Yet it has been fascinating to watch anthropologists discover and rediscover Burridge's writings and recognize their continuing significance for contemporary issues. To give a few examples: Burridge's (1971) important analysis of the cultural interactions of the manager (big man) and sorcerer in Melanesian
society; his pioneering study of mythology, *Tangu Traditions* (1969a); and his classic comparative work on millenarian movements, *New Heaven, New Earth* (1969b). Burridge's writings on Melanesia and elsewhere continue to offer important alternative insights on indigenous cultures and the ethnographers and others who encounter them.

Burridge belongs to the first generation of post-War British-trained anthropologists working in Oceania. He was the first student in the new Anthropology department at the Australian National University, then under the chairmanship of Siegfried Nadel. Along with Peter Lawrence, he resisted the pressures to study in the New Guinea highlands, choosing instead to work nearer the coast in Madang. His main interest was with indigenous politics, but the Tangu and Manam Islanders drew him, most reluctantly, into the study of cargo cults (see the preface to *Mambu* [1960]).

After securing the first Ph.D. from the Australian National University in 1953, Burridge worked as a Research Fellow at the University of Malaya, Professor and Head of Anthropology at the University of Baghdad, Lecturer at the Pitt Rivers Museum of the University of Oxford, and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Western Australia. He came to the University of British Columbia in 1968 as Professor and served there until his retirement in 1987.

Ken is a superb teacher, individually and before a class. He has a gift for combining theoretical insight with the telling anecdote; his classes were among the most popular in the Department. Among my early recollections of Ken are interminable waits in the hall outside his office with a small crowd of other students. Trying to cope with the ever-growing demands for meetings from undergraduate and graduate students, Ken set up scheduled meetings, but he was never able to send a student out of his office when the time was up. He insisted on the best that his students could give, and he, with Cyril Belshaw, supervised the dissertation research of some of our most gifted Oceanic scholars, including Eric Schwimmer, Robert Tonkinson, John LeRoy, Dan Jorgensen and John-Marc Philibert.

Ken Burridge lives in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island with his wife, Ann. His latest book, *In the Way: An Essay on Christian Missionary Endeavours*, will be published by the University of British Columbia Press later this year.

REFERENCES CITED

Burridge, K.O.L.


VII. NEWS AND NOTES

A. Jeanette Dickerson-Putman and Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi are organizing a session on *Women and Development in Oceania* for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, to be held in Memphis, Tennessee, March 25-29, 1992. The overall theme of the SfAA meeting is: Regional Research and Development, Domestic and International Perspectives. Paper abstracts are due to SfAA by October 31, 1991, so anyone interested in participating should contact one of the organizers well before then:

Jeanette Dickerson-Putman
Dept. of Anthropology
Indiana University, Indianapolis
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi
Division of Social Sciences
Northeast Missouri State University
Kirksville, MO 63501*

B. Niko Besnier and Kerry James have been selected as the new Rockefeller Fellows in the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai'i, during 1991-92.


D. A major collection of Oceanic art, said to be "the most comprehensive private collection of Melanesian art in the country," has been given to the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College. The donation places the Hood Museum among the largest public repositories of Oceanic art in the United States, and establishes it as a major center for the study and teaching of Melanesian art. For further information call Elisabeth Gordon or Julia Gomez at (603) 646-2426.

E. Longstanding ASAO member Kenneth E. Knudson, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Guam, died of cancer
August 23, 1990, in Guam at age 56. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 1970, and taught at UC, Berkeley (1967-69), Oregon (1969-70), Nevada, Reno (1971-1980), and Guam (1981-88). Knudson's Pacific research included field studies of cultural change and stability in a community of Gilbert Islanders (I Kiribati) relocated to the Solomon Islands, of urbanization and family change in Kiribati itself, and of various subjects in Guam. In his doctoral dissertation he analyzed the relationships among subsistence, environmental variations, and social organization on the coral islands of Micronesia. [Information provided by Rosalind Hunter-Anderson.]

F. The "THESE-PAC" Association awards 2 prizes each year of US$1,000 to the best university work on the South Pacific Islands and Australia, and to the best university work about New Caledonia. Submissions must be sent by December 31, 1991 to: THESE-PAC, B.P. 920, Noumea, New Caledonia.

G. Alexander Spoehr, Pacific anthropologist and former director of the Bishop Museum was one of the recipients of the 1991 Bishop Museum Charles Reed Bishop Medal.

H. Micronesian Research Permit News. Karen Nero has provided the following current information. At present the Marshall Islands requires no research permit of U.S. citizens. However, the Nitijela is considering legislation similar to that in effect in the FSM (see below), with the Historic Preservation Office in charge of permits, which should come into effect by August 1991. For further information and updates contact: Historic Preservation Office, Alele Museum, Library and National Archives, PO Box 629, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands 96960 [Phone: (692) 9 3226.]

The Federated States of Micronesia has established a clearinghouse procedure for anyone proposing research "in the areas of archaeology, oral history, social culture, custom, arts/crafts, archival, political history, architectural history, economic development history, or anything to do with historic and cultural resources in the FSM." Please contact the FSM National Historic Preservation Officer (FSM NHPO) at the address shown below to request your Research Clearance Permit. The FSM NHPO will assist in processing the necessary clearances in each state and with the immigration offices. Send a letter of inquiry and copy of your research proposal, and a 2-3 page summary of the proposed project. Please allow 3-6 months for processing. The main requirements are that the researcher comply with local requirements and laws, and provide 3 copies of the final report of the research. Transportation of artifacts requires special prearranged agreements. Police and health clearances are also required at the time of arrival from the place you have resided during the past 6 months. For further information write: Federated States of Micronesia, Division of Archives and Historic Preservation, Office of Administrative Services, PO Box PS 35,
I. The greenhouse warming's potential effect on Pacific atolls was the subject of a cover story in Science News, March 30, 1991 (Volume 139, No. 13). The cover photograph of Eauripik was provided by ASAO member Michael J. Levin (US Bureau of the Census).

J. The 1991 Asia-Pacific Summer Institute in Public Health will be held June 10-July 19 on the University of Hawai'i at Manoa campus. Further details may be obtained from the UH School of Public Health [Phone: (808) 956-9775 or 956-8267; FAX: (808) 956-4585.]

K. "Urbanization and modernization in Oceania." Over the past 30 years, Guam's mean personal household income grew a little over 400% in real terms (from $3,500 to $33,000), civilian employment in federal and territorial government rose 225%, private sector employment increased by 205%, and retail sales grew by 3,000% (to more than $1 billion in 1990). Visitor arrivals averaged an annual growth rate of 17% from 1987-90 (to 850,000), and total construction numbers in 1990 were at a level almost 10 times higher than in 1984. Source: Bank of Hawaii's 1990 Economic Report on Guam.

L. Greenpeace Magazine, May-June 1991, reports that the Gogol-Naru people of PNG, whose lands have been clearcut and destroyed by Jant Pty., Ltd., a subsidiary of Honshu Paper Corporation over the past 16 years, shut down the logging operations last October by blockading roads. In January 1991, the landowners called for a complete halt to the logging operations, organized new blockades, demanded that the Jant contract be immediately reviewed by the government, that an environmental impact assessment be carried out, and that they be compensated for the degradation of their lands.

M. Harry L. Shapiro, whose Ph.D. dissertation was on the descendants of the Bounty mutineers living on Norfolk Island, died in 1990 at the age of 88. Among his several works on Polynesia was his study of Pitcairn Island, Heritage of the Bounty (1936). Shapiro also studied migrants to Hawai'i in the pre-World War Two period.

N. Linda A. Allen, Ph.D. student (Iowa), has received a seed grant from Iowa's Center for International Rural and Environmental Health for preliminary reconnaissance research in Hawai'i, Guam and the Marshall Islands from May-July 1991. She will work in the Pacific Collection at the University of Hawai'i and in the collection at MARC on Guam, and will spend a month on Majuro to make arrangements for subsequent dissertation research in the Marshalls during 1992-93. Her special interests are in gender and medical anthropology, particularly substance abuse.
VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

A. ASAO Bibliography. More than 25 people at the Victoria meeting indicated an interest in receiving a copy of the ASAO bibliography. Those who would like to receive one should send name, address and US$5.00 to Rick Feinberg to cover the cost of printing, binding and postage. Checks should be made out to Rick. Additions to the bibliography should be sent to the newsletter editor. Corrections should be sent to: Rick Feinberg, Dept. of Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242. Please note that signing the survey at the Victoria meeting was only intended to gauge interest, and an actual copy must be ordered separately. Because Rick will be in Hawai'i for the summer, no one should expect to receive a copy until sometime after August.

B. Outgoing FSM President, John R. Hagelgarn, recently gave the inaugural Distinguished Annual Lecture in Micronesian Studies for a new program of the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) at the University of Guam. His talk, entitled "Problems of National Unity and Economic Development in the FSM," has been printed, along with a transcription of questions and answers that followed. Copies are available for US$4.00, including postage and handling. Checks should be made out to MARC/UOG and sent to: Don Rubinstein, Director, MARC/UOG, UOG Station, Guam 96923.

C. Sadly, The Centre for South Pacific Studies at the University of New South Wales has lost its university financial support, and the last of their excellent and informative newsletters was sent in February 1991 (Volume 5, No. 1).

D. The journal Pacifica, begun by Alaska Pacific University in 1989, has been discontinued for budget reasons following Volume 2, Number 2.

E. The Institute of Culture and Communication, East-West Center, will send on request a free 52 page annotated bibliography on "Television in the Pacific Islands," compiled by Rico Lie. Contact: ICC, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI 96848, Attn: Michael Macmillan.

F. The Mi-Culture of the Mount Hagen People, by Hermann Strauss, translated by Brian Shields and edited by G. Stürzenhofecker and A.J. Strathern has been published by the Dept. of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh.

G. Toon van Meijl has completed a Ph.D. dissertation at ANU entitled, "Political Paradoxes and Timeless Traditions: Ideology and Development Among the Tainui Maori, New Zealand."

H. The Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai'i, has issued Occasional Paper No. 35. Authored by Glenn Petersen, it is entitled Lost in the Weeds: Theme and Variation
ISLA: A NEW JOURNAL

Editor: Dr. Robert A. Underwood
First Issue -- Summer 1991

A Journal of Micronesian Studies

The University of Guam announces the formation of a journal about the Micronesian region of the Pacific Ocean. To be published semi-annually, ISLA: A JOURNAL OF MICRONESIAN STUDIES will be a refereed publication and multidisciplinary in character.

Drawing from research in the social sciences, education, commerce, and health, and ranging in time from prehistory to the present, ISLA and its companion publication, "Micronesica," are the only scholarly journals devoted specifically to MICRONESIA.

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ISLA's focus on MICRONESIA makes it a journal of particular importance to libraries serving the needs of scholars and students of Pacific areal studies. ISLA will also be of special interest to universities, institutes, and research organizations which focus on Pacific Basin affairs, past and present; to researchers and academicians keeping abreast of their fields; and to administrators and professionals in both the public and private sectors of life throughout MICRONESIA.

The editors hope that articles published in ISLA will expand our understanding of MICRONESIA from the period of its earliest human occupation to today, and that the existence of a forum for Micronesian studies will encourage research in this part of the Pacific.

Manuscript Submission

Manuscripts should conform to the APA Style Manual, American Psychological Association (3rd ed.). Please submit four copies, double-spaced throughout, and typed on one side only. ISLA prefers contributions of 20-30 pages in length; focused book reviews and notes submissions should be shorter, or no more than 10 pages. For further information and manuscript submission, write to:

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