Obituary for Chinn Ho

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Among the many tributes to the memory of Chinn Ho who passed away on May 12, 1987, missing has been any reference to his role in the development of field archaeology in the State of Hawai'i. Indeed this was but a small part of his active life as financier, developer, and philanthropist, but its result was to become a model of procedure for archaeological research through private funding. I refer to the Mākaha Valley Historical Project that began in 1968.

Mr. Ho's company was to build a hotel at the mouth of the Valley, and knowing something of the cultural importance of the Wai'anae area in Hawaiian tradition, he felt that an interpretation of Mākaha's prehistory through the uncovering of archaeological sites would enhance the prestige and appeal of his enterprise. He was intrigued by Kāne'ākī Heiau across Mākaha Stream and up-valley from the hotel site, but he soon learnt that little more information could be added to the archaeological record. Thus, typically, he set about acquiring it. For help he contacted the Department of Anthropology at Bishop Museum, and he could not have drawn a tougher negotiator than the already eminent archaeologist Roger C. Green to represent the interests of Hawaiian prehistory. It was a case of a meeting of the doyen of business in Hawaii with the doyen in the business of research! It was also a meeting of the minds, for from different directions both wanted the same thing—the most comprehensive investigation that resources would allow. Thus, an agreement was forged whereby Roger would deliver the scientific results and Chinn the financial backing through the Mākaha Historical Society.

As with most major undertakings in contract archaeology, the "scope of work" was difficult to anticipate—especially remembering that the Mākaha project was the first of its kind. Thus, toward to the end of the two-year fieldwork, the archaeol-

ogists made a case for continuation. Mr. Ho, after reviewing the 1968 and 1969 results, appointed his son Dean to take care of the additional and unexpected refinancing, indicating his mark of approval of the achievements of the project. Such flexibility in contract archaeology is decidedly rare, especially in the private sector which too often seeks the minimum to conform with environmental and cultural impact regulation.

In 1970 Roger Green regrettably departed the Museum for New Zealand but the administration of fieldwork was left in the capable hands of Edmund Ladd, on secondment from the National Park Service since the inception of the Mākaha research—an acknowledgment of the national importance of the project. Among the advanced students in archaeology who participated in the project as part of their training, leading to their future recognition as professional archaeologists in Hawaii and further afield, were Robert Hommon, Patrick Kirch, Tom Riley, Paul Rosendahl, Jun Takayama, and the late Chet Gorman.

The following summary of the results of the Mākaha Valley project is based on a 1973 report by Ed Ladd:

1. The entire *ahupua'a* of Mākaha was surveyed for archaeological sites.

2. Archaeological structures and features which formed clusters and cluster groups from the dry, lower valley and the wet, upper valley, representing three functional categories—economic, residential, and religious—were located, recorded, and selectively excavated.

3. Research into economic and land-use patterns was conducted.

4. The reconstruction, restoration, stabilization, and interpretation of certain areas were carried out.

In carrying out these objectives, the Mākaha Valley Project participants also set high standards for future work by achieving several "firsts" in Hawaiian Archaeology. The Mākaha Valley Project marked the first time archaeological field methods were used to investigate an agricultural complex. The excavation and of the Kāne'ākī Heiau site was the first systematic study of architectural changes through time in this important site type. The resulting interpretative plan for Kāne'ākī Heiau, developed in consultation with the Mākaha Historical Society, led to the complete restoration of the most prominent religious site in the valley.

The Mākaha Valley Project resulted in the publication of five research reports in the Pacific Anthropological Records series (PAR) of the Bishop Museum's Department of Anthropology. The first two in 1969 and 1970 edited by Green (PAR 4 and 10), the third in 1972 edited by Ladd and D. E. Yen (PAR 18), the fourth in 1973 by Ladd (PAR 19), and the fifth in 1980, written by Green (PAR 31). Support for this publication program was built in as a condition of the original project agreement, an uncommon provision in private contract archaeology. Chinn Ho's commitment to the research was such that when we at the Museum sought to publish Roger Green's synthesis of the whole project long after its completion, Mākaha Before A.D. 1800 appeared in 1980 as PAR 31 with the financial assistance of the recently formed Chinn Ho Foundation.

In this account, I have tried to balance the financial aspect of Chinn Ho's participation in the Mākaha research with the archaeological results in which his absorption went far beyond any possible commercial motives for his support. He appreciated the scientific value of the findings and the necessity of their communication; he knew that he was contributing to archaeology in providing field experience to many younger participants. Throughout his career, Chinn Ho was a trendsetter—and characteristically this project was a demonstration to his, to this day, slower-learning colleagues of how contract archaeology should be done! Underneath all of this, however, was his respect for Hawai'i and the Hawaiian past; his perception of the instrumentation of the Mākaha Project was as one tangible expression of that deep feeling.