

THE PACIFIC CIRCLE



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CONTENTS

PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWS and NOTES.....	2
FUTURE MEETINGS, CONFERENCES and CALLS FOR PAPERS	5
BOOK, JOURNAL, EXHIBITION and RESEARCH NEWS	5
PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY:	
SELECT RECENT and FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS	6
BOOK REVIEWS	13
Christina Thompson, <i>Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia</i> Reviewed by Larry Spencer, Plymouth State University.....	13
Peter Moore, <i>Endeavour: the Ship that Changed the World</i> Reviewed by Brian Richardson, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa.....	15
SUBSCRIPTION and STAFF INFORMATION	17

PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWS and NOTES

Business Matters

The Pacific Circle is trying to honor international efforts to reduce carbon and paper. We will continue to publish hard copies of the *Bulletin*, but please let the editor know if you would prefer to only receive an electronic copy. The editor can be reached at peterh@hawaii.edu.

In keeping with that goal, the editor will do his best to fulfill obligations and share information online. If you do not currently receive emails from the editor, but would like to in the future, please email the editor at peterh@hawaii.edu.

The University of Hawai'i Foundation requests that dues and contributions made by check be made payable to "The U.H. Foundation" with "The Pacific Circle" in the memo space. The subscription and dues rates remain US\$25.00 for individuals and US\$35.00 for institutions. Dues must be paid by check or credit card. Contributions can be made online.

The Circle web site includes previous issues, documents from conferences, links to affiliated and complementary groups, a blog with information about events and publications, and an option for searching previous issues of *The Bulletin*. Visit: <http://thepacificcircle.com>

The editor prepares issues of the *Bulletin* for potential new members, conferences, and departments. Please notify the editor if you would like to take copies with you to a conference or if a colleague might appreciate a copy. Thank you.

Membership Overview as of December 31, 2019

Total Members: 257

Individuals: 219

Organizations and Institutions (Public and Private): 38

Members by Region/Continent/Country:

Australia: 54

New Zealand: 5

Japan: 13

China (not Taiwan): 5

Republic of Korea: 4

United States: 73

Canada: 10

Great Britain: 21

Other European Countries, e.g. France, Germany, Italy, Russia: 12

Other Asian Countries, e.g. Singapore, India, Taiwan: 43
 Other Countries in the Americas, e.g. Mexico, Brazil: 3
 Pacific Islands (not New Zealand): 10

Membership Goals for 2020:

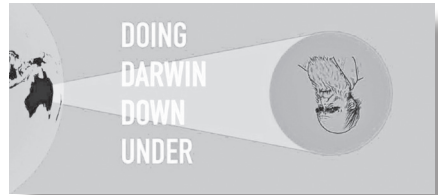
Increase membership from China and the Pacific Islands
 Encourage more members to receive Bulletins in electronic format
 Encourage younger scholars and graduate students to join

Doing Darwin Down Under

The Doing Darwin Down Under (DDDU) project was initiated by Evelleen Richards (University of Sydney) and Mark Micale (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) in 2018.

Their inspiration was the recognition that there are more scholars from Australia

and New Zealand working in and around the Darwin Industry than from any other countries except Britain and the United States. The project aims to bring together Australasian based scholars from a rich array of disciplinary fields and methodological approaches who are concerned with evolutionary theory, past and present, and its many implications and applications. It comprises a working group of interested scholars from a broad array of Australian and New Zealand Universities, and engages historians, philosophers, anthropologists, and social scientists, as well as scholars working in other cognate areas – literary, media, cultural, environmental, gender, and Indigenous Studies. Our objective is to take account of work that represents the full spectrum of current Australasian scholarship in the field of Darwinian Studies, broadly conceived.



Our loose working definition of “Darwinians Down Under” includes professional researchers who were born in, educated in, or work in Australia or New Zealand. The project seeks to promote communication, to cut across compartmentalized disciplinary and institutional divisions, to advance fresh perspectives, to encourage younger scholars and new scholarship, and, in particular, to integrate Indigenous authors and issues into the project. We further believe that greater contact and cohesion among this sizable group will promote Australasian research in the area and enhance its international visibility.

To date, the project has resulted in three highly successful organized

seminars and workshops. The inaugural session, “Global Darwin Down Under”, was held in August 2018 at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S). This was followed by a well-attended two-day DDDU Workshop at the University of Sydney in August 2019, held under the aegis of the School of History and Philosophy of Science (see Emily Kern’s report on this workshop in the History of Science Society Newsletter): <https://hssonline.org/resources/publications/newsletter/january-2020/news-from-the-profession-january-2020/>; and a special DDDU NZ Workshop, held in conjunction with the AAHPSSS Conference at the Victoria University of Wellington, in November 2019.

In all, some twenty-eight papers, ranging across the spectrum of Darwin Studies, have been presented and discussed. Panel topics have included: Darwin and Darwinism in Australia and New Zealand; race, science and indigeneity; gender and sex in evolutionary theory; Darwinism in nineteenth century European science and culture; evolution and the cultural arts; and biographical, philosophical and historiographical issues. Each workshop concluded with an animated Roundtable discussion, which addressed, or raised for future discussion, such Down Under aspects of Darwin Studies as: Is there a distinctive Australasian perspective on Darwin and evolutionary studies? Does the Australasian experience give sharper insights into race, gender, environmental aspects, or the historicity of evolutionary theory? How have our unique flora and fauna impinged on Australasian scholarship in Darwin Studies? In what ways does our colonial past structure our perceptions of Darwinism? Is a globalised perspective built into the Australasian worldview because of our unique location, our overlapping, multitudinous connections to Oceania, Asia, Europe and North America? Are we well placed to write Darwin Studies in the twenty-first century?

We are now looking to proceed to the next stage of the project, with a call for written versions of presentations for consideration for a projected volume and/or journal edition of collected papers. In connection with this, we are delighted to welcome Ruth Barton from the University of Auckland on board as Collaborating Editor. Ruth brings to the project her valuable experience as a leading international scholar of evolutionary history as well as New Zealand balance (thus conferring a true Australasian collaboration on the project).

Those interested in knowing more of the DDDU project are invited to contact Evellen Richards at evellen.richards@gmail.com



FUTURE MEETINGS, CONFERENCES and CALLS FOR PAPERS

8-11 October 2020. Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society (HSS), to be held in New Orleans, LA, jointly with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). Please visit HSS online for information about paper and panel submissions, and other conference details.



BOOK, JOURNAL, EXHIBITION and RESEARCH NEWS

The Quarterly Review of Biology 95:1 (2020), includes the following reviews of possible interest to Circle members:

Kristine Palmieri reviews *Georg Forster: Voyager, Naturalist, Revolutionary*, by **Jurgen Goldstein** and **Anne Janusch**.

Thomas P. Quinn reviews *Fishes of the Salish Sea: Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, Volumes One, Two, and Three*, by **Theodore Wells Pietsch**, **James Wilder Orr**, and **Joseph R. Tomelleri**.

Jeremy B. Stout reviews *Where Corals Lie: A Natural and Cultural History*, by **J. Malcolm Shick**.

Stefano Canessa reviews *The Ark and Beyond: The Evolution of Zoo and Aquarium Conservation. Convening Science: Discovery at the Marine Biological Laboratory*, edited by **Ben A. Minteer**, **Jane Maienschein**, **James P. Collins**, and **George Rabb**.

PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY: SELECT RECENT and FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS and BOOK CHAPTERS

Australian Rainforest Seeds: A Guide to Collecting, Processing and Propagation, by **Mark Dunphy**, **Steve McAlpin**, **Paul Nelson**, **Michelle Chapman**, and **Hugh Nicholson**, CSIRO Publishing, 2020.

Field Guide to the Frogs of Australia, by **Michael Tyler** and **Frank Knight**, CSIRO Publishing, 2020.

Fir and Empire: The Transformation of Forests in Early Modern China, by **Ian M. Miller**, University of Washington Press, 2020.

Frogs and Reptiles of the Murray-Darling Basin: A Guide to Their Identification, Ecology and Conservation, by **Michael Swan**, CSIRO Publishing, 2020.

Geelong's Changing Landscape: Ecology, Development and Conservation, by **David Jones** and **Phillip Roos**, CSIRO Publishing, 2019.

Gariwerd: An Environmental History of the Grampians, by **Benjamin Wilkie**, CSIRO Publishing, 2020.

A History of Plants in 50 Fossils, by **Paul Kenrick**, CSIRO Publishing, 2020.

Ladybird Beetles of the Australo-Pacific Region, by **Adam Slipinski**, **Jiahui Li**, and **Hong Pang**, CSIRO Publishing, 2020.

The Ocean Reader: History, Culture, Politics, ed. by **Eric Paul Roorda**, Duke University Press, 2020.

Pacific: An Ocean of Wonders, by **Philip J. Hatfield**, University of Washington Press with the British Library, 2019.

Plant Names: A Guide to Botanical Nomenclature, Fourth Edition, by **Roger Spencer** and **Rob Cross**, CSIRO Publishing, 2020.

Seeds of Control: Japan's Empire of Forestry in Colonial Korea, by **David Fedman**, University of Washington Press, 2019.

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ARTICLES and ESSAYS

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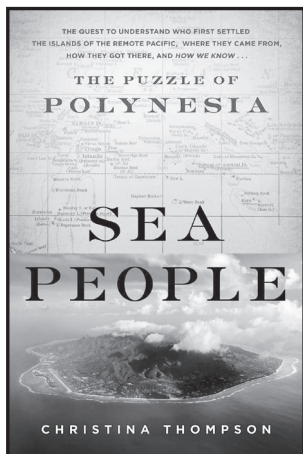
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BOOK REVIEWS



Christina Thompson, *Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia*. New York: Harper Collins, 2019, 384 pp. 8-page photo insert, illustrations throughout, and 2 endpaper maps. US\$29.99 ISBN 0062060872 and 978-0062060877.

In her new book, Christina Thompson tries to bring her audience up to speed with new/recycled answers to the “Puzzle of Polynesia.” Thompson defines Polynesia as a triangle bounded by New Zealand in the west, Hawai‘i in the north and Easter Island in the southeast. That puzzle for the most part deals with the following questions: 1. When was Polynesia settled? 2. Where did the settlers come from? 3. Why did they come? 4.

What happened to them after they came? and, 5. What is happening with them at the present time? The earliest answers from a western viewpoint may begin with the arrival of Álvaro de Mendaña in 1595, as well as others who visited the isles of Polynesia in the following centuries. Although explorers often sought answers from the Polynesians themselves, the barriers of language and culture hindered mutual understanding. Europeans brought along their own worldviews and preconceptions, resulting in a multitude of now-defunct hypotheses regarding Polynesian origins. According to Thompson, while Europeans wished to piece together the precise ‘when’ and ‘where’ of this puzzle, the oral traditions of the Polynesians themselves focused more on the ‘who’ and ‘why’ of their past (165-167). Moreover, in their efforts to share geographical expertise, the “subject-centered” knowledge system of Polynesian navigators clashed with the ostensibly ‘objective’ approach of European cartographers, best exemplified by Tupaia’s “remarkable” and tantalizing chart of the Society Islands as recorded by Cook in 1769 (92).

As the book progresses, Thompson seeks out answers by delving into the history of the study of Polynesia and describes the results of both western anthropologists and intellectuals with Polynesian ancestry, e.g. Te Rangi Hiroa. In one chapter, she explores key concepts common to the oral traditions of Polynesia,

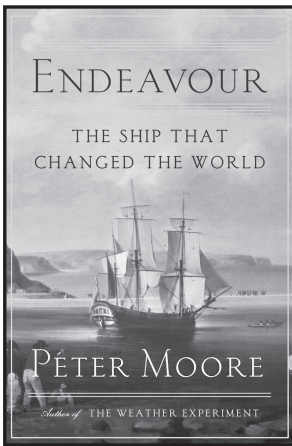
from Queen Lili‘uokalani’s translation of the Kumulipo to collections of chants from New Zealand that were written down in the nineteenth century (126-138). Combined with the contributions of archaeology (e.g. Lapita pottery), radio-carbon dating, and DNA evidence, the ‘puzzle of Polynesia’ grows more complete.

The book is divided into six parts: I. The Eyewitnesses, II. Connecting the dots, III. Why not just ask them, IV. The Rise of Science, V. Setting Sail, and ending with VI. What we know now. Each part has between four and five chapters that fill in the details with the last part getting more specific with respect to DNA studies and scientific dating techniques and a concluding coda. As the coda indicates, only by joining the way that the Polynesians understand their history with the scientific information concerning their history, will the reader have a more comprehensive understanding of the answers to the questions posed in the first paragraph.

Finally, it may be emphasized that Thompson paints with a broad brush and asks big questions, which can be both liberating as well as problematic for readers wary of generalizations. In doing so, she implicitly poses a few key questions with relevance to indigenous studies scholars and those with a focus on the intersections of culture. Firstly, is there an unbridgeable “epistemological gap” (126) between certain cultures (e.g. oral vs. written, ‘subject-centered’ vs. ‘objective’), and if so, how does one confront this? Secondly, what does it mean for a group to have ‘ownership’ over its own past? To clarify this issue, Thompson quotes the Māori scholar Tipene O’Regan: “My past is not a dead thing to be examined on the post-mortem bench of science without my consent... I am the primary proprietor of my past.” (315)

The book is a fascinating read as the prose is lucidly written and well documented; notes to each chapter appear after the acknowledgements section. The Index is complete and there is a small number of black/white/color images pertaining to some of the information contained in the chapters. She brings insight to her studies not only by examining the source materials, but by visits to many of the isles of Polynesia with her family. As an inveterate reader, I have been on a Captain Cook bent lately, and reading her book provided me with a complementary view of the exploration of and the study of the settlers of Polynesia. How can we talk about western exploration of the Pacific when the Polynesian had long before the arrival of the westerners, not only explored but also settled the vast Pacific?

There are a number of books dealing with the history of settlement of the Pacific isles and voyaging in the Pacific Ocean, but for another fascinating exploration of this vast space you might want to read Simon Winchester’s *Pacific: Silicon Chips and Surfboards, Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators, Fading Empires, and the Coming Collision of the World’s Superpowers* (Harper Collins, 2015).



Peter Moore, *Endeavour: the Ship That Changed the World*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2018, 420 pages, 16 unnumbered pages of plates: illustrations, maps. Hardcover US\$28.00 and ISBN 978-0374148416.

Peter Moore's *Endeavour: the Ship that Changed the World* traces the history of HMB *Endeavour* from the time it was launched in 1764 through its time as Cook's ship from 1768 to 1771, to its service running supplies and troops to the Falkland Islands, and up until 1777 when, now named *Lord Sandwich*, it was scuttled off Newport, Rhode Island, during the American Revolutionary War.

In fact, the book begins well before *Endeavour* was launched. In a narrative structure reminiscent of Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, Moore begins by talking about the forests of oak trees that grew in northeast England and provided the basis for the shipbuilding industry in places such as Whitby. The physicality of the ship permeates the narrative. Who built it, who repaired it, and how it behaved on the water are all important aspects of the creation and use of the ship, which in turn was an essential reason for the success of Cook's first voyage. The ship could carry considerable supplies and men, it could carry scientific equipment, it could operate in shallow water, it could carry plant samples back to Britain, and it could survive an almost catastrophic impact with the Great Barrier Reef.

The cultural history of the oak tree likewise provided a somewhat-idyllic context for *Endeavour's* construction and Cook's early life. For Moore, the career of Captain Cook was intimately tied with the ship: he grew up in Whitby, where the ship was built, and was part of a maritime culture that allowed him to sail on, and eventually captain, barks as they freighted coal and other commodities on the west coast of England and up into Scandinavia.

The narrative structure of the book is useful insofar as the ship itself is able to tie together narratives that are often otherwise disconnected. Moore considers how the geographical location (the oaks, coastlines, and resources of Whitby) connects to the political events of the day (the careers of Lionel Charlton, Lord Sandwich, and Alexander Dalrymple) and the scientific opportunities created by the transit of Venus and the increased influence of the Royal Society on George III. The narrative is reminiscent of James Burke's *Connections*, where many disparate factors all come together to create something new and significant.

Near the end of the book, Moore spends several chapters writing about the importance of the Falkland Islands to British foreign policy in the late 18th century. The British had established Port Egmont in 1766. The complexity of the situation is somewhat lost in the book. For instance, Moore does not mention that the French had in fact established Port Louis two years earlier, though he mentions de Bougainville's visit. Nor does Moore mention that a Spanish settlement coexisted with the British from 1771 to 1774. In the book, the Falkland Islands is important because it shows what happened to *Endeavour* after Cook's first voyage ended. The ship was used twice to transport troops and supplies to the Islands, first in 1771 and again in 1774. Given Moore's penchant for drawing historical parallels, it is unfortunate that he did not consider Cook's location on his second voyage when *Endeavour* was in the Falkland Islands. On April 23, 1774, when *Endeavour* reached the Falklands, Cook and his new ship, *Resolution*, had been anchored at Table Bay at the Cape of Good Hope, soon to be returning to England and the end of his second voyage. In addition, when *Endeavour* left the Falkland Islands on May 21, 1774, on its way back to Britain, Cook had boarded *Resolution* and it too was just starting to head home. The two ships, in other words, were in the South Atlantic at the same time heading back to Britain.

An underlying theme of the book is the almost complete disregard for *Endeavour* as an historical and cultural object in the 18th century. Once it has returned from the Pacific, it was immediately put into service to transport troops to the Falklands, and once it had deteriorated, the Navy sold it. Finally, once its use as a transport ship was at an end and the British needed to close off Narragansett Bay, she was scuttled along with other ships. The movements between memory and indifference animate much of the book's narrative.

The use of images in the book was disappointing. The images were all printed in the middle of the book, which meant that they appeared out of context and, in addition, readers were rarely directed in the text itself to refer to the pictures. Some, such as the map of Otaheite, were not even mentioned in the text. Further, there were many times in the book when an illustration would have been helpful. A map could have supported his discussion of the Seven Years War or the activities on the Falkland Islands. Chapter 13 opens with a description of Blaskowitz's map of Narragansett Bay. The map is located alongside the other illustrations, but its existence is not mentioned in the text. Similarly, Moore makes frequent mention of parts of the *Endeavour* or of specific types of equipment, which would have been more meaningful to readers if illustrations of some kind were included alongside. Plans survive but are not included. The book, in other words, seems to have missed an opportunity to use images to support and expand the topics discussed.

Peter Moore's *Endeavour* is targeted to a popular audience with relatively few academic or archival references and little engagement with scholarly debates. There is minimal mention of the books and articles written about Cook and the voyage.

Beaglehole appears incidentally a few times and Bernard Smith is quoted once, but only to provide a general characterization of Sydney Parkinson's sympathetic relationships with the people encountered on the voyage. Instead, the reader is offered a single, uncontroversial and unambiguous story of a ship that was seaworthy for roughly a dozen years, but whose symbolic value extends much further. As the story unfolds, sometimes in romantic or dramatic ways, the reader is shown how the ship, a well-constructed and well-used tool, was part of significant, and sometimes insignificant, historical events. The book ends with recent reappearances of *Endeavour*, as the name for a United States space shuttle as well as the maritime archaeological searches for what might remain of the actual ship off Rhode Island. Whether *Endeavour* in fact changed the world or not is never really discussed. Moore establishes, however, that *Endeavour* has been part of the world and it is worthwhile to follow him as he pieces his story together.

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