

PACIFIC ISLANDS PROGRAM

University of Hawaii

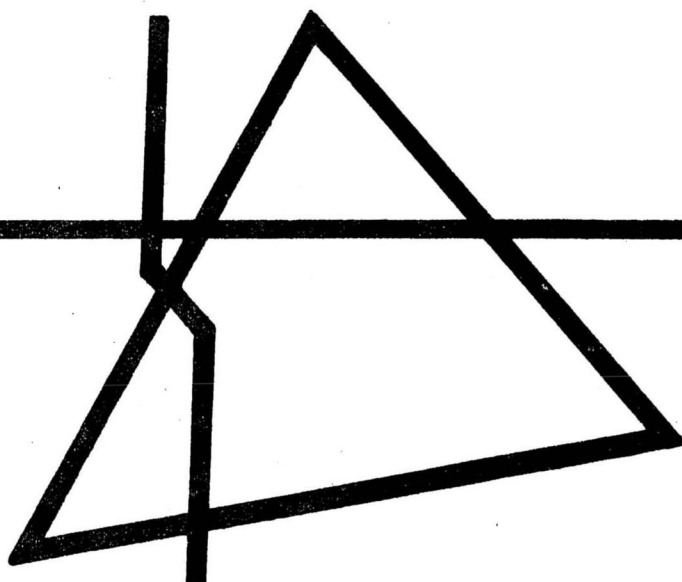
Miscellaneous Work Papers

MICRONESIAN AND POLYNESIAN

VOYAGING

THREE READINGS

(1976: 1)



FOREWORD

In the fall of 1975 a course on Pacific voyaging was offered at the University of Hawaii under the instruction of Professor Ben Finney of the Anthropology Department. The focus was on Micronesian and Polynesian canoe voyaging. Interest in traditional voyaging was widely felt in Hawaii as the Polynesian Voyaging Society prepared to make an experimental round trip journey from Hawaii to Tahiti. The canoe Hokule'a was to make the voyage. That voyage has since been completed and attention will doubtless now be focused on the results of the experiments carried out in this venture. Some of the topics explored in the Hokule'a journey were uses of traditional navigation skills, canoe performance, diet, and transporting of plants and animals (Finney 1975:7). The students of the Pacific Voyaging course wrote research papers on topics related to the above.

This collection of papers from that course reflects the Hokule'a concerns. The work by Patricia Schattenburg on food and cultivar transportation deals with Micronesian voyaging, enabling the author to make use of research on traditional navigation which is still practiced in Micronesia. Patricia Beggerly's paper concerns a posited model of a Hawaiian initial settlement. The model details possible passengers and contents of the canoe first reaching Hawaii and examines the changes for survival of people, plants and animals enroute and once settled in Hawaii through use of several variables. Lesley Bruce has also written on Hawaii, researching the topic of Hawaiian knowledge of celestial navigation. This paper searches the works of Malo, Kamakau, and Kepelino for references to traditional astronomical and navigational knowledge. It is our hope that these papers will find an audience in the widespread interest in Pacific voyaging generated by the Hokule'a trip.

The Pacific Islands Studies program wishes to stimulate student efforts in research and so offers these as working papers. They are not finished products and should be regarded as initial endeavors in the study of Pacific voyaging. The aim is to share the information gathered by students, keeping in mind that this is a beginning and will pave the way for further work in several areas.

A note on format: These papers have been presented in the style of the journal American Anthropologist. References are found in the text in parentheses. The author's last name, year of publication of the work and page cited are given, e.g. (Suggs 1960:110). A list of references cited appears at the end of each paper. Only materials cited are presented, although other publications may have aided the author's background research. These citations are listed by author and subfiled by date. Title, place of publication and publisher are given for monographs; journal articles show title of the article, journal, volume and paging.

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