
Reviewed by WILHELM G. SOLHEIM II, University of Hawaii

Expanded from a series of articles published in 1979 in one of the Hong Kong newspapers, this book is the first to present a comprehensive summary of the archaeology of Hong Kong. Although written in a non-academic style for a general audience, it is of value to the archaeological specialist as an introduction to the prehistory and early history of Hong Kong and of nearby coastal South China.

The first chapter presents the archaeological framework of the Hong Kong area and explains what the archaeologist would like to find out about Hong Kong prehistory and early history through the use of archaeological techniques. The second through eighth chapters (pp. 6–39) cover the history of archaeological research in Hong Kong since its recent beginnings in 1926 and the 1930s, and the development and activities of the Hong Kong Archaeological Society since 1967.

The second part of the book (Chapters 9–20, pp. 40–100) summarizes the prehistory and early history of Hong Kong and nearby areas of South China as interpreted by Meacham from the data recovered over the last half century or so. No remnants of early humans or Pleistocene or early Holocene societies have been found, but a clear sequence from the "Middle Neolithic" period onward is presented. The earliest dates for archaeological sites go back to around 4000 B.C. in Hong Kong, and Meacham feels that the first people in the area would have come in by sea a few centuries earlier. The orientation of Hong Kong culture was almost totally toward the sea until the later Han times and an equal land orientation did not really start developing until Tang times, around A.D. 700–800.

I find myself able to quibble with only two minor points presented by Meacham. On page 52 he says "One tool type which is highly characteristic of this area—the 'stepped and shouldered' adze—has been found at several sites." The stepped and the shouldered adzes are two distinct adze types. A nice shouldered adze is pictured at the far right on page 53 and what appears to be a stepped adze is in the upper left-hand corner of a group of stone tools shown on page 19. On page 66, in talking about "Bronze Age" improvement in ceramic technology, Meacham reports that "The rims of larger vessels were thrown on a fast wheel, after the body was built up basically by hand. . . ." I would suggest that the order of forming rim and body was just the reverse, with the rim done first on the fast wheel and then the body, as reported for potters in southern Thailand, who were originally from Vietnam, many generations ago (Solheim 1964). These extremely minor points in no way reflect on the high quality of the book.

Three useful appendixes complete the book. The first presents "Notes on the Major Archaeological Sites in Hong Kong." The second is a very brief, selected and annotated bibliography that gives easy entrée into the archaeological literature on Hong Kong and its place in the prehistory of coastal South China.
China. The third concerns the major archaeological collections made in the 1930s and what happened to them during and since the Second World War.

This book is simply written, easy to understand, with good and interesting plates, and well edited. I would recommend it without qualification to any audience.


 Reviewed by DAVID J. WELCH, University of Hawaii

In this report Donn Bayard presents the results of two seasons of archaeological fieldwork he directed in the middle Mekong River valley in Thailand and Laos. A program was developed for the identification of cultural resources in threatened portions of the valleys of the Mekong River and its tributaries that will be inundated by construction of a dam at Pa Mong, 20 km west of Vientiane. The project also involved the training of archaeological officials and students from the four Southeast Asian nations that border the Mekong.

The report contains a thorough, detailed description of the methods used in the survey, excavations, and analysis, and in the training of the Southeast Asian archaeologists. Regrettably time constraints, logistical problems, and poor security in some areas made it impossible to complete a survey of the entire reservoir area. The surveyors relied primarily on the questioning of local residents to locate sites, and, while it would have been valuable to have surveyed a few sample tracts systematically on foot, under the circumstances, the techniques probably produced the greatest possible amount of information on site location. The survey has certainly produced an adequate information base on which to evaluate the cultural resources of the surveyed portions of the reservoir area.

Descriptions of each site include information on location, type, size, surface material observed, and an estimate of site age. The types of ceramics found in the surface collections provided the primary evidence for determining the time of occupation of the sites, and each of the pottery types is well described. While the lack of previous archaeological excavations in this region precludes precise dating of sites, prehistoric, early historic (ca. A.D. 1000–1500), and recent occupations could be distinguished. The problems that the author notes in estimating site age from the artifacts point out inadequacies in our knowledge of historic ceramics. Although prehistoric ceramics have been carefully analyzed in recent years, locally made historic wares have received little attention. Stylistic changes in clay pipes, which were found in some abundance during the survey, also have a high, as yet undeveloped, potential for dating historic sites.

The test excavations at eight sites are summarized, with descriptions of the stratigraphic sequences and alternative interpretations of the site histories where there was disagreement among the excavators. The most productive of the excavations took place near Chiang Khan at the L6 Mekong Riverbank Site, apparently a Hoabinhian workshop. Its location below the high-water mark of the river had resulted in some disturbance and mixing of materials from Hoabinhian and historic occupations. Nevertheless the presence of a distinct Hoabinhian occupation was attested by the presence of over 200 unifacially flaked pebble tools concentrated mainly in the lower layer of the site. In one of the most careful analyses of a Hoabinhian tool kit to date, the obvious Hoabinhian tools were measured, weighed, and classified on the basis of morphological traits that reflect manufacturing techniques, and a petrological analysis of the rock types used was carried out. The typology succeeds in organizing the collection in a logical and meaningful way without attaching functional labels and assumptions to what were probably for the most part general-purpose tools. Analysis for correlations between tool dimensions, type, and raw material, including a factor analysis of size and shape related to type, failed to show any significant correlations. These results tend to confirm the perception of Hoabinhian tool kits in general as rather amorphous collections of ready-made, nonspecialized tools. The horizontal distribution of pebble tools and stone flakes has also been plotted and concentrations distinguished in what I believe is the first such analysis of a mainland Hoabinhian site.

Most of this report, with its detailed presentation of the survey data, will be of interest primarily to archaeologists directly involved in research in mainland Southeast Asia. However the volume concludes with a
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chapter on the “Implications for the Prehistory of Pa Mong and Adjoining Regions” that is of more general interest. Bayard relates the prehistory of the Pa Mong region to that of the Khorat Plateau and northern Thailand. He sees the Pa Mong reservoir area as lying just to the west of the geological and ecological boundary that separates those two areas. Prehistoric and historic settlement in this area appears to follow a pattern similar to that seen in the mountain valleys of northern Thailand, with a long-lasting Hoabinhian occupation and no evidence of settlement by wet-rice agriculturalists until early historic times. The late prehistoric rice-producing, metal-using villages common on the Khorat Plateau have no counterpart in this area.

Bayard emphasizes the importance of further research in this region, especially for an understanding of trade and movements of peoples in prehistoric Southeast Asia. It is to be hoped that his recommendations for future research will be implemented before inundation of the area, if the Pa Mong Dam is in fact ever built.

Bayard has produced a report which, among other strengths, is thorough, presents alternative explanations, and provides sufficient information in terms of methods and data base to allow other archaeologists to evaluate the conclusions. Summaries in Khmer, Vietnamese, Lao, and Thai are included, allowing easier access to the major results by the people in those countries most directly concerned. The author and the University of Otago are to be commended for producing with care and speed this type of detailed archaeological report in an easily readable, well-illustrated, low-cost format, making at least a small portion of the archaeological research being conducted in Southeast Asia readily available.


Reviewed by WILHELM G. SOLHEIM II, University of Hawaii

The title of this book and the fact that it was published by the Sarawak Museum give a very good idea of its contents. Presented here is a cross section of the material culture, past and present, of the people of Sarawak as seen in the collections of the Sarawak Museum. The purpose of the book, in the words of Lucas Chin, “is to bring together as far as possible the features of the cultural material much of which have already been separately described in scientific journals (many of which are not readily available), under one single cover as an introduction to the cultural heritage of Sarawak for the layman and students” (p. xvi). This it does very well.

The first chapter, “The Indigenous People of Sarawak” (pp. 1–4), presents a very brief but informative introduction to the different ethnic groups of Sarawak. The text of the second chapter on “Prehistoric Artifacts Discovered in Sarawak” is even shorter (pp. 5–7) but presents an amazing amount of information in so few words. It is very worthwhile to have placed on record the lingling-o (nephrite ear pendant) discovered in the West Mouth cemetery of Niah Cave (p. 6, Pl. 2.14). As mentioned by Chin (p. 6), very similar earrings have been recovered from archaeological sites in the Tabon Caves (on the west coast of Palawan not far north of Niah), Philippines, and in Vietnam. I should add that they have also been found in archaeological sites in the Cagayan Valley of northern Luzon, Philippines, and the southeast coastal areas of Taiwan. It was mentioned (p. 7) that 14C dates from four “death-ship” coffins of the painted cave fell between 0 and A.D. 780. These dates are for years during the growth of the trees cut to make the coffins and probably not dates from the outermost growth rings of trees just before they were cut and the coffins made. Thus the dates for manufacture of the coffins would be sometime later than the 14C dates, possibly as much as a few hundred years. The color plate from the Painted Cave (many of the plates are in high quality color and for that matter all plates, taken by Junaidi Bolhassan, are of high quality) is one of the best I have seen. A book should be published presenting these paintings in toto.

This is not the only chapter of the book concerned with what for Sarawak are prehistoric artifacts. Part of Chapter 3 and all of Chapter 5 are on imported ceramics dating from the seventh to nineteenth centuries A.D. On the basis of the T’ang ceramics Chin suggests that Sarawak in general (p. 13) and the Sarawak River Delta in particular (p. 14) were involved in international trade. I believe that people of coastal Sarawak were involved with a form of international trade going back much further than that. There are indications that the blue and blue-green monochrome glass beads mentioned in “Beads, Their Values and Uses” (Chapter 7, pp. 49–56) were being traded into the Philippines from around 200 B.C. or earlier and that carnelian beads (p. 49) were coming in to west coast Palawan as early as 1000 B.C. Both the early glass and the stone beads possibly came from southeastern coastal India. Exactly the same kind of gold rings as those found in the Tantric Shrine at Bongkis-
arranged their reports of specific sites and environmental activity. Documenting the changes, the authors have illuminated the island's parallel sequences of cultural activity in neighboring Anuta by Kirch and P. H. Rosendahl.

The field research on which it is based was done in 1977-1978, following earlier work to arrive at a comprehensive picture of archaeology.

This notable work commends itself to archaeologists and prehistorians generally, as well as to scholars with interests in Oceania. It is a model for regional archaeology and the integration of archaeological with biological, geological, linguistic, and oral historical information to arrive at a comprehensive picture of the course of events. The field research on which it is based was done in 1977-1978, following earlier work in neighboring Anuta by Kirch and P. H. Rosendahl.

A high island of volcanic origin, Tikopia has undergone physical change since its earliest human settlement around 900 B.C. Much of this change has been a direct result of or has been accelerated by human activity. Documenting the changes, the authors have arranged their reports of specific sites "so that they illuminate the island's parallel sequences of cultural and environmental change" (p. 87). The present range of crops grown is a mix of early Oceanic species, plants developed as crops in Melanesia, and others of American origin. The introduction of these three classes of crops is charted in the archaeological record, as are the shift through time from swidden to more intensive gardening and the changing roles of arboriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing.

A survey of surface indications of prehistoric settlement confirmed Raymond Firth's ethnographic assessment that the "calcaceous lowlands have always been the dominant focus of human occupation" (p. 64). The authors successfully relate stone structural remains, mainly marae and house sites, to ethnographic information on their use and significance. The distribution of burial sites also provides information on late prehistoric to protohistoric settlement patterns.

The authors carefully and judiciously associate the sites and excavated materials with the rich oral tradition earlier recorded by Firth, finding confirmation of the major outlines of the tradition as it pertains to the past ten to twelve generations. Of special importance in this regard is the association of the Sinapupu site trade in ceramics from China, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

While other prehistoric artifacts, such as rock carvings and megaliths (pp. 19-27), are covered in this book, most of the remaining chapters are on traditional handicrafts such as brass castings (pp. 41-48); the use of beads in ornamentation (pp. 49-56); bark cloth, textiles, and other types of bodily adornment (pp. 57-67); basketry, matting, and hats (pp. 69-76); and wood carving (pp. 77-87). Chapter 11 presents ten buildings of the Brooks era that are certainly a part of the Sarawak cultural heritage. A very selective, broad, and useful bibliography provides entrée into academic and general publications on Sarawak.

I feel that for tourists visiting Sarawak, citizens of Sarawak who are not acquainted with the many ethnic groups of Sarawak or their prehistory, and for citizens of Malaysia in general who wish to know more about the peoples making up their country's population this is a very pleasing and informative introduction to the cultural heritage of Sarawak. To the academic specializing in some portion of Sarawak's culture or history it is also very nice to have as a nostalgic reminder of Sarawak and the remarkable Sarawak Museum. Showing it to friends will help to explain why the academic finds Sarawak such an interesting place to study and its people so enjoyable to be with.


Reviewed by WARD H. GOODENOUGH, University of Pennsylvania
with the Nga Faea people, who by oral tradition were expelled from Tikopia by the Nga Ariki in the seventeenth century A.D.

Chapters dealing with the setting, the agricultural system, and the specific sites are followed by chapters on "Material Culture and Technological Change," "Faunal Analysis and Subsistence Patterns," "Chronology and Sequence," and, finally, one providing an overall synthesis.

The cultural sequence falls into four phases: The Kiki Phase (900–100 B.C.), the Sinapupu Phase (100 B.C. to A.D. 1200), the Tuakamali Phase (A.D. 1200–1800), and the Modern Phase (A.D. 1800 to the present).

The Kiki Phase begins with the first human occupation by people with a material culture that falls within the range of the Late Lapita Complex, and Kiki Ware is representative of a late phase of the Lapita Series. The authors are cautious about the direction from which this settlement came, pointing out that it could as easily have come from the Fiji area as from the west in Melanesia, given the nature of the evidence available. Rats and anthropophilic snails were introduced with the Kiki Phase, and there is direct evidence of the coconut and indirect evidence of other Oceanic cultigens. Shellfish gathering and fishing with one-piece fishhooks and trolling gear are attested. Land birds were heavily exploited, especially the megapode, which became extinct during this phase.

The Sinapupu Phase is marked by an abrupt transition. Local manufacture of Lapitoid pottery ceases, and an exotic, Lele Gray style of pottery is imported from Vanuatu (the New Hebrides). There is a change in some ornamental types; Santa Cruz species of plants come in; turtle remains disappear; and there is "a dramatic increase in the quantity of pig bone" (p. 329). There is also continuity of other important traits from the previous phase, and, as before, settlements remained on the coastal dunes. Fire seems to have played a major role in more extensive cultivation.

The Tuakamali Phase provides the first indication of "distinctly Polynesian, and indeed, 'modern' Tikopia traits" (p. 331). It continues without break into the final, Modern Phase, associated with European contact. A number of sites of the Tuakamali Phase are linked by the present population to particular ancestors and events, going back ten to twelve generations. This phase saw important changes in the Tikopian landscape, including expansion of the island's land area and the transformation of its saltwater bay into an enclosed, brackish lake. Tikopian agriculture took its present form, also. Late in this phase, spiny puffer fish and moray eels, ethnographically tapu, disappear from the archaeological record. New artifacts include a West Polynesian type of trolling lure, pig-tooth beads, shell ornaments, and bone needles, as well as distinctive architectural features. There is an increase in the use of volcanic glass, imported from the Banks Islands. The clear indications of West Polynesian features in the archaeological assemblage are accompanied by a continuity of earlier forms as well, suggesting an addition to rather than a replacement of the island's population.

Tikopia is thus shown to have enjoyed almost three thousand years of continuous human occupation, to have been tied into trade relations with neighboring islands, and to have received additional settlers from time to time. It is clear that Polynesian-speaking people were among the settlers whose arrival marks the beginning of the third (Tuakamali) phase around A.D. 1200, but it is not clear whether the earlier inhabitants were Polynesian speaking or represented some other subdivision of the Oceanic language group. There is much food for thought here; and it is to be hoped that others doing archaeology in the Pacific will emulate the high standards of field research and interpretation exemplified by this work.


Reviewed by MICHAEL PIETRUSEWSKY, University of Hawaii

This volume contains four separately authored papers written entirely in English. Included are: "Racial history of the Japanese" by H. Suzuki; "Ainu" by S. Waranabe; "Racial history of Indonesia" by J. Glinka; and "Oceania" by W. W. Howells and I. Schwidetzky. The contribution by Waranabe is a good deal shorter (8 pages and 3 plates) than the others.

While some authors include information on geography, prehistory, and linguistics, these papers are largely summaries of the physical anthropology of each region, with racial history and origins as common themes. As expected, the treatment is not even, but summaries of human fossil discoveries, skeletal studies, and studies of living populations (anthropometry, anthroposcopy, and genetic polymorphisms) are routinely covered in each paper.

Suzuki's contribution on the Japanese gives a fairly
detailed account of the skeletal record for Japan from Pleistocene to Historic times. His summary of the information on living populations, however, is much less extensive. The supposed migration routes of early Japanese populations, presented in Suzuki's conclusions, lack extensive referencing.

Watanabe's contribution on the Hokkaido Ainu presents a brief but uncritical review of some of the earlier literature on these fascinating people.

Glinka's area is Island Southeast Asia including Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines, and Madagascar. The author's inclusion of the last is commendable. Glinka's discussion of human variation among the region's inhabitants, however, is presented in typological jargon reminiscent of older racial classifications. Summaries of studies in anthropometry are based almost entirely on recent limited work done by the author, and studies of genetic polymorphisms are limited to summaries of ABO, Rh, and MNS allele frequencies listed by Mourant and his collaborators in 1976. Similarly, Glinka's listing on page 90 of the most important human remains of the Neolithic and early metal period of Mainland Southeast Asia omits several remarkably large and important skeletal collections such as the ones from Non Nok Tha (Pietruszewsky 1974) and Ban Chiang (Pietruszewsky 1978; 1982). Perhaps the paper's most original and valuable contribution is the summary of a multivariate comparison of 265 anthropometric samples from all parts of Island Southeast Asia. The major limitations of this latter survey are the small list of characters used and, for this reviewer, the difficulty of interpreting the relationships beyond the first-order level of the groups presented on page 101. Despite these shortcomings the paper does allow glimpses of the extent and degree of human variation within the region, past and present.

The last contribution, which deals with the peoples of Oceania (Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia), in this reviewer's opinion comes closest to sumarizing information from a more modern perspective. Howells and Schwidetzky emphasize some of the more recent research on Pacific populations, dispensing with much of the earlier, now outdated, work in physical anthropology. There is an attempt to synthesize information on the physical variation within Oceania from a variety of sources—an approach that is not completely successful in the other papers. Fossil remains (especially from Australia), studies in cranial variation that use multivariate procedures, and studies of living populations including serological investigations and dermatoglyphics are included. These authors also discuss some of the more recent archaeological discoveries for the region, especially as they pertain to origins.

All papers contain rather extensive bibliographies and much factual information worth having. A major weakness of the first three papers is their failure to present a coherent picture of human variation for their respective regions, coupled with a tendency to emphasize a single line of information. In some instances, this is excusable given the paucity of information for certain areas.

As a whole, the contributors to this volume are to be applauded for their serious attempt to summarize and interpret information on physical variation, past and present, for the regions surveyed, many of which have not received much attention in the past. It is hoped that summaries such as these, by demonstrating where gaps in our knowledge exist, will serve to stimulate future research in Oceania and neighboring regions of Asia. The series' editor is to be congratulated for her foresight in undertaking such an ambitious project. Other volumes in this series are eagerly awaited.

References

PIETRUSEWSKY, M.

