

Discovery Briefing

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Nga mihi

Ko Tainui te waka

Ko Tararua te maunga

Ko Otaki te awa

Ko Raukawa te iwi

Ko Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Te Āti Awa te hapū

Ko Te Rauparaha te rangatira

Ko Raukawa te marae

Ko Michael Ross ahau

This publication, **Discovery Briefing** was formally known as the *Discovery Miscellany* and published by Penny Griffith (thank you Penny for your wonderful service).

Penny has passed the editor and publisher responsibilities to me, beginning with this issue.

My intention is to increase the content and frequency, with a wider view of the Pacific, and Polynesia in particular, as significant research and discovery activities are focused there, as you will see below.

I also want to encourage reader participation and contributions, as witnessed by the advance notice of Rudi Mack's new book in publication.

Comments of the subject areas that interest you will also be very welcome. My contact details are at the end of this **Discovery Briefing**.

Nga mihi

Michael

discovery@edgeoftheocean.info

News and Events

Polynesian Voyaging Society



The Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) will hold the Global Launch of the Moananuiākea Voyage in Juneau, Alaska on June 15, 2023, and start the four-year circumnavigation of the Pacific.

Prior to the Moananuiākea Voyage's Global Launch on June 15, Hōkūleʻa has been sailing through a portion of Southeast Alaska on a pre-launch voyage called the Alaska Heritage Sail to pay homage to Alaska Natives and the places that played a part in the 30-year history between Hawaiʻi's voyaging community and Alaska. PVS chose Yakutat to be the first stop on the Alaska Heritage Sail to honour the late Byron Mallott who was born and raised there. In 1990 under Mallott's leadership, Sealaska, a corporation owned by the Tlingit, Haida and Tshimshian tribes of Southeast Alaska, gifted two 200-foot Sitka spruce logs to Hawaiʻi to help construct the voyaging canoe Hawaiʻiloa. This kind gesture, which came at a time of decline for Hawaii's native koa trees, sparked reforestation efforts on Hawaiʻi Island, and started the special bond between the native peoples of Southeastern Alaska and Hawai'i. Byron later joined the PVS Board of Directors.

Hōkūleʻa also will stop in Hoonah to honour former Sealaska Forestry Manager Ernie Hillman tasked with finding two 200-foot-tall Spruce trees, large enough to build Hawaiʻiloaʻs hulls. The trees were found on Shelikof Island, west of Ketchikan, Alaska. Hokuleʻa and crew will also stop in Haines in honour of Judson Brown, who was from, and is laid to rest, in a village about 20 miles north up the Chilkat river system (unaccessible for Hokuleʻa). In 1990, Judson, an Alaska Native elder, received a call from PVS co-founder Herb Kawainui Kane, who asked for help in finding the logs for Hawaiʻiloa. It was Judsonʻs profound kindness, friendship and compassion for another native people trying to revive and hold onto tradition that lead us to Byron and Ernie, and ultimately, as Judson said, the “gift of our children.”



June to September 2023 – Alaska, British Columbia, Seattle

September to November 2023 – West Coast of the United States

January to February 2024 – Mexico, Central America, South America

March - December 2024 – Exploring the largest country in the world, Polynesia

December 2024 to May 2025 – Aotearoa

May to March 2026 – Melanesia, Micronesia, and Palau

March to September 2026 – West Pacific, ending in Japan

September to December 2026 – Shipping from Japan to Los Angeles then sailing home to Hawaiʻi

Spring 2027 - Tahiti

For additional information on PVS and the Moananuiākea Voyage, visit www.hokulea.com and www.waahonua.com, and follow @hokuleacrew on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

[Video Overview of Moananuiākea Voyage](#)

Additional Information

<https://www.samlow.com/HawaiiKiRising.htm>

<https://www.samlow.com/sail-nav/SacredForests-thestoryofHawaiiIoa.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PolynesianNavigators/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hokuleacrew>

Royal Geographical Society of SA

Defining and Delimiting the Southern Ocean

DR ALESSANDRO ANTONELLO

18 May 2023 5:30 pm

Hetzel Room in the State Library of South Australia at North Terrace.

This lecture will describe the central actors—both individuals, institutions, and nations—which have shaped the Southern Ocean, defining it as both a scientific and geopolitical object, across the twentieth century and into the present.

The cold ocean that flows around Antarctica, and which is bounded to the north by the Antarctic Polar Front, is today known as the Southern Ocean. Human knowledge of the separateness of this ocean, from both physical and biological oceanographic perspectives, was achieved across the twentieth century. It was the site of the near total slaughter of baleen whales in the first half of the century. Since the 1980s, the Southern Ocean has been managed, in part, by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, an international organisation dedicated to conserving the whole marine ecosystem while also allowing resource exploitation.

Dr Alessandro Antonello is a senior research fellow in history at Flinders University. His research to date has investigated the environmental, cultural, and international histories of Antarctica, the cryosphere, the world oceans, and other elements of the global environment. More recently he has begun work on the history of seagrass. He has published extensively, including the book *The Greening of Antarctica: Assembling an International Environment*.

Research

First Contacts: The early Pacific and European accounts of Abel Tasman's 1642 voyage (in publication)



This book (*in publication*) offers a new and different view on Abel Tasman's 1642-43 voyage during which he was the first to circumnavigate Australia, and the first European to visit Tasmania, Aotearoa New Zealand,

the main islands of the Tonga group and other Pacific islands. It brings together several Māori and Tongan oral traditions of the first encounters with Europeans and discusses Tasman's voyage with a strong emphasis on the indigenous perception.

From the European perspective the book presents and discusses several previously untranslated sources in Dutch, French, German, Italian, as well as other visual and textual sources whose significance have not yet been fully appreciated.

This new approach offers a different perspective than previous histories about the voyage. By cross referencing textual and visual sources with each other, new interpretations of certain events during the voyage emerge. The results are often surprising, particularly regarding the first encounters between Europeans and Indigenous Peoples in Tasmania, Aotearoa, and Tonga.

For further details contact the author Rudiger Mack - rudi.mack@outlook.co.nz

Obsidian Point Discovered on Kapingamarangi Atoll, Micronesia: Implications for Post-Settlement Regional Interactions



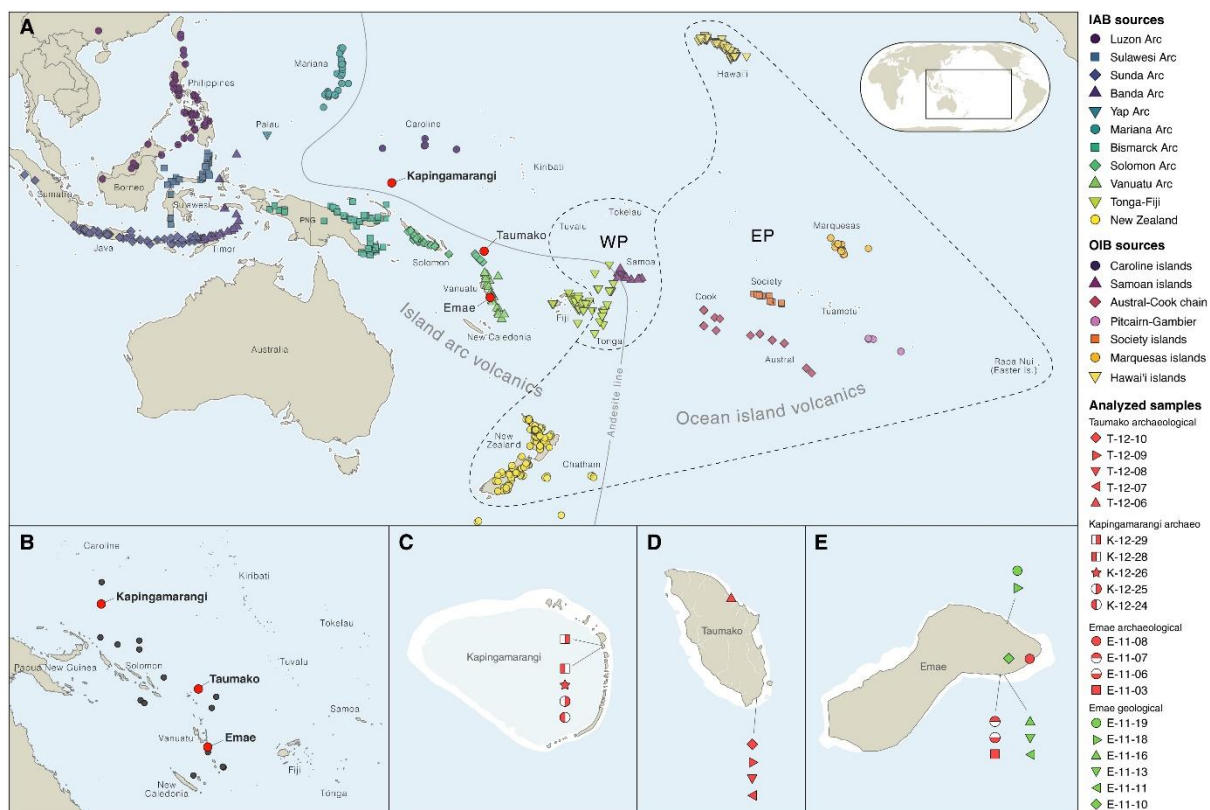
Abstract

An obsidian point was discovered by chance by local people on Kapingamarangi Atoll, a Polynesian Outlier in Micronesia. In addition to use-wear and residue analysis to identify its use, pXRF analysis conducted on it demonstrated that it was brought from the Admiralty Islands in Papua New Guinea over about 900 km. The information on other Admiralty obsidian artefacts found in western Oceania and other associated phenomena suggest that those artefacts were brought from the source through an interaction network between Micronesia and Melanesia during the first half of the

second millennium AD. They had significant social value as prestige goods in the peripheral areas of the Admiralty obsidian circulation, serving as chiefly heirlooms and grave goods. In addition to skilful Caroline Islands seafarers, Polynesian Outlier populations had an important role in the interregional interactions during this dynamic period in the western Pacific, which was possibly activated by Polynesian intrusion into the region related to a larger Polynesian expansion into eastern Polynesia circa AD 1000. Further, we argue that the Saudeleur dynasty of Pohnpei, which achieved the development of a famous megalithic politico-religious centre, Nan Madol, was influential in the interaction sphere during its height in AD 1000–1500. Thus, by using archaeological, linguistic, historical, ethnological, oral traditional and DNA data, the interdisciplinary analysis of this rare obsidian artefact has deepened our understanding of post-settlement interaction in the region.

[Vol. 131 No. 4 \(2022\): Waka Kuaka | The Journal of the Polynesian Society](#)

Artifact geochemistry demonstrates long-distance voyaging in the Polynesian Outliers



Abstract

Although the peopling of Remote Oceania is well-documented as a general process of eastward migrations from Island Southeast Asia and Near Oceania toward the archipelagos of Remote Oceania, the origin and the development of Polynesian societies in the Western Pacific (Polynesian Outliers), far away from the Polynesian triangle, remain unclear. Here, we present a large-scale geochemical sourcing study of stone artifacts excavated from archeological sites in central Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and the Caroline Islands and provide unambiguous evidence of multiple long-distance voyages, with exotic stone materials being transported up to 2500 kilometres from their source. Our results emphasize high mobility in the Western Pacific during the last millennium CE and offer insights on the scale and timing of contacts between the Polynesian Outliers, their neighbours in the Western Pacific, and societies of Western Polynesia.

https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adf4487?adobe_mc=MCMID%3D57780172594953966080045267741292316387%7CMCORGID%3D242B6472541199F70A4C98A6%2540AdobeOrg%7CTS%3D1682074939

Publications

Here Begins the Dark Sea: Venice, a Medieval Monk, and the Creation of the Most Accurate Map of the World

by Meredith Francesca Small

Pegasus Books, New York, 2023

ISBN 9781639364190

The remarkable story of the cartographic masterpiece—the Venetian mappa mundi—that revolutionized how we (Europeans) see the world.

<http://pegasusbooks.com/books/here-begins-the-dark-sea-9781639364190-hardcover>

Opportunities

National Library of Australia Scholarships

The National Library of Australia Scholarships support PhD students who require access to the National Library's collections to assist their postgraduate research. There are six scholarships available in 2024, with two designated for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students and a new scholarship for research in the National Library's maps collection.

The Asia Study Grants provide both academics and PhD students with the opportunity to research the Library's Asian language and Asia-related collections for four weeks. Up to five grants will be awarded in 2024.

Guidelines for these scholarships and grants as well as links to the online application forms are available online at

<https://www.nla.gov.au/about/fellowships-scholarships-and-grants/fellowships-and-scholarships>. Applications will close on Monday 26 June 2023.

Details of the Dr Bennie Ng Scholarship - for research in the National Library's maps collection is included here:

<https://www.nla.gov.au/about/fellowships-scholarships-and-grants/fellowships-and-scholarships/summer-scholarships>

University of Oxford

The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, The Oxford Seminars in Cartography Conference, 26 September 2023, Artful maps: exploring the visual culture of cartography.

Cartography has long been recognised as art and science. This conference explores how art affects cartography's process, products, and personnel. Ranging over all types of map, all areas of the world, and all time periods, the conference considers the relationship between art and cartography.

We welcome contributions from scholars at all stages of their career, whether attached to an institution or not; collectors, dealers, curators, and librarians; and practising cartographers and visual artists.

We hope to offer speakers the chance to feature in a subsequent publication where appropriate.

To propose a paper for a 20-minute talk please submit a 250-word abstract **by 30 June 2023** using the form below. Details of how to register will be available nearer the time.

elizabeth.baigent@geog.ox.ac.uk nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

For more information about TOSCA go to www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps/tosca

University of Miami Special Collections

CONVERSATION ON CARTOGRAPHY

Unexpected Adventures Told in Three Maps: Western Australia, the Indian Ocean, and Captain James Cook's First Voyage

Featuring Kate Hunter, Senior Specialist, Daniel Crouch Rare Books in conversation with Arthur Dunkelman, Curator, Jay I. Kislak Collection

ONLINE: Thursday, June 8, 2023, 1 p.m. (EDT)

WORKS OUT AS: 1 a.m. Fri 9 June WA, 2:30 a.m. SA/NT, 3 a.m. Qld/NSW Vic, 5 a.m. NZ

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unexpected-adventures-told-in-three-maps-tickets-647335446747>

This event will be recorded for later viewing.

General

Robert King

Dr. Thomas Horst, map curator of the Bavarian State Library, has drawn my attention to the following manuscript map of the "Terra Australis" on sale at Ruderman Maps that may be of interest to group members:

<https://www.raremaps.com/inventory/search?q=manuscript+map+of+terra+australis>

Te Waka Tipua o Mātaatua

Te Tawera Hapū, Iramoko marae, Ngāti Awa

Te Waka Tipua o Mātaatua is a hapū interactive digital app developed by Te Tawera Hapū, Iramoko marae, Ngāti Awa.

This is the Ngāti Awa version of the voyage of the great Mātaatua waka, from the origins in Ma'uke, Te Aka Toka Manava to its landing in northern parts of ancient Hawaikitautauoterangi.

<https://www.kiwadigital.com/showcase/te-waka-tipua-o-mataatua/>



Australia on the Map

Map Matters 45 - Summer/Autumn 2022-23

Two articles about the Leeuwin. The Dutch *“VOC ship Leeuwin was in latitude 35° south when she unexpectedly discovered land on the west-coast of the great unknown Southland”*.

<http://www.australiaonthemap.org>

Your Views

Your knowledge, discoveries, and comments are very welcome.

Please email any comments or content to discovery@edgeoftheocean.info