

Louise Hanson and F. Allan Hanson, *The Art of Oceania: A Bibliography*. Reference Publications in Art History. Boston, Mass.: G. K. Hall and Co., 1984. Pp. xviii, 539, indexes. \$65.00 clothbound.

Reviewed by Renée Heyum, University of Hawaii

Those who are interested in Oceanic art owe a debt of gratitude to Louise and Allan Hanson, who have provided us with an excellent reference tool. It is, in fact, the first bibliography that brings together articles and books as well as exhibit and sale catalogues related to, describing, and attempting to analyze in terms of function and aesthetics the multitude of visual art forms that flourished and continue to flourish in Oceania, where even utilitarian objects, if not decorated, have at least beautiful, harmonious forms.

During two years of intensive work, armed with a computer, the Hansons combed libraries and museums in Europe, New Zealand, and the United States for any printed items concerning Oceanic art, often finding them in journals that generally do not focus on art but may have one *or* two articles in their entire series. The 6,650 works they have included date from the "Artificial Curiosities" of the eighteenth century to contemporary art and artists such as Albert Namatjira of Australia and Aloisio Pilioko of Wallis Island. Excluded are dance, music, and literature.

The book is arranged primarily along geographic lines, with separate sections for Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, and Australia, in addition to a section that lists works dealing with more than one region or with Oceania in general. Entry numbers, however, run consecutively throughout the book. This arrangement facilitates access to the litera-

ture. The more than four hundred entries of the sale catalogues section are arranged by city, auction house, and date of sale with (whenever possible), the name of the collection that was being sold.

G. K. Hall is to be commended for using a variety of typefaces. These and the format of the entries make the book easy to use.

Non-English literature is included, a fact to be noted with appreciation, as many bibliographies ignore foreign literature. Non-English titles are always translated. Whenever a title is incomplete or does not clearly reflect the works contents, the authors have provided a short, concise annotation.

There are three indexes in this remarkable work: a personal name index; a title index; and a subject index, which is combined with a geographical index. On the latter I have to express some reservations. The subject-geographical index might have benefited from more specific geographical and subject headings, as the uninterrupted lists of item numbers that occur under some of the headings could prove intimidating to the user. But this can be remedied in the next edition.

Libraries, museums, and researchers in the field of Oceanic art and ethnography will find *The Art of Oceania: A Bibliography* a most useful tool. The books and articles included will also be of interest to social historians, for they illustrate the major changes that have occurred over the past centuries in the understanding and appreciation of these masterful manifestations of human creativity.