

crafts, or in the rediscovery of the richness of traditional Samoan lore, will find this book an invaluable and unique source of information.

I congratulate Robert Holding and his associates for their work in organizing the translation and reproduction of Kramer's work, and Dr Verhaaren for his scholarly translation. It is my personal hope that not only scholars in the field of Polynesian and Pacific studies will buy this volume, but that every Samoan family will do so as well, in order to educate their children in the wealth of Samoan traditional knowledge.

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Indigenous Literature of Oceania: A Survey of Criticism and Interpretation, by Nicholas J Goetzfridt. *Bibliographies and Indexes in World Literature*, 47. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995. ISBN 0-313-29173-X, xix + 347 pages, map, bibliography, indexes. US\$75.

Indigenous Literature of Oceania, subtitled *A Survey of Criticism and Interpretation*, will undoubtedly, in the words of Vilsoni Hereniko in the foreword, save scholars and writers of Pacific literature "hours and hours of searching through libraries for critical material on the newest literature in the world" (ix). Nicholas Goetzfridt is to be rightly commended for the painstaking scholarship that he has put into the compilation of this, to date, most comprehensive survey of critical works on Pacific literature. With some reser-

vations, of which more later, *Indigenous Literature of Oceania* constitutes an invaluable reference resource for those interested in a literature that, from its origins in the late sixties and seventies, to the beginnings of its second wave today, can still be considered very "new" in the global literary context.

In his at times obscure introduction, Goetzfridt explains the parameters of his journey and his position as a critic and compiler. His focus is literary criticism (located in "academic and literary journals and books"; xvi) of poetry, fiction, and drama written in English by indigenous peoples of the Pacific Islands (largely the South Pacific), Aotearoa (New Zealand), and Australia. Most of this criticism has been produced by western critics. He does not include in the survey critical works of juvenile or children's literature or of nonfiction; while "oral narratives, life-stories, autobiographies and folklore" are not totally excluded they do not receive "concentrated focus" (xvi). He rightly includes criticism of Indo-Fijian literature because he considers it "in a sense . . . indigenous to Pacific literature itself and . . . its place in Pacific literature has been and continues to be indelible and is often discussed (rather than juxtaposed) in overviews of the literatures of Oceania" (xvi). He names and refers the reader to other useful bibliographies of Pacific writers and writing and lists the main literary journals (such as *Mana* and *Span*) that publish indigenous Pacific literature. Goetzfridt expresses his sensitivity over his position as outsider critic and compiler against whom charges of white patronage may be leveled but

“not to the extent that I would need to feel that I am devoid of any right to react (largely in critical decisions made for the book’s annotations) to this literature” (xvii).

Goetzfridt refers in the acknowledgments to the “maze of technical formatting problems” that confronted him in the organization of material for a survey of this kind. His decisions in this regard have resulted in the division of the book into four sections of annotated entries (724 in all) of critical material (Oceania, General: 1–14; Pacific Islands: 15–120; Aotearoa–New Zealand: 121–198; Australia: 199–308) followed by a bibliography and three indexes (Title and Author, Critics, Subject).

The annotated entries in the four main sections of the book should no doubt attract most of the reader’s interest. They generally do justice to the diverse critical works they attempt to summarize and mediate. However, herein also lies my first reservation with this publication. Both Hereniko and Goetzfridt have earlier referred to the perennial problem of critical stance faced by critics of “new literatures” such as Pacific literature. Hereniko maintains “a notable difference characterizes reviews between ‘white’ critics and commentaries by indigenous writers or critics” (ix); he refers to the Eurocentric bias of most “white” scholars and to the 1994 C K Stead debacle concerning the Faber anthology of Pacific literature. Goetzfridt acknowledges his awareness of the delicacy of his “outsider” position as a white compiler and critic of indigenous Pacific literature. It would have been helpful, therefore, and perhaps not too

cumbersome, to inform the reader in this regard by identifying the critic’s position in each entry.

More important, while it is true that, because of the scramble for post-colonial literature by the western academy, the bulk of the criticism of Pacific literature has come via western scholars and critics, the truly pioneering and prototypical critical works to date have been produced by Pacific writers themselves. Goetzfridt ought to have distinguished these entries for the uninformed reader. In the Pacific Islands section, for example, Albert Wendt’s 1976 “*Towards a New Oceania*” (entry 289) began the informed, contextualized exploration of Pacific literature that Subramani continued and developed in his pioneering PhD study that culminated in the publication of *South Pacific Literature: From Myth to Fabrication* (1985; revised 1992; entry 255). That text contextualized and established Pacific literature in the way Kenneth Ramchand’s *West Indian Novel and Its Background* did for Caribbean literature.

Other reservations are of a lesser nature but concern features that detract from the attractiveness of this publication. There are entries without annotations (13, 73, 156 . . .), numerous typographical and editing errors, including the replication of the same two paragraphs in two different entries (184 and 185), and a print size that many readers will probably find too small; this last is understandable given the already considerable size of the book as it now stands.

These reservations are not intended to discourage the reader and buyer of this book. *Indigenous Literature of*

Oceania remains an important publication. It should become a necessary acquisition for all serious scholars of Pacific literature and for libraries in all academic institutions professing a scholarly interest in the literary arts of the Pacific region.

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Pacific 2010: Urbanisation in Polynesia, by John Connell and John P. Lea. Pacific Policy Paper 14. Canberra: National Centre for Development Studies, 1995. ISSN 0817-0444, viii + 161 pages, maps, tables, glossary, references. Paper, A\$25.

Urbanisation is another in the series Pacific 2010 produced by the National Centre for Development Studies at the Australian National University, Canberra. The Pacific 2010 project is concerned with development issues facing the Pacific Island countries, particularly the matter of population growth and its likely impact on development over the next two decades.

The authors of *Urbanisation in Polynesia* are among the best known of the small band of authors on Pacific urbanization and development. John Connell, associate professor of geography at Sydney University, has been writing on the Pacific since the mid-1970s when he worked with the Siwai people on Bougainville. In the 1980s he directed the South Pacific Commission-International Labor Organization project on Migration, Employment and Development in the South Pacific, which resulted in more than twenty

country reports still widely referred to. In recent years he has published on Bougainville and New Caledonia, to mention just a few of his major works, and most recently coauthored with John Lea *Planning the Future: Melanesian Cities in 2010* (1993) in the same Pacific 2010 series. John Lea, director of the Ian Buchan Fell Research Centre and associate professor of urban and regional planning at Sydney University, is also widely published, writing on third world urbanization, housing, tourism and development, and the impacts of mining on Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory of Australia.

Urbanisation in Polynesia stresses the issue of urban management as the fundamental cause for the problems facing the centers in Polynesia today. Interestingly, the experience of the small towns of Polynesia is not far removed from that of other developing countries with much greater urban centers. The United Nations, for example, has listed the key strategies for dealing with urban development as including the improvement of urban management (*UNDP Cities, People, and Poverty*, 1991). Graphic illustrations of the breakdown of urban management are provided by Connell and Lea, giving this book personal touches that go a long way toward exploding the prevailing myths that the Pacific has no or few urban problems. In many ways this book is more "human" than *Planning the Future*. Why this should be the case is unclear to this reader, given the dynamism and diversity of Melanesian towns and cities. The book presents in interesting detail evidence of the inertia of Polyne-