

BOOK REVIEWS

Polynesian navigation

POLYNESIAN SEAFARING AND NAVIGATION; OCEAN TRAVEL IN ANUTAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY. Richard Feinberg. Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio, 1988, \$30.00, hardcover.

Anthropologist Richard Feinberg of Kent State University continues his study of Anutan culture and society with this latest and worthwhile issuance on island seafaring and navigation. (I reviewed his *Anutan Concepts of Disease: A Polynesian Study in Micronesica* 16: 365, 1980.) At the time Oceania was opened to the awareness of the western world, anthropologists did not yet exist. Most of the early observers of the then pristine island cultures were untrained, and hence scientific studies of navigation with island outrigger canoes were not made. Many commentaries come down to us today, but these are more romantic than scientific, and they tend to give themselves over to hyperbole and laudation.

Professor Feinberg is comprehensive and thorough in his treatment and covers the process of the canoe construction, outfitting and sailing, with clear narrative enhanced by well chosen black and white photographs. In his chapter on the sociology of sailing he shows very well how the seafaring art and science is integrated into the lives of the Anutan males. His description of the *te vai pa* rite of passage—a young male's first fishing trip—is clear and concise, characteristic of Feinberg's descriptions of such ritualistic and cultural phenomena throughout the book.

Personal descriptions of various involvements which the author has had with his subjects abound in the book and this not only helps to validate or clarify scientific observations, but it also establishes Dr. Feinberg as a sensitive member of that community of anthropologists who regard their subjects as humans to whom a special responsibility is due; a responsibility of giving and returning rather than only observing and taking. One can conclude from reading Feinberg that he likes the Anutans and they, in turn, like him.

The book was conceived while Dr. Feinberg was preparing a course for undergraduates at Kent State on Pacific anthropology, thus demonstrating once again the interdependence of research and teaching for the improved quality of academic outputs.

Feinberg makes a good contribution to the literature

and the dialogue over deep sea navigation in canoes. There is a following in anthropology which contends that earlier western observers of the navigation craft tended to overstate the accomplishments of the islanders in their canoes; that in fact the feats of the islanders on the sea were modest and they could not complete voyages of substantial length. Feinberg, by immersing himself in his study, shows how islanders had far more efficient voyaging techniques at their disposal than had previously been thought, and still they occasionally got lost on the sea. The Anutans are not the best navigators or canoe-builders in Polynesia, but their techniques are not markedly different today, Feinberg contends, than they were two hundred years ago; hence a study of Anuta seems valid in the realm of seafaring and navigation.

This is an excellent book on navigation. It is well documented with twenty-five figures and twenty-six plates and has careful notes, appendices, and bibliography. There is an index for quick referencing. With it, Dr. Feinberg reaffirms his eminence as an American anthropologist of Oceania.

DIRK ANTHONY BALLENDORF, *Micronesia Area Research Center University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam 96923, U.S.A.*

South Pacific scale insects

THE SCALE INSECTS OF THE TROPICAL SOUTH PACIFIC REGION, Part 1, THE ARMoured SCALES (DIASPIDIDAE). Part 2, THE MEALYBUGS (PSEUDOCOCCIDAE). D. J. Williams and G. W. Watson. C.A.B. International, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, U.K. 1988. Part 1 290 p. \$U.S.57 (paper), Part 2 260 p. \$U.S. 47.95 (paper).

On the tropical islands in the Pacific, scale insects are a major economic group. Still, few entomologists attempt to collect, identify, or study them, particularly the noneconomic species, because of perceived difficulties. Specimens must be cleared and mounted on slides, a time-consuming process, and then identified using keys that are difficult to acquire and which rarely bother to explain or illustrate important mor-