

2001

Mangarevan Archaeology: Interpretations Using New Data and 40 Year Old Excavations to Establish a Sequence from 1200 to 1900 AD (Review)

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Recommended Citation

Stefan, Vincent H. (2001) "Mangarevan Archaeology: Interpretations Using New Data and 40 Year Old Excavations to Establish a Sequence from 1200 to 1900 AD (Review)," *Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation*: Vol. 15 : Iss. 1 , Article 11. Available at: <https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/rnj/vol15/iss1/11>

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Easter Island studies to atone for their sins at last by letting the rest of us know what they have been doing and what they have found. We can never hope to produce a fully rounded or up-to-date picture of what happened on the island if crucial pieces of the puzzle are deliberately withheld.

📖 *Mangarevan Archaeology: Interpretations Using New Data and 40 Year Old Excavations to Establish a Sequence from 1200 to 1900 AD*

Edited by Roger C. Green and Marshall I. Weisler
University of Otago Studies in Prehistoric Anthropology
No. 19, 2000 \$10

Review by Vincent H. Stefan

This volume is a significant contribution to Pacific/Polynesian archaeology, and provides a detailed discussion of the dated and integrated occupation sequence for the islands of the Mangarevan group from 1200 to 1900 AD. The Mangarevan cultural sequence was developed from excavation results of six sites investigated by Green in 1959, with additional archaeological survey data collected by Weisler from 1990-92. This volume is the first in four publications planned by the editors to discuss the archaeology of the Mangareva group and the Temoe Atoll.

The contents include: Introduction; Contact Period Settlement Patterns ca. 1840 AD; Sites Selected for Excavation; Excavation Procedures; Excavations on Kamaka; Excavations on Aukena; Excavations on Mangareva; Correlations of Excavation Sequences; The Sequence; Summary and Conclusions; Notes; References; Appendix I. The volume is 39 pages long, with black and white photographs, island/site maps, site plans/profiles, and tables.

Of interest to readers of *RNJ* is a discussion in "The Sequence" section that comments on the connection of Easter Island to the Mangarevan-Pitcairn interaction sphere, and how the detailed knowledge of the Mangarevan cultural sequence may provide insight into the origins of the Easter Islanders.

Though this material was deemed of a form "not fully suitable" to appear in journals devoted to reporting on current archaeology in the Pacific field, its value is immeasurable to those individuals working in Pacific/Polynesian archaeology, as well as physical anthropology. Within any given site, more than just cultural artifacts are often excavated, analyzed and collected, occasionally human remains are encountered. Knowing the provenience and cultural context of human remains is as valuable to the physical anthropologist as knowing the cultural sequence of artifacts is to the archaeologist.

This volume is an important contribution to Pacific/Polynesian/Mangarevan archaeology and serves to insure that this data is not lost and is available to all who may need it, and would be an important reference to have in one's library.

The volume is available from the Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand. (Price US\$10, includes postage)

📖 *Exalted Sits the Chief: The Ancient History of Hawai'i Island*

by Ross Cordy

Mutual Publishing, Honolulu. 2000

Paperback, 6"x9"; 464 pages; 15 tables; 75 figures (including maps and photographs), glossary, references, and index. 19.95.

Review by Dave Tuggle

FIRST THINGS FIRST

This is a superb volume that is a necessary reference for anyone interested in the history of Polynesia in general or Hawai'i in particular. I make this recommendation with the disclaimer that I reviewed and commented on the book while it was in manuscript form, and that I also provided a promotional blurb for the book's back cover—but this should indicate that in the intervening year or two I have not changed my mind about the importance of this volume.

ORGANIZATION

The book has four main parts: Background (with chapters on the environment, Hawaiian culture at the time of Kamehameha, and the nature of the information employed in the book); Mythic Times (with chapters on the settlement of the island and on the early era of adaptation); The Time of Epic Voyages (with a single chapter about the nature of cultural change from about AD 1000-1300); and Dynastic Times (with five chapters: "A.D. 1400s-1500s: The Ascendancy of the Pili Line in Waipi'o and Liloa and 'Umi"; "A.D. 1600s: The Reigns of 'Umi's Descendants in Kona"; "A.D. 1700s: Keawe, Alapa'inui and Kalani'ōpu'u and the Rise of Hawai'i as a power in the Archipelago"; "Kīwala'ō, Kamehameha, Keawema'uhili, and Keōua. A.D. 1781-1792: The Decade of Strife"; and "The Search for Better Understanding").

HISTORY OF THE BOOK

As indicated in the Preface, the first draft of the book was completed in 1991, but Cordy notes that he "continued to update it with recent material." A review of the discussions and dates of references indicates that important archaeological reports completed through 1999 are considered, particularly those that contain radiocarbon dates. The seed of the book was a portion of the author's 1978 dissertation, which grew into a chapter about the Big Island's history in *A Study of Prehistoric Social Change: The Development of Complex Societies in the Hawaiian Islands* (1981). A section of the book is also a revised version of *A Regional Synthesis of the Hāmākua District of the Island of Hawai'i* (1994). But most of the material is new, and clearly reflects the 30 years of work devoted by the author to this field.

GOALS

The purpose of the book, in Cordy's words (pp. vii and 2), "is to summarize Hawai'i Island's history, to introduce its rulers and chiefs, and to illustrate certain aspects of the island's history, such as royal centers and field systems," and "to blend oral history and archaeology to form an overview of the history