she is able to show at the other extreme many who showed "a spontaneous affection and a tolerance that far outstripped that of most of their contemporaries" (133). Most illuminating of all, Langmore exposes the masculinity of the stereotypes: 115 of the missionaries in Papua were women (about half of them Sacred Heart sisters), in addition to the 47 Congregational and Methodist wives who often participated actively in the work. The chapters on these women, and on the contrasting images of pious domestic life and Christian community presented by Protestants and Catholics respectively, are the most impressive in the book. Langmore concludes that missionaries might be more usefully categorized, if categorize we must, under four ideal types: the mystic, the administrator, the humanitarian, and the romantic—and that these types were gendered.

Papuans themselves remain in the shadows in this study, as does the impact of the missions on Papuan culture and society. The focus is firmly on the missionaries, and on conscious motives rather than unintended outcomes. Although much territory unexplored by Langmore is vital to an understanding of Papuan history, no single monograph can accomplish everything. Langmore has produced an undeniably competent, informative, and important study that has significant implications for future research. The book comes complete with valuable appendixes, extensive bibliography, and endnotes. One would hope that the somewhat heavy academic apparatus of the end production does not deter general readers with an interest in the history of Papua New Guinea from engaging with a rewarding and often fascinating piece of scholarship.

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It is not easy to obtain reliable information about the Pacific Islands, so that those working in the area were delighted when the IMF announced it was about to publish this book. At first sight the overview of the Pacific Island economies, the basic economic tables, and the brief summaries of the seven economies meets the requirements of a basic book about the region. It is quickly apparent, however, that this is not the case.

The information provided covers basic economic and social indicators, but they are not used for analysis. For example, the first table (31), on economic and social indicators, lacks per capita income growth, perhaps for a good reason. If the population growth figures for Papua New Guinea were corrected from the low 2.6 percent per annum figure in the table to 3 percent (Mr Namaliu’s speech to the Australia–Papua New Guinea Business Council) then it would be seen that per capita trends are negative for all countries except Tonga, which has enjoyed very low population growth through emigration, a high level of remittances,
and the ability to handle macroeconomic issues in the 1970s and 1980s. All the other Pacific Island nations have had negligible or negative per capita income growth since their independence in spite of their excellent natural endowment.

The naivete of the data is the book’s greatest weakness. A large proportion of the data reported is controversial, but they are treated as being accurate and, indeed, the only data available. In fact, several alternative series for such fundamental data as recent national income figures are available. None were validated in this study. Undertaking this elementary piece of analysis would have demonstrated that far from “progress . . . toward sustained development,” some of the countries are in grave danger of economic collapse (following Fiji’s example), and the others could erode the “subsistence affluence” of the precolonial and colonial eras into poverty by the twenty-first century.

Browne and Scott are coy about the role of aid in the Pacific Islands. The only detailed data presented are on the —very minor—IMF flows. The bulk of aid, which dominates the Pacific Island economies, is briefly alluded to at the end of the book. An earnest reader would be able to drag some of the facts about aid out of the International Financial Statistics type tables for each country. But such raw data would not tell even the most assiduous reader that the small Pacific Island countries receive the highest per capita aid flows in the world. It is increasingly widely believed that they have failed to grow because of, rather than despite, the size of their aid inflows. It is now well recognized that aid flows, like mineral booms, have negative as well as positive effects: Pacific Island currencies tend to be chronically overvalued, resources are drawn from agriculture and tourism to the government sector, and their prices (particularly of labor) are far too high in relation to their productivity. These are the main reasons, not “shortages of trained managers” (8) for the lack of development of agriculture. In several countries, commodity boards, uncritically discussed in the book (8), have led to the stagnation of agriculture and exports. Farmers are not stupid. They respond to the boards’ negative incentives.

The development of human resources is totally ignored, unconscionably so, in the light of the importance of education and training (human capital) in development. The Melanesian countries—Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, and Vanuatu—are among countries with the lowest school enrollment ratios in the world. Enrollment ratios are particularly low for girls. Poor education is associated, typically, with very high population growth.

Many inaccurate and unanalytical books have been written about the Pacific Islands and many more will undoubtedly be written. By and large it does not matter. But the IMF and its staff members are in a uniquely favorable position. They have the resources to do their work in comfort. They have unequalled opportunities to assess each country’s development in regular consultations. And they have a responsibility, once they accept a country as a member, regardless of its size, to make sure that the data and the analysis are
Keesing has written a fascinating, provocative, valuable, rambling book about the nature of Melanesian Pidgin (MNP). His thesis that MNP is modified English words on an Oceanic grammar is hardly new, but his documentation and clarification of it are. Neither the preface nor the introduction specifies the intended audience. The book is not for the linguistically faint of heart, but one needs little technical training in linguistics, just a love of language.

The book consists of fourteen chapters and an appendix. The first chapter is an introduction. The second chapter reviews accounts, including some speech samples, of the nineteenth-century contact between Pacific Islanders and English speakers. The third chapter continues into the "Sandalwood Period." The fourth brings us into the "Labor Trade" era when the focus changed from collecting fragrant wood to collecting strong field hands. The plantation era led to a richer corpus of recorded speech. Keesing analyzes some forty-five citations indicating that MNP was surprisingly modern by 1885.

In chapter 6, Keesing turns to the grammatical structures of Oceanic languages, getting us used to pronoun paradigms. In chapter 7, he discusses three possible influences on MNP: Oceanic languages (substrata), English (superstratum), and language universals (based in the human faculty for language). These influences can converge to support the same grammatical structure, a very stable structure. In chapter 9, we get pronoun paradigms for