

## PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

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No. 1

March 1986

## Welcome to the Pacific Circle!

The Pacific area encompasses more than 64 million square miles, nearly one-third of the entire globe. Communication in this region has always been difficult, whether for the 18th-Century European explorer or for the 20th-Century scientist. Historians and other scholars whose interests are drawn to questions of the development of science in the Pacific, are widely scattered, not only around the Pacific but throughout the world. Many of us are not known to each other, and communication among those who are in touch is often discouragingly slow. The "tyranny of distance" is still with us in the Pacific, even in our age of satellite communication.

In August of 1985, the Pacific Circle was created to meet this problem by establishing a membership roll of concerned scholars, organizing meetings periodically, and publishing a newsletter. The Pacific Circle Newsletter will be circulated semi-annually, in March and September, to all interested scholars, institutions, and learned societies. At present this will be done free of charge, under the sponsorship of the History Department, University of Hawaii. It is intended that the editorial office of the Newsletter should act as a clearing house for information relating to current activities in the history of Pacific science, and that the Newsletter communicate a summary of these developments to Pacific Circle members. News items will include: conference summaries; announcements of new books and recently published articles; a directory of institutions where the teaching of Pacific science is a subject of interest; forthcoming events, such as conferences being planned; reports of research projects; sources of funding for research or travel; scholars' requests for information; short bibliographical surveys; and brief biobibliographies of prominent Circle members.

We mean to take "Pacific science" in the broad sense, encompassing both imperial and colonial scientific efforts, and indigenous systems of belief about nature. Science and belief as applied to specific human needs--agriculture and aquaculture, navigation and surveying, medicine and psychotherapy, for example--will also concern us. "Pacific science" is thus a shorthand for the pursuit of natural knowledge in the Pacific region, whether by native, European, or Asian peoples, from the earliest times to the mid-20th Century.

The organizers of the Pacific Circle have approached the general secretary of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), Division of History of Science, with a proposal to make the Pacific Circle a Scientific Section of IUHPS, and thereby affiliated with UNESCO and its work.

Pacific Circle members and others are encouraged to forward news items to the Editor:

Prof. Philip F. Rehbock  
History Department  
University of Hawaii  
2530 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 U.S.A.

or to the Co-editor:

Prof. Roy M. MacLeod  
Department of History  
University of Sydney  
Sydney, New South Wales  
Australia 2006

Copy deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter will be August 15, 1986.

In addition, a board of Correspondents has been established, each having agreed to send information on Pacific activities. We would welcome suggestions for additional correspondents from other countries. The board currently includes:

Japan:	Masao Watanabe	16-3, 1-chome Higashi-cho Koganei-shi, Tokyo 184, Japan
Mexico:	Juan José Saldana	Facultad de Filosofia y Letras (cubiculo 8), Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Ciudad Universitaria, Apartado Postal 21-873, C.P. 04000 Mexico, DF
U.S.A.:	Philip F. Rehbock	History Department, University of Hawaii, 2530 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822

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Our grateful thanks go to Joy Nagata and Charles MacDonald of the Office of University Relations, University of Hawaii, for the creation of our Pacific Circle masthead.

## PACIFIC CIRCLE INAUGURAL MEETING

The Pacific Circle was launched on August 2, 1985 at the XVIIth International Congress of History of Science, Berkeley, California. Following the final session of the symposium "Western Science in the Pacific Basin," Professor Roy MacLeod (University of Sydney) began by explaining the need for a consortium of scholars, informal at first, to organize meetings, circulate information, and encourage international cooperation in the history of science in the Pacific. After brief discussion, the formation of the Pacific Circle was unanimously proclaimed. Professor Fritz Rehbock (University of Hawaii) circulated a questionnaire among those wishing to participate and receive the future Newsletter. Pacific Circle membership has since grown to nearly 70.

## CONFERENCE REPORT: The Berkeley Symposium

"Western Science in the Pacific Basin" was the theme of Symposium 8 of the XVIIth International Congress of History of Science, held in Berkeley last August. Organized by Roy MacLeod and Fritz Rehbock, the symposium consisted of 15 papers and a film, distributed in four sessions over a two-day period.

The opening session, chaired by Prof. Rehbock, focussed on "Exploration and Navigation." PETER LINGWOOD (Barnsley, South Yorkshire) led off with a paper on Sir Edward Belcher (1790-1877), his Pacific voyage in HMS Blossom, and the role of this voyage in his becoming an admiral. KENNETH CARPENTER (University of California, Berkeley) then examined the Pacific as a "testing ground

for theories of scurvy," from Anson and Cook to the end of the 18th Century.

ALAN FROST (La Trobe University, Melbourne) examined some of the covert political and economic motivations behind European exploration of the Pacific in the late 18th Century.

ELAINE SHAUGHNESSY (Alecto Historical Editions, London) concluded the morning session with a description of the Banks Florilegium project--the printing of the plates illustrating the botanical collections made by Banks and Solander during Cook's first voyage.

Prof. Rod Home chaired the afternoon session, on "Ethnology, Natural History and Oceanography." MIRANDA HUGHES (University of Melbourne) opened with a paper on the Paris Société des Observateurs de l'Homme and its sponsorship of the anthropological work of Baudin and Peron in Tasmania in 1802. BARRY WM. BUTCHER (University of Melbourne) examined the use that Darwin made of his Australian correspondents, especially in writing The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals.

HARRY N. SCHEIBER (University of California, Berkeley) brought the session into the 20th Century with a paper on U.S. fisheries policy in the Pacific, emphasizing the role of Wilbert Chapman.

DAVID G. FRODIN (University of Papua New Guinea) surveyed the delayed and sporadic work of naturalists in New Guinea, from the Dutch exploration (1828-35) to World War II.

ROY MACLEOD (University of Sydney) completed the first day's papers with an analysis of the Funafuti expeditions (1896-1904) as a case study in metropolitan-colonial scientific relations.

The following morning Prof. MacLeod chaired the final session

of papers, on the "Organization of Scientific Research in the Pacific Basin."

FRITZ REHBOCK (University of Hawaii) led off with an account of the international and local contexts of the founding of the Pacific Science Association in the 1920s.

ALAN LEVITON (California Academy of Sciences) and MICHELE ALDRICH (AAAS, Washington D.C.) described the fortunes of the California Academy of Sciences during its first half-century (1853-1906).

ELIZABETH NEWLAND (University of Wollongong) examined the factors unique to Australia which shaped the growth of science during the first hundred years after settlement.

GARRY J. TEE (University of Auckland) chronicled the developments in mathematics in New Zealand during the 19th and 20th Centuries.

ROD HOME (University of Melbourne) and MASAO WATANABE (Tokyo Denki University) described the parallel evolution of the physics disciplines in Australia and Japan from the mid-19th Century to 1914.

ROBERT H. RANDOLPH and JOHN BARDACH (East-West Center, Honolulu) concluded the formal papers with a report of Soviet accomplishments and aspirations in marine biology during the 20th Century.

The final session of the symposium was devoted to an airing of the film "The Flowering of the Pacific," a fascinating one-hour documentary which integrates scenes from the route of Cook's first voyage with a description of the printing of the Banks Florilegium. The film was loaned by Editions Alecto and introduced by Elaine Shaughnessy.

## PACIFIC SCIENCE POSTER

A splended full-color poster (see below), commemorating the Pacific Science symposium at Berkeley and featuring a Banksia species from the Banks Florilegium collection, was created by Alecto Historical Editions and sold at cost to symposium participants. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy may write: Elaine Shaughnessy Editions Alecto, Ltd. 46 Kelso Place London W8, England

## BANKS' FLORILEGIUM WESTERN SCIENCE IN THE PACIFIC BASIN



A symposium of the  
XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

31 July - 8 August 1982

BOOK IN PROGRESS

Many of the papers from the Berkeley symposium, plus several solicited from colleagues who could not attend, are to be published next year. Editors Roy MacLeod and Fritz Rehbock are now working with authors to prepare the collection for publication.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT:  
Pacific Circle Meeting

Arrangements are now being considered for a two-day Pacific Circle meeting to be held, we hope, at the East-West Center, Honolulu, in 1987. When plans are complete, an official call for papers will be issued.

CONFERENCE REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENT:  
Science in East Asia

The First International Symposium on Cultural Interactions between Japan and other East Asian Countries was held on October 19-21, 1985, in Sendai, Japan, under the auspices of the Research Institute for Japanese Culture, Tohoku University. About 80 participants, from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and Taiwan, as well as Japan, met for the three-day conference. One of the sessions, devoted to "Science in East Asia" had the following program:

- TADASHI YOSHIDA, "The Public Image of Science"
- SHIGERU NAKAYAMA, "The Formation of the Japanese Word 'Kagaku (science)'"
- SHIN'ICHI SATO, "Social Darwinism in China"
- SHIN'ICHI YAMAMURO, "Social Sciences in East Asia"

Moderator: TADASHI YOSHIDA;  
Commentator: YOICHIRO MURAKAMI;  
Discussants: SHOSUKE SATO  
MASAKAZU YOSHINAKA  
KIYOSHI TAKADA  
KEIICHI NOE

A second symposium is scheduled for August 29 - September 3 in Sendai. Those interested in this symposium should write:

Dr. Tadashi Yoshida,  
Assoc. Prof. of the History of  
Science  
Research Institute for Japanese  
Culture  
Faculty of Arts and Letters  
Tohoku University, Kawauchi  
Sendai 980, Japan

CONFERENCE REPORT: The Internationalization of Japan

In commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the international cultural exchange between Japan and other countries, a "Rutgers-Japan Convention" was held at Rutgers University in April, 1967. A second international conference was held this past October at Fukui University, focussing on the Yatoi, or employed foreigners, who played many important roles in the modernization of Japan during the Meiji Restoration.

Conference papers examined the impact of the Yatoi individually and cumulatively, and helped to clarify the factors, both native and exotic, that were assimilated and dissimilated, often with some tension and friction, at the time of the formation of modern Japan.

The Rutgers-Fukui connection dates to the 1870s, when Kusakabe Taro, resident of Fukui and the first Japanese student to receive Phi Beta Kappa honors at an American university, met William Eliot Griffis, a Rutgers alumnus,

one of the early Yatoi, and author of The Mikado's Empire.

The conference committee chairmen were ARDATH W. BURKS (Rutgers University), EDWARD R. BEAUCHAMP (University of Hawaii) and TADASHI SHIMADA (Fukui University).

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT:  
16th Pacific Science Congress

The Pacific Science Association will hold its 16th Congress in Seoul, Korea, August 10-20, 1987. The Newsletter editors would appreciate hearing from anyone already planning to present an historical paper at the congress, or anyone interested in attending a meeting of the Pacific Circle at Seoul, if one could be arranged.

PCN PROFILE: Juan José Saldana

Moving from the western to the eastern shore of the Pacific, we find an active community of historians of science in Latin America. Current president of the 350-member Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y la Tecnología (SLHCT) is JUAN JOSE SALDANA G., Associate Professor in the History and Philosophy Departments of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City. Dr. Saldana received his Ph.D. in the History of the Physical Science from the University of Paris in 1980--the first Mexican scholar with a Ph.D. in this field. Since 1984 he has been founding editor of Quipu, the Latin American quarterly journal devoted to the social history of science and technology. ("Quipu" refers to the system of knotted ropes used by the Incan people of the Andes to keep numerical

statistics and historical records.) Both Quipu and a Boletin Informativo (issued 3 times/year) are published by SLHCT.

Dr. Saldana's publications include: La notion de révolution scientifique: le cas de l'introduction des conceptions ondulatoires dans l'optique du début du XIXe siècle (Paris, 1980); "La ideología de la ciencia en México en el siglo XIX," in La Ciencia en Hispanoamérica (Madrid, 1985); and "La ideología de la Ciencia en América Latina en el siglo XIX," Quipu, vol. 3, num 1, (1986). Among his current research interests are: the institutionalization of science in Latin America; the history of scientific and technical education in Mexico; and Latin American sources for the history of science and technology.

The Pacific Circle Newsletter is pleased to have the services of Dr. Saldana as a correspondent.

PACIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Catalogue 1050, offering for sale some 90 works on America, Australia and the Pacific, and illustrated with numerous fine color and black-and-white plates, has recently been issued by Bernard Quaritch, Ltd (5-8 Lower John St., Golden Square, London W1R 4AU).

REMINDER

All items to appear in the next Newsletter should reach the editor no later than August 15, 1986.

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Your editors would like to begin compiling a directory of Pacific science scholars, to be distributed with the next Newsletter and periodically updated. Your completion and return of this page will contribute materially to this effort. Thank you.

(Please type or print.)

Your name, title  
and address

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Institutional affiliation  
(if not give above)

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Phone No.

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Telex Address

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Your special  
research interests:

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Names and addresses of  
others you think might  
be interested in the  
Pacific Circle.

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Please return this form to:

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Editor, Pacific Circle Newsletter  
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University of Hawaii  
2530 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 U.S.A.