

# RA'IVAVAE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FRENCH POLYNESIA

A New Publication  
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The lovely high island, Ra'ivavae, has had a fascinating but sad history. From the arrival of missionaries, who encouraged the islanders to destroy their ancient statues and shrines, to diseases that struck the island in the early 1800s, Ra'ivavae's once proud society has become a quiet backwater possession of French Polynesia.

The few previous studies of Ra'ivavae focused mainly on anthropology, although John F.G. Stokes of the Bishop Museum conducted some excavations in 1921. In 1938, Frank Stimson collected some anthropological data, as did Donald Marshall in 1957. In 1956, two members of the Norwegian Expedition excavated a few sites. But it was not until Edmundo Edwards began his work was there any effort to conduct a survey of the entire island. This important study of settlement patterns, ancient subsistence methods, and cultural history is the first ever for Ra'ivavae and is of particular importance as modern agricultural projects and development continue to impact the evidence of the past.



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