the original structuring of rhythm and sounds would have helped to convey their full impact.

Although the story ends inconclusively, even pessimistically, it does predict the poverty and urban unrest of more recent times, and foreshadows efforts to recover Tahitian culture as a ground for independence struggles. While it remains conflicted, the book still impresses with the sheer passion of its lament and critique. It is well worth having available in English, as the Tahitian contributions to Pacific writing are not always as well known as they could be. If this edition sends readers back to the original and to other writing in both French and Mā’ohi, then it will indeed be a significant contribution to Pacific literary studies.

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This book joins a long list of colonial memoirs of Solomon Islands, which includes a much smaller number of considered historical accounts giving due respect to the Islanders as both colleagues and colonial subjects. It shares this distinction with Tom Russell’s I Have the Honour to Be (2003); as Russell and James L O Tedder were contemporaries who even worked in some of the same posts, it is curious that they do not make more mention of each other.

Tedder joined the colonial service in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate from Australia, and was posted to Malaita in 1952, a few years after Russell and in the wake of the Maasina Rul [Rule] independence movement. Tedder had to deal with its more local successor, the Federal Council, and gives an evocative account of arduous tours around the island, meeting local people and their leaders as he promoted the government’s Malaita Council, encouraged economic development, and carried out routine administrative duties. What he does not deal with are the issues underlying the political situation on Malaita, falling back on a conventional description of Maasina Rul as “a type of independence and cargo cult movement” (31).

From Malaita, Tedder was posted to the neighboring island of Makira, farther from the colonial center of Honiara, less populated and less militant. There he continued to implement official policies promoting economic development through cash cropping, public health, education, and elected local councils. His recollections of colleagues, local and colonial, continue to be complimentary or diplomatic, the most severe criticism usually being that someone was “a little laid-back” (72). But as on Malaita, all this was work, from which Tedder, like other colonials, retreated into a family recreating the domestic life of Australia and a social life within the small European community. Attempts to socialize with “senior islanders”
seem to have foundered on a mutual inability to bridge the cultural and political divide between colonizers and colonized that was characteristic of the time.

From Makira, a posting to remote Santa Cruz shows the colonial administration at its most paternalistic, providing services such as medical care and food security to small remote islands like Tikopia that were of no commercial or political interest. An enthusiastic ceremonial reception by Santa Cruz Islanders for the Duke of Edinburgh illustrates an acceptance of this paternalism, which may surprise later critics of colonialism. With subsequent postings to Gizo in Western Province and to Central Province, including Guadalcanal, Isabel, and several smaller islands far and near, Tedder eventually served as an administrator throughout the whole country. He evidently preferred dealing with Islanders in their own local communities to working for the central administration in Honiara, which included organizing the census of 1959. His observations from the provinces give insights into historical characters that are tantalizing in their brevity; positive reactions to Silas Eto’s Christian Fellowship Church in New Georgia, a visit to the visionary leader Moro on Guadalcanal’s Weather Coast, and a comment that Solomon Mamaloni, his onetime administrative assistant, “may have been a good politician but he was not an administrator” (168). Tedder met returned Queensland labor-migrants, the failing European planters whose descendants have inherited influential roles in Solomon Islands politics, and the son of Dick Richard-

son, the African-American mentioned enigmatically in so many early colonial accounts of Makira. Could Tedder have written more about some of these fascinating people?

Tedder’s Solomon Islands career concluded as director of information and broadcasting from 1972 to 1974, in which role he was responsible for setting up the vital public radio service as well as contributing to the genesis of the National Library and Museum. He then returned to Australia to work in environmental conservation, pursuing an interest previously revealed in his attitude toward local environments and livelihoods in the Solomons.

It is disappointing that Tedder’s opinions on environmental and development issues, informed by such long and varied experience of Solomon Islands, are not more articulated in this book. In recounting colonial development policies, he mentions in passing a number of personal reservations that have been vindicated by subsequent events and changes in expert opinion. These include the concentration of economic and educational development in Honiara at the expense of rural areas; the European school curriculum, which divorces the educational elite from its local backgrounds; large-scale gold mining at the expense of local panning; the bauxite mining proposals, which threatened to ruin Rennell Island; and an over-centralization of administration rather than a federal system maximizing local autonomy. In a concluding chapter he reviews the colonial administration of his own experience to consider whether it contributed to the problems of maladministration and corruption.
that have increasingly plagued the country since independence in 1979, a few years after he left. Yet his informative account of the local administrative system concludes with little more than a critique of the premature imposition of independence on a country divided by social and political parochialism, under “big man” leadership that prioritizes loyalties to family and clan. He certainly has the evidence to provide a more thorough critique of colonial economic, social, and political development policies, which might indeed explain many of the country’s recent problems, and he seems also to have opinions that might incline him to do so.

The book concludes with several detailed anecdotes that illustrate, among other things, the difficulties of communication in the outlying areas of the Solomons, and an appendix with two 1952 tour reports from Malaita. These all add detail to the themes of earlier chapters, and confirm the general character of the book as a series of personal reminiscences. Everyone with an interest in the colonial history of Solomon Islands will be grateful to Tedder for sharing his recollections in a meaningful account that does justice to the Islanders as well as the administration. While readers will gain respect for the colonial service in the British Protectorate, they will have to form their own judgments as to its responsibility for the subsequent history of Solomon Islands.

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Security and development are important issues in the contemporary Pacific Islands region. While these problems have long featured in discussions about the region, they have become more prominent in the past two decades, especially in light of the push for economic liberalization and the violent conflicts that have occurred in some Island countries and territories. The coups in Fiji, the violence associated with the demands for self-determination in New Caledonia and West Papua, the Bougainville crisis, the civil unrests in Solomon Islands, and the politically motivated riot in Tonga are some examples of violent conflicts in the region. Poor economic management and indigent social conditions are also matters of concern.

Security and development in the region have also been influenced by global events and trends. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, for example, Pacific Island countries have become important in the war against international terrorism. Furthermore, socioeconomic developments have been influenced by the neoliberalism promoted by international financial and intergovernmental institutions.

This book is, therefore, timely. It brings together an impressive group of authors who, in fourteen chapters,