

shown, the sketch must represent his beheading—when there were hundreds of cows in Koror—when Europeans were looked upon as almost godlike sources of wisdom and power.

Semper describes some of the depredations of other Europeans in Palau, notably the clever, unscrupulous trader, Andrew Cheyne. He concludes that "this small people (the Palauans) appears to be condemned to irredeemable ruin because of their intensive dealings with Europeans. Is that our celebrated cultural mission around the world? That the spread of our civilization requires that we first eliminate those peoples who cannot bear it? Pfui! on the wretches who clothe their self-interest in the colors of humanitarianism and who sacrifice hecatombs of people without shiver while not pardoning the "savage" who takes home the head of a beaten enemy as a trophy".

The extent to which Semper's predictions concerning the demise of Palauan culture have come to pass would make a lively and revealing subject for debate in high school classes in Koror—to which, by the way, I recommend this book. It is, of course, a great pity that Palau does not have its own written records of its past. In the absence of such, Semper's account gives us much to reflect on.

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THE FIRST TAIN OF CIVILIZATION: A HISTORY OF THE CAROLINE AND MARSHALL ISLANDS IN PRE-COLONIAL DAYS by F. X. Hezel, S. J. Pacific Islands Monograph Series, No. 1. University of Hawaii Press. 1983. 365 p. — This is a superb book. For the person with some familiarity with Micronesia, it answers innumerable questions and fills in many of the gaps in his knowledge. To the person to whom Micronesia is an unfamiliar geographic term, it is a very readable and effective introduction to a section of the world in which the U. S. has been much involved during the last forty years. It is an example that illustrates that serious history need not be dull, but can be as readable as a good novel.

The book starts with a preface that is an effective short geographical essay. The first chapter, beginning with Magellan's visit to Guam, de-

tails the early Spanish and Portuguese voyages of discovery in the western Pacific when some of the Caroline and Marshall Islands became known to Europeans.

From those earliest contacts on, the book unfolds the increasing European and, later, American influences in the Micronesian archipelagoes. After the "Spanish Century" (16th), the Spanish influence outside the Marianas waned and the other Europeans and Americans gradually expanded their roles. In his account of the next two centuries the author generally divides the outsiders that were gradually becoming the dominant influences into three classes: the whalers, missionaries, and traders. The interests of these groups were generally antithetical, but the changes wrought in the native cultures were uniformly drastic and irreversible. Desire for western goods, liquor, and guns, then enforced pacification, Christianization, the decay of taboos and authority of chiefs, and serious depopulation, all thoroughly documented and well described, seem to add up to profound change. One then finds it difficult to follow the author in his conclusion, at the onset of the Colonial Period, in the last paragraph of the book, that the Micronesians, in spite of all that these two centuries had brought, "had emerged with their lives, their land...and their social institutions rather well intact" and that "they had demonstrated their ability to adapt to the unfamiliar and could do so, again and again if need be". One can follow this if he is referring only to the biological populations, but it is hard to see that the cultures have survived at all intact.

Of interest, especially in light of the author's own religious affiliation, is his very thorough elucidation of the performance of the Protestant missionaries. He studies this phenomenon with great interest and thoroughness. This attention results in what is probably the most sympathetic yet perhaps the fairest evaluation of missionary history in the Pacific that this reviewer has encountered.

Factually, the research has been thorough, and the result beyond reproach. Only one error was noted in a thorough and careful reading, worth mentioning perhaps because of its very triviality—on page 290 is a mention of "nipa huts" in Jaluit, where nipa palms are unknown. Proof-reading has been practically flawless. The handling of reference material, so it in no way intrudes on the reading, is thorough by means of

an appendix of notes referred to by parenthetical dates and an extensive bibliography. The print is very readable. Fourteen excellent maps, some of them reproductions of very early maps of historical interest, add greatly to the reader's orientation and geographical appreciation. All in all, the authors, the editors, and the publishers de-

serve the gratitude of a potentially large audience. We hope the Pacific Islands Monograph Series continues and maintains the high standard set by this first volume.

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