

Topical Reports

I. Trans-Pacific Contacts

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Received 7 May 1964

The list of publications given below reflects the broad nature of the topic of Trans-Pacific contacts; the problems of Polynesian origins and navigational skills; the distributions of cultivated and other plants and the theoretical background of diffusion studies generally. The paper by Tolstoy is outstanding; with its rigorous scientific method in the study of diffusion it provides one of our best 'proofs' of Trans-Pacific contacts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CARTER, GEORGE F.

- 1963 Movement of people and ideas across the Pacific, in *Plants and the Migrations of Pacific Peoples*, pp. 7-22. A Symposium, held at the Tenth Pacific Science Congress, Hawaii, 1961. Jacques Barrau (ed.), Bishop Museum Press.

The distribution of certain cultivated plants and of weeds in the Pacific area show extensive and repeated contacts between Asia, the Pacific Islands, and America. This view is based on certain historically known instances of plant transfers that occurred only through long and repeated contacts.

EKHOLM, GORDON F.

- 1964 Trans-Pacific contacts, in *Prehistoric Man in the New World*, pp. 489-510. Published for Rice University by the University of Chicago Press, edited by Jesse D. Jennings and Edward Norbeck. Some of the theoretical problems involved in the investigation of the evidence for trans-Pacific contacts.

ESTRADA, EMILIO and CLIFFORD EVANS

- 1963 Cultural development in Ecuador, in *Aboriginal Cultural Development in Latin America: An interpretative review*. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 146(1): 77-88. Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

The archæologically known culture history of Ecuador is concisely summarized. The two authors visualize two cultural intrusions from Asia, one at about 2500 B.C. from the Jōmon culture of Japan and another at about 200 B.C. from a less well defined source in eastern Asia.

FERDON, EDWIN N. JR

- 1963 Polynesian origins, *Science*, 141(August 9): 499-505.

The problem of Polynesian origins and diffusion is shown to be far more complex than has been thought in the past. There exist several possible sources of origin, and, due to the character of ocean voyaging, a regular island-to-island diffusion pattern need not be expected.

GOLSON, JACK (editor)

- 1962 Polynesian navigation; A Symposium on Andrew Sharp's Theory of Accidental Voyages. Supplement to the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 71(nos. 3, 4). Memoir 34: 153 pp. Wellington.

Theories of trans-Pacific contacts depend in large part on other theories concerning the sailing and navigational skills of early peoples. This symposium reviewed Andrew Sharp's thesis that the Pacific Islands were settled primarily through accidental or drift voyages. A long critique of Sharp's views by G. S. Parsonson (pp. 11-63) is especially cogent and valuable.

HEYERDAHL, THOR

- 1963 Prehistoric voyages as agencies for Melanesian and South American plant and animal dispersal to Polynesia. In *Plants and the Migrations of Pacific Peoples*, pp. 23-25. A Symposium, held at the Tenth Pacific Science Congress, Hawaii, 1961. Jacques Barrau, (ed), Bishop Museum Press.

Several cultivated or useful plants of Easter Island, including the totora reed and the sweet potato, are thought to have been introduced from the Americas while other Polynesian plants have clearly been brought in by voyages from the west.

LI HUI-LIN 李惠林

- 1961 Mu-Lan-P'i 木蘭皮: A case for pre-Columbian Transatlantic travel by Arab ships, *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Harvard-Yenching Institute, 23(1960-1961): 114-126.

Two Sung geographical works refer to the land of the Arabs and to a strange country still farther to the west that is reached by a hundred days of sailing in large ships. It is suggested that this land might be best identified as South America.

MEGGERS, BETTY J.

- 1963 Cultural development in Latin America: An Interpretative Overview, in *Aboriginal Cultural Development in Latin America: An Interpretative Review*. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 146(1): 131-148. Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

The summary of an excellent symposium reviewing current knowledge of the archaeology of Latin America. The great importance of diffusion between the several centres of New World cultures is emphasized, and various comments on the probability of trans-Pacific relationships are included.

SMITH, C. EARLE JR. and MACNEISH, RICHARD S.

- 1964 Antiquity of American Polyploid Cotton, *Science*, 143(3607): 675-6. Washington.

Fragments of a single cotton boll are reported from Coxcatlan Cave at Tehuacan, Mexico, in levels dated at about 5800 B.C. This appears to invalidate the widely held theory that the Old World element of the hybrid American cotton was probably brought from Asia by man.

SWADESH, MORRIS

- 1964 Linguistic overview, in *Prehistoric Man in the New World*, pp. 527-556. Published for Rice University by the University of Chicago Press. Edited by Jesse D. Jennings and Edward Norbeck.

The principles involved in studying the relationship and origins of the American Indian languages are discussed and it is shown that remote relationships to Asiatic languages must exist. Linguistic borrowings that might be the result of trans-Pacific contacts are also considered.

TOLSTOY, PAUL

- 1963 Cultural parallels between Southeast Asia and Mesoamerica in the manufacture of bark cloth, *Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences*, Ser. II, 25(6): 646-662.

The methods being used in a world-wide study of bark-cloth manufacture still in progress are summarized. Notable similarities between the industries of Southeast Asia and Mesoamerica are highly indicative of historic relationship. The author thinks that the industry was introduced into Mesoamerica in the early part of the first millenium B.C.

VOKES, EMILY H.

- 1963 A possible Hindu influence at Teotihuacan, *American Antiquity*, 29(1): 94-95.

Some of the shells depicted on the façade of the Temple of Quetzalcoatl at Teotihuacan can be identified according to the author as the West Indian Chank, a shell closely related to the 'Sacred Chank' of India. This ceremonial use of the same kind of shell in the two areas may be significant.