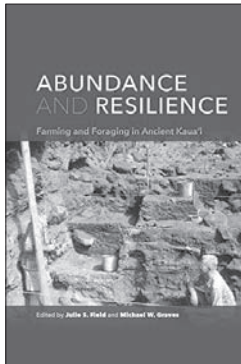


Book Reviews



Field, Julie S. and Michael W. Graves (Eds). *Abundance and Resilience: Farming and Foraging in Ancient Kaua'i*.

Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2015. 262 pp. ISBN 978-0-8248-3989-5. \$65 (cloth).

Available from www.uhpress.hawaii.edu

Review by Summer Moore,
College of William & Mary

Beginning in the 1990s, archaeology faculty and students from the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa, several of whom are contributors to this book, embarked on a project to complete the analyses of the artifacts and faunal remains from Nu'alolo Kai. This stratified coastal site on Kaua'i Island's remote Nā Pali Coast was excavated by Bishop Museum archaeologists over several field seasons between 1958 and 1964. The site produced an immense and remarkably well-preserved collection of artifacts and faunal remains. Although the archaeologists made a substantial effort to analyze the excavated material, a complete report was never published. The current book represents the second of two compilations describing the University of Hawai'i's reanalysis of these collections. While the previous volume (Carson & Graves 2005) covered a diverse set of topics related to the Nu'alolo Kai excavations, the present work examines one overarching theme. Drawing on the site's large faunal assemblage, this volume investigates change and continuity in human-animal interactions over time. Based on combined data from the contributors' individual studies, the editors infer that Nu'alolo Kai's residents managed their local environment in a strategic and sustainable way. Moreover, they argue, subsistence strategies changed subtly through time in response to observations about the local environment. Completing the analysis of the Nu'alolo Kai collection and tying these results to a chronological framework was truly a massive project and one that benefits the study of archaeology in Hawai'i and the Pacific region as a whole. The editors and chapter authors have undoubtedly succeeded in integrating an enormous volume of data into a focused and coherent work of scholarship.

In the first of the book's eleven chapters, the editors Field and Graves outline the history of archaeological work at the site and situate the current publication within this context. In Chapters 2 and 3, Field discusses the ecological and cultural setting of Nu'alolo Kai and the results of earlier investigations. Chapters 4 through 9 address the individual categories of faunal remains. O'Leary's chapter (Chapter 4) on fish remains compares changes in dominant taxa and fish size through time. In Chapter 5, Graves et al. discuss modified and unmodified sea turtle remains. Esh's chapter (Chapter 6) on avifauna provides a comprehensive overview of modified and unmodified bird bone from Nu'alolo Kai. In Chapter 7, Field and Jolivette discuss the mammal remains, which include primarily domesticated species such as pig and dog. Next, Field and McElroy present analyses of the modified coral assemblage (Chapter 8) and shell, bone, and invertebrate ornaments (Chapter 9). In Chapter 10, Morrison and Esh move beyond the strict analysis of faunal remains and use population data for shellfish and seabirds over time to make applied recommendations for modern conservation practices on the Nā Pali Coast.

In the final chapter (Chapter 11), Field and Graves synthesize the results of these analyses in terms of broad patterns by analytic zone. In short, they argue that settlers initially arrived at Nu'alolo Kai around AD 1300. Between about AD 1300 and 1500, residents relied primarily on wild animal foods such as fish and seabirds. There is also limited evidence for the raising of domesticated animals and crops. Between AD 1500 and 1700, consumption of pig and dog increased substantially, together with a decrease in the proportion of wild animal remains, i.e., fish and birds, in the faunal assemblage. After AD 1700, the faunal evidence shows that pig and dog exploitation remained high, even as a few foreign species were introduced. Because most of the volume's analyses show no evidence for population declines of particular species, the editors suggest that residents of Nu'alolo Kai strategically managed available natural resources over several centuries. In cases of possible resource depression, such as O'Leary's data (Chapter 4) showing a transition over time from inshore fishes to pelagic fishes near the reef edge, they suggest these trends illustrate the "flexible nature of the Hawaiians' behavior" (p. 206) and their ability to change tactics when necessary based on declining populations.

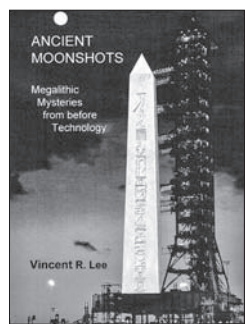
One of the volume's most useful contributions is the employment of broad analytic zones based on previously existing radiocarbon dates from the site's many cultural levels. Given the site's complex stratigraphy and the challenges presented by mid-twentieth-century excavation methods, the establishment of a general chronology provides a vital anchor for the diverse studies presented in this book. Although the editors acknowledge the drawbacks of relying on dates without

wood charcoal identification, the zone approach still provides a useful way to investigate coarse-grained patterns of change through time. By combining data from the individual faunal assemblages with radiocarbon data, the editors create a dynamic picture of changing human interaction with the environment. Future work in dating the site's cultural levels may help to refine the chronological sequence. Besides restricting future radiocarbon samples to short-lived species, the use of techniques such as Bayesian analysis would help to define more precisely the chronology of occupation at Nu'alolo Kai.

In all, this book provides a vital resource for anyone interested in studying subsistence practices in Hawai'i or the Pacific, or the changing nature of human-environment interaction through time in a more general sense. The truly large scale of this work emphasizes the amount of data that the Nu'alolo Kai collections have to offer. Further, the breadth of this dataset may enable archaeologists to consider other interesting research questions about the types of social dynamics at work along the Nā Pali Coast. For example, did the ritual activity indicated by the site's large ceremonial complex shape intra-community consumption patterns, and did exchange practices play any role in the formation of the faunal assemblage? Ultimately, the editors and contributors should be commended for producing such a useful compilation of data and interpretation from the vast Nu'alolo Kai collection. Analyzing and interpreting the entirety of this collection was truly an enormous undertaking. By presenting this information in such a clear and concise way, this book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of Hawai'i's past.

Reference

Carson, M. T. & M. W. Graves (Eds.). 2005. *Na Mea Kahiko o Kaua'i: Archaeological Studies in Kaua'i*. Society for Hawaiian Archaeology Special Publication 2. Honolulu: Society for Hawaiian Archaeology.



Lee, Vincent R.
*Ancient Moonshots:
Megalithic Mysteries
from before Technology*

Cortez: Sixpac Manco Publications, 2013. 186 pp. (illustrations and black & white photographs). \$20 plus postage/handling.

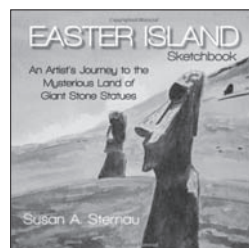
Order inquiries: vincelee1@mac.com or Vincent Lee, Box 174, Cortez, CO 81321 USA

Review by Georgia Lee, *Easter Island Foundation*

Architect Vincent Lee is an expert on the subject of megalithic construction in antiquity and, for anyone interested in the subject, *Ancient Moonshots* is a gold mine of information. I still recall my first visit to Sacsayhuaman, standing like a transfixed idiot in front of the great stone terrace and wondering how did they DO that? Relief is at hand: *Ancient Moonshots* is lavishly illustrated with drawings and photographs as the author takes us on a wild ride from Egypt to Peru to Easter Island and points in between. Along the way, we learn how huge blocks of stone were moved, raised, fitted, and finished as we travel from Stonehenge to Baalbek and from Sacsayhuaman to Rano Raraku.

Part One of the book deals with stone, tools, power, transporting, raising and lowering, etc. Part Two includes Inca masterworks, the unfinished Obelisk, and Baalbek. Rapanuiphiles will be particularly intrigued by Chapter 10, "Awakening the Giant", which is an in-depth study of the famed statue *El Gigante*, still lying in the quarry on Easter Island. Here, Lee provides a scenario for finishing the statue, moving it across the island, erecting it at its intended location, and placing a *pukao* on its head. Great stuff!

Anyone who has pondered how the huge statues on Easter Island were moved and erected, or how the Inca made those megalithic stone structures, will find this book fascinating. And Lee's far-ranging studies provide comparative information for the Egyptian Colossus, various obelisks, and other amazing monuments of stone made by so-called primitive peoples in many parts of the globe. The text is augmented by numerous line drawings that illustrate the various techniques for moving the seemingly immovable.



Sternau, Susan A.
*Easter Island
Sketchbook. An
Artist's Journey to the
Mysterious Land of
Giant Stone Statues.*

Sausalito: Sausalito Press, 2013. 95 pp. Illustrations in color. ISBN 978-0-9898-4558-8. \$29.95 (hardcover). Available from www.amazon.com

Review by Georgia Lee, *Easter Island Foundation*

This book consists of nicely rendered watercolor sketches of the statues, *ahu*, scenic views, quarry, etc., and each section begins with a short quote from an early visitor such as Cook, La Pérouse, Routledge, etc. This is a nice memento for someone who has visited the island. Brief text plus figure captions.