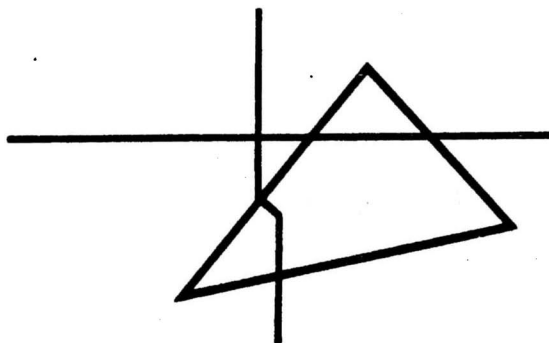


WANSALAWARA

Soundings in Melanesian History



Introduced by BRIJ LAL

Working Paper Series
Pacific Islands Studies Program
Centers for Asian and Pacific Studies
University of Hawaii at Manoa

EDITOR'S NOTE

Brij Lal's introduction discusses both the history of the teaching of Pacific Islands history at the University of Hawaii and the origins and background of this particular working paper. Lal's comments on this working paper are quite complete and further elaboration is not warranted.

Lal notes that in the fall semester of 1983, both he and David Hanlon were appointed to permanent positions in Pacific history in the Department of History. What Lal does not say is that this represented a monumental shift of priorities at this University. Previously, as Lal notes, Pacific history was taught by one individual and was deemed more or less unimportant. The sole representative maintained a constant struggle to keep Pacific history alive, but the battle was always uphill.

The year 1983 was a major, if belated, turning point. Coinciding with a national recognition that the Pacific Islands could no longer be ignored, the Department of History appointed both Lal and Hanlon as assistant professors. The two have brought a new life to Pacific history at this university. New courses and seminars have been added, and both men have attracted a number of new students. The University of Hawaii is the only American university that devotes serious attention to Pacific history.

Robert C. Kiste
Director
Center for Pacific Islands Studies

WANSALAWARA

Soundings in Melanesian History

Introduced by
BRIJ V. LAL

1987

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	Brij V. Lal	1
2. The United States Exploring Expedition to Fiji	Roberta Sprague	12
3. Firearms on Malaita, 1870-1900	Paul D'Arcy	50
4. Kastom Versus Cross. A Battle for Cultural Hegemony on Tanna	David Richardson	88
5. When Black is Transparent: French Colonialism in New Caledonia, 1878-1914	Chantal Ferraro	119
6. Dancing Yet to the Dim Dim's Beat. Contemporary Poetry in Papua New Guinea	Richard Hamasaki	157
7. List of Contributors		204