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BOOK REVIEWS

Kirch, P.V. and D.E. Yen, Tikopia. The Prehistory and Ecology of a Polynesian Outlier. Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 238, Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu. 1982. 396 pp., 129 figures, 54 tables, bibliography, index. U.S. \$28.00.

In view of its importance in the anthropological literature as a result of the writings of Sir Raymond Firth, it is appropriate that Tikopia should have been the subject of the detailed investigations handsomely published in this volume. Tikopia is a Polynesian outlier isolated in the ocean between the Santa Cruz group in the south-east Solomons, and the Banks Islands in the north of Vanuatu. It was investigated by Kirch and Yen over a period of eight months in 1977 and 1978, as part of the second phase of interdisciplinary research into the prehistory of the south-east Solomons and Santa Cruz islands. This volume is the most substantial yet to result from that programme.

As with the wider project, the Tikopia research combined four approaches, emphasising ecology, culture history, external relations, and subsistence, particularly gardening and the exploitation of marine resources. The combined talents of Yen, an ethnobotanist, and Kirch, an archaeologist, have produced an interesting blend of archaeology, landscape history, and agricultural history.

A brief introduction and description of Tikopia are followed by a major review of the agricultural system at its end point, but set in historical perspective. Thereafter, the book is more directly concerned with archaeology, although questions of agricultural development recur.

The archaeological investigations included a survey of surface structures, and systematic surface collecting by 1 ha grid units. Three transects were made across the principal flat area of the island, the western flat, as part of a systematic study of the geomorphology, and extensive test pitting was undertaken in all habitable areas of the island. While such an approach might not work so well on a larger island, it paid off handsomely in Tikopia, and one of the important results is the detailed account of landscape history that has resulted. The first settlers found a considerably smaller land area (about 72 percent of present) and a greater area of exploitable coral reef (70 percent greater than present). The expansion of the western flat, the addition of some habitable land on the north-west coast and around the shores of the old crater, and the growth of Ravenga tombolo, transforming the crater from an open bay to a lagoon,

are carefully documented, as are the geomorphological features of the western flat itself. This changing landscape is interpreted in the light of human activity on the island, including bush clearance, erosion and deliberate reclamation activities.

This extensive sampling and geomorphological reconstruction also revealed the principal sites later subjected to more extensive investigation. Kiki is a stratified deposit containing mostly early material, but subjected to some mixing from later horticultural activity. At the important Sinapupu complex (embracing several separately numbered 'sites'), deposits appeared to span virtually the entire prehistoric sequence, although not all parts of the sequence were represented throughout the excavations. Only late occupation was found at Tuakamali, making it an important control site in defining late material culture, as there was no mixing problem there. The excavation strategy, procedure and results at these and other sites are clearly described.

The principal categories of artefacts recovered from the excavations were pottery, shell adzes, and fishhooks. Two discrete ceramic wares were identified, which proved to be important markers in the chronological sequence. Kiki Ware, largely plain and probably locally manufactured, was found only in the earliest deposits. A quite different, decorated pottery, Sinapupu Ware, appeared later and may have persisted until about A.D.1200. It was almost certainly imported and seems to be related to the Mangaasi tradition of Vanuatu. There is no evidence of pottery on Tikopia after about A.D.1200.

Shell adzes were found throughout the sequence. The collection was subjected to a detailed formal analysis which provided the basis for a chronologically significant typology of Tikopia shell adzes. While the multivariate analysis represents an advance over the previous intuitive classifications of shell adzes, the final typology seems no different from that which might have resulted from intuitive methods alone. Fishhooks were also found throughout the sequence, although the majority are early. Other artefacts included ornaments, scrapers and peelers, stone adzes, manufacturing tools, and flakes of chert and volcanic glass.

Only a partial analysis of the large and varied set of faunal remains is presented. This is sufficient to suggest a shift in dominance from wild to domestic sources of animal protein, and a reduction in the total amount of animal protein, through time. Of particular interest to New Zealand archaeologists will be the evidence that the first settlers on Tikopia encountered a pristine environment rich in protein which, however, they rapidly depleted.

On the basis of the excavations, a four-phase sequence supported by 20 radiocarbon dates is proposed for Tikopia: Kiki Phase (900 to 100 B.C.), Sinapupu Phase (100 B.C. to A.D.1200), Tuakamali Phase (A.D.1200 to 1800), and Historic Phase. The first three are broken down into eight sub-phases. An objective attempt is made to determine whether change was gradual and continual or sudden and radical, using matrix analysis. The results support the division into phases and suggest a major break or discontinuity between the Kiki and Tuakamali Phases with relatively continuous change thereafter.

The final chapter considers the evolution of Tikopia culture in a wider setting, drawing together the themes of ecology, trade and exchange, economy, and landscape dynamics, in relation to the cultural sequence previously outlined.

Specialists in this part of Melanesia will of course find details to worry about, such as the apparent inconsistency in the contexts of the stone adzes from Kiki. Some wider issues, such as the implications of the contemporaneity of largely plain Kiki Ware and similar wares elsewhere, with highly decorated Lapita Ware in the Reef Islands, do not seem to have been fully explored. Nonetheless, one must welcome this volume as a major contribution in Oceanic archaeology and prehistory. It is very nicely produced and illustrated (although one wonders how much the three colour plates added to the cost). It contains a great deal of data, and sets out to be explicit about methods and where possible to attain objectivity by the use of statistical methods. All this is set in a context of intelligent discussion of aims and results and a real appreciation of the difficulties of characterising culture change by a sequence of phases. It pays off - one feels one really knows something now about Tikopia prehistory over and above the comings and goings of potsherds and differently shaped shell artefacts. The volume is essential reading for anybody with a serious interest in Pacific archaeology and prehistory. And Sir Raymond Firth is probably very pleased with it.

Janet Davidson

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Michael Hoare (ed.), The Resolution Journal of Johann Reinhold Forster 1772-1775 (4 vols.). London, The Hakluyt Society (second series Nos 152-155), 1982. (XVII), 831 pp., 46 figures, natural history index, general index. U.K. £40.

Archaeologists, as those of many other interests, will be indebted to Michael Hoare for his rescue and editing of

The Resolution Journal of Johann Reinhold Forster 1772-1775.
 This immensely rich resource will educate and delight all who are interested in the early European exploration of the Pacific, its people and places, and all its natural history. The Hakluyt Society is to be thanked for adding this journal to its unexcelled list of publications on Pacific exploration.

The presentation begins with an essay on Johann Reinhold Forster's life and works up to his departure on Cook's second voyage. There follows a brief synopsis of the voyage, a history of the manuscript journal itself, and an account of the subsequent publications of Forster which resulted from the voyage. The journal itself takes up 647 pages of the four volumes. For New Zealanders there is special interest in the detailed accounts of visits to Dusky Sound (March-May 1773) and Queen Charlotte Sound (May-June 1773, November 1773 and October-November 1774). Other Pacific lands which were visited during Cook's second voyage and which are well treated in the journal include Easter Island, the Society Islands, Tonga, New Hebrides and New Caledonia.

An example of the valuable description Forster gives is in his account of New Zealand which follows the first visit to Queen Charlotte Sound in late autumn 1773. Amongst other things he describes Maori canoes:

"Their canoes are made of several pieces, the bottom is a long excavated tree, on whose sides some planks are set up & fixed to it, by a kind of sowing through small holes with strings of the Flaxplant or Arakeke. The seams are caulked with the pappus of the Reed-Mace or Typha. The largest I saw are about 50 or 60 feet long & 5 feet wide on top. Sometimes 2 of these canoes are lashed together by cross-sticks which makes them go stiffer; the heads of these canoes are commonly finely carved representing in a coarse manner a human figure, lolling out its Tongue, with Eyes of mother of pearl: the rest are variously interwoven spirals, worked through that you may see through it, & painted red so as the rest of the Canoe; the stern is a very high elevated piece of wood, sometimes carved in spirals. Sometimes the uppermost sideboards of the canoe are likewise carved. They work them very dextrously with paddles, some of which are likewise carved. The single canoes have, especially when small & narrow, an outrigger fixed to the canoe by two transverse beams. They make very seldom use of a sail, I saw however once three canoes sailing, one of which had a large mat instead of a sail, which had on its extremity five tufts

of brown feathers, it is fixed to a kind of mast & folds out, so that the other beam below forms an acute angle with the mast & the sail is in a triangular shape or nearly, tapering towards the bottom & having the broadest side uppermost with the abovementioned feathers."

In considering these volumes reference must inevitably be made to Cook's journals and their editor Dr J.C. Beaglehole. Beaglehole was not fond of Forster - this dislike, and its effects on the work of Beaglehole and others, Hoare examines in his opening sections. (And, indeed at greater length, in his biography of Forster, The Tactless Philosopher, Melbourne, 1976). There can be little doubt that Forster was a prickly character, but nor can there be any doubt of his astonishing and encompassing abilities in the natural sciences, linguistics, anthropology and ethnology. What is more, Forster was ambitious to publish the results of his work - something that Banks, in the comfort of society and fortune, let slip. Forster was only too aware of both his ability and his desperate insecurity among the powerful and the clannish of his adopted country.

There are some important original sketches, which include depictions of a Maori dwelling at Dusky Sound, and Easter Island house foundations, house, statue and canoe. Other illustrations focus on natural history specimens. Maps which illustrate the voyage are taken from Beaglehole's edition of Cook's journal. The maps have not always shifted well and are sometimes murky in detail. Likewise some natural history illustrations (for example the New Zealand Acaena anserinifolia) have not reproduced well.

J.R. Forster's journals are the basis of his own Observations made during a Voyage Round the World (1778) and his son George's A Voyage round the World (1777). These volumes, while not without original material, are virtually unobtainable and difficult to find even for reference. The present work makes the elder Forster's direct observations accessible to interested students of ornithology, botany, ethnology, linguistics and whatever else attracted his energetic attention.

Thanks are due to Dr Hoare and the Hakluyt Society for the journal itself and for the considerable scholarship which has gone into its production. Forster's journal must take its place alongside those of Cook and Banks in the unparalleled record of Cook's voyages. Now ... what chance is there of a complete Monkhouse journal?

Nigel Prickett

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Joanna Orwin, Ihaka and the Summer Wandering. Auckland, Oxford University Press, 1982. 112 pp. \$11.99.

Some months ago the editor of the Newsletter rang to ask if my eldest son (age 12) would review a book written for 9 to 13 year olds. My enthusiasm for the idea lasted for a week or two until it became clear I would be writing the review rather than him. The book never left Robert's bed side but its residence at the top of the pile of books there was short lived. A sampling showed Richard Hadlee's book "Hadlee on Cricket", several paperbacks in the Hardy Boys Mysteries series and a book on games for mini-computers as the top contenders. Why didn't "Ihaka and the Summer Wandering" compete? The verdict was that after a couple of chapters he had much more "interesting stuff" to read.

The book is a series of self-contained stories based on the junior members of a family group of Maori people living in Nelson five generations after New Zealand was first settled. The author clearly has a good knowledge of both Nelson and its prehistory and has combined these with some credible suppositions as to the customs of the period. The stories cover a visit to an adze quarry, bird snaring and a moa hunt and subsequent feast as part of a summer's activity away from a winter base. On my reading there is very little here which could be challenged as contrary to our knowledge or unlikely in areas we are unlikely ever to know about. But for children a well researched background is not enough. Something is needed to carry the reader through the book - to need to know what happens next. Here there is nothing and it is a decided weakness. The dust jacket suggests nine year olds could read it. I would think children of this age would find appeal in the individual stories themselves, indeed the book could be suitable for adults to read to younger children as a bed time story book.

No doubt children familiar with Nelson would find more in the book than most, and if used in school as a teaching aid it could develop children's appreciation of other cultures.

The book is illustrated by Robyn Kahukiwa and a useful glossary of Maori words is appended.

Garry Law

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