

THE PACIFIC CIRCLE



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PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWS

Pacific Circle participation at the recent IUHPS Congress in Budapest included the selection of new officers and council members. This group replaces those who kindly served during the previous four-year term. Thank you very much to those scholars for their many contributions to the Circle.

The following have been designated to serve for the 2009-2013 term:

Officers:

President: Roy MacLeod, University of Sydney, Australia

Vice-President: Zuoyue Wang, California State Polytechnic University—
Pomona, USA

Secretary/Treasurer: Jacob Darwin Hamblin, Oregon State University, USA

Editor, Bulletin: Peter H. Hoffenberg, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, USA

Council Members:

Warwick H. Anderson, University of Sydney, Australia

Marcos Cueto, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru

John Gascoigne, University of New South Wales, Australia

Douglas M. Haynes, University of California—Irvine, USA

Jong-Chan Lee, School of Medicine, Ajou University, Korea

Gabriela Soto Laveaga, University of California—Santa Barbara, USA

Philip K. Wilson, Pennsylvania State University, USA

Yang Lifan, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China



HSS NEWS

The upcoming History of Science Society annual meeting is scheduled for November 19-22, 2009, in Phoenix, Arizona. Next year's meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada, and will be a joint meeting with the Philosophy of Science Association. Please visit the Society's web site: <http://www.hssonline.org>.

RECENT CONFERENCE REPORTS

Janet Garber was kind enough to send us this report from the recent annual meeting of the AAAS, Pacific Division:

“The annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held in San Francisco 14-19 August, 2009, at the California Academy of Sciences and San Francisco State University. In addition to the usual plenary session speakers and contributed paper sessions, a special two-day symposium was held on Darwin and the Galapagos, organized by Michael Ghiselin, author of *The Triumph of the Darwinian Method*. The Academy has recently (February 2009) published Dr. Ghiselin's *Reader's Guide to Darwin*, which will be useful to many Darwin scholars. Speakers on the first day discussed Darwin's own experiences on the Galapagos and learning about his collections once back in England. The second day was largely dedicated to current studies of the Galapagos.

The symposium was dedicated to the memory of Robert Bowman, former professor of Biology at San Francisco State University, who studied Galapagos birds. Michele Aldrich and Alan Leviton of the California Academy discussed Bowman's contributions. Jere Lipps (University of California—Berkeley) pointed out how small a portion of Darwin's voyage was spent on the Galapagos.

Other speakers at the symposium included Sandra Herbert (University of Maryland), who discussed the integration of Darwin's geological specimens with his notes and his book, *Volcanic Islands*, and with his zoological and botanical work, and Sally Gibson (Cambridge University), geologist, who traced Darwin's steps on Santiago Island through his rock collections. Gibson found that Darwin had a remarkably keen collectors' eye. Jonathan Hodge (University of Leeds) discussed Darwin's changing views on species after learning from John Gould that the finches he collected were of different species, not just varieties. Michael Ghiselin discussed Darwin's gradual change of mind, and Duncan Porter (Virginia Tech University)

how his plant collections influenced his theorizing.

On the second day, Edward Larson (Pepperdine University) related accounts of visits to the Galapagos before 1832, and scientists at the Academy of Sciences, Robert van Syoc and John McCosker discussed current studies of Galapagos barnacles and fishes. Jack Dumbacher (Academy of Sciences) related the work of Rollo Beck on Galapagos and Pacific Ocean birds. It was a special privilege to see and hear Peter and Rosemary Grant (Princeton University) talk about their annual visits to and studies of finches on the Galapagos, and Frank Sulloway (University of California—Berkeley) discuss how modern research on the Galapagos has shown light on some of Darwin's key arguments for his theory. Sulloway quoted from a letter from Darwin to Hooker in 1846: "The Galapagos seems a perennial source of new things." It seems that they still are.

The remaining three days of the meeting included more on Darwin: symposia on Darwin's influence on all aspects of culture, on the possibilities of "weird life" on other planets, on the evolution of cooperation, the evolution of novel creatures or structures (wings or jaws), and one session of contributed papers. There were symposia, workshops, posters and contributed papers on changes in the San Francisco Bay, drought in California, Science Education, Conservation, Physical and Social Sciences, Archaeology, and field trips, including one to the San Andreas Fault, and an extra trip: to the Galapagos.

For anyone interested in more about the meetings, the Proceedings may be ordered from the AAAS, Pacific Division, Southern Oregon University, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520 for \$10.00. Email: aaaspd@sou.edu.

It should be pointed out that the original California Academy of Sciences, built in 1891, was destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906, and the collections made by a group of seven scientists who sailed for the Galapagos just before the earthquake formed the core of the Academy's collections on their return. The new Academy, built in 1916, was severely damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, torn down and the new Academy opened in September 2008. The building includes a "living roof" with plants, an aquarium, a tropical forest, and an astrodome, as well as educational displays and of course the collections."

Many thanks to Zuoyue Wang for sending the following report on "Science and Technology in the Making of Modern China:"

"The 2009 Hixon Forum on Science, Technology and Society at Harvey

Mudd College in California focused on the theme of “Science and Technology in the Making of Modern China” and was held on February 27-28, 2009. Drawing together an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars from North America and China and from the history of science and China studies, it marked an important milestone in the historical study of science and technology in modern China as it explored the national and transnational contexts for such developments.

Papers on such diverse topics as Chinese geology as a site of nation-building and transnational negotiations (Grace Yen Shen of York University), scientific contributions of missionary universities (Danian Hu of City University of New York), Sino-US (Sigrid Schmalzer of University of Massachusetts—Amherst and Richard P. Suttmeier of University of Oregon) and Sino-Soviet scientific exchanges (Zhang Jiuchen of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Bao Ou of Tsinghua University), and Chinese American scientists (Zuoyue Wang of Harvey Mudd College) all connected transnational interactions and domestic developments. Papers on the social and political status of Chinese scientists under Mao Zedong (Zhang Li of the Chinese Academy of Sciences), on military/civilian dual use technologies (Tai Ming Cheung of University of California—San Diego), on China’s efforts to build a talent pool (Cong Cao of State University of New York—Levin Institute), and on its nanotechnology policy (Rich Appelbaum of University of California—Santa Barbara) all highlighted the critical role of the state in scientific and technological development. Popular science also emerged as an important theme as papers explored mass mobilization in earthquake predictions (Fa-ti Fan of State University of New York—Binghamton) and in other areas. Commentaries by prominent scholars such as R. Bin Wong of the University of California—Los Angeles and Kenneth Pomeranz of the University of California—Irvine provided valuable reminders about the continuity between the late imperial, Republican, and the PRC eras.

All forum participants valued the opportunity for scholarly discussions and many expressed the hope of continuing the discussion in a similar form in the future. The 2009 Hixon Forum was organized by Marianne De Laet (Harvey Mudd College) and Zuoyue Wang, the Harvey Mudd College Hixon-Riggs Visiting Professor in Science, Technology, and Society for 2008-2009. Among sponsors of the conference was the Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College.

Further information is available at www.hmc.edu/hixonforum.



**FUTURE MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS,
and CALLS FOR PAPERS**

30 October 2009. Sawyer Seminar Session Five: “Varieties of Empire in the Antipodes: Taking Over and Letting Go,” to be held in the Holme and Sutherland Rooms, Holme Building, University of Sydney, from 3 until 5:30 p.m. For additional information, please contact Katherine Anderson at katherine.anderson@usyd.edu.au.

20-22 November 2009. “150 Years of Evolution: Darwin’s Impact on the Humanities and Social Sciences,” a symposium in honor of the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origins of Species*, to be held at San Diego State University. Scholars from all disciplines will discuss the impact of Darwin’s ideas in the Humanities and Social Sciences, including disciplinary specific or interdisciplinary papers. For additional information, contact Symposium Chair, Department of Philosophy, SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-6014, USA or (619) 594-6706, or visit <http://cal.sdsu.edu/Darwin/index.html>.

20-22 January 2010. International Conference on “Race, Encounters, and the Constitution of Human Difference in Oceania,” to be held at the College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University, Canberra, A.C.T. The conference will showcase the results of an Australian Research Council-funded project by Bronwen Douglas, Chris Ballard, and Elena Govor on “European Naturalists and the Constitution of Human Difference in Oceania: Crosscultural Encounters and the Science of Race, 1768-1888.” Keynote speakers include Warwick Anderson (University of Sydney), Michael Bravo (University of Oxford) and Rainer Buschmann (Purdue University). Sessions will address aspects of the history of race and encounters in one or more parts of Oceania, defined as Australia, the Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, and Island Southeast Asia. For more information, contact Bronwen Douglas at bronwen.douglas@anu.edu.au or Chris Ballard at chris.ballard@anu.edu.au.



1-5 March 2010. First International Conference on “Environmental Pollution, Restoration, and Management,” to be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The conference theme is improving environmental quality in the developing world. For additional information, please visit <http://vniceporm.com> or contact Tham Hoang at hoangt@fiu.edu.

10-14 March 2010. “Currents of Change,” the Annual Conference of the American Society for Environmental History, to be held in Portland, Oregon. The ASEH will meet jointly with the National Council on Public History, but each organization will offer its own program. For information, contact Donald C. Jackson at jacksond@lafayette.edu.

19 March 2010. Sawyer Seminar Session Six: “Sexuality in the South Seas,” to be held at the University of Sydney. For additional information, please contact Katherine Anderson at katherine.anderson@usyd.edu.au.

7-10 April 2010. “Travel, Writing, and Literatures of Exploration, c. 1750-c. 1850,” an international interdisciplinary conference to be held at the University of Edinburgh’s Institute of Geography and Centre for the History of the Book. Scholars in Geography, History, Book History, Literary Studies, and the History of Science are invited to consider the relationships among travel, exploration, and publishing to better understand the acquisition of knowledge. Papers and panels will consider aspects of travel in the period, most particularly those that address one or more of the following themes: “travelers’ inscriptive practices;” “travelers’ credibility and the veracity of written accounts;” and “the correspondence between manuscript and print.” Please address queries to Dr. Innes M. Keighren, Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, Edinburgh, Scotland EH8 9XP and innes.keighren@ed.ac.uk.

29 April – 2 May, 2010. Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, to be held on the campus of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, New York. For additional information, please visit <http://histmed.org>.

14 May 2010. Sawyer Seminar Session Seven: “Human Biology and Health in the Pacific Field,” to be held at the University of Sydney. Papers consider how Western European and North American intrusions and empires reshaped the Pacific’s disease environment, as well as produced new knowledge about both humans and the pathological consequences of their many interpersonal and ecological interactions. Contact Katherine Anderson at katherine.anderson@usyd.edu.au.

22-25 June 2010. 3rd International Conference on The History of Medicine in Southeast Asia (HOMSEA 2010), to be held in Singapore and organized by the Department of History, STS Research Cluster & Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore. All proposals on the subject of the history of medicine and health in Southeast Asia will be considered, but preference given to those consistent with the theme of: “New Medicines, Markets, and the Development of Medical Pluralism.” That theme will explore how both local and metropolitan actors in the region have contributed historically to the growth and development of medical markets—traditional, colonial and post-colonial. Participants are particularly encouraged to submit individual papers and panels on Women and Health in Southeast Asia; Medical Pluralism in Southeast Asia: A Historical Perspective; Medical Markets in Southeast Asia; Southeast Asian Bio-poleis; and New Sources, New Methodologies, New Historiographies. Please submit a one-page proposal abstract and a one-page c.v. by December 30, 2009 to: Laurence Monnais at laurence.monnais-rousselot@umontreal.ca. For additional information, please contact John DiMoia at jpd@nus.edu.sg.

25 June 2010. Sawyer Seminar Session Eight: “The Antarctic Laboratory: Science, Culture, and the Law,” to be held at the University of Sydney. Paper topics to be announced. Please contact Katherine Anderson at katherine.anderson@usyd.edu.au.

19-21 August 2010. First Latin American Regional Conference of the International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Group (IHPST-LA), to be held at Maresias in the State of São Paulo, Brazil. The meeting will be devoted to the presentation and discussion of papers on the use of history and philosophy of science in the treatment of pedagogical, curricular and theoretical problems in science teaching. Submitted papers in English, Spanish or Portuguese are welcome. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2010. For information about proposals and the conference, please visit: <http://www.hpsst-brazil2010.org/IHPST-LA/index.html>.

7-9 October 2010. “Climate, Environment and Disease: Crossing Historico-Geographical Boundaries,” The Fifth Asian Society for the History of Medicine Conference, to be held in Suwon, South Korea. The Society welcomes paper submissions for general historians, as well as historians of medicine. Papers on the following topics are particularly encouraged: Comparative Ecology of Climate and Disease between the East and the West; Nature, Humanity and Race; Asian Black Death and Global Environment; Little Ice Age, Global Warming and Epidemiological Transformation; Tropical Diseases and Hygiene; and the Relationship between Globalization and Nationalism in the Making of Modern Medicine. Paper proposals should not exceed 2,000 words and presentations will be limited to 20 minutes.

Proposal deadline is June 30, 2010. Please address questions and proposals to: Jong-Chan Lee, Organizing Committee Chair, Department of Medical Humanities and Social Medicine, School of Medicine, Ajou University, Suwon 422-721, Republic of Korea. Email: jclee@ajou.ac.kr.

BOOK, JOURNAL, and PUBLICATION NEWS

Victorian Studies 51:2 (Winter 2009) is a special issue devoted to the theme of “Darwin and the Evolution of Victorian Studies.” Jonathan Smith provides the thematic introductory essay for the following: George Levine, “Reflections on Darwin and Darwinizing;” Heather Brink-Roby, “Natural Representation: Diagram and Text in Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*;” Tina Young Choi, “Natural History’s Hypothetical Moments: Narratives of Contingency in Victorian Culture;” Jim Endersby, “Sympathetic Science: Charles Darwin, Joseph Hooker, and the Passions of Victorian Naturalists;” and Gillian Beer, “Darwin and the Uses of Extinction.”

Michael Ruse has edited and written the introduction for a new edition of Thomas Henry Huxley’s *Evolution and Ethics*, published this year by Princeton University Press. This is considered to be the evolutionist’s most important public lecture, in which he argued, among other points, that the human psyche is at war with itself, humans are alienated in the cosmos, and that moral societies are necessarily in conflict with the natural conditions of existence. Nevertheless, Huxley (1825-1895), also known as “Darwin’s Bulldog,” asserted that moral dictates were the key to future human happiness and success. The introduction places the lecture in its historical context and suggests some of its contemporary relevance in light of evolutionary thought, social reform, and public morality.

Jim Endersby reviews two recently published volumes of Sir Joseph Banks’ “Scientific” and “Indian and Pacific” correspondence in *The Times Literary Supplement*, August 14, 2009, 3-4.

Bibliographic Index of Pacific Theses in New Zealand Universities lists all M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations about the Pacific submitted to New Zealand universities since 1900. The three-volume publication is available in hard copy or on CD-ROM. For information, please email kate.scott@aut.ac.nz at Auckland University of Technology.

Newsletter No 11 (May 2009) is currently available from the Japanese Association for the History of Geology (JAHIGEO). This issue includes two articles: Toshio Kutsukake's "Kukai (774-835 A.D.): Founder of the Shingon sect of esoteric Buddhism and his Reference to Geology, Mining and Alchemy" and Kazuaki Maenaka's "Matuyama Motonori." For additional information and copies, please contact Michiko Yajima at pxi02070@nifty.com.

SELECTED RECENT PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS and BOOK CHAPTERS

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Palms of Southern Asia, by **Andrew Henderson**, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009.

Shore Birds of North America, Europe, and Asia: A Photographic Guide, by **Richard Chandler**, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009.

The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India, ed. by **Biswamoy Pati** and **Mark Harrison**, New York: Routledge, 2009 [Routledge Studies in South Asian History].

ARTICLES and ESSAYS

"A Bicontinental Origin of Polyploid Australian/New Zealand *Lepidium* Species (Brassicaceae)? Evidence from Genomic *in Situ* Hybridization," by **Tom Dierschke**, **Terezie Mandakova**, **Martin A. Lysak**, and **Klaus Mummenhoff**, *Annals of Botany* 104:4 (2009), 681-688.



“But is it [History of] Medicine? Twenty Years in the History of the Healing Arts of China,” by **Vivienne Lo**, *Social History of Medicine* 22:2 (2009), 283-303.

“Checklist of the Genus *Epichostis* Meyrick (Lepidoptera: Xyloryctidae) of the World, with Descriptions of 11 New Species from China,” by **G. X. Yuan** and **S. X. Wang**, *Journal of Natural History* 43:35-36 (2009), 2141-2165.

“Comparative Morphology of the Leaf Epidermis in *Fritillaria* (Lilaceae) from China,” by **Qiang Wang**, **Song-Dong Zhou**, **Xiao-Yan Deng**, **Qi Zheng** and **Xing-Jin He**, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 160:1 (2009), 93-109.

“Contrasting Levels of Genetic Diversity Between the Historically Rare Orchid *Cypripedium japonicum* and the Historically Common Orchid *Cypripedium macranthos* in South Korea,” by **Jaе Min Chung**, **Kwang Woo Park**, **Chong-Seo Park**, **Sung-Ho Lee**, **Myong Gi Chung**, and **Mi Yoon Chung**, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 160:2 (2009), 119-129.

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DISSERTATIONS and THESES

Information (eg. title, author, and abstract) about recent doctoral dissertations concerning the history of science, technology and medicine is available at: http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/guides/histmed/research/resources/dissertations/index_html.

 BOOK REVIEWS



Paul Sillitoe and Jackie Sillitoe, *Grass-Clearing Man: A Factional Ethnography of Life in the New Guinea Highlands*, Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc., 2009, vii + 200, Notes. Glossary. Charts. Black and White Photos. Paper US\$16.95. ISBN 1-57766-601-1 and 978-1-57766-601-1.

First a word of clarification regarding the title of this book: despite how it may appear, this monograph is not an ethnographic account of the formation of political units amongst the members of the landscaping and lawn maintenance industry in the New Guinea Highlands. The ‘grass clearing’ in question is the public meeting place for the highlands society that the Sillitoes (a married

couple) describes, and so a ‘grass-clearing man’ is a prominent or important person, someone who speaks in public—what used to be called a ‘big man’ in New Guinea highlands ethnography. The book combines ‘fictional’ events with ethnographic ‘facts’—hence the term ‘factional’. Readers who move beyond the somewhat enigmatic title of this monograph, however, will find a detailed and rewarding ethnography that will appeal to specialists, as well as anyone interested in life in the New Guinea Highlands.

In fact, *Grass-Clearing Man* is an account of the life of a fictional man, named Ongol, born and raised in the Southern Highlands amongst Wola speakers before contact with the Australian colonial administration. The book charts his life course from birth, maturity, prominence, and old age. Interestingly enough, the book (and Ongol’s life) ends after the arrival the government, missionaries, and the Sillitoes themselves, who appear as their (fictional?) selves in the final chapters of the book. The strategy of the volume is to use the thread of his life as the narrative hook upon which descriptions of Wola lifeways can be strung.

Anthropology has a long history of experimentation with different genres of writing, ranging from the initial consolidation of the discipline in the first decades of the twentieth century, when the genre standards for ethnography (the distinctive genre of anthropological writing) were first established, to more recent postmodern

flirtations with literary and experimental forms of writing. For this reason one might expect a book sporting a neologism such as ‘factional’ to experiment with the literary spaces opened up by this new conception. In fact, *Grass-Clearing Man* is not particularly literary or written in a novelistic style. Its prose is rigorously clear, and Ongol’s life sufficiently interesting that the reader is, indeed, strung along on the book’s narrative lives. However there is no purple prose in this book, no complex interrogation of Ongol’s internality, or any of the other maneuvers one might see in an author experimenting with genre standards from fiction. For some, this will be a relief. Others who have come to the book expecting to discover a new experimental way of writing ethnography will be disappointed.

The book proceeds chapter by chapter, moving through the stages of Ongol’s life, stopping at each point along the way to elaborate Wola lifeways along each step. Thus the chapter on Ongol’s childhood quickly develops into a more abstract discussion of the lives of Wola boys and girls, parenting practices, and so forth. At time this leads to a rather jerky stop-and-start feeling in the ethnography: the exposition continues for three or four years, comes to a halt, and a synchronic discussion of some aspect of Wola life occurs. Then the story moves forward, only to halt again. On the whole, however, the ‘factional’ biographical method never seems forced or unnatural and the piece flows naturally.

In his sole-authored publications, Paul Sillitoe has demonstrated himself to be one of the most scrupulous and detailed ethnographers of Papua New Guinean lifeways in the world. At the same time, he is also the author of several introductory texts on Melanesia. At times the more ‘popular’ texts have not always been as successful in their execution as one might hope, and his scholarly work has seemed formidable to all but the most specialized. In this ethnography, however, the Sillitoe have hit the mark, and must be commended for the masterful ethnography of the Wola they have written. Here is a volume that practices ethnography at its best: a thorough, detailed account of the ways of life of a people which conveys the complexities of Wola life while simultaneously leveraging this fine-grained approach to provide us a wider view of wider themes in Wola culture and social organization. This truly is ethnography as its finest—free from a polemic need to push a new theory, and dedicated to providing a portrait of a group of people. Although technically a ‘reconstruction’ of the pre-contact period, their fieldwork occurred early enough in Wola history that they could capture much of the details and tenor of pre-contact life—indeed, as they note themselves, many of the details of cult esoterica would not have been revealed to them if their arrival had preceded the Christianization of the valley.

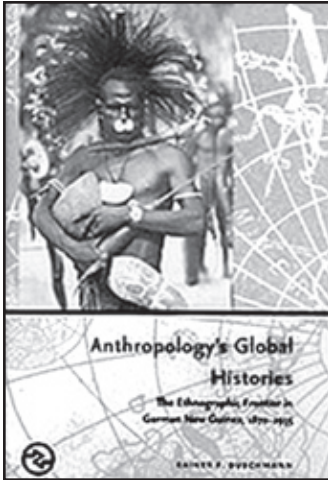
The volume is clearly designed to be ‘teachable’ and ‘accessible’. However, the ethnographic rigor of this book will make it attractive to anyone seeking to understand what life was like in the New Guinea highlands a century ago. Scholars and scientists of the Pacific will find the detail in the book relevant in several ways. The book is richly illustrated with over seventy photographs of Wola life and material culture—a truly remarkable collection of photographs in an age when presses worry about the expense of publication. Sillitoe includes the scientific names for most plants and animals mentioned in the book and includes the texts of spells in interlinear translation; indeed, there is so much Wola vocabulary in the book that linguists and anthropologists will be able to use it as a source in wider comparative studies.

There are a few small issues with the scholarly apparatus of the book. The kinship chart included in it does not list the gender of any of the main characters, making it difficult to use or read when one is trying to keep track of the welter of family names. There is no index, and while the Wola language glossary is useful there is no separate list of characters, which many readers may have benefited from.

Indeed, one of the potential drawbacks of the monograph is that it is so detailed—one must be extremely interested in the Wola past to get through it. Even as a specialist who worked in a similar area of the country and recognized linguistic and cultural cognates with the group that I worked with, I occasionally got lost in the chains of reciprocal pig exchanges that figure so prominently in the book. Despite the clarity of the Sillitoe’s prose, then, their commitment to ethnographic detail may lead the uncommitted reader to a feeling akin to culture shock as Wola terms and relationships race by.

In the end, however, there is no doubt that the Sillitoees have written a volume that succeeds admirably in its goal: to present the Wola past. For those interested in contemporary Papua New Guinea for whom traces of past ways of life are effaced by the modern state, this book is a welcome and detailed account of the past. For students and teachers looking for a book that provides an ethnographic account of customary Wola societies, this book will provide the ethnographic facts that they seek. Pacific scientists and scholars interested in a descriptive account of highlands lifeways to use in their own projects will find that it provides the data they are looking for. For anyone truly interested in a rich ethnography of customary highlands Papua New Guinea, I highly recommend *Grass-Clearing Man*.

Alex Golub
University of Hawai‘i —Manoa



Rainer F. Buschmann, *Anthropology's Global Histories: The Ethnographic Frontier in German New Guinea, 1870-1935* [Perspectives on the Global Past Series]. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009. Pp. x + 234. Maps. B & W Photos. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth: US\$55.00 and ISBN 978-0-8248-3184-4.

The German colonial period in New Guinea (1884-1914), during which first contact between Europeans and many Melanesian groups occurred, was a pivotal era, but given scant attention in the English anthropological literature. In this volume, Rainer Buschmann employs the concept of the ethnographic frontier—the furthestmost limits of anthropologically known areas—to explore how global historical forces influenced events in this contact zone, thus illuminating the relationship between world history and anthropology.

Colonial administrators and anthropologists were allies at the ethnographic frontier in German New Guinea. Museums wanted artifacts and artwork to study and display, and colonial administrators were in a position to provide or facilitate their collection. The resulting interactions among anthropologists, museum administrators, colonial officials, and indigenous peoples did much to shape the emerging discipline of anthropology, while influencing colonial policy in the process. Acquiring artifacts in German New Guinea was often competitive, politicized, and shaped by national concerns. Buschmann reports how changing German interests and objectives in collecting gradually shifted attention from the material objects themselves to their cultural context, thereby contributing to the growth of cultural anthropology. At the same time, German colonial administrators, provoked by indigenous uprisings in Africa, became increasingly receptive to anthropological perspectives. Solving practical problems through an understanding of the people colonized became increasingly important, particularly under the leadership of Albert Hahl, the second Governor of German New Guinea.

A brief introduction summarizes the six substantive chapters that follow and places the book's historical materials in a global framework. The first chapter describes how Adolf Bastian, Director of Berlin's ethnological museum, came to

monopolize Germany's colonial agents operating along the imperial periphery. Through a resolution by the German Federal Council in 1888, all ethnographic and natural scientific specimens collected by official expeditions to the German colonies were centralized in Bastian's museum. This led to the Berlin museum's inability to process the wealth of artifacts that flowed into it, and resentment on the part of other museums, which received only "duplicate" specimens, those not needed in Berlin. It fell to Bastian's successor, Felix von Luschan, to deal with the practical problems that ensued. Several of Bastian's ideas greatly influenced the way that anthropology would grow. As a social evolutionist, Bastian was interested in ethno-psychology, and believed that the "less developed" societies of Melanesia would prove important in uncovering basic human thought processes. In foreseeing their imminent cultural extinction, he promoted "salvage ethnography" and the collection of "untainted" objects, those produced before western contact, thus reifying the importance of the ethnographic frontier.

Two chapters detail how Berlin lost its quantitative monopoly over artifact collection, and how this promoted a higher quality of ethnographic research. In time, museum officials in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Leipzig, marshaling local civic support, were able to erode Berlin's control over ethnographic artifact acquisition. Luschan responded by emphasizing quality over quantity. The objects sought by Berlin's Ethnological Museum were to be those accompanied by rich ethnographic data collected by trained anthropologists. Luschan insisted on artifacts being accompanied by detailed descriptions and exact provenience data, which clashed with the profit motives of colonial administrators and traders. This led to an increase in scientific collecting and the separation of research and commercial interests.

Chapters 4 and 5 turn attention to the last decade of German New Guinea and the effects on Germany's colonial projects and imperialistic goals. The competition among museums continued, spurring further growth in scientific expeditions, notably Georg Thilenius's Hamburg South Sea Expedition (1908-1910) to the whole of German New Guinea, and the more regionally focused Sepik Expedition of 1912-1913. These large-scale ventures took on a decidedly nationalistic character, in which Germany felt it was competing with, for example, the Cambridge Torres Strait Expedition of 1898. At this time, Albert Hahl, Governor of German New Guinea, was concerned about securing labor for plantation work and the sharp decline in the population of some indigenous groups. His interest in learning more about the ethnography of indigenous populations nicely corresponded with the growing interest in detailed ethnographic reporting by anthropologists, and Germany moved towards what Buschmann calls a "Malinowskian" moment (p.114). However, these developments were arrested by the outbreak of the First World War.

Least satisfying from an anthropological perspective is Chapter 6, which examines indigenous reactions, but mostly from the vantage point of European writings about local peoples rather than from local narratives and perspectives. Several case studies of “indigenous counter-ethnography” (p.11) are presented, especially those of Wuvulu and Aua (isolated western islands of the Bismarck Archipelago), and from New Ireland.

While the loss of German New Guinea following the Treaty of Versailles might seem a fitting end to the book, Buschmann wisely includes a final substantive chapter examining the colonial aftermath. It took many years for the backlog in material culture and ethnographic notes to be partially processed, efforts hampered by the deaths of several of the ethnographers, lack of funds, and political pressures, as Germany coped with the loss of its colonial empire. The concluding chapter compares the German colonial tradition with American, English and French ventures in the Pacific, and in so doing, provides a comparative framework for the history of anthropology and illuminates Pacific history during the period 1760-1945.

The book succeeds at many levels. It provides important historical data on German New Guinea not otherwise available in English, sheds light on the relationship between global history and the development of anthropology as a discipline, and contributes to the literature on the colonial period in Pacific history. It is highly recommended reading for those having such interests.

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