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Contributors to This Issue

James Coil recently completed his Ph.D. at University of California-Berkeley on pre-contact agricultural practices and environmental change in Kahikinui, Maui. He has worked throughout Hawai‘i and for the past few years has been a postdoctoral scholar on the biocomplexity project “Human Ecodynamics in the Hawaiian Ecosystem: 1200-200 B.P.” funded by the National Science Foundation.

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Mark D. McCoy is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California-Berkeley. He holds an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Auckland and a B.A. in Anthropology and American Studies from the University of New Mexico. His research focuses on landscape archaeology, spatial technology and the development of complex societies. Over the past 15 years, he has conducted fieldwork in Oceania (Hawai‘i, New Zealand and Palau) and the United States (Southwest and Mid-Atlantic and California). His dissertation research, supervised by P.V. Kirch, employs archaeology and oral traditions to examine the relationship between landscape, social memory and social development in the Kalaupapa region of the Hawaiian Islands as an avenue to a better understand the evolution of complex, hierarchical societies. Specifically, his research explores the origins and development of the Kalaupapa Field System and the rise of the Ko‘olau polity in Moloka‘i Island.

Reidar Solsvik is a Ph.D. Fellow at the Culture Historic Museum-Ethnographic Section, University in Oslo, where he is currently studying the transformations of central East Polynesian social identities from settlement to first contact with European explorers. His main archaeological fieldwork has been excavating the marae complexes at Maeva, Huahine, Society Islands. His Ph.D. Fellowship was awarded as part of the Oceania Project at the University in Oslo and the Institute of Pacific Archaeology and Culture History, Kon-Tiki Museum, Oslo. He received his undergraduate degrees from the universities in Oslo (B.A.) and Bergen (M.A. thesis, Social Space in the Marquesas). His main research interest is the origins and development of ritual spaces in Polynesia, the study of settlement, space and spatial organization, and theoretical archaeology.
Paul van der Grijp is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Science and Technology in Lille, France, and also a member of the Research and Documentation Centre on Oceania (Maison Asie Pacifique) in Marseilles. His books include Islanders of the South (Leiden: KITLV Press, 1993), Identity and Development (Leiden: KITLV Press, 2004) and Passion and Profit: Towards and Anthropology of Collecting (Berlin: Lit Verlag, in press).

Paul Wallin is Associate Professor at the Institute for Pacific Archaeology and Cultural History, Kon-Tiki Museum, Oslo, and currently Visiting Research Fellow at Göteborg University, Sweden. He obtained his Ph.D. at Uppsala University, Sweden, in 1994. His major field of research is the ceremonial stone structures (marae) in East Polynesia, as well as questions on the early settlements and interaction in the same area. A current research project in the Island of Huahine, Society Islands, has been studying the location and orientation of marae in the landscape, as well as type variations and detailed marae chronology.

Robert Anthony Leighton (Tony) Batley 1923-2004

Tony, as everyone called him, was a valued member of the Council of the Polynesian Society for 30 years (1955 to 1985).

First and foremost, Tony was a sheep farmer, living in the family homestead and working the family farm established by his grandfather at Moawhango, between Taihape and Napier. Second, he was a notable gentleman scholar of archaeology and Māori history, and an effective activist when it came to recording and/or preserving the local and national past of both Māori and Pākehā. Consequently, Tony was a member of the New Zealand Archaeological Association (from 1954) and actively involved in the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, serving as the Royal Society’s representative from 1961 to 1968.

Tony’s publications, seven in the JPS, concerned dendrochronology, and Māori history and genealogy. The mutual respect over many years between the Batley family and Ngati Tūwharetoa elders facilitated Tony’s work on Māori genealogies.

I joined the Council of the Polynesian Society as Honorary Editor in the mid-70s and remember Tony’s warm welcome, and consistent courtesy and support. But I was thoroughly puzzled by the end-of-meeting discussions of the next meeting date that seemed to depend on the annual cycle of sheep farming. There were some times when Tony was primarily the sheep farmer and this was taken into account. He was a valued member of the Council and his fellow members made sure he would not miss a meeting.

(The Editor is grateful to Dave Simmons and Janet Davidson for most of the information above.)