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PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWS

Recent Publications and Scholarly Activities by Circle Members

Warwick Anderson was awarded the 2009 New South Wales Premier's General History Prize, the 2010 William H. Welch Medal of the American Association for the History of Medicine, and the 2010 Ludwik Fleck Prize from the Society of the Social Studies of Science for The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen, Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008. [Please note: this volume is reviewed below.]

Brett M. Bennett with Gregory A. Barton, "Forestry as Foreign Policy: Anglo-Siamese Relations and the Origins of Britain's Informal Empire in the Teak Forest of Northern Siam, 1883-1925," *Itinerario* 34 (2010), 65-86.

David F. Branagan, "The Geological Society on the Other Side of the World," C. L. E. Lewis and S. J. Knell, eds. *The Making of the Geological Society of London, Geological Society of London Special Publication, Number 317*, 431-472.

Branagan, "Some Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Australian Geological Clerics," M. Kobl-Ebert, ed., *Geology & Religion: A History of Harmony and Hostility, Geological Society of London Special Publication, Number 310*, 171-196.

James Rodger Fleming, *Fixing the Sky: The Checkered History of Weather and Climate Control*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.

John Gascoigne, "*The Journal of Religious History*, 1960-2010: The Changing Face of Religious History Over Fifty Years," *The Journal of Religious History* 34:3 (2010), 262-271.

Kern E. Kenyon, "North Pacific Cool-Downs: 1940s-1960s," *Natural Science* 2:8 (2010), 911-915.

Hans van Tilburg, *A Civil War Gunboat in Pacific Waters: Life on Board the USS Saginaw*, Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2010, part of the "New Perspectives on Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology" series.

Zuoyue Wang, "Transnational Science During the Cold War: The Case of Chinese/American Scientists," *Isis* 101 (2010), 367-377, part of "Focus: New Perspectives on Science and the Cold War."

Philip K. Wilson, Elizabeth A. Dolan and Malcolm Dick, eds. *Anna Seward's Life of Erasmus Darwin*, Studley, Warwickshire: Brewin Books, Ltd., 2010.

Wilson, "The Art of Medicine: Centuries of Seeking Chocolate's Medicinal Benefits," *The Lancet* 376 (July 17, 2010), 158-159.

Proposed Sponsored Conference Papers and Panels

"Knowledge at Work" is the theme for the 24th International Congress for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, to be held at the University of Manchester, England, on July 22-28, 2013. Please contact Prof. Peter H. Hoffenberg at *peterh@hawaii.edu* if you would like to participate in a Pacific Circle-sponsored panel on that or some other theme. For information about the meeting, including dates for submission, please visit https://www.meeting.co.uk/confercare/ichst2013/index.html.

HSS NEWS

The upcoming annual meeting of the History of Science Society is scheduled for November 4-7, 2010, in Montreal, Canada. This will be a joint meeting with the Philosophy of Science Association. Information is available at http://www.hssonline.org.

FUTURE MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, and CALLS FOR PAPERS

<u>7-9 October 2010</u>. "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 meeting features papers and panels on the following and other topics: 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. Please address questions 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. <u>18-21 February 2011</u>. 22nd Annual Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai'i and the Pacific, to be held in Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The theme is "Reading Coastal Footprints: Ecology and Maritime Archaeology in the Pacific." Tentative session titles include: Historical and Archaeological Research on Human Influences on Marine Life; Using Ecological Models in Archaeology; and Recent Maritime Archaeology Fieldwork. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words. Please include title, names, affiliation and contact information. Send abstracts no later than November 1, 2010, to Suzanne Finney at finney@mahhi.org. For more information, please visit http://www.mahhi.org/.

<u>4-5 April 2011</u>. Conference on Geological Collectors and Collecting, to be held at the Flett Theatre at the Natural History Museum in London, and organized by the History of Geology Group. The meeting will include talks, exhibitions, workshops and behind the scenes tours on topics of interest to collectors of geological materials of all kinds, including books, maps, minerals, and fossils. Other discussions will consider historical collections and public policy issues related to collections. For additional information, please email Nina Morgan at ninamorgan@lineone.net.

<u>14-18 June 2011</u>. 22nd Pacific Science Congress, to be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The theme is "Asia Pacific Science in the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges of Global Change," with subthemes including "A Changing Climate," "Oceans," "Globalization," and "Science for Policy and the Future." For more information, please visit www.22ndpsc.net or www.pacificscience.org.

<u>4-8 July 2012</u>. The Ninth International Congress of the History of Oceanography (IXHO-IX), to be held in Athens, Greece. For information, please contact Dr. George Vlahakis, the local organizer. Email: gvlahakis@yahoo.com.

<u>2-10 August 2012</u>. 34th International Geological Congress, to be held in Brisbane, Queensland. Highlights include a symposium in honor of David F. Branagan and sessions on the history of geology in tropical regions, major achievements in 20thcentury geology, and historical perspectives on geologists, resource exploration and development. For more information, please see www.34igc.org.



BOOK, JOURNAL, and PUBLICATION NEWS

Signals 90 (March 2010 – May 2010), the official journal of the Australian National Maritime Museum, includes the following articles of possible interest to Circle members and readers: "Wrecks, Reefs and Guano," pp. 2-9; "Paradise Lost," pp. 32-35 and "Sail Handling on the *Endeavour*," pp. 36-41.

Signals 91 (June 2010 – August 2010) includes the following articles of possible interest: "Admiral Paris and His Extra-Europeen Boats," pp. 2-12 and "Quest for the South Magnetic Pole," pp. 21-24.

Signals 92 (September 2010 – November 2010) includes the following articles of possible interest: "H M Bark *Endeavour* Replica to Circumnavigate Australia," pp. 22-24 and "China Maritime Museum Opens in Shanghai," pp. 42-43.

Isis 101:1 (March 2010) includes a special "Focus" section on "Global Histories of Science," with several of the essays including the history of science in Asia and the Pacific. For example, please see Marwa Elshakry's "When Science Became Western: Historiographical Reflections," pp. 98-109 and Shruti Kapila's "The Enchantment of Science in India," pp. 120-132. Pacific Circle member Sujit Sivasundaram wrote the "Introduction" to the special focus section.

European Review 18:3 (2010) includes a special "Focus" section on "Evolution," including Patrick Bateson, "The Evolution of Evolutionary Theory," pp. 287-296; Michael Ruse, "Is Darwinism Past its 'Sell-by-Date?' The Origin of Species at 150," pp. 311-327 and Hubert Markl, "Misunderstanding and Misuse of Darwin," pp. 329-345. The section of essays is introduced by Martin J. Rees.

Australia on the Map tells the story of the wreck of the Dutch vessel 'Batavia' in the Abrolhos Islands, and the subsequent mutiny and massacre. The surviving mutineers were subsequently marooned on the Australian mainland. Details are available at: http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au.

The British Naval Archives has a site containing the logs of 164 Royal Navy ships that explored and charted between 1751 and 1861. Those include the journals of James Cook, William Bligh, and Matthew Flinders. The open archive can be searched at: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/shipsonexploration.asp.

The "Eugene von Guerard: The Observation of Nature" exhibition will be at the National Gallery of Victoria from April 17, 2011 through July 17, 2011, and will then tour three other venues in Australia during 2011 and 2012. This exhibition marks the National Gallery's 150th anniversary and draws on new research and unseen paintings and sketchbooks. The exhibition considers how von Guerard's travel to and within Australia was informed and inspired by his interest in the geography, geology, and vegetation of the Australian 'New World.'

Newsletter No. 12 of the Japanese Association for the History of Geology (JAHIGEO) includes two articles of possible interest: Hirokazu Kato's "Kenji Miyazawa – A Fusion of Literature and Geology," pp. 2-8 and Michiko Yajima's "The Role of Microscopes in the History of Petrology in Japan," pp.8-15. For additional information, please send inquiries to the editors at pxi02070@nifty.com.

SELECTED RECENT PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS and BOOK CHAPTERS

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Medicine in China: A History of Ideas, 25th Anniversary Edition, by **Paul Unschuld**, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2010. [Comparative Studies of Health Systems and Medical Care, 13]

Pirate Outrages: True Stories of Terror on the China Seas, compiled by **Douglas Sellick**, Freemantle, Australia: Freemantle Press, 2010.

The Tasman: A Biography of an Ocean, by **Neville Peat**, Auckland, NZ: Penguin New Zealand, 2010.

What about Darwin? All Species of Opinion from Scientists, Sages, Friends, and Enemies Who Met, Read, and Discussed the Naturalist Who Changed the World, by **Thomas F. Glick**, Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.

ARTICLES and ESSAYS

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"Biodiversity and Distribution of Epibiontic Communities on *Caridina* ensifera (Crustacea, Decapoda, Atyidae) from Lake Poso: Comparison with Another Ancient Lake System of *Sulawesi (Indonesia)*," by **Gregorio Fernandez-Leborans** and **Kristina von Rintelen**, *Acta Zoologica* 91:2 (2010), 163-175.

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DISSERTATIONS and THESES

Lists of recent doctoral dissertations in the history of science and allied fields, such as technology and medicine, are provided by the University of Pittsburgh at: http://www.hsls.pitt.edu.

Alastair Couper

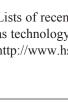
BOOK REVIEWS

Alastair Couper, *Sailors and Traders: A Maritime History of the Pacific Peoples*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009, Pp. xiii + 262. Photographs. Graphs. Charts. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Cloth: US\$55 and ISBN 978-0824832391 and 0824832396.

Alastair Couper's *Sailors and Traders* is another valuable contribution to the growing historiography on Pacific Islanders and their enduring relationship with the sea. Couper combines years of sailing experience with Pacific Islanders with an extensive education in nautical science and geography to create a concise, albeit general maritime history of Pacific Islander seafaring and trading.

"It would not be much of an exaggeration," Couper notes in his Introduction, "to define the history of the Pacific as a 'history of seafaring'" (1). Couper's focus is on the Pacific Islander sailors and traders who embody this seafaring culture. Like Paul D'Arcy's *People of the Sea* (University of Hawaii Press, 2006), Couper paints a complex but empowering portrait of Pacific Islanders in their interactions with the sea. Pacific Island sailors who served on nineteenth century Euro-American whalers and merchantmen, for example, found much that was familiar as well as different in their new work environment. Islander chiefs and traders likewise found various ways to circumvent the monopolies created by large, foreign trading interests and subsidized by colonial governments.

Both cultural continuity and cultural change are therefore emphasized in this volume. Pacific Islanders emerge in this history less as peoples whose seafaring traditions are locked away in an "ancient" or "precontact" past, but as peoples actively maintaining a balance between indigenous and foreign cultures in their



everyday life. Although Couper does not devote much time in his work to theoretical discussions of cultural change and historical agency, his writing reveals a nuanced perspective of Pacific Islanders and the many different ways in which the sea continues to shape their history and identity.

Couper organizes Sailors and Traders chronologically, although several of the themes mentioned earlier recur throughout his book. In chapter 1, Couper examines how indigenous Pacific Islander myths and cultural attitudes towards the sea were both similar and different from Euro-American seafaring culture. Both Islander and Euro-American sailors, for example, respected the intuitive as well as technical aspects of seamanship (13). Both sailors communities of sailors, Couper notes, also historically viewed women aboard ship as either bad luck or out-of-place in an otherwise male social environment. Couper provides an overview of Pacific Islander seafaring, settlements, and trading networks in chapters 2 and 3, while chapter 4 focuses on the earliest encounters between Pacific Islanders and European officers, scientists, and sailors during the eighteenth century. Here, Couper argues that even sympathetic European observers like Captain James Cook or scientist George Forster could not fully understand the cultural nuances of the Pacific Island peoples with whom they interacted. Islanders like the navigator Tupaia, on the other hand, held "few illusions" about the Europeans they encountered and instead emphasized their high-ranking social status while aboard Euro-American ships (73).

In the second half of the book, Couper focuses more extensively on the impact of Euro-American capitalism and colonialism on Pacific Islander seafaring and trading. Chapters 5, 6, and 7 cover early nineteenth century interactions between Pacific Islander and Euro-American sailors and traders. Topics covered include Islander ship-owners, Islander sailors serving on foreign whalers and merchant vessels, and the various dangers, abuses, and legal issues encountered by these sailors. Chapters 8 and 9 deal with the political, economic, and technological changes that led to the exclusion of Pacific Islander sailors and traders from Pacific commercial activity by the late nineteenth century. Far from accepting this exclusion, Couper argues that Islanders attempted to form boycotts, economic cooperatives (e.g. the Tonga Ma'a Tonga Kautaha) and organize maritime unions. These efforts, although unsuccessful during the colonial period, presaged the re-emergence of Islander sailors in the global maritime industry as well as the expansion of Islander-owned local and regional trade networks after World War II. Couper examines these important developments in chapters 10 and 11, using Fijian traders and I-Kiribati sailors as contemporary case studies.

A distinctive aspect of this book is Couper's blending of scientific, indigenous, and historical knowledge in order to construct a holistic rather than dichotomous view of Euro-American and Pacific Islander seafaring. He notes, for example, that the basic principles of Islander and Euro-American navigation were quite similar: "In navigation the latitude by zenith star was not far short of a latitude by meridian altitude, which was the method of European seamen using a simple measuring instrument by the sixteenth century" (42). In a second example, Couper notes that Islander sailors accustomed to "collecting toddy or nuts on high trees," adjusted relatively easily to "working aloft" on Euro-American sailing ships (115).

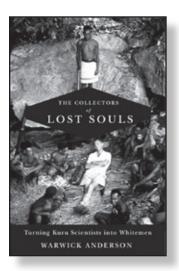
Islander sailors also shared in the general seafaring culture that emerged onboard ship and in the port towns. This sometimes included knowledge about new ways of resisting colonial or commercial authorities. One of the organizers of the 1929 Rabaul strike was Bohun, a New Guinea sailor who had learned about "strike action achieving better pay" from African American sailors in the port town of Kavieng (161-2). Islander traders further benefited from the knowledge and organizational abilities of European and part-European captains, traders, and commercial agents. The founder of the Tonga Ma'a Tonga Kautaha, for example, was Alistair D. Cameron, a Scotsman and former manager in the Australian trading firm, Burns Philip (154). Island chieftains in places ranging from Tahiti to the Marshall Islands also relied on Euro-American captains and supercargoes to run their ships. Reliance on these sailors and managers may have been advantageous for social or cultural reasons (e.g. freedom from kinship obligations), but they were not without costs. This was candidly expressed by "King" Tem Binoka of Kiribati, who classified his foreign captains and supercargoes as "he cheat a litty, he cheat plenty, and I think he cheat too much" (96). Couper notes that Binoka "had perfect tolerance" for the first two types.

Several weaknesses of this book should be mentioned here. Readers more familiar with Pacific Island scholarship may find Couper's absence of theoretical discussion noticeable. Much of the historical content covered in this volume has also been covered by other scholars, although Couper does an excellent job in synthesizing material from primary, secondary, and indigenous sources. World War II also receives little attention in this book. This may have been intentional, for it is very difficult to find examples of Islander agency in a conflict that, at least in the Pacific, was largely motivated and carried out by outsiders. The changes that Couper alludes to in his final chapters on the Contemporary Pacific, however, were in part caused by the wide-ranging impact of World War II on Pacific Islanders and their maritime environment. Any discussion of the Contemporary Pacific must at least include an acknowledgement of the complex ways in which World War II may have empowered Pacific Islanders rather than simply rendering them as victims or passive onlookers.

These are relatively minor critiques, however. Overall, *Sailors and Traders* remains an excellent and highly useful survey history of Pacific Islanders and their maritime heritage. In connecting both the past and the present, as well as scientific,

first-hand, and historical knowledge, Couper makes an important contribution to Pacific Island scholarship and to maritime history in general.

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Warwick Anderson, *The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen*, Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008, Pp. 318. Maps. B&W Photos. Index. US\$24.95 Cloth and ISBN 978-0-8018-9040-6.

This book describes itself as a history of the Fore people in New Guinea as they experienced being the central field location for work on kuru. But, in fact, the book is more than that: it is a history of an entire field of medical research, a biography of Carleton Gadjusek, a meditation on the ethics of research on human subjects, and the passions and desires – what Anderson calls the "primitive foundations" – that drive modern science and modern scientists.

Although the main text of the book is only about 220 pages long it represents, to my knowledge, the longest treatment of the history of studies of kuru. Given its tremendous erudition and the quality of Anderson's research, it is likely to remain the definitive book on the subject – permanently.

Today bovine spongiform encephalitis ("mad cow disease") has appeared in countless newspaper headlines, and Creuzfeldt-Jakob disease shows up in popular forensic procedural shows. Our understanding of those diseases and their method of propagation – mis-folded proteins called prions – began in Papua New Guinea, where one such disease called kuru was transmitted by mortuary cannibalism. The story of kuru has always had an aura of mystery about it: Fore acquired kuru by eating the brains of their deceased relatives; kuru scientists acquired information about the disease through ethically problematic autopsies of dead Fore; and Gadjusek both won the Nobel Prize for his work on the disease and was arrested for child molestation. The central question is not, therefore, whether the story of kuru is intrinsically interesting; the question is how well Anderson can tell it.

The answer is: extremely well. Anderson has both an M.D. and a Ph.D. in the

History of Science. While his prior research focused on the Philippines and Australia, *Collectors of Lost Souls* is his first foray into Melanesia. Despite this fact, the quality of his research for this book is, simply put, staggering. Anderson's mastery of archival sources is obvious and gratifying. More important, however, is the quality of his interviews with kuru scientists – and practically everyone else – who speak candidly about their involvement with the disease and with the Fore. Even more impressive, however, is his own original research in Papua New Guinea, where he visited relatively remote locations to access indigenous accounts of kuru scientists. This is not the sort of thing most historians do, and as someone who has conducted ethnographic research in Papua New Guinea, I am impressed with the quality of Anderson's work.

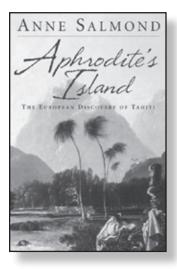
Anderson's book is very much an inside story of the personal lives of kuru scientists, and he deals with their rivalries and passions with frankness and a clear knowledge of their intimate lives. Nonetheless, the work is not an expose or tellall. One gets the feeling that Anderson knows more about Gadjusek's personal life than he lets on, but the volume walks the fine line between biographical detail and salaciousness.

The book is very well written, with clear and elegant prose. Quotations from documents and interviews are heavily interpolated into the text, but never weigh it down – a sure sign of competent historical writing. It can be read in a weekend by humanists and social scientists who are used to this somewhat 'high' style, but people in the biological and physical sciences without a taste for such literature or an avocational literature in nonfiction might not find it so approachable.

The is particular true of the inner chapters, where Anderson attempts to analyze kuru scientists using Fore cultural concepts. It is currently fashionable in certain circles of anthropology to apply Melanesian cultural models to Western life – using notions of personhood and property from Papua New Guinea, for instance, to analyze the Open Source Software movement in the United States and England. It can be a rather arcane art, and for Anderson to approach things in this way without a background as a Melanesianist is a risky undertaking. In my opinion, Anderson is successful in this, but some readers – the sort for whom 'postmodern' is a term of derision – might find the approach problematic. Despite (or perhaps because of) this, these chapters are the most interesting and ambitious of the book.

In sum, *Collectors of Lost Souls* is an excellent, even superb, volume, which combines great scholarly vigor with a well-told story on a fascinating and important topic. A highly 'teachable' book, it will also be of interest to anyone studying the Pacific who is interested in learning more about kuru and/or the history of medicine.

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Anne Salmond, *Aphrodite's Island: The European Discovery of Tahiti.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2009, Pp 544. Color Illustrations. B/W Photographs. Illustrations. Maps. Appendix. Notes. Indexes. Cloth: US\$29.95 and ISBN 978-0-520-26114-3.

Anne Salmond's previous works on Maori/ European encounters in New Zealand (Two Worlds: First Meetings between Maori and Europeans, 1642-1772 and Between Worlds: Early Meetings Between Maori and Europeans, 1773-1815) are excellent examples of the nuanced encounter narratives that can be constructed through exhaustive research and attention to both sides of the cultural 'beach'. In Aphrodite's

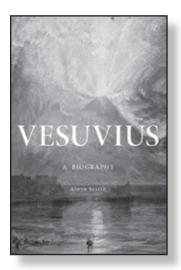
Island: The European Discovery of Tahiti, Salmond turns this same eye for detail and gift for complex narrative construction to the first few decades of interaction between Europeans and the people of Tahiti. While many scholars have explored the European accounts of early voyages to Tahiti, Salmond is among the first to try to understand both sides of those encounters, which would in turn shape so many of subsequent European imaginings of the Pacific and Pacific Islanders. The result is an authoritative history of Tahiti in the late eighteenth century and an exhaustive narrative of encounter that attempts to understand the ways in which both Tahitians and Europeans understood 'the other' during this period of initial contact.

Salmond's twenty chapters are arranged in rough chronological order: she begins her narrative with a description of the Tahitian creation story and later cultural development throughout the Tahitian island group. She then goes on to juxtapose the politically turbulent 18th century in Tahiti with the arrival of the first several European voyagers to make contact, beginning with the Samuel Wallishelmed English expedition of 1766. Salmond offers comprehensive accounts of the subsequent European voyages to Tahiti, including those of Louis de Bougainville, the Spanish ship *Aguila* (commanded by Don Domingo Boenechea), and the multiple visits by James Cook. Creating a narrative that is rich with description, Salmond traces the political and cultural events rocking the Tahitian world, including competition between the warrior chiefs Tutaha (along with his grand-nephew Tu) and Vehiatua I. She deftly interweaves the narratives of voyages by Europeans (both scientific and religions) and the constantly evolving political tensions in Tahiti, and in doing so demonstrates the far reaching effects these encounters on both groups. Her narrative is as dynamic as her subject, for both European and Tahitians were in constant movement throughout this period: the navigator Tupaia famously accompanied Cook on his voyage to Aotearoa/New Zealand, but other Tahitians also traveled with European expeditions through the Pacific and as far afield as Peru and England. For the Tahitians, the arrival of various groups of Europeans appeared to be the fulfillment of prophesies which foresaw the coming of light skinned people upon boats with no outriggers. The Europeans, on the other hand, saw an island paradise that both echoed their own classically derived notions of Arcadia and transformed them. In both cases, as Salmond argues, "Tahitians and Europeans alike sent their ancestral fantasies flashing into the future, shaping how it happened" (463).

The attention to detail that Salmond offers in this volume is a testament to her use of a wide range of source materials. She pulls together information from published and unpublished European narratives as well as a range of Tahitian oral testimonies and artifacts. She also makes extensive use of sketches, paintings, and engravings in order to tease out further information about these early Tahitian-European encounters: the result of this broad source use is a complex picture of the ways that both Europeans and Tahitians understood and contextualized cross-cultural interactions. Further, these sources allow Salmond to explore ideas about gender, sexuality, and race on both sides of the encounter, which adds valuable layers to the overall narrative. Additionally, while not focusing heavily on the scientific motivations behind these eighteenth century European voyages, Salmond does offer interesting insights into the cultural aspects of various scientific endeavors. In particular, she looks closely at the context for Cook's observation of the Transit of Venus, describing how Joseph Banks and the various Tahitian chiefs with him understood the astronomical phenomenon (as a moment of scientific observation and as a celebration of the goddess Ta'urua-nui, who was associated with navigation and with the planet Venus, respectively). As in all interactions between the two groups, Salmond argues, the observation of the Transit of Venus marked a moment of cultural interaction and dissonance

As a whole, Salmond's effort represents an important contribution to the study of cultural encounter in the Pacific writ large, and to the understanding of Tahiti's past in particular. Like many of her earlier works, *Aphrodite's Island* calls for a reexamination of the history of encounter in the Pacific, one that understands this period in terms of a Pacific Islander perspective as well as a European one. Though this type of scholarship is becoming more prevalent (in the works of David Hanlon, Anne Hattori, and Jonathan Osorio, to name only a few) the historiographies of many regions of the Pacific are still dominated by discussions of European experiences: Salmond's nuanced exploration provides an excellent example of the value of understanding deeply both sides of the cultural encounter.

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Alwyn Scarth, *Vesuvius: A Biography.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009, Pp. x + 342. Halftones. Tables. Glossary. Photographs. Maps. Cloth: US\$29.95 and ISBN 978-0-691-14390-3 and 0691143900.

The University of Hawai'i at Manoa knows biography well. Stalwart efforts of George Simpson, among others, led to the formation of The Center for Biographical Research (CBR) on that campus in 1976, followed two years later by the first issue of *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*. Pacific Circle members should delight in the way that this internationally renowned center has embraced both traditional and nuanced styles of the writings of a life story. As Leon Edel reminded

readers in the very first issue of the CBR's journal, "Biography is a work of the imagination – the imagination of form and style and narrative. The biographer is allowed to be as imaginative as he pleases, so long as he does not imagine his facts." (*Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 1 (Winter 1978):1).

Alwyn Scarth, once Professor of Geography at the University of Dundee, in Scotland, has attempted something of a nuanced approach to biography quite praiseworthy of CBR goals. Scarth seems to be straddling, perhaps trying to encompass, both the geo-historical approach found in Mark Cioc's *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography, 1815-2000* (2006) and the masterful literary foundation of Peter Ackroyd's *London: The Biography* (2001). In many ways, Scarth achieves his aim. Indeed, the geohistorical foundation of the region of Campania (*Campi Flegrei* – the "burning lands"), the earth's invisibly fluid movements, and its resultant pyroclastic displays are never far from the reader's attention. Lucid, well placed graphics provide insightful understanding for visual learners who might not retain every aspect of the science-laden discussion, though also clearly explained, in lengthy passages throughout this book that chronologically depict the evolving volcanic life story of one of the most noteworthy and visited structures on earth.

As Scarth unfolds the layers of history both literally and figuratively surrounding Vesuvius, we are reminded again and again of the duality inherent within this massive living structure. It is both "provider and exterminator; preserver and destroyer; guardian and enemy; tourist attraction and killer" (1). Some of Vesuvius's life story is relatively well known, such as its role in the death of that masterful Roman natural philosopher and encyclopedist, Pliny the Elder. Yet Scarth's literary

narrative takes us beyond the familiar. We walk alongside Pliny during his last treks on the earth and sail with him aboard a *liburnica* (a skiff-like light vessel) through accounts drawn from the Letters of his nephew, Pliny the Younger. We envision human concerns, frets, and fears in the lives of those well-known individuals whose fates were determined by the reactivated life of Vesuvius in the hot late August of 79 CE. Gathering these vivid details together gives us a better sense of the daily life and activity at Misenum, Pompeii, Stabiae, and Herculaneum to supplement the unforgettable images of those eruption victims whose bodies, once decayed, left such a detailed rendering of their life form in the stiff volcanic ash that, after plaster casts of these hollows were made, we gain a striking sense of their final actions and their last gasps.

The narratives also help us mentally activate the life that once filled the archeological site, which, though now accurately reconstructed, remains otherwise somewhat hauntedly lifeless. Giving life back to these structures, especially considering the volcanic action that initially buried them, is of significant importance. Complementing the well-known aspects of Vesuvius's life story, Scarth also includes lesser known details from more recent finds – those within the past decade – such as that of an exceptionally preserved Bronze Age village – the best such preserved village in the world – in the community of Nola near Vesuvius. In this story, we are reminded by vivid examples of how a volcano's life is really more than just a geo-historical tale, but also a tale of many peoples over many generations.

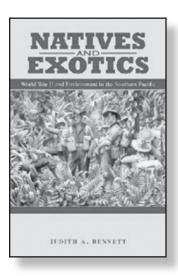
Many deem that modern volcanology owes its beginnings to Sir William Hamilton's observations, writings, and illustrations of an active Vesuvius in the 1760s and 1770s. Thus, Vesuvius's history has spurred the life of an academic discipline as well. Those well versed in Enlightenment history may be somewhat disappointed in Scarth's incomplete coverage of Hamilton's contributions. Hamilton's general archeological findings in and around Vesuvius offer all of us a broader perspective of the history of the people who had lived in that region. Moreover, more than any other individual, Hamilton etched a "tourist" quality upon Vesuvius as it became a key attraction and destination for the hundreds of curious gentlemen undertaking their Grand Tour during the Enlightenment and Romantic Eras. Had Scarth included such additional information, we would have an even broader image of all that Hamilton gained from a living volcano beyond the mere three-page recognition, which Scarth devotes to "Hamilton as a Volcanologist."

Atypical of Vesuvius histories, Scarth provides considerable coverage to the four major post-Enlightenment eruptions in 1822, 1872, 1906, and 1944. Here, as exemplified in his discussion of the nineteenth-century eruptions, we learn much, much more from the viewpoint of volcanologist G.J. Poulett Scrope than from visitors of literary note, such as Charles Dickens, and next to nothing at all from the fist-hand accounts of journalists of the day. Such coverage leaves readers appreciating that this work is weighted in covering the geohistorical expertise of

an individual like Scarth who is well known to both academic and popular readers for his significant contributions including *La Catastrophe: Mount Pelée and the Destruction of Saint-Pierre, Martinique* (2001), *Vulcan's Fury: Man Against the Volcano* (1999), and *Savage Earth* (1997), a book based upon a British ITV series.

At the center of any biography lies a life story. Scarth's depiction of Vesuvius is truly that of a life story. Vesuvius had a beginning 300,000 years ago; it reached a violent stage some 25,000 years ago; its rebelliousness in 79AD remains immortalized; and it is still recognized as the most dangerous of all European volcanoes. Throughout the book, this reader was left wondering, would this have been an even more inclusive biography, accounting for much more of the social, literary, religious, artistic, and popular history of the "burning lands" if, instead of one author, Scarth would have shared the task of writing a full encompassing biography with someone sharing his enthusiasm yet more well versed in the humanities or social sciences? Such a question is not meant as a specific criticism of this truly fine, authoritative, readable, and enjoyable work; rather, it is a query for those who might set out themselves to embark upon their own creation of such a nuanced form of biography.

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Judith A. Bennett, *Natives and Exotics: World War II and Environment in the Southern Pacific.* Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009, Pp. xxvi + 439. Maps. B&W Photos. Notes. Cloth: US\$60.00 and ISBN 978-0-8248-3265-0 and Paper: US\$30.00 and ISBN 978-0-8248-3350-3.

Judith Bennett's ambitious work captures many of the environmental changes on the southern Pacific Islands wrought by the ravages of World War II. She specifically focuses on the islands critical to military operations designed to defeat Japan, stretching from Bora Bora to New Guinea. Her research on the challenges posed by tropical environments to military activities, as well as their

environmental impacts, is extensive and lends a great deal to the existing scholarship on the subject, which is scant. Bennett chose to look at the impact of war on island territories that she has studied in other dimensions for many years. This time, she looks through the lens of environmental history, since it goes "to the heart of the relationship between human beings and their surroundings" (xx). It provides an identifiable medium for considering the social, economic, and political dimensions of the people – both foreigners and islanders – and the land upon which they lived and fought, all of which would be significantly transformed by this extraordinary war.

Bennett discusses the cultural differences between the islanders and invaders from both sides of the war (Japan and Western allies) and their intense difficulties dealing with tropical diseases, the oppressive climate, extensive swampy jungles, and dangerous fauna. She provides a sad, but interesting account of the cultural shock experienced by American soldiers who expected to see a tropical paradise as depicted in American films and propaganda – a soothing tropical climate with vast and beautiful beaches teaming with shapely young women anxious to show the men a good time, with well-stocked cities and roads assisting their war efforts. The reality, Bennett claims, was far different. As one soldier arriving in New Guinea put it, "where are the dusky maidens, dancing on the beaches? Beaches? None. Just the damp uninviting jungle reaching down to the water's edge – nay, stretching into the very water itself" (16).

Throughout the book, Bennett details the impacts from a vast and rapidly built military infrastructure (and its postwar deterioration), the role of tropical diseases in affecting the war's outcome (along with the environmental destruction employed to combat disease, especially malaria), and the impact of invasive flora and fauna on human health and ecology. Foreign species introduced primarily through military and other trade shipments continue to wreak havoc on the islands' ecosystems and people. One example is the brown tree snake, which was brought from Manus Island on heavy equipment shipments. Once established without predators, the snake kills frugivores such as birds and bats on a massive scale. In turn, the loss of these carriers of seeds and pollen greatly inhibits forest regeneration, while the mild venom of the snakes harms humans as well. Bennett describes other 'invasive' elements with long-term negative consequences: abandoned dumps harboring tons of un-detonated explosives and insidious chemical agents.

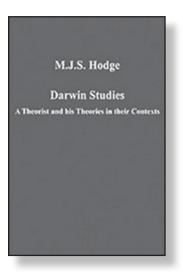
Bennett makes it clear that the islands' value to U.S. and European interests went beyond their tactical wartime position: "long term economic and political motives for the postwar world constituted a hidden agenda that sometimes sat uneasily beside the most urgent common strategic goal of winning the war" (xxiv). Certainly, colonial interests in island resources were being developed before the war. In the chapter, "Resources for the Metropole: Trade for the Periphery," she provides a comprehensive account of changes in existing trading schemes induced by the war for such items as copra, sugar, rubber latex, shell, and "west of the Andesite line, from New Guinea, Fiji, and New Caledonia – minerals" (116). For instance, much of the copra had been exported to Britain and Europe, but once their ships became German targets, shipping costs skyrocketed. Various new schemes were developed to maintain the trade and ensure a European supply, which resulted in an increased value for copra – normally encouraging a greater supply. However, many islanders had turned away from copra production in favor of the higher paying war work offered to them, so copra production faltered.

Determining alterations on the landscape from war activities was difficult, Bennett claims, because of the impossibility of assessing ecological change when "there was little if any measurement of prewar conditions" (198). Those studies that were undertaken were largely done by biologists on the atolls assessing bird populations, whose numbers had suffered due to extensive trade in colorful feathers prized for Western fashions. Other environmental changes before and soon after the war were hardly considered unless they reached such a scale that *human* well-being was endangered.

Reading this book as an ecological historian, however, I longed for more detail on the war-time and lasting impacts to forests, coral reefs, wetlands, farmland, and traditional foods. I wondered why there was no discussion of what is known about the islanders' traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). Why focus exclusively on the deficiency of Western-based pre-war ecological studies from which to measure change? Her research could have been strengthened by referring to recent research on Pacific island TEK, which can be found in the work of contemporary scientists such as Aswani, Leopold, and Cinner. Are there no oral histories from island elders from which ecological change could also be gleaned? Both could have enriched her discussion of prior ecology and the increased environmental pressures once cultural traditions and taboos gave way to imperial countries' wants and wartime needs. Also seriously missing from the book was a frank and thorough discussion on the devastating impact of postwar nuclear testing, especially the United States' Pacific Proving Grounds.

Regardless, Bennett's book covers new territory while complementing other works that cover similar ground, such as Richard Tucker's *Insatiable Appetite: The United States and the Ecological Degradation of the Tropical World* (Rowan & Littlefield, 2007), which documents the ravages of American consumerism, and the collection of articles on the environmental impact of war in *Natural Enemy, Natural* Ally: *Toward an Environmental History of Warfare* (edited by Tucker and Edmund Russell, Oregon State University Press, 2004). Anyone interested in gaining a more thorough understanding of the diverse history of the south Pacific islands will receive much from reading her book.

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M. J. S. Hodge, eds., *Darwin Studies: A Theorist and His Theories in Their Contexts.* Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company [Variorum Collected Studies Series], 2009, Pp. xvii+ 356. Index. US\$124.95 and ISBN 0754659399 and 978-0-7546-5939-6.

Charles Darwin's 200th birthday, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*, spurred an almost insatiable demand for information on the iconic naturalist. One would not find among the many offerings attempting to satisfy that popular hunger M. J. S. Hodge's *Darwin Studies: A Theorist and His Theories in Their Contexts*, a collection of his articles from various sources published starting in 1982. Hodge's place

in the 'Darwin Industry' is well established and should lead readers to expect more than a rehash of old commentary, however. In addition to being a prominent Darwin scholar, Hodge is a historian of Darwinian scholarship, contributing to the study of Darwin through his examination of the historiography applied to the naturalist's work.

In this capacity Hodge has served as editor for *The Cambridge Companion to Darwin* (2003), and authored *Origins and Species: A Study of the Historical Sources of Darwinism* (1991) in addition to producing a wide range of important articles on evolutionary biology and the Darwinian heritage. In 2009, with so many other Darwin publications it might have been easy to overlook this effort, but now that the dust has settled, we may see how Hodge's volume matters to Darwin scholars both new and experienced.

The book is the second of a two-volume series, and compiles ten of Hodge's articles spanning the years 1982-2005, most of them originally published prior to 1990. The first volume, *Before and After Darwin: Origins, Species, Cosmogonies, and Ontologies*, appeared in 2008 and offered a collection of articles aimed at presenting the diversity of theories among pre-Darwinian authors such as Lamarck and Whewell, and developments in the theory of natural selection since Darwin. This second volume is the 'meat' in that contextual sandwich, and gathers ten quite different articles aimed at explaining Darwin's work and some of the factors that contributed to the historical portrayal of those famous theories. In other words, it is a collection that focuses on how the history is written more than the actual history being accounted for. Hodge divides the articles into four groups: the first addresses the Darwin's place in the greater scope of Western thought, and challenges

stereotypical constructions of 'evolution' and 'revolution' in historical narratives of science. This is a good starting point for the reader, as Hodge encourages finegrain constructions of even the smallest elements of Darwinian theory in order to free Darwin's unique take on geological and biological 'deep time' from inapt configuration within standard Victorian narratives.

The second group of four articles includes commentary on Darwin's Voyaging (1831-1836) and London Years (1837-1842), which culminated in Darwin's the seminal 1842 sketch on the origin of species. These three articles, Hodge recommends, may be more advantageously read by starting with the fourth, addressing the years Darwin kept his theory notebooks. Depending on the reader's interest, the fifth article (formulating the theory of natural selection) may be read, or the reader can skip backward to the voyaging period to gain deeper background to Darwin's thought processes. Two more clusters of articles discuss specific theories (articles on generation/reproduction and on species, respectively), and finally the reception of Darwin's theories among contemporary readers. Hodge's road map of the articles thus encourages readers to view the articles as a group, but to take advantage of insights to be gained from a plastic approach to their order; Hodge's interest in moving away from a single 'Darwinian revolution' is based on the expectation that each reader may better shape understandings of the work once free of linear interpretations that have placed Darwin in a line of simple theoretical succession.

Frankly, one could do worse than to start with Hodge's fifth article, 'The Immediate origins of natural selection', originally published in *The Darwinian Heritage* (1985), and co-authored with *DH* editor David Kohn.

As a narrative of how Darwin got from his notebooks to a mature version of how species develop in the natural selection process, the Hodge-Kohn effort remains singularly clear. It is a convincing starting point for modern Darwin scholarship, which may be defined as scholarship as it has developed since 1959 (the *Origin* centennial), when the notebooks emerged as Darwin's subconscious mind to his selfconscious autobiographical writings. The notebooks helped to undermine tenuous legends such as the 'Malthusian moment,' whereby Darwin's reading of Robert Malthus' book on population in September 1838 was supposed to have triggered the first thoughts of natural selection. The message of this fifth article is, Darwin's notebooks provide a unique opportunity to examine a scientific work in progress, and the process examined is anything but well confined. Darwin confronted an evergrowing number of questions about what the theory of natural selection included, even as that definition hinged on a lengthy, if not infinite, series of effects it created. Hodge and Kohn do not argue for a relativist perspective on deciphering the theory, but rather one of widening inclusion.

From the fifth article, one can roam at will through the volume. 'Darwin and the

laws of the animate part of the Terrestrial System' reconstructs the years 1835-37, in which Darwin broke with Charles Lyell's arguments on speciation to move toward his monogenetic arguments.

Again, the interesting aspects of the piece are not merely the review of Darwin's actual thoughts and actions, but the author's concern that Darwin not be plugged into a line of precursors and subsequent theorists, making Darwin another link in a chain of evolutionary thought and thereby limiting his actual significance through anachronistic labeling. In Hodge's words, 'precursor historiography . . . distorts the interpretation of intentions.' Darwin didn't examine past sources as direct signposts of evolutionary theory, and neither should we. 'Darwin as a lifelong generation theorist,' article six, is a particularly useful narrative of the developmental course of Darwin's generational theory, including reconciliation of various influences on that work. Hodge's proposed asymmetry in Darwin's reliance upon Lyellian geology and Grantian generational theory is a thoughtful solution to the problem, suggesting that Darwin's early preoccupation with Lyell and his *Principles of Geology* created problems, most notably in its insistence on aboriginal or separate species, which Darwin later resolved with the incorporation of Grant's homologous transmutation.

Hodge's rigorous attention to all facets of Darwin's work points out for us that Darwin himself is not a static individual, susceptible of easy characterizations; 'Early Darwin' is not necessarily 'Later Darwin.' Historians for more than a century seemingly assumed the Darwin of *Origin* was the Darwin of *Descent of Man*, the *Voyaging* Darwin, etc. Where Darwin has left behind an archive of notebooks and correspondence that numbers in the thousands of pages, Hodge says, it is best to listen to what he said about his own thoughts that are exposed, without guarding, in the notebooks. If Darwin himself did not see previous evolutionary thoughts in a simple progressive pattern, it is difficult to argue that we should be stuffing him into such confining roles. The innocent spontaneity of the notebooks allows this argument its force. In contrast, Darwin's autobiographical reflections, while equally his own words, are nonetheless the efforts of a scientist attempting to create a discovery narrative that serves the magnitude of the discovery; scientists, and historians, often write history in this backwards manner.

This is the argument raised in Hodge's 'reception' articles, eight through ten. Notions of a 'Darwinian Revolution' lose their steam when examined in the cold light of contemporary thought, just as Darwin's look back at his formative process *must* be questioned to some extent simply because he knew that his story must lead to a work of *Origin*'s enormous impact. Hodge's review of how various British scientific and cultural communities reacted to.

Origin offers significant glimpses of that effect. Hodge cites how liberal reformers at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, as well as in scientific circles such as the *Geological Survey*, tended to favorably receive Darwin's theories, while

reactions tied to political theorists, e.g. Spencer, Marx, were far more variable due to their estrangement from principally biological considerations. Hodge emphasizes that no single reception of Darwin may be posited; indeed, he argues that it is 'inappropriate' to posit which social and cultural influences affected England's reaction to *Origin*. They all did in some sense. Hodge's review of Robert Young's *Darwin's Metaphor: Nature's Place in Victorian Culture*, article nine, even lauds the author's 'overtly political and, beyond that, ideological' construction of Darwin with its clear Marxian agenda.

Young's emphasis on materialism is an aid to clarifying how biology, fueled by awareness born of Darwinism, has superceded theology as the ideological framework of modern western society. As part of the debate in sociobiology that has been going on since the Enlightenment, Young's take on Darwinism describes just another chapter, but a chapter identifiable through the Marxian perspective. As a historiographic caution, then, Hodge reminds us that the 'end of history' ought not drive Marx from our historical thoughts; every historiographic model, when applied to Darwin, sins by omission, yet produces useful insights. To illustrate, Hodge's review of Desmond and Moore's Darwin points out how a theme-driven biographical study of the naturalist, in that case one which seeks to portray Darwin as impulsive and a bit of a firebrand of sorts, at times leaves a contemplative, structured Darwin on the editing room floor. Hodge's lauds the book, but points out how carefully the complexities of Darwin must be approached.

If all of this sounds like Hodge banging on (his words) about highly technical and sometimes stylistic aspects of history writing that will matter only to those deeply involved in the Darwin industry (has any other scientist inspired an industry? Nobody comes to mind), then, well, that's because it is to a good extent. That being said, less than totally committed Darwinians who are looking for primary reading on Darwin history and theory, as opposed to historical meta-analysis, may wish to start elsewhere. Among others, Michael Ruse's explication of evolutionary theory and its impact on current streams of thought is useful stuff. Various of his books come to mind, with Darwinism and its discontents (2008) being a particularly good read. For more general reading, Janet Browne's two-volume biography of Darwin, *Voyaging* (1995), and *The Power of Place* (2003), remains the most comprehensive and even-handed narrative of the naturalist's life taken in whole. There are other fine popular treatments of Darwin subjects, but those two are excellent places for the nascent Darwinian to start.

Those suggestions should not deter interest in Hodge's two-volume collection in any case if historiography is your thing. Darwinian historians looking for a selfcheck on where their industry stands will directly benefit from the retrospective offered here, and non-Darwinian historians may make good use of it as an example of how to be concerned about why we write history the way we do, and how we can do it better. That is one of Hodge's primary contributions to the Darwin industry: he is a watchdog of proper inquisitional diligence. These articles show Hodge in full service of that goal. In fact, Hodge's existence in that role may help explain how an 'industry' has sprung up around Darwin and nobody else: Darwin's own complexity, coupled with an almost unparalleled archive, not only invites but demands the constant revisiting of historiography that Hodge displays here.

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