

## DEDICATION

### DONN THOMAS BAYARD

29 June 1940 – 7 September 2002

We dedicate this volume of the Bulletin to the memory of our colleague Donn Bayard. Donn's academic life as an exemplary and highly respected scholar and teacher was grounded in open-minded curiosity, very wide interests and an unpretentious manner that endeared him to a large international circle of friends and colleagues. He would have read this volume with as much attention to what its overall contents say about the state of our discipline as about the particular research reported in it. The diversity of both subjects and authorship represented in the volume would have pleased him, and make this dedication highly appropriate.

Donn's active interest in the prehistory of the Indo-Pacific region began when he was a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i in the early 1960s. His early research in historical linguistics (Bayard 1976), on a topic of continuing interest to Pacific prehistorians, was followed by a shift to Southeast Asian archaeology, especially Thailand, to which he made a deep personal commitment and a substantial pioneering contribution. His continuing interest in linguistics led also to his later important research on New Zealand sociolinguistics. His linguistic ability was based on a rare enthusiasm for listening. As a result he was able to communicate freely in Thailand, learning to shift from the standard Thai of his University of Hawai'i language class to local Thai-Lao dialects, as he met new forms of speech. His letters from the field, from the fairly isolated northeast Thai village in which he lived while excavating Non Nok Tha, were full of descriptions vividly evocative of rural life. They made clear his delight in getting to know the people, and developing a taste for their food and music, as well as his enthusiasm and worries about the process of excavating a complex archaeological site with very small resources.

Although Donn's height made him rather conspicuous anywhere, his friendly and unassuming manner put people at ease, whether among Thai villagers or anxious students.

Having grown up in large cities, he much preferred a more relaxed pace of life: Honolulu or Dunedin rather than Chicago or New York, northeast Thailand's small towns and rural villages rather than the turmoil of Bangkok. At home with his wife Daisy in the definitely down-market Kalihi Valley of late 1960s Honolulu, and later at the Duck Works overlooking Dunedin's Leith Valley, his hospitality was always wonderful.

Throughout Donn's archaeological work in Thailand, notably the two long seasons of excavation at Non Nok Tha and the remarkable multinational Pa Mong archaeological survey (in which Daisy participated as Associate Director), he built close co-operative relationships with Southeast Asian colleagues, which he kept alive particularly through continuing engagement with students. For those of us who knew Donn when he was a student, it was no surprise that he never dropped his generous and always good-humoured readiness to share ideas and advice with



*Donn in 1968, at the site of Non Nok Tha, in Phu Wiang district, Khon Kaen province, Northeast Thailand, his work clothes distinguished by an Isaan headcloth.*

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anyone interested. When he moved to New Zealand, these qualities made his fine scholarship accessible to generations of students. Donn was one of those few archaeologists whose careers spanned the transition in studies of Southeast Asian prehistory from the antiquarian interests of a small, select circle to the mature, internationally inclusive discipline of today. By his exemplary approach to fieldwork and teaching, both marked by his modest thoughtfulness, generosity and willingness to cooperate with others, he made a substantial contribution to this transition.

An obituary by W.G. Solheim II (2002) included an outline of Donn's fieldwork in Thailand, and its bibliography listed his significant publications on Southeast Asian prehistory. The bibliography that follows is more complete, though not exhaustive. These publications, together with our collective memories of his presence, are his enduring legacy.

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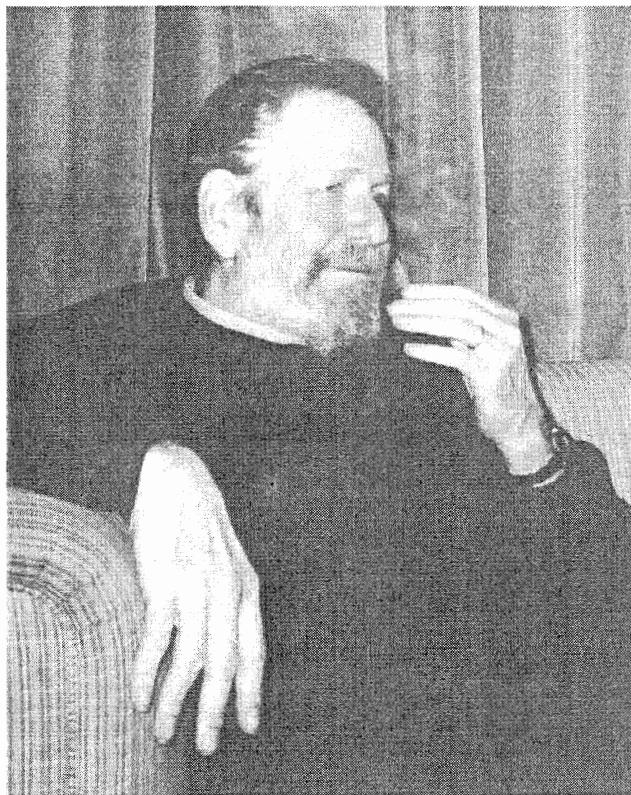
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