



NEW ZEALAND  
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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ADDITIONAL RADIOCARBON DATE FOR  
SITE SU-LU-53, UPOLU, WESTERN SAMOA

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A second radiocarbon date has been obtained for site SU-Lu-53. The sample was dated by the Gaskushin University Laboratory, using the Libby C14 half life of 5,570 years.

<u>Code number</u>	<u>Sample location</u>	<u>Years before 1950</u>
GAK 1340	Site SU-Lu-53 Star Mound on earthen terrace. Sample from pockets of charcoal in layer 2, Sq. A III	1660 $\pm$ 80

The site is north of the present-day village of Luatuanu'u and was excavated in the final period of the Samoan research programme by members of the Auckland University, between December 1966 and January 1967.

Sample GAK 1340 was taken from one of the numerous pockets of charcoal in layer 2, a loose grey soil with fine, evenly distributed charcoal which is part of unit 1. This layer was interpreted as part of agricultural activities which took place in the early stages of the occupation of the site (Peters 1967a: 29-32).

The date of 210-370 A.D. fits in well with two other dates obtained for this area - sample GAK 1339 (Peters 1969: 216; 1967b: 227), taken from a fire pit in rectangle AA on the edge of the terrace in the same site, which yielded a date of  $2170 \pm 90$  before 1950, or 2nd century B.C.; and GAK 779, for site SU-Lu-41 (Scott and Green 1969: 205-209), the ridge fort some two miles north of SU-Lu-53. It provides even more evidence, if it were needed, that occupation inland of the Luatuanu'u area is indeed as early as elsewhere in Western Samoa.

REFERENCES

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- Peters, K. M. 1967b A Date from Luatuanu'u, Upolu. Journal of the Polynesian Society, 76: 223-230.
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- 1969 Excavation of a Star Mound and Earthen Terrace at SU-Lu-53, in R. C. Green and Janet M. Davidson (eds), Archaeology in Western Samoa, Vol. 1, pp. 210-221. Bulletin of the Auckland Institute and Museum, No. 6.
- Scott, S. D. and R. C. Green 1969 Investigation of SU-Lu-41, a large inland Fortification, in R. C. Green and Janet M. Davidson (eds), Archaeology in Western Samoa, Vol. 1, pp. 205-209. Bulletin of the Auckland Institute and Museum, No. 6.

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ASIAN PERSPECTIVES

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Canterbury Museum

After some delay, the publication of Asian Perspectives has been resumed, now with publication sponsorship by the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Hawaii. Asian Perspectives is a high quality format journal of Asian and Pacific archaeology. It is published at irregular intervals but at least one volume per year is issued containing regional reports which summarize current archaeological research, topical studies and reports of significant sites, and book reviews of relevant publications.

As regional editor for New Zealand, I would appreciate receiving short reports on current or recent archaeological activities (fieldwork, research, publications, etc.) for incorporation in forthcoming issues.