

Recent Books from Pacific Islands – Sept 2015

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The Lapita Cultural Complex in Time and Space : Expansion Routes, Chronologies and Typologies / (Ed) Christophe Sand, Scarlett Chiu and Nicholas Hogg
Noumea : Institut d'archaeologie de la Nouvelle-Caledonie et du Pacifique, 2015
219p.
9782954167534
Archaeologia Pasifika 4
\$ 45.00 / HB
1080gm.

From the first time it was identified at the beginning of the 20th century in Watom, a small island of the Bismarck Archipelago, the pottery tradition known as Lapita has been characterized by its unique set of geometric, mostly dentate-stamped decorations. The present volume, built around this important cultural period of History of the Pacific, developed out of a research conference organized jointly in September 2012 at Academia Sinica by the Center for Archæological Studies of Academia Sinica in Taiwan and the Institute of Archæology of New Caledonia and the Pacific, entitled *International Conference on Cross-regional comparison of ancient migration and exchange patterns*. The main scope of this scientific meeting was to present the latest version of the Lapita Pottery Online Database (LPOD), a computer program painstakingly built over the past decade by the Center for Archæological Studies of the Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences of Dr. S. Chiu. It was also an opportunity to bring to the fore the latest results from research conducted in the Pacific Region, and to learn from more advanced projects the multiple possible research directions the LPOD may follow.

The post-conference visits to a set of key Taiwanese archæological sites, allowed archæologists from Taiwan and the Pacific to broaden discussions on the Austronesian diaspora, how it impacted the prehistory of the Pacific, and continues to do so in the modern days.

As a final follow-up to this conference, a set of nine papers have been collected by the editors for a volume that spans the main themes during the 2012 Taipei conference. Some of these are strongly data-oriented, while others are more theoretical. Together, they give a good overview of the present state of archæological research in the Southwestern Pacific, in which Lapita and its unique intricate designs remain one of the main research topics.

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Matini : The Story of Cyclone Martin : Manihiki, Cook Islands, 1 November 1997 /
Rachel Michele Teana Reeves
Cook Islands : Cook Islands News 2008 Ltd and the Cyclone Martin Charitable
Trust, 2015
185p.
9780473314941
\$ 49.50 / PB
835gm.
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