

K. J. Pataki-Schweizer. *A New Guinea Landscape. Community, Space and Time in the Eastern Highlands*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980. Pp. 165, index, bibliography, maps, charts, photographs. \$28.00.

This fascinating book is the fourth in a sequence of monographs reporting the results of the New Guinea Microevolution Project, a pioneer study of human variability within a series of related human groups. It details an ecological analysis of residence, demography and territoriality in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua, New Guinea, and the relationship of these elements to social identity. It also provides the environmental setting for all the volumes and introduces the author's valuable concept of *bounded complex* to describe and analyse the intimate relations among territory, residence and descent at the local level in four New Guinea Highland cultures.

The exposition employs a sequence of twenty-five carefully designed maps affording a simultaneity of context particularly meaningful in the field setting and in the development of research themes. It includes sixteen diagrams, twenty-five statistical tables, thirty-six illustrations, five appendices and a detailed bibliography. The text gives a lucid account of the data both from its synchronic and diachronic aspects, and the concluding chapter deals with the similarities and differences of modern descendants of the founding group within the study area. In short, an excellent source volume for future workers as well as a unique scholarly work in its own right.

The study of small groups and residence as part of human ecology leads to more pervasive questions of sociocultural evolution, individuation, idiosyncratic behavior, and empathic skills in the existential aspects of all research. The behavioral sciences generally are increasingly involved in these broader issues which have their import well beyond the immediate focus of scientific inquiry. The most rewarding approach to science is, in the author's view, a disciplined bridging of theoretical-empirical matters with philosophic thinking. Not only are the two consonant, but they enrich one another.

The *bounded complex* is defined as the largest named aggregate of people with a sense of common identity recognizing common access to a continuous unit of land. This approach integrates synchronic experience, diachronic residence, ideology, land use and flexibility in group composition. It defines a social grouping and its cultural elements within its local environmental setting. In cultural terms, the workings of *bounded complexes* within the larger set of the Gadsup, Tairora, Auyana and Awa

peoples which constitutes the study area, involve a variety of social and psychological codes implicit in the behavior expressed upon the landscape. The human activities described here are mediated by cultural operators providing for ecological stabilization and social continuity.

The number of illustrations are exceedingly generous for a book of this kind. They allow the text to be followed easily and provide much information in themselves. In addition to his observations on the ground, the author employed a single-engined Cessna with the passenger door purposely removed. He leaned out using a simple hand-held camera and took many photographs of gardens and settlements. He was equally energetic in carrying out his tasks in the field. The study area occupies 670 square kilometers and much of it is steeply sloped and heavily forested. He used a vintage Landrover on the few pick-and-shovel roads which were very often precarious due to heavy rainfall and landslides. He was, and had to be, an enthusiastic walker eager to know by direct contact the country and its many different peoples.

The work that this research embraces has a twenty year history. The author's dedication to the study area, and incidentally to Papua, New Guinea as a whole dates from the early 1960s. He is expert in geography, anthropology and behavioral science, a member of several faculties in the States and at the present time Chairman of the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Papua, New Guinea. The text is lucid and concise and of value to a wide range of intelligent readers both within and beyond anthropology itself, I strongly recommend this book.

Burton G. Burton-Bradley  
Faculty of Medicine  
The University of Papua New Guinea