

Pacific Preservation

This issue of *CRM* is an overview of cultural resource management in the Pacific. Pacific preservation raises many questions: Preservation of what? For whom? Why? How? There are always conflicting priorities especially for the allocation of time, effort, and funds. Prior to such allocation, consideration must be given to determining what is significant and worthy of preservation. Each society assigns significance to cultural resources based on its respective values.

The Pacific is a large, diverse area with layers of history and influences. This issue focuses mainly on part of Polynesia (the area defined by the triangle from Hawaii to New Zealand and Easter Island; only American Samoa is included in this issue) and Micronesia (the area of the Pacific west of Hawaii stretching north of the equator to the Philippine Sea, excluding the part of Micronesia south of the equator).

How and why is the United States, and in particular the National Park Service (NPS), involved in the Pacific? The NPS administers seven parks in Hawaii, the National Park of American Samoa on Tutuila and Manu'a, War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam, and American Memorial Park on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and manages the Historic Preservation Fund grants for the Pacific. The NPS and other

federal agencies have responsibilities in the Pacific under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Jeannette Simons' article is a summary of the Navy's compliance with its Section 106 and 110 responsibilities. The U.S. Navy is also responsible for more than 350 shipwrecks and 4,200 aircraft wrecks in the Pacific. In her article, Wendy Coble covers 32 CFR 767, which requires anyone wanting to conduct research and/or recovery on U.S. Navy historic cultural resources to obtain a permit from the Navy Historical Center's Underwater Archaeology Branch.

Besides describing the preservation treatment of a World War II battery, John Enright in "Finding Help to Restore a Landmark" relates America's 100-year-history in American Samoa and Patricia Chapman gives a brief history of America's involvement in Micronesia. Chapman also describes the Micronesia Institute and the Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation, two non-governmental, non-profit organizations established to provide assistance. Mark Rudo gives additional information about the NPS involvement through the Trust Territory period and discusses establishing "protected" areas, rather than "traditional parks" as a way to preserve and protect cultural landscapes.

Spain, Germany, Japan, and other countries have an interest in the Pacific and have provided assistance in preservation. Spain has invited some of the Pacific historic preservation officers and staff to Madrid to discuss re-establishing cultural ties and providing assistance. Germany and Japan have funded some projects. Jon O'Neill and Dirk Spennemann's "German Colonial Heritage in Micronesia" looks at preserving the fragile remains of a very brief segment of Pacific history.

The primary duties of all historic preservation offices include survey, inventory, evaluation, registration, and preservation. In his article, Richard Williamson writes about the difficulty of surveying tiny atolls all in private ownership scattered over vast areas of ocean and the positive effect of public education to preserve the intangible past as groundwork in preserving the physical past. Other parts of the Pacific have different

Recording mapping data points at Nan Madol on Pohnpei's east coast. Using a Global Positioning System unit, Kristin Vanwert (right) takes notes while Lisa Andon holds the recording antenna and Derelisa Ardos (left) reads the instrument panel screen reporting the location. See Ayres and Eperiam's article, page 48. Photo by W.S. Ayres.





End wall of Kinyear Fulat on Leluh, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. Banyan trees have colonized the wall and now serve as the principal supports within the wall structure; their roots pass through the wall and have gradually undermined the structural integrity of the wall itself. See Beardsley's article, page 51. Photo by Felicia R. Beardsley.

challenges making survey difficult and maintenance almost impossible. The beautiful, lush tropical foliage of the high volcanic islands causes severe problems as portrayed in Felicia Beardsley's article.

John Enright's "The Adze Quarries of Tutuila" exemplifies what can be learned from sites and the societies that created them. Scott Russell's "Dealing with Human Remains..." addresses a most sensitive topic. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Standards for the Treatment of Human Remains establishes priority treatments for four classes of remains—Ancient Chamorro, Historic, World War II, and Modern.

Theft and vandalism of objects from prehistoric and historic sites are common problems. Maria Annie Flores brings home the question, "Who owns the past?" If our collective past belongs in a sense collectively to the whole society, then the deliberate removal or damage of any significant part of our heritage is a crime against all humanity. The respect for and the proper treatment of our heritage can be emphasized in public education and outreach programs. This can also be, and probably better, achieved by preserving traditional values that respect the culture and the resources produced by the culture. Cultural resources are both tangible and intangible. Micah Van der Ryn provides insights into documenting and preserving intangible aspects of culture that in turn enhance the cultural continuity and identity of a community and its tangible resources.

In addition to the National Park Service and other federal agencies, which provide training and education in the Pacific, one of our partners, the University of Oregon, has a long history of contributions. Maradel Gale and Scott Fitzpatrick give the basic tenets of the program and a sample of the products. In "An Applied Approach to Archeology in Palau," Scott Fitzpatrick and Vicky Kanai demonstrate through the Ormis Cave project how the site was surveyed, documented, and registered. This and other projects in the Pacific have compiled large sets of data. In their essay, William Ayres and Emensio Eperiam recommend establishing an electronic database to store, sort, and retrieve survey and inventory information.

Through a special HPF grant, the Guam Historic Preservation Office has established the Guam Geographic Information System Program. In his article, Victor Torres argues that the Guam GIS is critically important and well worth the effort.

In some parts of the Pacific, tourism validates the cultural and economic importance of historic preservation. Spennemann, Look, and Graham's "Heritage Eco-Tourism in Micronesia" examines the expectations of government officials for cultural and natural-based tourism. Andrew Smith brings to center stage the challenge of developing an innovative mitigation strategy, which enhances interpretation and meets local permit requirements. The result will hopefully be a safe scenic highway with access to cultural resources enriching the lives of both residents and visitors.

Although we have only scratched the surface of the subject of this issue of *CRM*, all of these articles together give insight into the current state of preservation in the Pacific. Pacific societies have survived many natural disasters and centuries of outside influences and have managed to preserve their own distinctive cultures. May it always be so.

David W. Look, AIA, is Chief, Cultural Resources Team, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, National Park Service, San Francisco, California. He is guest co-editor of this issue of CRM.

For copies of the Micronesia Resources Study reports and the *Rota Heritage Eco-Tourism: Findings & Recommendation*, please contact <David_W_Look@nps.gov>.