

## THE MICRONESIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

*Rosalind Hunter-Anderson  
University of Guam*

The first international conference entirely devoted to Micronesian archaeology and physical anthropology was convened at the Pacific Star Hotel in Tumon Bay, Guam, on September 9-12, 1987. The conference was sponsored by the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association and the University of Guam. It was organized by R. Hunter-Anderson (University of Guam), M. Graves (University of Hawaii), and H. Kurashina (University of Guam) and was funded by grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Conference participants hailed from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Japan in the Pacific and as close as Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republics of Belau and the Marshalls, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Others came from the mainland United States and Hawaii.

A major purpose of the conference was to provide a professional forum for the presentation and discussion of underpublished and consequently little known findings of the last two decades of Micronesian archaeology. Another purpose was to bring public attention, especially that of local government and military entities, to the importance of historic preservation programs in the region and to air some of the concerns of islanders directly involved in their design and implementation. A third purpose of the conference was to inform the interested general public about recent archaeological activities in the region. Forty-one formal papers were read and several informal presentations were made during the seven consecutive sessions.

Following the opening ceremonies, which included welcoming remarks by Guam Governor Joseph F. Ada and University of Guam President Jose Q. Cruz, on the morning of September 9th, the Keynote Address (Micronesian Archaeology Since 1965; Past Achievements and Future Problems) was delivered by Janet Davidson of the New Zealand National Museum. During the afternoon of the 9th, Sessions 1 and 2 were held. Session 1 (Historic Preservation in Micronesia: New Political Realities and the Professional Archaeologist) included formal presentations and informal commentaries by various participants actively involved in the administration of historic preservation programs in the region. Session 2 (Advances in Artifactual Analyses and Typological - Distributional Studies) presented some innovative approaches to the analysis of pottery and shell artifacts.

A fiesta dinner reception for conference participants was hosted by President Cruz, at the Isla Center for the Arts on the University of Guam campus at Mangilao. The reception celebrated also the concurrent opening of the Isla Center's exhibit, Continuity and

Change in the Material Culture of Micronesia. This exhibit included a variety of forms and materials formerly and presently used by Micronesian craftspeople, and it featured island artisans demonstrating their skills in various media. Conference registrants received a booklet/program guide to the Isla exhibit and to the conference sessions and papers, and an exhibit poster illustrating the Continuity and Change theme and its connection with the conference was made available to participants at low cost.

Sessions 3 and 4 were held the following day. In the morning papers in Session 3 (Archaeological Models and Cultural Information) were presented by scholars in a variety of disciplines, all of whom have been concerned with archaeological interpretations. In the afternoon papers in Session 4 (The Initial Settlement of Micronesia, and Models of the Earliest High and Low Island Adaptations) considered the record of island habitat utilization and new data on settlement chronologies throughout the region. Sessions 5 and 6 were held September 11, in the morning and afternoon, respectively. Papers in Session 5 (The Late Prehistoric Adaptive Systems and their Environmental Contexts) discussed the adaptive implications of settlement pattern variability in high islands and some new techniques for reconstructing past environments. Session 6 (Evolutionary Pathways to Social Complexity) involved papers attempting to document and explain cultural evolutionary changes in high islands of the eastern Carolines. At the close of Session 6 in the late afternoon, the Historic Preservation Session was reconvened in order to accommodate speakers who had not been able to make presentations due to lack of time on the opening day. Session 7 (Physical Anthropology in Micronesia) was held on the morning of the 12th. Most papers were concerned with the racial affinities of the Micronesians based on analyses of dental and skeletal measurements; some stressed the importance of delineating adaptive contexts for human occupation of the region when trying to explain biological variability in island populations.

Following Session 7 several resolutions were offered from the floor and some were debated at length. They ranged from calls for more cooperative research among the subdisciplines of anthropology, particularly linguistics, to recognizing the acute lack of adequate curatorial facilities in Micronesia, and the need for better communication of research results and aims to the general public. The conference ended at noon. The next morning (September 13) an archaeological tour of sites on the Fena Lake Naval Reservation was conducted by the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation.

A list of sessions, co-chairs, and paper titles is given below, as well as a copy of the resolutions adopted on September 12. A conference Proceedings volume is in preparation, to be published this spring as a single issue of *Micronesica*. The entire conference was video-taped.

LIST OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS, CO-CHAIRS, AUTHORS, AND PAPER TITLES

Session 1 Co-chairs: R. Davis (Guam Department of Parks and Recreation), T. King (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Parks Service).

- C. AKAPITO: Commentary (Truk State Historic Preservation Office).
- R. DAVIS: The effects of arenas in historic preservation on the practice of archaeology in Micronesia.
- E. EPERIAM: Commentary (Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office).
- M. FLEMING: Commentary (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Historic Preservation Division).
- S. HOCOG: Commentary (Tinian Historic Preservation Office).
- T. JOHN: Commentary (Kosrae State Historic Preservation Office).
- T. KING: Looking toward the future and the world: some thoughts about the future directions in micronesian historic preservation.
- N. KARBEN: Commentary (Republic of the Marshall Islands Historic Preservation Office).
- G. KNIGHT: Commentary (Curator, Museum of the Marshall Islands).
- A. KUGFAS: Commentary (Yap State Historic Preservation Office).
- W. LAWRENCE: Commentary (Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office).
- P. PARKER: Commentary (National Parks Service).
- S. RUSSELL: Commentary (Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Historic Preservation Division).
- M. SAM: Commentary (Republic of Belau Historic Preservation Office).

Session 2 Co-chairs: S. Athens (International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.), D. Moore (Private Consultant, Guam).

- J.S. ATHENS: Nan Madol pottery: description, chronology and intra-site distribution.
- J. CARUCCI (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale): Prehistoric betel nut chewing: shell artifacts and the production of lime powder, with S. Mitchell.
- J.CRAIB (La Trobe University): Tridacna adze manufacture.

- M. INTOH (University of Otago): Environment and technological adaptation: a case study of Yapese ceramic change (read by F. Leach).
- S. MITCHELL (California State College at Bakersfield): Prehistoric betel nut chewing: shell artifacts and the production of lime powder, with J. Carucci.

Session 3 Co-chairs: S. Falgout (Colby College), K. Knudson (University of Guam).

- S. ADELBAI (Artist, Republic of Belau): The *Bai* of the Palauan culture.
- W. ALKIRE (Victoria University, British Columbia): Principles of organization in the cultures of the Outer Islands of Yap State and their implications for archaeology, with K. Fujimura.
- J. CRAIB (La Trobe University): Corporate residential groups and their implications for the study of social complexity in Micronesia.
- K. FUJIMURA (Private Consultant, Victoria, B.C.): Principles of organization in the culture of the Outer Islands of Yap State and their implications for archaeology, with W. Alkire.
- D. HANLON (University of Hawaii): Ethnohistoric descriptions of prehistoric sites on Pohnpei.
- K. KIHLENG (University of Hawaii): European trade and nineteenth century Pohnpei and Belauan exchange patterns.
- K. KNUDSON (University of Guam): Social complexity on Truk: lack of correspondence between anthropological models and historical evidence.
- R. MAURICIO (University of Oregon): Peopling of Pohnpei Island: hints and controversies (paper not read).
- G. PETERSEN (City University of New York): Some overlooked complexities in the study of Pohnpei social complexity.
- M. MONTVEL-COHEN (University of Guam): Some thoughts about continuity and change in the material culture of Micronesia.
- R. PICKERING (Private Consultant, Chicago): Yapese mortuary behavior: an ethnoarchaeological perspective.

Session 4 Co-chairs: H. Kurashina (University of Guam), F. Leach  
(University of Otago).

J.S. ATHENS (International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.):  
Where is the Kosraean pottery?

J.S. ATHENS: Settlement chronology and artifacts, Kwajalein Atoll,  
with K. Shun.

W. AYRES (University of Oregon): Pohnpei's position in Eastern  
Micronesian prehistory (paper not read).

H. KURASHINA: Results of an interdisciplinary research project at  
Tarague, Guam.

F. LEACH: Marine food harvesting in Micronesia: divergent  
adaptations.

B. MASSE (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale): Radiocarbon  
dating, sea-level change, and the peopling of Palau.

K. SHUN (International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.):  
Settlement chronology and artifacts, Kwajalein Atoll, with J.S.  
Athens.

W. SOLHEIM (University of Hawaii): Thoughts on land and sea peoples  
in Southeast Asia and their possible relationships to initial  
settlement of Micronesia.

C. STRECK (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers): Prehistory of the Northern  
Marshall Islands: archaeological investigations on Bikini  
Atoll.

Session 5 Co-chairs: J. Bath (Hawaii State Department of Lands), M.  
Graves (University of Hawaii).

P. CLEGHORN (Bishop Museum): Prehistoric inland settlement and the  
development of savanna on southeastern Guam, with T. Dye.

T. DYE (Yale University): Prehistoric inland settlement and the  
development of savanna on southeastern Guam, with P. Cleghorn.

M. FLEMING (Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Historic  
Preservation Division): I palaksi na guihan gi teimpun antigo  
(The Ancient Chamorro Use of Parrotfish).

M. GRAVES (University of Hawaii): The organization of residential  
units in Tumon Bay during the Latte Period.

- L. LUCKING (Private Consultant, Connecticut): The village and terraces of Uluang, Belau: an archaeological and historical perspective, with R. Parmentier (read by J. Bath).
- R. PARMENTIER (Smith College): The village and terraces of Uluang, Belau: an archaeological and historical perspective, with L. Lucking (read by J. Bath).
- D. PEARSALL (University of Missouri): Application of phytolith analyses to reconstruction of past environments and subsistence: a report of recent research in Micronesia.
- D. MOORE (Private Consultant, Guam): Settlement patterning during the late prehistoric period on Tinian, Mariana Islands.

Session 6 Co-chairs: R. Cordy (Hawaii State Department of Lands), R. Hunter-Anderson (University of Guam).

- J.S. ATHENS (International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.): Prehistoric social complexity on Pohnpei: the Saudeleur to Nanmwarki transformation, with J. Bath.
- J. BATH (Hawaii State Department of Lands): Prehistoric social complexity on Pohnpei: the Saudeleur to Nanmwarki transformation, with J.S. Athens.
- S. LOUGHRIDGE (University of Ohio): Ecological factors in the evolution of Pacific Island cultures, with A. Saxe.
- J. PEOPLES (University of Tulsa): The development of complex stratification in Eastern Micronesia.
- A. SAXE (University of Ohio): Ecological factors in the evolution of Pacific Island cultures, with S. Loughridge.
- T. UEKI (Ichikawa, Japan): A model of increasing social complexity on a Micronesian island.

Session 7 Chair: M. Pietrusewsky (University of Hawaii)

- C.L. BRACE (University of Michigan): Micronesia, Polynesia and Asia: a naso-facial and odontometric perspective.
- D. HANSON (Forsyth Dental center): Paleopathological observations on human skeletal remains from Rota, Mariana Islands.
- W.W. HOWELLS (Harvard University): Micro-Polynesian physical anthropology and the Mongoloid population complex.

- M. PIETRUSEWSKY: Cranial variation in Micronesia and the Pacific: a multivariate study.
- C. TURNER II (Arizona State University): The origin and affinity of the people of Guam: a dental anthropological assessment.
- J. UNDERWOOD (University of Arizona): Population studies and historical demography: context of micro-evolution in Micronesia.

MICRONESIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS (Adopted on Guam September 12, 1987)

- I. Whereas additional research in linguistics, particularly historical linguistics, could help to answer many questions about population movements in Micronesia, and whereas research of this kind in the Micronesian region has been comparatively neglected,
- Resolved: that linguistic research should be fostered and efforts made to stimulate linguistic interest in this region.
- II. Whereas archaeological research and interest has strongly tended to focus on the high islands of Micronesia, and whereas many of the pressing research questions in the region require data from low coral island situations,
- Resolved: that a continuing archaeological effort in the low islands should be sustained.
- III. Whereas ethnographers, historians, and archaeologists have tended to drift apart in research interests in the Micronesian region, and whereas at this conference considerable progress has been made in restoring cooperation between these fields,
- Resolved: that further strong efforts be made to continue and to expand this cooperation.
- IV. Resolved: that the participants in the Micronesian Archaeological Conference express the extreme concern of the archaeological community regarding the lack of appropriate facilities in most parts of Micronesia for the care and conservation of archaeological specimens, notes, photographs, and other data, and urgently recommend that the governments and organizations responsible for the management of archaeological sites in Micronesia give high priority to the development of such facilities.
- V. Resolved: that the participants in the Micronesian Archaeological Conference commend Governor Joseph Ada of Guam

for the support given by his administration to Guam's Historic Preservation Program, and for the personal support he has expressed for the goals and purposes of the Micronesian Archaeological Conference, and to express the gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality given the Conference by Governor Ada and his administration.

- VI. Resolved: that the participants in the Micronesian Archaeological Conference commend the Council of Micronesian Historic Preservation Officers on the formation of their regional pan-Micronesian non-profit organization, the Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation, and to recommend the endowment to any and all international and national funding organizations and agencies as a suitable vehicle for implementing projects intended to conserve the cultural and historic resources of the area.
- VII. Resolved: that the participants in the Micronesian Archaeological Conference express their gratitude to Drs. Rosalind Hunter-Anderson, Michael Graves, and Hiro Kurashina; to the University of Guam; and to the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, who have gone to extraordinary lengths to bring about a highly successful conference that will inform and stimulate archaeological research for years to come.
- VIII. Resolved: that in view of the value of physical anthropological studies to an understanding of Micronesian origins or relationships, this Conference urges that further such studies be promoted, recognizing:
1. that any excavations of human remains must be carried out with the full support of the local people;
  2. that any such excavations should be carried out in collaboration with physical anthropologists;
  3. that human remains are precious for many reasons, including future scientific research and present cultural significances; and
  4. that the ultimate disposal of excavated remains should be decided in each individual case in discussions between archaeologists and local people.
- IX. Resolved: to commend and support the recent decision of the U.S. Army to prepare a new Environmental Impact Statement to guide their further projects on Kwajalein Atoll, and to recommend that information gained in the development of this statement be incorporated into a comprehensive cultural and historic protection plan for the U.S. Army, Kwajalein Atoll.



- X. Resolved: to commend and whole-heartedly support the recent initiatives of BARC and the Bikini Islanders Planning Council in their on-going efforts to identify and evaluate their irreplaceable cultural resources in preparation for the resettlement of their homelands; and to recommend to any and all international funding organizations interested in assisting the Bikini Islanders in their plight all such archaeological projects as these Islanders deem necessary to preserving their cultural history.
- XI. Resolved: that the participants in the Micronesian Archaeological Conference recommend more active collaboration between archaeologists and community groups in the implementation of national, territorial, commonwealth, and state historic preservation laws and regulations.
- XII. Resolved: that social scientists recognize that a co-equal part of their research obligation is to disseminate the results of their studies to the community at large in terms understandable to them.
- XIII. Resolved: that the Micronesian Archaeological Conference expresses its extreme concern about the destruction of historic shipwrecks through unregulated commercial salvage; supports the Government of Guam in its efforts to protect such wrecks in Guam's territorial waters; supports action by the U.S. Congress to protect such wrecks in cooperation with the states, territories, and commonwealth governments; and recommends that all Micronesian governments consider enacting legislation having similar intent.