

Daniel J. Peacock, *Lee Boo of Belau: A Prince in London*. South Sea Books. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press and Pacific Islands Studies Program, 1987. Pp. 259, references, index. \$18.50.

*Reviewed by Gary A. Klee, San Jose State University*

*Lee Boo of Belau: A Prince in London* is the first in a series entitled South Sea Books, published by the University of Hawaii Press and the

university's Pacific Islands Studies Program. This new series is to include books of general interest that deal with Pacific islands and their cultures. Robert C. Kiste, the general editor, could not have chosen a better book to initiate the project.

Daniel J. Peacock's book is the fascinating, true story of a twenty-year-old island prince named Lee Boo who voyaged from his island home in Belau (Palau, Micronesia) to experience London society. It is an adventure that begins with the 1783 collision of an East India Company packet ship, the *Antelope*, on the reefs off Belau in the western Pacific. We learn how Captain Henry Wilson and his crew struggled to get ashore, how they coped with the unfamiliar tropical surroundings, and how they first met Lee Boo-- the son of Abba Thulle, the high chief of Belau. Peacock then explains the circumstances that led Lee Boo to sail with Captain Wilson back to London. The remaining chapters are devoted to the fascination associated with a "noble savage" living amidst eighteenth-century London society. The story concludes with Lee Boo falling victim to smallpox (within six months of his arrival in London), his last days living along the Thames River, and some associated events that follow his death.

Peacock, a teacher-librarian with over twenty-six years of experience in Micronesia, should be highly commended for this wonderful portrayal of the life and times of Lee Boo of Belau. The book is beautifully written, well documented, and filled with wonderful illustrations. Specifically, there are four maps, thirty-four illustrations (including reproductions of the pen-and-ink drawings of student draftsmen aboard eighteenth-century English ships), thirty-eight pages of detailed notes, and an annotated bibliography of 235 citations.

Many will treasure this book. It will be appreciated by a variety of international scholars--particularly Pacific historians, cultural geographers, and cultural anthropologists. In addition, today's older Belauans will relish having such an important piece of local history accurately recorded, while the younger Belauan readers (particularly those who dream of "escaping" to America or Europe) will be fascinated by the adventures of this young Belauan.

This book is an encyclopedia of people, places, and events that remain in the memory banks of anyone who has lived in Belau. For such an individual, reading this book will be like revisiting an old friend. This reviewer, who has lived "amongst the Belauans," cannot recommend a book more highly.