

THE PACIFIC CIRCLE



October 2011

BULLETIN NO. 27

ISSN 1520-3581

CONTENTS

PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWS	2
HSS NEWS	6
FUTURE MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, and CALLS FOR PAPERS	6
BOOK, JOURNAL, EXHIBITION, and RESEARCH NEWS	7
SELECTED RECENT PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
BOOK REVIEWS	12
<i>Headhunting and Colonialism: Anthropology and the Circulation of Human Skulls in the Portuguese Empire, 1870-1930</i>	12
<i>An Environmental History of Latin America</i>	15
SUBSCRIPTION and STAFF INFORMATION	18

PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWS

Circle Member Awards and Honors

Congratulations to *Prof. Warwick Anderson* (University of Sydney), who has been awarded an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship for 2012-2016. He is the only historian to receive this honor. Warwick's project focuses on the scientific debate about what it meant to be human in the southern hemisphere during the twentieth century, thereby placing Australian and other regional racial thought in a new comparative context. Among the goals is to explore the distinctive character and scope of racial ideas in such southern settler societies and the Pacific, and to assess their global impact.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications and Scholarly Activities by Circle Members

Gregory T. Cushman (University of Kansas) looks forward to the forthcoming publication with Cambridge University Press of *Guano & the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History*. The monograph will be reviewed in an upcoming issue of the *Bulletin*.

Wendy Shaw (University of New South Wales) reports on Sustainable Management of Coffee Green Scales in Papua New Guinea:

Following a now completed three-year project on the best ways to deal with the insect pest, Coffee Green Scale, which has impacted on coffee production in Papua New Guinea, teams from the University of New South Wales, CBInternational UK, and the Coffee Industry Corporation of PNG have embarked on another project. This ongoing research brings together entomologists, ecologists, economists and a human geographer, working with PNG coffee industry researchers, and near-subsistence coffee growers in the highlands of PNG. Stage I of the project identified the most locally-appropriate ways to deal with the insect pest, which included identifying the capacities and constraints of the coffee growers to engage in pest management. The 2nd and current stage will identify the actual coffee yield loss due to Coffee Green Scales. This multidisciplinary collaboration is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. It is part of an overall approach to improving the lives and environments of the farmers in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Questions or comments? Please contact Dr. Shaw at w.shaw@unsw.edu.au.

Conference Reports

Asian Pacific Science and Technology at Two Conferences in Summer 2011

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In the summer of 2011 I attended and gave presentations at two international conferences where the history of science and technology in the Asia-Pacific region was featured prominently. Here is a brief report on both conferences.

The International Society for the Studies of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO) held a conference on the theme of “Chinese Overseas: Culture, Religions and Worldviews” in Hong Kong, June 21-22, 2011, hosted by the Department of Anthropology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong at its beautiful campus. While most of the papers appropriately explored religious and cultural beliefs and practices of overseas Chinese communities, the main theme of the conference, several papers focus on overseas Chinese scientists and engineers and their connections with mainland China.

Peng Xue of the University of Kitakyushu in Japan, for example, examined “What Affect Overseas Chinese Talents’ Return Intention?” which found, through a questionnaire survey of Chinese professionals in Japan, that income and age negatively correlated with return intention while degree of social connections in China did so positively. Wan Yu, a PhD student at the Arizona State University, pointed out in her paper “Circulation of Global Talents?” that recent Chinese students studying in the US were likely to follow the path of “brain circulation” instead of “brain loss” as they moved between the two countries. In another (related) paper, she and her co-author/advisor, Wei Li, expanded the sending to entities beyond China to include India, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan and also considered the impact of globalization on brain circulation.

In my own paper on “The Spiritual Worlds of Chinese American Scientists,” I looked at, among other themes, what motivated the five thousands of Chinese students/scientists in the US in 1949 to decide to stay in the US or return to the newly established People’s Republic of China. I argued that although many of them went to missionary universities in China and had participated in Christian student organizations in the US, religion was much less a factor than political ideology and Chinese cultural nationalism in determining their choices in 1949 and since. This paper is part of a larger study of Chinese/American scientists – including both the returnees, numbered about 1000, and the stayees – and their roles in the development

of science and technology in both the US and China that is now supported with a three year grant from the US National Science Foundation.

On July 25, 2011, I presented a related paper on “Making Transnational Science” about how Chinese/American scientists helped to trans-nationalize science and technology in modern China at the 13th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia, sponsored by the International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine (ISHEASTM) and hosted by the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) in Hefei, China from July 24 to July 29, 2011. In contrast to the ISSOC meeting, this Hefei conference could be said to be focused almost entirely on science and technology in the Asia-Pacific region. This makes it difficult to single out papers for highlighting so I will make a few general observations and report on several papers that I personally heard.

Given the original focus of both the society and its conferences on ancient Chinese science and the location of the conference this year, it was not surprising that most of the papers were on science, technology, and medicine in ancient China. A significant and increasing number of papers, however, dealt with the modern period and with regions outside of China. In the session I organized for the conference, we had, besides my paper, three others on the theme of “Western-Trained Chinese Scientists”: WANG Delu of the Great Wall Enterprise Institute of Beijing on “Chinese Scientists Who Returned from Study in the US in the 1950s” that reported on a remarkable series of oral history interviews with returnees in the 1980s and 1990s; Ning WANG of Brock University in Canada on “Returning Scientists and Chinese Politics of the 1950s”; and FU Bang-hong of the USTC on “The Bernal-Polanyi Dispute in China” on the debate among Chinese scientists, including returnees from the west, over whether science could and should be planned. Our chair and commentator FAN Dainian brought his own long experiences in Chinese science policy to bear on many of the issues discussed. To my surprise, the session room was so well-attended that extra chairs had to be brought in, indicating a growing interest in science and technology in modern China.

In another session that I chaired, Manyong MOON of the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology surveyed the “Evolution of Research Complex in Korea,” especially the formation of Korean science parks and scientific/academic institutions like his own. Another talk by ZHAO Yanghui of National University of Defense Technology in Changsha, China, detailed “The Establishment of Chinese Military Academies with Soviet Aid,” especially the origins and development of the predecessor of her current school the Harbin Institute of Military Technology in Harbin in the 1950s with Soviet assistance.

In sum, my impression of attending the ISSCO and ICHEASTM meetings this summer was that there is much intersection of scholarly interests at these conferences with those of members of the Pacific Circle, especially in terms of transnational studies of science and technology in Asia-Pacific in the modern period. Thus I would encourage Circle members to actively participate in these conferences to take advantages of opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration.

Proposed Sponsored Conference Papers and Panels

The Circle has organized and will sponsor a panel at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies, to be held in Denver, Colorado, November 18-20. "Science and Exploration in the Southern Hemisphere: Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica," will be chaired by Peter H. Hoffenberg (University of Hawai'i at Manoa) and will include the following original research papers: "John Gould: 'Bird Man' in Australia" (Janet Bell Garber, Los Angeles Community College District); "An Account of Some Enormous Fossil Bones: British Scientific Exchanges and Narratives of Discovery of the New Zealand Moa, 1839-1856" (Simon Andre Thode, The Johns Hopkins University) and "America in Britain's Polar Place: Changing Cultures of Antarctic Exploration in the 1940s and 1950s" (Adrian Howkins, Colorado State University).

Please contact Peter Hoffenberg at peter@hawaii.edu if you would like to participate on a Circle-sponsored history of science panel for the upcoming 39th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies, to be held at the lovely Huntington Library in Pasadena, California, March 9-11, 2012. Proposals are due no later than November 15, 2011. The Circle has sponsored panels at recent PCCBS annual meetings.



HSS NEWS

The History of Science Society 2011 Annual Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, on November 30⁶. This meeting will be co-located with the Society for the History of Technology (at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Cleveland City Centre). The hotels are within walking distance and shuttle service will be available. Contact: <http://www.hssonline.org/Meeting/index.html>.

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

30 May – 1 June 2012. Conference on the Watercraft of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, to be held at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Please submit by October 31, 2011, an abstract of no more than 300 words, images or a short description of the activity you would like to present to: nawi@anmm.gov.au.

2–5 July 2012. 4th International Conference on the History of Medicine in Southeast Asia, to be held in Solo (Surakarta), to coincide with the meeting of the International Association of Historians of Southeast Asia. The committee will consider all proposals on the subject of the history of health and medicine in Southeast Asia. Please send a one-page abstract for a 20-minute talk and a one-page CV no later than December 30, 2011 to Laurence Monnais at laurence.monnais-rousselet@umontreal.ca.

12–16 July 2012. Ninth International Congress of the History of Oceanography (IXHO-IX), to be held in Athens, Greece. The theme is: “Oceanography in the Age of Globalization.” For information, please visit the Congress website at www.seok.gr or contact Dr. George Vlahakis, the local organizer. Email: gvlahakis@yahoo.com.

2–10 August 2012. 34th International Geological Congress, to be held in Brisbane, Queensland. For information, please visit www.4jgc.org.

BOOK, JOURNAL, EXHIBITION and RESEARCH NEWS

Osiris (26:1, 2011) is a special issue devoted to “Revisiting *Klima*.” Among the articles of possible interest are Gregory T. Cushman, “Humboldtian Science, Creole Meteorology, and the Discovery of Human-Caused Climate Change in South America,” pages 16-44 and Ruth A. Morgan, “Diagnosing the Dry: Historical Case Notes from Southwest Western Australia,” pages 89-108.

Newsletter No. 13 of JAHIGEO (Japanese Association for the History of Geology) is a special issue devoted to “An Introduction to the History of Geological Sciences in Japan, from the Pre-modern Period (Jomon to Meiji Restoration) to the Heisei Period (1989-2011).” The chronological sections were written by the Working Group of Japanese INHIGEO Members. For additional information, please contact the editors: Toshio Kutsukake and Michiko Yajima at PX102070@nifty.com.

“Ships on the Shore” shares research on shipwrecks and the development of the American shore. Information is regularly updated for ideas, historical sources, and contemporary news related to historical and contemporary shipwrecks. Please visit: <http://shipsontheshore.wordpress.com>.



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“Distribution and Dynamics of *Bemisia Tabaci* Invasive Biotypes in Central China,” by **Q. Rao**, **C. Luo**, **H. Zhang**, **X. Guo** and **G.J. Devine**, *Bulletin of Entomological Research* 101:1 (2011), 81-88.

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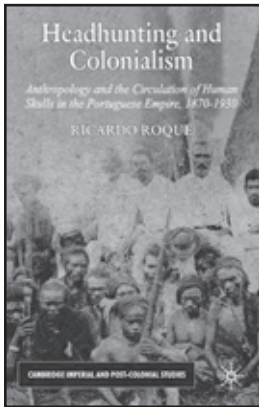
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 BOOK REVIEWS



Ricardo Roque, *Headhunting and Colonialism: Anthropology and the Circulation of Human Skulls in the Portuguese Empire, 1870-1930*, [Cambridge Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies], New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010, Pp. xiv + 342; Maps. B&W Photos. Glossary. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth: US\$105.00 and ISBN 978-0-230-22205-2 and 0-230-22205-6.

In his work Ricardo Roque, a Research Fellow of the Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Lisbon, proposes a micro-historical investigation into the roots and routes of thirty-five Timorese skulls that ended up at the Coimbra University Museum in the late nineteenth century. Yet as any successful micro-history attests, his endeavor incorporates much more than a singular narrative. Roque engages the discipline of anthropology in an unusual understudied context – that of Portuguese imperialism – and, most importantly for the readers of this journal, on an island, Timor, that is generally located on the fringes of Pacific inquiries. Moreover, Roque’s comparative framework engages crucial research in the area of British, French, and German physical anthropology during a time-period when collections of material culture and human remains reigned supreme.

Roque’s book is divided into two parts, combining seven chapters that are supplemented by an introduction and a conclusion. The first part of his book – aptly entitled “Encounters with Parasites” – nests the practice of headhunting in Portuguese and indigenous traditions. Although Portuguese authorities initially regarded the highly ritualized practice of taking heads as a clear-cut marker of indigenous barbarity and savagery, colonial officials soon realized its potential to support their administration of the island. By allowing Timorese auxiliary troops to incorporate headhunting into their colonial campaigns, the Portuguese administration strengthened its connection to local rule, while implicitly acknowledging the validity of this cultural practice. This aided the neglected and peripheral Portuguese administration of East Timor while integrating their officials into the mythological origins of the indigenous polities. Roque goes beyond the well-worn concept of imperial symbiosis by borrowing the notion of “mutual parasitism,” from Michel Serres, “according to which European and indigenous collectives are mutually reliant and mutually energizing, while also mutually hostile and distinct” (217). In his conclusion Roque

locates the Timorese case into a larger comparative framework, pointing out specific cases where Europeans, greatly outnumbered by the indigenous peoples, had to adapt to local customs and procedures in order to accomplish their goals. Within this process of mutual appropriation, headhunting played a pivotal role, a circulatory system Roque tells us following Bruno Latour, where the Portuguese colonial campaigns against rebellious Timorese kingdoms multiplied headhunting opportunities.

After locating the practice of headhunting at the heart of Portuguese colonialism in East Timor, Roque turns to the second part of his book, which carries the title of “Skulls and Histories.” This section engages the growing body on literature on anthropometric measurements during the colonial era. Where the first part explored the local Timorese circulation of severed heads and its significance for the establishment of Portuguese colonial rule on Timor, the second section explores the global connections and trajectories followed by the skulls. He investigates how “peripheral” Timorese skulls ended up in metropolitan museum collections. Unfortunately, the paperwork for the thirty-five skulls in the Coimbra collection lacks detail and permits only an incomplete picture. Rather than perceiving this fact as an impediment for his research, Roque argues that the paperwork available to the researcher even if partial, provides a fascinating, highly theoretical account. Roque reminds the reader of the importance of human skulls in the development of the anthropological discipline. Borrowing from Andrew Zimmermann, he regards human skulls as paradigmatic, that is, they were both an object of knowledge as well as providing a decisive rallying point for the newly developing discipline of anthropology. Unlike their northern European counterparts, however, Roque illustrates that Portuguese scholars were less concerned about classifying indigenous “races” around the world. Rather, they busied themselves with tracing the origins of the Portuguese population, something that led them to work closely with their archeological colleagues. This lack of demand for Timorese skulls in the Portuguese metropole made the arrival of the thirty-five skulls in Coimbra an anomaly. They would, however, quickly attract the attention of European physical anthropologists, since Timor represented an interesting island in the categorization of Oceania and Island Southeast Asia.

Roque’s sixth chapter might be of most interest to readers of the present journal. In it, he locates Timor in the unfolding European anthropological discourse on human racial classification. Starting with Alfred Russell Wallace’ *The Malay Archipelago* (1869), the region encompassing Oceania and Island Southeast Asia was divided into two distinct bio-geographical zones: Indo-Malayan and Austro-Malayan. Anthropologists defined Indo-Malayan individuals as displaying copper-colored skin-color and generally more agreeable features. Austro-Malayan individuals on the other

hand, were characterized by dark skin color and frizzy hair. Within this classification, the island of Timor played an important role. Wallace located the island on the Austro-Malayan side of the ethno-geographical divide, a notion that Portuguese scholars would attack in the twentieth century. The Timorese skulls proved pivotal in this discussion, although some Portuguese scholars now perceived their origins not as Timorese but as hailing from a failed Portuguese colonial raid. Roque maintains that the competing histories behind the entangled collection of skulls, the origin of which he places on the 1878-1881 Laleila wars, shed light on the stakes involved for Portuguese officials and academics.

Overall Ricardo Roque's *Headhunting and Colonialism* provides a stimulating and well-conceptualized read. His integration of primary research with theoretical outlooks throws light on historical topics that have generally been neglected in Pacific research. Portugal and Portuguese colonialism in East Timor have received only marginal consideration in historical research. His book thus figures as an important contribution to the fields of colonialism and ethno-geography in the Pacific.

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Shawn William Miller, *An Environmental History of Latin America* [New Approaches to the Americas Series], New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007, Pp. xi + 257. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth US\$65.00 and Paperback US\$22.99. ISBN0521848539 and 978-0521848534.

Fifteen years ago, the environmental history of Latin America was still an emerging field, marked by Alfred Crosby's landmark *Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (1973), as well as passionate regional monographs, like Warren Dean's classic *With Broadax and Firebrand: The Destruction of the Brazilian Atlantic* (1997) and Elinor Melville's critique of colonial pastoralism, *A Plague of Sheep: Environmental Consequences of the Conquest of Mexico* (1994). Beyond these Anglophone scholars, Spanish-speaking social scientists, including Nicolo Gligo, Jorge Morello, Osvaldo Sunkel, and Joan Martínez Alier called attention to the importance of understanding Latin America's development problems in an ecological-historical context. While U.S. environmental history was taking shape in the same period – the late 1970s through early 90s – with declensionist narratives of wilderness despoliation competing against triumphal accounts of conservationist policies and national parks, Latin American environmental history scholarship, itself deeply tied to colonial historiography, highlighted the persistence of extractive economies and the social inequality and ecological devastation that resulted from them.

The field has grown enormously since then, developing into a diverse and dynamic body of scholarship addressing a wide array of concerns, temporal and geographic, as well as topical and theoretical. Having formed a professional association in 2004, the Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (SOLCHA), Latin American environmental historians this year celebrated the publication of their own academic journal, the *Historia Ambiental Latinoamericana y Caribeña*.

This flourishing is both exciting and impressive. Nonetheless, for scholars of the Pacific, a notable lacuna persists: apart from a handful of articles by John McNeill and others, most of them already a decade old, Latin America's Pacific environmental history and its intersections westward remain largely unexplored. For reasons of historiography, language, and scholarly training as much as physical geography and

historical patterns of conquest and exploitation, the environmental history of Latin America continues to be resolutely oriented toward the Atlantic and centered on a north-south axis.

Shawn Miller's excellent synthesis, *An Environmental History of Latin America*, maintains this east-facing orientation even as it signals the tremendous breadth and depth that the field has attained. Ranging from ancient native civilizations to the pollution-clogged cities of the present, the book draws on thirty years of environmental history scholarship in its survey of humans' interactions with their habitats in South and Mesoamerica. Published in 2007, the book has already become a fixture in college classes as well as a starting point for research not only on the environmental history of the Americas, but also Latin American history in general. As Miller persuasively demonstrates, Latin America's early civilizations, protracted colonial period, and contemporary challenges cannot be understood apart from an examination of how its human inhabitants adapted, or failed to adapt, over time to biological, meteorological, and geographic challenges – from hurricanes and microbial attack to insalubrious swamps and high elevation.

From the first chapters, addressing Tupi, Inca, and Aztec soil amelioration, agro-forestry, terracing, and monumental hydrologic constructions, to the last, on the single-commodity economies, intense urbanization, and hydroelectric dependence of contemporary Latin America, the book emphasizes the intertwined forces of population, technology, culture, and consumption. Miller underpins his study with an explicit question – whether the “project of tropical civilization has been sustainable”? – as well as an implicit exploration of the factors that engender chaos, collapse, and resilience, themes popularized in recent years by writers like Jared Diamond and Charles Mann and still dominant in the anthropological, archaeological, and environmental history literature.

Overall, the book both advances the historiography and cast fresh light on present-day concerns. It is also – key for any book designed for course adoption – a pleasure to read. With occasional personal asides, from the delights of bicycling in Curitiba, Brazil's anomalous pedestrian paradise, to the dismay of encountering human sewage in the otherwise blue waters of Cancún, Miller vividly and engagingly narrates the highs and lows of Latin America's environmental past.

The book's only shortcoming is its all-too-common Atlantic centrism. Beyond a section on Peru's guano monopolies, Miller, a Brazilianist, offers little in the way of insight or even hooks for further research for individuals interested in Latin America's Pacific-facing nations and long west coast. Yet as emerging DNA evidence for the long-conjectured theory of Polynesian contact and influence in coastal Chile

suggests, further exploration of Latin America's Pacific environmental history offers insights both intriguing and transformative. Potential topics of study are rich and varied and offer clear points of intersection and overlap among the economic, oceanic, and indeed tectonic histories of Pacific Rim territories. From the shared political-ecological heritage of twentieth-century plantation agriculture – often run by the same companies, planting or transferring the same crops across the Pacific; to the repercussions of earthquakes and tsunamis along the Ring of Fire; to the history of Latin American shrimping and fishing and associated declines in ocean biodiversity – avenues for additional environmental analysis of Latin America's Pacific past remain wide open.

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SUBSCRIPTION and STAFF INFORMATION

The Bulletin of the Pacific Circle is the communication medium of the Pacific Circle, organized in 1985 to promote and assist scholarship in the history and social studies of Pacific science. The Circle is a commission of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science.

The *Bulletin* is distributed twice a year with the assistance of the Department of History, University of Hawai'i, Manoa.

Membership in the Circle, which includes the *Bulletin*, is available at a cost of US\$20 per year for individuals and US\$30 for institutions. Additional contributions in any amount to support the costs of production and distribution will be gratefully accepted.

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