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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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THREE-YEAR POLYNESIAN RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The following is a News Bulletin issued by the Bishop Museum and kindly forwarded by Dr. Emory. It gives details of a substantial grant which should materially aid archaeology in the Pacific. Because of its interest to New Zealand archaeologists the report is printed in full.-Ed.

A grant of \$77,200 has been made by the National Science Foundation to the Bishop Museum to finance its proposal for a coordinated, international investigation of Polynesian archaeology. The three-year program will focus on the Polynesian islands south of Hawaii and should shed further light on how and when man entered the Pacific and from where he came.

Kenneth Emory, Bishop Museum anthropologist, has been designated as chief investigator. Three noted New Zealand scientists will collaborate with him and his staff. They are Roger S. Duff, director, Canterbury Museum; Roger C. Green, an American citizen now on the staff at the University of Auckland, and Peter W. Gathercole, keeper in Anthropology, Otago Museum, New Zealand.

"The program was the outgrowth of a resolution on Pacific island archaeology adopted by the Tenth Pacific Science Congress held in Honolulu last summer," says Dr. Roland W. Force, director of the Bishop Museum. "The recent Congress provided the opportunity for archaeologists active in the Pacific area to get together and develop an over-all plan. This is one of the benefits of international congresses. Only through such an organized and well-planned project as the one to be undertaken can we hope to adequately reconstruct the movements and relationships of the Pacific island peoples over the centuries of unrecorded history."

"Valuable archaeological work has been carried on for many years in New Zealand. For the past ten years much excellent scientific archaeology has been accomplished in the Hawaiian Islands and, for the past two years, in the Society Islands by Kenneth Emory and his associates under the auspices of the Bishop Museum and the University of Hawaii. Some very important work also has been done recently on Easter Island, in the Marquesas, and in Tonga and Western Samoa. During the Science Congress the need was expressed for some of these areas to be further investigated archaeologically. Further it was felt that the work of all the institutions and individuals undertaking research in the Polynesian area should be carefully planned and coordinated. In this

way records and methods could be standardized and use could be made of the latest mechanical aids and dating techniques."

During 1962, the first year of the program for which the National Science Foundation has granted financial support, Bishop Museum will send an expedition to the Society Islands and a Museum archaeologist will visit Samoa. From New Zealand's Canterbury Museum an expedition will journey to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. Another expedition from Otago Museum in New Zealand will make a study on Pitcairn Island of Bounty fame. The University of Auckland hopes to send a team of archaeologists to Western Samoa. While the international teams are carrying out surveys and excavations in Polynesia, they will seek to preserve important objects and monuments in danger of being lost or destroyed.

While the Polynesian phase of anthropological research is underway, long-range planning will be effected for a similar coordinated investigation of Melanesia and Micronesia. These three great areas in the Pacific ocean are inhabited by people of diverse, yet related cultures, all of which influenced each other in ways not yet clearly understood.

"We at the Museum, and our friends, are delighted with the generous grant of the National Science Foundation," says Dr. Force. "We are deeply indebted to local foundations and individuals who, during the past ten years, have generously contributed funds for archaeological investigation in Hawaii and in the Society Islands. This support has enabled Bishop Museum to develop its effectiveness in Polynesian archaeological investigation to the point where it could submit to the National Science Foundation a proposal of such far-reaching scope and have it approved in full. The McInerny Foundation, among the local foundations, and Mrs. Jon Wiig, among the individuals, have borne the greater part of this financial burden. The National Science Foundation grant should make possible the most important advance in the study of man in the Pacific in years."

January 25th, 1962.