

THE PACIFIC CIRCLE



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PACIFIC CIRCLE NEWS

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Roy MacLeod and Fritz Rehbock will co-chair the Pacific Circle's two-session symposium on "Nature's Empires: Museums and the Cultivation of Knowledge in the Pacific" at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society in Vancouver, British Columbia, to be held November 2-5, 2000. "Part I. Exploring Meanings" is tentatively scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 3, and "Part II. Creating Memories," for 7:30 p.m. on the same day. Roy and Fritz will provide an Introduction entitled "Viewing the Pacific through European Eyes: Constructing Meanings and Memories." The participants have been kind enough to provide the following paper abstracts.

Part I. Exploring Meanings

"Objects of this World: Missionaries, Museums and the South Pacific"

Sujit Sivasundaram

Christ's College, University of Cambridge

When the London Missionary Society was formed in 1795, it was decided that its first missionaries should be sent to the South Pacific. These, and those who followed them, wrote an enormous number of letters and reports, and sent back many 'curious' artifacts. Shells, idols, botanical specimens, spears and Pacific islanders were among the trophies sent home. Their supporters and friends returned the compliments by shipping back livestock, steel, and printing presses. A missionary museum was set up in London where the relics of 'savagery' could be displayed. Similarly, objects from Britain took pride of place in the houses of South Pacific people favored by the missionaries.

This paper will consider the politics of exchange and how integral they were to the representation of a distant place. How did these objects denote that the mission was succeeding? How did mission supporters encourage their agents by sending objects to them? Was there a relationship between the shells and the idols that were sent home or the steel and the livestock that were sent to the South Pacific? Indeed, scientific practices were demonstrated in relation to objects that would not normally be considered under that title. Pacific islanders, who arrived in Britain, for example, were often treated as natural history specimens. They were on occasion put in cages, portrayed without clothes, and spoken of as wild animals.

“The School for Naturalist-Voyagers”

Richard W. Burkhardt, Jr.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Among the multiple interactions between governments and museums that were so important for the growth of natural history in the 19th century, there may have been none that looked more promising at its inception than did the special “school for naturalist-voyagers” that was established at the Museum of Natural History in Paris in 1819. Proposed initially by the French Minister of the Interior, who also promised to fund the operation, the idea of the school was to train young naturalists who could then be sent off to the far corners of the globe in search of plants, animals, and minerals useful to France and/or interesting to science. The professors of the Museum, not surprisingly, were enthusiastic about the Minister’s idea, believing it would assure them of the supply of new specimens on which the progress of natural history depended. However, aligning the interests of the naturalists at the Museum with those of the French government and with a set of aspiring, young voyager-naturalists was not an entirely straightforward matter, as the voyage of discovery to Australia of Captain Baudin had illustrated less than two decades earlier (1800-1804).

This paper seeks to reconstruct the diverse aims and interests of the professors of the Museum, the French government, and the candidates for the school. It then explores what become of the school after the first three naturalist voyagers sent out under the project’s auspices met disaster respectively in Madagascar, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico. Particular attention is paid to the various lessons that seem to have emerged from the Baudin expedition, the diverse regions of the globe in which the Museum and the French Government after 1815 were most interested, and the recurring issue of the control of specimens.

“‘From Having No Herbarium:’ Local Knowledge vs.
Metropolitan Expertise: Joseph Hooker’s Australasian
Correspondence with William Colenso and Ronald Gunn”

Jim Endersby

University of Cambridge

Joseph Hooker’s Pacific floras of New Zealand (1855) and Tasmania (1860) were partly the product of his own travels and collections in the region, but were largely compiled using the herbarium at Kew. Neither that herbarium nor the floras could have existed without the efforts of collectors based permanently in the colonies. William Colenso was one of the most

significant in New Zealand, and Ronald Gunn did similarly invaluable work in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). The correspondence among Hooker, Gunn and Colenso reveals complex relationships, characterized by both deference and friendship, and mediated by exchanges of plants, knowledge and money.

A central theme is a polite but fierce competition over the value of their respective knowledges—the global, generalizing erudition of the metropolitan expert, and the local, particular expertise of the colonial collector. Sometimes sharp differences over plant taxonomy and distribution emerge from these competing interests. For example, Hooker argued that Kew's herbarium and library gave him the sole authority to name species and determine the geographical and morphological limits, and while Gunn and Colenso largely accepted his authority, they occasionally tried to assert that their more detailed knowledge of living plants gave them unique insights into such questions. A close reading of the letters, together with an examination of Victorian botanical collecting practices, reveals a complex negotiation over the status of particular knowledges.

“Jane Franklin and the Natural History Museum Idea in Tasmania”

Janet Garber

Independent Scholar

In 1828, Jane Griffin, who had led a life of parties, balls, operas, museums, and tours of the Continent, married the Arctic explorer, Sir John Franklin. In 1836, Franklin became governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). He and Jane arrived in 1837, and two years later founded a scientific society, where papers were presented by visitors John Gould and Joseph Hooker, among others. In 1837, Jane bought 130 acres for a botanical garden. Exhibits were arranged in Government House, pending construction of a museum. She then purchased 400 additional acres of land adjacent to the botanical garden, and erected a small museum of natural history. The foundation stone for that building was laid in 1842. But the Franklins left Tasmania the following year, and by 1853 the museum fell into disrepair, its library and collections dispersed. The building became a storehouse for apples. Yet, for a short time, Tasmania was the first country outside of the United Kingdom to boast a Royal Society for the Advancement of Science, with a museum.



Part II. Creating Memories

“Dangerous Artifacts: A Case Study in Local and Global Negotiations of the Meaning of Indigenous Objects.”

John Barker

University of British Columbia

On at least seven different occasions between 1903 and 1997, the Maisin people of Papua New Guinea attempted to purge their villages of “old things”—various artifacts made and used by their ancestors. Some objects were rescued from the earliest bonfire of a missionary and now form part of the Collingwood Bay collection in the Australian Museum. The rest were destroyed and few reminders of the past survive in the villages.

This paper is occasioned by a proposal now before the Museum to mount an exhibition of past and contemporary material culture in Collingwood Bay in collaboration with the Maisin. In this paper, I draw upon archival documents and ethnographic fieldwork to trace the journey of those Maisin artifacts that survived local purges to museums and explore the implications of their proposed unveiling before a Maisin public. More specifically, I want to explore how Maisin attitudes towards “old things” may have evolved through the twentieth century. The fear of old things, I will argue, is the result of a melding of missionary teachings about moral transformation with indigenous notions of the moral, particularly about sorcery and healing. The Australian Museum was a beneficiary of such attitudes at the beginning of the last century. As the new century dawns, it must deal with the legacy, just as the Maisin confront their own continuing concerns with artifacts that can, in their view, kill but at the same time present a unique link with a receding past that villagers have come to cherish.

“Crisis or Crossroads? Museums in the Russian Far East Reinterpreting State Narratives.”

Alexia Bloch

University of British Columbia

Museums play an important role around the world today as communities from the Aleutian Islands to New Zealand to New York to the Russian Far East look for innovative ways to address legacies of colonialism and reinterpret dominant paradigms underlying the representation of the “Other.” Many would say that since the 1980s, museums, and especially anthropology or natural history museums, have been grappling with a “crisis of mission.” The worldwide crisis of direction for museums is particularly thrown

into relief in the context of Russia, where an entire society was abruptly forced to reexamine its relationship to government, authority, and local history. This paper draws on the crisis of knowledge in Russian natural history museums to demonstrate both broad trends in the museum world, and the unique place of indigenous Siberians in their growing critique of the Soviet narrative of progress.

“The Representation and Commodification of Suffering:
Kalaupapa National Historical Park.”

Kerri Inglis

University of Hawaii, Manoa

Brigham Young University, Hawaii

When foreigners came into contact with the Hawaiian Islands, they brought with them many “foreign” diseases. The result of this biological exchange was the tragic decline of the Hawaiian population. One disease that not only took lives, but also influenced a great deal of cultural change, was leprosy, or Hansen’s disease. In 1865, King Kamehameha V signed “An Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy,” through which an isolated peninsula on the island of Molokai was designated as a place of isolation and exile for those who had contracted the disease. The segregation law would not be terminated until 1969. In 1980, the Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established. Residents—those who suffered from leprosy and were confined to Kalaupapa prior to 1969—remain at Kalaupapa. Tourists hike down, fly in, or ride mules down to the National Park to tour the peninsula and experience the public history of Kalaupapa.

This paper will explore how the history of leprosy in Hawaii is represented by the National Park, how Hawaiians (including current residents) who suffered from the disease are represented (and/or marginalized) by the Park, and the role of the “tourist” in these representations.

Fritz Rehbock will also chair and comment for the session on “North Sea Passage: Cross-Channel Scientific Currents, 1780-1850,” which is scheduled for Saturday, November 4 at 3:30 pm. Participants and papers for that session include: Trevor H. Levere (Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Toronto), “Cosmopolitan Isolates at Home and Abroad: Chemists and Physicians in the 1780s and 1790s;” Phillip R. Sloan (University of Notre Dame), “German Biology Comes to London: The Role of the College of Surgeons, 1814-1840;” and Petra Werner (Berlin-Brandenburgisches Akademie der Wissenschaften), “Composing the

Picture of Nature, or Alexander von Humboldt's English Correspondents."

For more information about the conference, please consult the History of Science Society's conference website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/hssexec/annual/program.html>.

The Pacific Circle will be organizing its usual symposium at the XXIst International Congress for the History of Science, scheduled for July 8-14, 2001 in Mexico City. A general meeting will be held during the Congress to elect a new Pacific Circle executive; nominations for officers and council members are cordially invited. Please contact:

Roy Macleod <roy.macleod@history.usyd.edu.au> or

Fritz Rehbock <frehbock@hawaii.edu>.

Also, please consider submitting a paper proposal for the Pacific science sessions. For this congress the Pacific Circle has joined forces with the Commission of Oceanography to organize a joint symposium: "From the Pacific to the Atlantic: Oceans, Peoples, and the Pursuit of Natural Knowledge." Papers on any aspect of the history of the sciences related to the overall title of the symposium will be welcome. Please send a title and an abstract not exceeding 300 words to each of the following co-organizers by

1 July 2000:

Professor Roy MacLeod

Dept. of History

University of Sydney

Sydney, NSW, Australia 2006

Email: roy.macleod@history.usyd.edu.au

and

Professor Eric Mills

Department of Oceanography

Dalhousie University

Halifax, N.S. B3H 4J1 Canada

Email: e.mills@dal.ca

Information about the conference and Mexico City is being updated during the first week of each month at <<http://www.smhct.org>>. The first bulletin and call for papers have already gone out. Further questions? Contact Prof. Juan José Saldaña at <xxiichs@servidor.unam.mx>, or c/o XXIst International Congress of History of Science, Apartado Postal 21-873, Mexico City, D.F. 04000, Mexico. The conference website is <<http://www/smhct.org/default.htm>>. Please note: the deadline for early registration is December 15, 2000.

PUBLICATIONS

A number of the Pacific Circle papers presented at the Sydney Pacific Science Congress are to be published as a special issue of *Pacific Science* in 2000, under the editorship of Roy MacLeod.

A reminder from Down Under about two recent publications of possible interest to Pacific Circle members:

The Boffins of Botany Bay: Radar at the University of Sydney, 1939-1945, a special issue of the *Historical Records of Australian Science*, volume 12, number 4 (ISSN 0727-3061); and

Science and the Pacific War: Science and Survival in the Pacific, 1939-1945 (Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, volume 207), Roy MacLeod, ed. This volume looks beyond official histories to assess some of the leading characteristics of the "scientific war" in the Pacific. Scholars draw upon several related fields to consider the impact of the war not only in relation to America and Japan, but also as it affected Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Henk Dennert, who joins us from Japan, where he has lived for thirty years. Henk writes the following to introduce himself:

"Born on the island of Curacao of the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean, I have been an amateur-archaeologist with an interest initially in the regions of the Arawak Indians and in a later stage in the Pre-Inca period of Peru.

"Thirty years ago, I was stationed by the government of the Netherlands Antilles in Japan, where I have been living since. Twenty years ago, I had the opportunity to become acquainted in Tahiti with the Maohi, in particular of the islands of Raiatea, Bora Bora and Huahine. Since then, I have dedicated much time to these islands and their pre-European period. In particular, the issues related to their 'jump' from the Marquesas to what are now the Society Islands have kept me intrigued. The ethnological interest has gradually taken a place beside the archaeological one.

"One of the most heartening discoveries during my studies is that, contrary to the opinion of a large number of 'outsiders,' much work is being done to further the knowledge of the pre-colonial settlement of the islands."

Henk was kind enough to fax short notices of two books he thought

might be of interest to Pacific Circle members: Katsuyoshi Sabematsu, *Maya Bunmei Seimaru Jikan no Sho (El Libro Maya del Tiempo Sagrado)* about shamanism and poetry in the Guatemalan jungles; and Marius B. Jansen, *China in the Tokugawa Period*, which discusses the social and commercial exchanges between China and Japan before the period of European contact.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Thanks and congratulations to Jane Samson, the University of Alberta. Not only did she serve the past few years as Editor of the *Bulletin* during the transition in format and contents, and as Interim Secretary of the Pacific Circle, but she also published her first book with the University of Hawaii Press! Needless to say, she has been busy, and we appreciate all of her contributions to the Pacific Circle. We wish her the best of luck with her endeavors at the University of Alberta, and look forward to receiving Pacific science news from Canada. Perhaps the book review published below is only the first of many to come?

The *Bulletin* will continue under the editorship of Peter Hoffenberg, History Department, University of Hawaii. Please send information about research, publications and conferences to Peter as text at peterh@hawaii.edu or by fax at 808-956-9600. The editorial staff will do its best to collect and disseminate information about science and history of science in the Pacific region which is not readily found elsewhere. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to send announcements and information about relevant conferences, grants, publications and other activities.

Max Shekleton and Max Quanchi are presenting their joint paper, "Disorderly Categories in Picture Postcards," at the Pacific History Association conference at the Australian National University, Canberra, on June 25-29, 2000. This paper is one of the first to analyze the historical significance of picture post-cards and is based on 1250 cards in Max Shekleton's private collection. Those cards were published in Papua and New Guinea between 1898 and 1940. The paper seeks to find an approach to cataloguing post-cards that reflects the best contemporary uses, and the interpretative interests of today's researchers. The paper develops the descriptive commentary on Max Shekleton's Vanuatu card collection recently published in *Pacific Studies*, volume 20, number 4.

IUHPS/DHS NEWS

The Annual Report of the Pacific Circle for 1999 was submitted on April 14, 2000 to the Secretary General of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science, Division of History of Science. Copies are available by contacting Peter Hoffenberg, Editor, at: <peterh@hawaii.edu>.

The Inaugural Symposium of the Commission on the History of Meteorology, IUHP, will be held at the upcoming XXIst International Congress of History of Science, Mexico City, July 2001. Prof. James R. Fleming, President of the Commission, calls for papers on the "International Perspectives on the History of Meteorology: Science and Cultural Diversity." Papers are requested on international aspects of the history of meteorology, broadly construed to include scientific, environmental, social, political and cultural issues. How did meteorology emerge as an international science? What tensions have existed between national weather services, national research styles, and international or global agendas? What are the social and/or cultural implications of trans-national research, education, and forecasting?

Participants may also wish to attend the inauguration of the new Commission on the History of Meteorology and get involved in its governance. If circumstances warrant, the Commission will pursue publication options for the conference papers.

The deadline for paper abstracts is April 30, 2001. Please send your name, affiliation, paper title and brief abstract to:

Prof. James R. Fleming, President
Commission on History of Meteorology
STS Program, Colby College
5881 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, ME 04901 USA
Email: jrflemin@colby.edu

HSS NEWS

The Fourth British-North American Meeting of BSHS, CSHPS, and HSS will be held August 3-6, 2000, in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference theme is: "What is to be done? History of Science in the New Millennium." Conference registration information and materials are available from:

HSS Executive Office
Attn: Joint Meeting Registration
University of Washington
Box 351330
Seattle, WA, 98195 USA

Email: hssexec@u.washington.edu

Web: <http://depts.washington.edu/hssexec/2000/program.html>

Pacific Circle members might be particularly interested in the following panels offering papers on Pacific area topics: "Science and Religion," scheduled for Friday, August 4 at 1:30 p.m.; "Eighteenth-Century Studies" and "Science in Eastern Europe and the East," at 1:30 on Saturday, August 5; and "Scientific Communities" on Saturday at 3:30.

PACIFIC WATCH

Frédéric Angleviel, University of New Caledonia, reports from Nouméa that the Maritime Museum of New Caledonia is now open for visitors and scholars, and that "Groupe de Recherche sur l'Histoire Océanienne contemporaines" at the University of New Caledonia is embarking on a study of sugar factories. Its members would be happy to exchange articles and other information about similar factories in the Pacific. Please send information and/or requests to GRHOC, BP 920, Nouméa 98845, New Caledonia.

Historic places with significance to the history of technology are the focus of the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage at Curtin University in Western Australia. Staff, students and graduates have undertaken studies of the Midland Railway Workshops (from the early 1900s) and several twentieth-century power stations. The largest project is a series of Conservation Plans for the surviving infrastructure of the original Goldfields Water Supply Scheme (1899-1902). That Scheme included a vast natural rock dome adapted for water collection in the dry Australian outback. For more information, contact:

Prof. David S. Dolan, Director
Research Institute for Cultural Heritage
Curtin University
GPO Box U1987
Perth 6001, Western Australia.

Mike Osborne reminds us that the *Sciences et Empires* group in Paris will hold several seminars on Pacific topics this year. The seminars are

organized by Christophe Bonneuil (Centre Koyré), Catherine Jami (REHSEIS), Patrick Petitjean (REHSEIS), and Kapil Raj (CRHST). Contact the Centre Koyré for more information.

Ruth Barton sends a reminder that the University of Auckland's undergraduate inter-disciplinary program in the "History and Philosophy of Science and Technology" is up and running. Started four years ago, the program includes courses in history, philosophy, geography, anthropology, and some other disciplines. Originally taught at the new Tamaki Campus, the program is now located on the central City Campus. For more information, please contact Prof. Robert Nola, Philosophy Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand. His e-mail address is <r.nola@auckland.ac.nz>.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Janet Garber has been kind enough to send a report about Pacific science matters from the West Coast History of Science Society & UC-Stanford Workshop in the History of Science conference held at the University of California-Berkeley on May 5-7, 2000.

As part of the session on "Chinese Science and Society in the Twentieth Century," Jim Williams, UC-Berkeley, noted that there are many gaps in the field waiting for research. Those include the histories of individual disciplines, periods, and scientists, as well as of foreign contacts. There are also significant untapped resources, such as the Russian and Red Guard archives. Also of interest to those studying the history of science in China, the symposium on "Historicizing Objectivity: The Values of Science and its Public Credibility" included discussion of cultural values in relation to Jesuit astronomy in China. Minghui Hu, University of California, Los Angeles, discussed how the Manchu Empire recruited Jesuits from France and Italy during the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, and then used their presence in China and their "ancient texts" to convince the Chinese people that they all came from Egypt. Objectivity to the Chinese at the time meant "outside information."

More generally, Janet notes the interesting panel on "Rethinking the Scientific Revolution," during which the three speakers opposed abandoning the concept altogether, as some others have urged. Margaret Jacobs, University of California, Los Angeles, provoked discussion about the

importance and relevance of Chinese and Islamic scientific developments during the period of the Scientific Revolution. She also proposed the Scientific Revolution as a cultural transformation in which scientific knowledge became part of the fabric of life, penetrating deeply and being applied in a variety of practical ways. Bill Eamon, New Mexico State University, continued the suggestion of looking for fruitful new directions for study. For example, why not look at the disciplines left out of the customary picture of the Scientific Revolution, such as alchemy and medicine, or developments in Spain and Asia, or among local practitioners of science and practical knowledge, such as artisans? Paul Findlen, Stanford University, concluded the panel by pointing out the many problems in writing an overall narrative which might include da Vinci, the debate over Pliny, European empires and the relations between the centuries. The question of the Scientific Revolution was taken up by other speakers later in the conference, including those who addressed some of its antecedents, such as Babylonian astronomy.

The full program and other information about the conference are available at the website for the University of California, Berkeley, Office for History of Science and Technology:

<http://ohst7.berkeley.edu/Conferences/wchss.html>

The 12th annual Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawaii and the Pacific was a great success this past February. Held at the Hawaii Maritime Center in Honolulu, the conference included twenty-five papers ranging from Midway Atoll to the coast of California, and from the voyages of Captain James Cook to the voyages of the *Hokulea*. Papers were roughly divided into three themes: Submerged Cultural Resource Management, Field Projects Update, and Maritime History. One section of the latter focused on World War II and Pearl Harbor. Among the specific topics were: super battleships, Spanish galleons and midget submarines; UNESCO plans to prevent looting and vandalism of underwater artifacts; Turkey fish; the environmental problems posed by bunker oil in submerged maritime wrecks; the restoration of key features associated with the Battle of Midway; specific cultural interactions in 19th-century Hawaii; and various Pacific voyages, including William Robert Broughton's and Charles Darwin's, as well as, more recently, that of the Polynesian vessel, the *Hokulea*. Over sixty students, professors, government officials and members of the general public attended the two-day event, and enjoyed the Maritime Center's anthropological, natural history and technological displays when not participating in formal sessions.

The symposium was sponsored by the University of Hawaii's Marine Option Program and School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, the Hawaii Maritime Center, and the National Park Service. As a special event at the end of the conference, Daniel Martinez, historian for the Park Service, provided a narrated boat tour of Pearl Harbor.

The conference proceedings, including a selection of the papers presented, will be available for US\$15.00 from the Marine Options Program at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Please contact Hans Van Tilburg at <mop@hawaii.edu>. Additional information is available at the Marine Option Program's website <www2.hawaii.edu/mop>.

FUTURE CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR PAPERS

22-25 June 2000. "World History as a Research Field," the World History Association's Ninth Annual Conference, will be held at Northeastern University. For more information, contact:

Prof. Pat Manning
 Department of History
 Northeastern University
 Boston, Massachusetts, USA
 Fax: (617) 373-2661
 Email: manning@neu.edu
 Web: www.whc.neu.edu/wha2000

28 June-1 July 2000. Meeting of The Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science at the University of Sydney. For more information, contact:

Conference Secretary, AAHPSSS 2000,
 Unit for HPS, Carslaw Building F07
 University of Sydney
 Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia
 Email: hps@scifac.usyd.edu.au
 Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/hps/newevents/AAHPSSS2000.html>

12-13 July 2000. "Science Communication, Education and the History of Science," at the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London W1, will provide a re-appraisal of the "public understanding of science." Science communicators and educators, as well as historians of science, will convene to examine the ways in which the history of science is used in popular

writing, media, museums and schools. Among the highlights will be Roy Porter's Royal Society Wilkins Lecture on July 11, "Reflections on Scientific and Medical Futurology since the time of John Wilkins." Papers, abstracts and conference details are available on the conference website at:
<http://www.bshts.org.uk>

13-15 July 2000. "The Worlds of the East India Company, 1600-1834," a three-day multi-disciplinary international conference hosted by the University of Leicester and the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England, at the Museum's Leopold Muller Lecture Theater. Several of the scheduled papers discuss topics of interest to science and the history of science, including Dr. Andrew Cook's, entitled "Establishing the Sea Routes to India and China: Stages in the Development of Hydrographical Knowledge" (Saturday, July 15 at 9:30 a.m.). For more information, please contact Miss Helen Jones, Research Administrator, National Maritime Museum at research@nmm.ac.uk or check out the Museum's website:
<http://www.nmm.ac.uk>

17-18 July 2000. "Medicine-Magic-Religion Conference," sponsored by the Society for Social History of Medicine, to be held at the University of Southampton. Sessions will include papers on colonial medicine and categories such as "East" and "West," which might be of interest to Pacific Circle members. For further information, contact:

Dr. Waltraud Ernst
Department of History
University of Southampton
Southampton, England SO17 1BJ
Email: WER@soton.ac.uk

28-30 July 2000. "Pacific Communities 2000: Perceptions & Representations," a multi-disciplinary conference on the Pacific region, to be held at the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington. Participants are encouraged to discuss the Pacific in light of a wide spectrum of social and historical issues, and to engage with contemporary concerns, as well. Please send inquiries to:

Sarah Upton, Administrator
Stout Research Centre
Victoria University, P. O. Box 600
Wellington, New Zealand
Email: Upton@vuw.ac.nz

1-3 August 2000. Historical symposium to celebrate the 1902 founding of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, to be held in Helsinki, Finland. For more information, please contact:

Conference Secretary, ICES
Palaegade 2-4
DK-1261, Copenhagen, Denmark
Email: ices.info@ices.dk

3-6 August 2000. "What is to be done? History of Science in the New Millennium," the Fourth British-North American Joint Meeting of the BSHS, CSHPs, and HSS, will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. See above announcement (p. 10) for further information.

10-14 October 2000. "A Colloquium in Commemoration of the 1500th Anniversary of Zu Chongzhi (425-500 C.E.)," organized by the Institute for the History of Natural Science, Beijing, China, will convene in Yesanpo, Laishui, China. He made significant contributions in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, and engineering. For information about the conference and submitting abstracts in English or Chinese, please contact:

Prof. Guo Shuchun
Institute for the History of Natural Science
137 Chaonei Street
Beijing 100010, Peoples Republic of China
Fax: 86-10-6401-7637

2-4 November 2000. "Exhibiting the Other: Museums of Mankind and the Politics of Cultural Representation," an international conference organized by the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., and the Centre Allemand d'Histoire de Paris, to be held at the Centre Allemand d'Histoire de l'Art/Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte, Paris. Papers focus on the changing function of the museums of mankind as both progenitors and manifestations of their own specific subcategory of museums. Developments in England, France, Germany, and the United States in the period between the mid-nineteenth century and World War II will be discussed. For further information, contact Cordula A. Grewe at: cgrewe@idt.net.

4-7 December 2000. "The Fourth International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums," meets at the newly opened Melbourne Museum. Sponsors include Museum Victoria, the International Mineralogical Association, and the Mineralogical Society of Victoria. Conference organizers have sched-

uled field excursions before and after the formal papers. For more information, please contact:

Dr. Bill Birch

Museum of Victoria

GPO Box 666E

Melbourne, Victoria, 3001 Australia

Email: bbirch@museum.vic.gov.au

Web: <http://www.mov.vic.gov.au/mineralogy/welcome.html>

19-21 April 2001. "Exhibiting Culture/Displaying Race," the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies 16th Annual Conference, to be held at the University of Oregon. For information about the conference, contact:

Profs. Shari Huhndorf or Richard Stein

English Department

University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403 USA

Email: incs2001@oregon.uoregon.edu

Web: <http://oregon.uoregon.edu/~incs2001/>

1-6 June 2001. "Integration of Natural and Social Sciences in the New Pacific Millennium," the Tenth Pacific Science Inter-Congress, will be held at the University of Guam. For information, please contact:

Joyce Marie Camacho, 10th PSI-C Coordinator

Graduate School & Research

University of Guam Station

Mangilao, Guam 96923

Email: jcamacho@uog9.uog.edu

Web: <http://www.10psci Guam.html>

8-14 July 2001. XXIst International Congress of History of Science, to be held in Mexico City. The conference theme is "Science and Cultural Diversity." More information is provided above, page 7.

EXHIBITIONS AND MUSEUMS

The Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford, England) is pleased to report its official reopening after being shut for nearly a year. The collections are once again fully available to visitors and researchers. For information about the Museum's materials, including its large Pacific collections, please contact Dr. Michael O'Hanlon, Director, Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PP, England.

Also of interest from the Pitt Rivers: the Museum is due to put on line a multi-media website about its Captain Cook materials. Please contact Jeremy Coote at the Pitt Rivers about the site.

The Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney announces its forthcoming exhibition, "Carnivorous Solutions." The display will highlight the convergence between placental and marsupial carnivores, as well as raise awareness about the history of the Tasmanian "wolf" and the evolutionary trends among groups of carnivores. Two additional displays are being planned for the upcoming year: "Pinned, Bottled and Stuffed" will express some of the exuberance for collecting natural history specimens and a third, yet to be named one, will consider color in nature using the Museum's insects and birds. The Museum also announced the publication of *Adorned: Traditional Jewellery and Body Decoration from Australia and the Pacific*. That volume accompanies the exhibition of the same name, currently extended until January 2001. For more information, please contact:

Macleay Museum
University of Sydney
Sydney, New South Wales, 2006, Australia.

BOOK AND JOURNAL NEWS

Science in New Guinea, edited by James I. Menzies, The University of Papua New Guinea, publishes material in science education and pure or applied science (except for medicine) relevant to the New Guinea geographical region. For further information, contact: Grant McCall, The University of Papua New Guinea, Box 320, University Post Office, Papua, New Guinea.

Call for quotations! *The Oxford Dictionary of Scientific Quotations* is back on track and due for completion by the end of 2000. Quotations (with references) are still being solicited. Please send them or any inquiries to Dr. S. Messenger, Assistant Editor, The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London, England NW1 2BE or by e-mail at: <s.messenger@wellcome.ac.uk>.

JAHIGEO, the Japanese Association for the History of Geology, publishes newsletters in both Japanese and English. The English-language ver-

sion includes bibliographic and research information on geology and the earth sciences. The Association includes over 75 members and meets three times per year. It publishes two editions of the Japanese newsletter and one of the English version per annum. Dr. David Oldroyd assists with the distribution of the English version. For information about the newsletters and the Association, please contact Michiko Yajima at <PXI0207@nifty.ne.jp>.

Staffan Muller-Wille writes to remind us about two recent publications about Linnaeus, which explore "the 'economic' foundation of Linnaeus's natural history...from very different perspectives." Those interested are encouraged to consult Lisbet Koerner, *Linnaeus: Nature and Nation*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999; and Muller-Wille, *Botanik und weltweiter Handel. Zur Begründung eines Natürlichen Systems der Pflanzen durch Carl von Linné (1707-1778)*, Berlin: VWB, 1999.

Interested in science, technology and medicine in East and Southeast Asia? What are the political and economic imperatives underscoring such knowledge systems in Asia, their cultural contexts, and how they have co-existed with similar systems in the West? Some answers can be found in Morris F. Low, ed. *Beyond Joseph Needham: Science, Technology, and Medicine in South and Southeast Asia*, published as Volume XIII in the *Osiris* series. For more information, please contact The University of Chicago Press at: <orders@journals.uchicago.edu>.

The History of Australian Science and Technology Bibliography has just been relaunched with new entries and a fully-searchable web interface. The bibliography has been compiled by the Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre and contains details of nearly 5,000 publications up to 1998; 1999 is in preparation. The coverage is broad and includes publications from related areas, such as medicine, engineering and environmental history. The web interface is at:

<<http://barney.asap.unimelb.au.edu/hasb/hasb.php3>>.

There are a number of different search and view options. Inquiries can be sent to: <bsparcs@austehc.unimelb.edu.au>.

The recently published *Oxford History of the British Empire*, Wm. Roger Louis, editor-in-chief, includes many essays of relevance to science and the history of science in the Pacific. The first four volumes are divided chronologically, each one taking up the expansion and workings of the Brit-

ish Empire in a particular century. Volume I begins with "The Origins of Empire" in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and Volume IV covers "The Twentieth Century." The fifth and final volume discusses the historiography of the British Empire and includes essays on exploration, science, medicine and the Pacific.

BOOK REVIEWS

Fadzilah Majid Cooke, **The Challenge of Sustainable Forests: Forest Resource Policy in Malaysia, 1970-1995**. (Southeast Asia Publications Series). Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1999. Pp. x + 262. Notes, bibliography, index, map. \$32.00, Cloth. ISBN 1-86508-017-9.

Since the late 1960s, when Malaysia and Indonesia passed the Philippines as the world's largest exporters of tropical timber products, international interest has turned to the fate of Malaysia's rainforest and its inhabitants. In particular, the Penan people of Sarawak state have drawn global attention to the loss of their forests and culture. But the state and national governments have justified their exploitation of the forest's resources as a necessary and major contribution to economic development. Non-government organizations, both domestic and international, have protested this forestry policy, and sometimes suffered repression in response. In this setting most writings have been either highly technical (centering on the work of the forest industry) or politically tendentious in defense of one interest or another.

The present book is a welcome contribution to the literature, since it is based on wide and rigorous research, and analyzes the evolving positions of each of the major stakeholders in two forest regions of the country. Those regions are Sarawak on Borneo and Pahang on the peninsular mainland. An additional chapter at the end adds a broad comparison with the forestry debate in the Philippines. Unfortunately, the story is presented in heavy social science jargon, limiting its appeal among the broader audience of environmentally-concerned readers. But, its substance is persuasive.

The colonial British legacy has been present throughout these years, since the British put in place one of the colonial world's best developed systems of forest management. That included both sophisticated extraction technologies and a strong strand of conservation ideology. Malaysia thus presents an interesting case in light of the ecological consequences of the transition to independent governments and the work of their specialized agencies.

One of the key issues that Cooke explores is the relationship between elective democracy and resource development. The author is skeptical about the degree of actual working democracy in Malaysia, and maintains a steady concern for the disruptions which local populations have undergone. Yet, his account is analytical rather than polemical. One of the most useful analyses is that of the patronage networks which have made associates of high political officials wealthy through their cooperation with Japanese and other timber corporations. Another suggestive analysis results from the close look at the limited degree to which the Malaysian government has been able to enforce existing forestry laws in the two states: where political patronage and financial power rule, local people cannot always count on the support of a remote government.

These realities help determine the implementation of forestry science and policy. Cooke traces the evolution of the debate over sustainability—a global debate in its Malaysian incarnations. The rise of modern forestry practice internationally focused on the sustained yield of timber products. Increasingly, critics have used concepts of social justice, cultural survival and ecological health to challenge the narrower notion of sustainability. Cooke shows how this debate has intensified both within the Malaysian forestry profession and in the broader contest with its critics. The great value of this book is its wealth of detail about the many agencies, organizations and corporations that have participated in those struggles. The broad outlines reviewed here can only point toward the complexity of that process.

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Eberhard Mey, ed. **Beiträge zur Kultur- und Naturgeschichte Indonesiens**, in Supplement 3, Rudolstaedter Naturhistorische Schriften. Rudolstadt: Naturhistorisches Museum Rudolstadt, 1999.

In these “Contributions to the Cultural and Natural History of Indonesia,” the Museum of Natural History at Rudolstadt, Thuringia, presents nine short articles by eight German and one Dutch expert on the cultural and natural history of Indonesia, the archipelago of 13,677 islands extending about 3,500 miles on both sides of the Equator and made up of some three hundred peoples of great diversity. The papers—eight of which are written in German, while the ninth is published in English—capture the essence of a much-noted exhibition entitled “Indonesia: Encounter with an Exotic World,” shown in the Thüringer Landesmuseum Heidecksburg in Rudolstadt from

February 14th through April 16th, 1999. These articles exhibit the customary depth of German scholarship and, although more limited in scope, remind us of the classical works by Adolf Bastian, Adelbert von Chamisso, or Augustin Friedrich Krämer on the Pacific, or of Alexander von Humboldt on South and Central America.

Summaries of the individual articles in English, German and Malayan are provided at the end of each given text for the benefit of the readers. Thus, it is easy to inform oneself of the contents at a glance, and then delve into a particular subject.

The articles show a wide variety of topics, ranging from a discussion of coffins symbolizing animals and often assuming the shape of a boat with the intention of helping to transfer a soul to the land of the dead (see Dieter Grundmann, "Tiersarg und Tier-Bootssarg-Beitrag zur historischen Ethnographie Indonesiens" ["Animal Coffins and Animal Boat-Coffins—a Contribution to the Historical Ethnography of Indonesia"]) to Margo Argelloo's "Notes on some Birds of Irian Jaya, Indonesia." Other topics include the account of a German expedition led by Bernhard Rensch (1900-1999) to the Lesser Sunda Islands in 1927, culminating in a study of the relationship between that part of the world and evolutionary biology in the German-speaking nations; an article on warfare by means of bows and arrows carried on in the highlands of Irian Jaya; an investigation of the latest "tree people" in New Guinea; an examination of how the famous scholar Rumphius (Georg Everhard Rumph, 1628-1702) laid the groundwork for what today is known as ethnobotany and ethnomedicine on the basis of his description of the coconut palm; the findings of a field trip organized by the University of Jena in 1993 in the foot steps of the Rensch expedition of 1927; and two contributions on the discovery of one new genus and ten new species of megapode chewing lice and on six new species of the family Hydropsychidae (Insecta, Trichoptera), known in Germany as "Köcherfliege."

A careful reading of the nine articles and a perusal of the many illustrations is elucidating. One learns that in certain parts of Indonesia the ancient idea that a soul needs an animal, such as a buffalo or horse, to be carried to the beyond, has survived, or that the Asmat, Kombai, and Korowoi peoples in Irian Jaya still live an existence not far removed from the stone age. The Korowoi, in fact, continue to build tree houses some 125 feet or higher above the ground.

Of particular interest is the comparison of the original Rensch expedition with the biological field-trip carried out by two scientists originating

from the same place, namely Jena, almost seventy years later. Matthias Krüger and Uwe Hossfeld discovered that after all of this time, large areas of Lombok, Sumbawa and Pulau Moyo had changed but little. And they confirm that the multitude of the tropical flora and fauna and the brilliant colors characterizing this part of the world continue to amaze and delight the scientist and scholar.

Significant also is the detailed study of Ralf Laschimke ("Bow and Arrow: Conflict and Cannibalism among the Kimyal in the Highlands of Irian Jaya") in which the author rejects recent theories that there is no concrete proof of cannibalism among indigenous peoples and that no eye-witnesses of such practices can be named. Laschimke himself befriended former cannibals among the Kimyal, a Pygmy people inhabiting the valley of the Erok River in the Highlands of Irian Jaya. The last proven case of cannibalism occurred there in 1972.

All told, the publication on hand enriches the reader and reminds us that scholarship written in German on topics concerning Asia and the Pacific continues to be produced on a high level and should not be neglected merely for linguistic reasons.

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John B. Hattendorf, ed. *Maritime History, Volume I, The Age of Discovery*. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Company, 1996. Cloth ISBN 1-57524-010-6. US\$29.50, paper ISBN 0-89464-834-9. *Volume II, The Eighteenth Century and the Classic Age of Sail*. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Company, 1997. Cloth ISBN 1-57524-007-6. US\$26.50, paper 0-89464-944-2. Set (cloth) ISBN 1-57524-013-0. Maps, illus., index.

The John Carter Brown Library at Brown University sponsored the Summer Institutes in Early Modern Maritime History from 1992 to 1994. These volumes present selected papers from the first two of those Institutes. A volume from the third has not yet appeared. As program director of the Institutes and a noted maritime specialist, John B. Hattendorf is well qualified to edit these volumes and write their introductions, which set out an ambitious agenda. Titled "The Study of Maritime History," the introductions for both volumes announce the need for a broad outline of maritime history. Nevertheless, this outline is defined in terms of European political and technological development, and its deployment against "a hostile geographical area covering seven-tenths of the globe" (Vol. I, p. xiii). The introduction declares that Eurocentric analysis is no longer adequate,

particularly with regard to the importance of non-European maritime technologies, and to "the relationships of European seamen with the peoples and cultures of other parts of the globe" (Vol. I, p. xv). Hattendorf argues for multiple perspectives and multidisciplinary study. In the introduction to Volume II, he declares that Eurocentricity is particularly inappropriate for the eighteenth century, because "Through the catalyst of maritime affairs, more sustained overseas cultural interaction and colonial developments result in important and powerful new forces" (Vol. II, p. xvi). There is no arguing that point, but the question is: how well do these volumes fulfill those ambitious objectives?

Both volumes include a large number of essays organized into sections; because the essays vary widely in length, sections contain between three and five essays each. Volume I, "The Age of Discovery," opens with three essays by Richard W. Unger on "The Late Medieval Background." Unger rejects "great man" history in favor of locating individuals in a matrix of political, economic and cultural influences. Next, Charles Verlinden and George Winius examine "Portugese Expansion" in five wide-ranging essays on that kingdom's maritime involvement in the Atlantic world, Africa and Asia from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century.

Spain is the focus of five essays by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, William D. Phillips, Jr. and Carla Rahn Phillips. Two of the five pieces discuss Columbus's voyages; the other three cover the Spanish social and cultural background, pre-Columbian Spanish exploration, and Iberian ship-building. Fernandez-Armesto's essay, "The Sea and Chivalry in Late Medieval Spain," differs from previous pieces on social and political background; it is a distinctively cultural approach to explaining Spain's fascination with maritime exploration during this period. Volume I then concludes with a section by A.N. Ryan entitled "The World Encompassed," a reference to the English explorer, Sir Francis Drake. That section also includes comprehensive essays on multinational connections between the New World and Asia, the search for a northwest passage across North America, and a discussion of French exploration.

Volume II opens with four essays by Glyndwr Williams on "The Opening of the Pacific," demonstrating Britain's deployment of technology, economic motivation, and political will in the effort to turn the Pacific from an area defined by limited Spanish activities into "a second New World." Williams also points out the irony that British activities and publications would, in the end, benefit the United States more than any European nation. A section on "The Science and Practice of Navigation" contains seven es-

says by Karel Davids and Willem F. J. Morzer Bruyns on various aspects of maritime technology and cartography. "The Struggle for Empire," with seven essays by Daniel A. Baugh, N. A. M. Roger and Benjamin Labaree, concentrates on Britain's maritime conflicts with France and the United States. The final section, "The Maritime Legacy of Empire," takes the story into the early- and mid-nineteenth century with essays by R. J. B. Knight and Thomas Philbrick. Knight's essays cover the Atlantic economy, the Napoleonic Wars, and the transition from sail to steam; Philbrick's contribution on maritime literature and romanticism provides cultural context for those economic, military and political developments.

Bulletin readers will want to know about the Pacific and scientific dimensions of these volumes; they are minimal. Apart from Glyndwr William's essays, and some discussion in one of A. N. Ryan's pieces on "The World Encompassed," the Pacific is barely mentioned. The impression is that once the "ages of discovery" are over, the Pacific becomes irrelevant; Roger Knight's essays on "The Maritime Legacy of Empire" are aimed at "the story of Europe, the Americas and the Atlantic" (p. 270). Russian, British, and American maritime trade in the Pacific, to say nothing of the Australian and New Zealand colonial trade, are simply ignored.

This brings us to the question of the series' aims: the ambitious proclamation of a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary maritime history. The essays found in the first two volumes are almost all traditional in their focus on political, economic and technological developments. There are only two pieces specifically on maritime culture, and only one of those brings a literary perspective to volumes dominated by historians. Given the burgeoning literature on maritime anthropology, as well as the significant contributions of economists and art historians to the field, it seems clear that Hattendorf's multidisciplinary goals are stated rather than realized. Likewise, his denunciations of Eurocentricity and his call for a multicultural maritime history rarely find expression in the essays. Richard Unger's pieces on the late Medieval period, including European links to the Arab world, are honorable exceptions. On the other hand, the essays in Volume II, introduced by strong claims about the interaction of maritime cultures in the eighteenth century, rarely acknowledge the existence of non-European seafaring. Recent work on Indian Ocean maritime networks, for example, seems to have made no impression on the authors and editor.

Perhaps all of this is a reflection of the volumes' erratic organization: some essays feature endnotes, but others do not; some include extensive bibliographies, while others provide only a handful of suggested readings, or

none at all. Some address historiography; most do not. One section, "The Struggle for Empire," has its own introduction: a description of the historiographical struggle between the Mahan and Mackinder interpretations of seapower, and an announcement that this section will shed new light on the debate. Unfortunately, it failed to do so. Only R. J. B. Knight's essay on "The Last Years of Sail" in the following section addresses Mahan explicitly. One gets the impression that much has been lost between the Institute seminars and publication. The verdict must be that these essays, although beautifully written by the biggest names in the field, do not constitute the new maritime history which Hattendorf sought.

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