

Featured EIF Publication

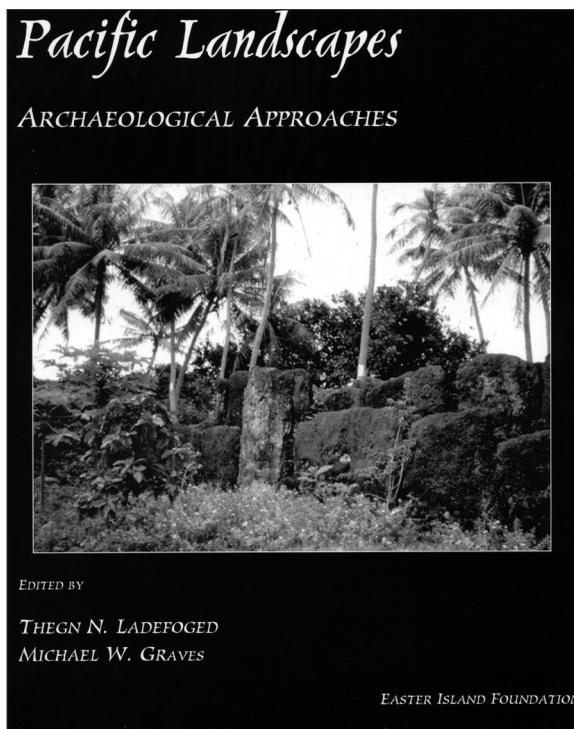
Pacific Landscapes. Archaeological Approaches

Edited by Thegn N. Ladefoged and Michael W. Graves

This book had its genesis in a symposium titled “Landscapes and Human Interaction in Oceania” held at the 16th Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association Congress in Malaysia in 1998. The focus of the symposium concerned the ways in which Pacific peoples conceptualized and lived in particular and theoretical landscapes prior to contact with Europeans.

The authors of this volume read like a “who’s who” of Pacific archaeology: Atholl Anderson, Shankar Aswani, Ethan Cochrane, Janet Davidson, Julie Field, Michael Graves, Roger C. Green, Blaze O’Connor, Thegn Ladefoged, Foss Leach, Christophe Sand, Peter Sheppard, Christopher Stevenson, Julie Taomia, Richard Walter, and Stephen Wickler. This is an all-star cast, sharing their knowledge about islands across the vast Pacific Ocean. Chapters include An introduction to Pacific landscapes (Ladefoged & Graves); Creations and transformations of prehistoric landscapes in New Caledonia, the southernmost Melanesian Islands (Sand); Cultural sediments: the nature of a cultural landscape in Roviana Lagoon, New Georgia, Solomon Islands (Sheppard et al.); Terraces and villages: transformations of the cultural landscape in Palau (Wickler); GIS-based analyses of agricultural production and habitation in the Sigatoka Valley, Fiji (Field); A retrospective view of settlement pattern studies in Samoa (Green); Landscape and culture change on Niue Island, West Polynesia (Anderson & Walter); The social landscape of Mangaia Island, Southern Cook Islands (Taomia); Separating time and space in archaeological landscapes: an example from Windward Society Islands ceremonial architecture (Cochrane); Territorial divisions on Easter Island in the 16th century: evidence from the distribution of ceremonial architecture (Stevenson); Tracking changes in community-scaled organization in Kohala and Kona, Hawai‘i Island (Graves et al.); Bridge or barrier? Māori occupation on the shores of Cook Strait, New Zealand (Davidson & Leach).

How did humans relate and create to their known physical world as well as their metaphysical world? Often referred to as “landscape archaeology” and/or



“settlement pattern archaeology”, these studies focus on issues such as subsistence and economic strategies, social interaction, and political relations based upon the patterning of archaeological sites. But, islands are finite with a limited amount of land; this leads to territorial divisions and the need for productivity of the land, as well as defensive features built to ward off those from external places. Thus, archaeological material found on islands differs from that found on a continent.

These Pacific archaeological studies focus on how human populations altered their land and environment, strove to cope with changes in climate, differing ecological realities, warfare, and indeed, survival. Their story is our story, writ small.

Pacific Landscapes. Archaeological Approaches is a great addition to the library of every Pacific scholar. As our *Featured EIF Publication*, we are offering the book to our readers at a special discount price of \$16.