

David Lewis, *From Maui to Cook: The Discovery and Settlement of the Pacific*. Sydney: Doubleday, 1977. Pp. 212. \$9.95.

Usually books about the "discovery" or "exploration" of the Pacific focus solely on the efforts of Western navigators from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Although Lewis devotes the largest portion of this book to the Western navigators, he breaks from the usual formula by describing the exploration and settlement of the Pacific by Pacific islanders, and by discussing recent experimental canoe voyages and their impact of the consciousness of Pacific peoples about their voyaging past. Lewis's account of Western exploration is lively, but it is the more unique parts of his book that merit discussion here.

In Part I, "The Founding Fathers," Lewis expands the time perspective on Pacific discovery by 50,000 years! He credits the ancestors of the Australian aborigines and New Guineans with taking the first step in Pacific exploration--by making the sea crossing (on bamboo rafts, he guesses) from the Indonesia area to the great continent formed during this glacial era when lowered sea levels made New Guinea and Australia into one land mass. After paying his respects to these pioneers,, Lewis focuses on the Austronesian speaking peoples who, starting several thousand years before Christ, moved beyond New Guinea out into the Pacific proper. This section is to be recommended as a synthesis of recent linguistic, archaeological and voyaging research on Pacific migrations, particularly those of the Polynesians. The pity is that Lewis cannot infuse his synthesis with details on actual navigators and voyage that would bring these migrations alive. But these details are largely lost, although it might be possible to reanalyze the oral traditions of voyaging and migration to bring the needed islander perspective into focus.

Lewis is of course uniquely qualified to write about the original exploration and settlement of the Pacific for he has made major contributions to our understanding of the non-instrument navigation systems used. His research efforts have also had an unusual modern impact. In 1969 while studying the traditional navigation system of Puluwat Atoll of the Caroline Islands, Lewis had a traditional navigator sail Lewis's yacht to Saipan and back, following the old voyaging route that had been abandoned in the European era. Partially because of this stimulus, the Carolinians have started sailing their canoes once more over this 1,000 mile round-trip. In Part III, titled "Fa'a Pasifika" ("Pacific Way"), Lewis tells about this revival in Micronesia canoe voyaging, and also about the recent effort to sail a large outrigger canoe from the Gilberts to Fiji as well as about the voyage of Hokule'a from Hawaii to Tahiti and return in which Lewis was involved. His thesis is that the revival in canoe voyaging seen in these and other modern attempts to recreate the ancient canoes and retrace old voyaging routes is part of a cultural renaissance that promises to restore pride lost to Pacific Islanders with the Western discovery and settlement of the Pacific.

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