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THIS MONTH'S COVER

This month's cover, from the photograph collection of the Fiji Museum, shows an early example of Fijian oil or food dish, which in 1955 was in the possession of Mrs. M. Ryan of St. Fort Street, Suva. A similar dish was illustrated in "The Album of the Pacific" by James Edge Partington and Heap, which was first published in 1890. Notes beside the illustration record "The reason for the lower rim of this bowl is that a 'layman might not touch that portion of a vessel which the priest touched, so that the former would carry the bowl by the lower rim while the priest would lift it to his mouth by the upper one, in nearly all cases where there are handles on vessels they are for the use of priests."

"This is for the use of Priests only, and they drink from them on their hands to knees, without raising the bowl from the ground" (A. Gordon).

The wood used for the bowl is not recorded. The carving properties of several Fiji woods are discussed in this issue by Tony Frith a forestry advisor of the U.N. presently working with the Fiji Government.

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ANY WOOD CAN BE CARVED

Well that's my theory, and I'm sticking to it. Not that I have tried carving every one of the thousands of species of wood that can be found around the world, but I've sampled a selection from feather-weight Balsa to the well named Ironwood, and techniques can be found for all of them. That is the sort of non-answer one can give to the often asked question "Which of the Fijian wood can be carved". In fact, very few of them are normally carved, but this is not because the rest of the species are no good, but because the elect few are, in one way or another, better than the rest, and still available to woodcarvers.

A professional carver looks for certain qualities in his raw material. It should be of medium hardness so that it cuts without too much effort and cleanly. The harder the wood, the cleaner the cut and the more lustrous the fresh surface while a soft wood will tend to leave a wooly surface. It should not split easily, or cross-grain ridges on the finished work will break across, but the other exteme of interlocked grain, which is hard to split, is a very mixed blessing. You can achieve some attractive "figure" effects with interlocked grain, but you have to keep turning the work, or yourself, all the time to chisel "with the grain".

Shrinkage is another factor, as a wood that shrinks a lot when it is drying out is liable to crack more. There are ways of avoiding too much cracking by selecting the wood from the part of the trunk of the tree to avoid the centre, by careful seasoning, drying it slowly with the ends painted to prevent end splitting, or kiln seasoning. However, some woods are easier to carve while they are still "green" and the cracks are going to appear after the carving is finished. This is virtually unavoidable in large carvings, and we have to accept that it is the nature of the material. There are ways of filling the fissures, and they do not necessarily detract from the appearance. Still, a low shrinkage wood is preferred.

For many types of carving, the final appearance is most important and highly figured woods are popular, but to my mind, too much variation in the grain detracts from the shape given to the work by the carver. It often means interlocked grain as well.

Finally a very practical consideration is what woods are available. There are thirty or forty species cut in Fiji, but if you were to go to a timber merchant and ask for one by name, you would be limited to about a dozen which would probably not include the more popular carving woods.

So what are these woods? The most traditional of all is Vesi, mainly because it shrinks very little and therefore doesn't crack, but is also very durable. On the other hand it is hard, and often has interlocked grain. Hardness does not deter the traditional carver, who has had to produce war clubs in the past, for which such heavies as Sacan and Ironwood are suitable.

Nowadays, the majority of carvings seen on the market stalls are in Nawanawa or in Raintree. Nawanawa comes from a family of tree famous for its woodcarving potential (Cordia) and grows on sandy seashore locations.

This makes it easily accessible to anyone with a boat, and being so popular, it is getting to be a bit scarce. A little experimental planting has been done by the Forest Department, but seashore land is not easy to come by, and another member of the Cordia family from Central America called Salmwood is being grown in the rain forest and will be available in small quantities in a few more years. You can tell the difference, but the family resemblance is definately there.

Raintree is used as much for turnery and souvenir coffee tables as for carving and is popular for its interesting grain, light sapwood and golden to black varigated heartwood. It's a bit splintery to carve and has interlocked grain, but the results are worth while. There are complaints that it is hard to get, but it grows mainly in small groups or isolated in farmland, and a special logging operation has to be organised to bring them to the sawmill.

One of the most indicated woods suitable for carving is Dakua Salusalu. It has a shrinkage rate less than any other Fijian Wood, not too hard or too soft, no interlocking grain. However, it is a white wood without much grain. The other Dakua - Makadre - is just as good but it with a little more tendancy to split, but you can usually get it from any timber merchant.

A lot of the "swords" sold to the tourist are from one of the softest woods available, the common Vau that has the yellow hibiscus flowers. This is a good practice wood for whittling, but needs very sharp tools to prevent wobly results.

As for the rest, why not try the common Kauvula, Kaudamu, Manota, Rosarosa, Damanu, or Yasiyasi. The last of these is probably the least desirable, yet I have used it to carve a 70 cm high sculpture called "Fiji and the World" (with apologies to F.B.C) that you may have seen on exhibition last year, and which went to the Solomon Islands with the Fiji Crafts Exhibition. It was hard work, and there were quite a few fissures to fill as it dried out, but it shows what can be done with one of the less popular hardwoods.

Finally, there are the exotic woods grown here, and the foremost of these is Mahogany. This will soon be coming available from the plantations in ever increasing volume and has always been my favourite as it has all the desirable characteristics, including attractive appearance. Incidentally, Raintree (Monkey pod, Saman) is also an exotic, but naturalised. Teak is sometimes available, but I have found the open grown trees planted here to be rather "wild grained". Salmwood has been mentioned, and could become very popular when the tree gets a bit bigger.

Did I hear someone mention Sandalwood? Yes, a very nice wood to carve if you can get it, but not much prospect of having any for a long time to come, as it is very slow growing and hard to establish as it has to parasitise another tree to get started. You may have noticed that the carvings are getting smaller and smaller.

With all the wide variety of woods growing in our forests there is certainly the opportunity to increase the number used in carving, and it is to be expected that the craft stalls will be offering more than the two or three species used at present.

Tony Frith.

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ACTION THRCUGH YOUTH

Students are available for volunteer work on environmental matters during the school holiday May 5th to 19th. Contact Hassan Khan 312197 or Vimal 312797.

Resource people on environmental matters are also available through the Fiji National Youth Council to youth or other groups for programme activities.

DANCER TO VISIT THE U.S.A.

Satya Narayan Charka, Dance Instructor, from the Indian Cultural Centre, will visit the U.S.A. for 3 weeks to give performances and lecture demonstration in Hawaii, California, Minnesota and New York.

WESTERN REGIONAL MOBILE LIBRARY

Western Regional Mobile Library is now in operation. The vehicle operates along Queens Road visiting 44 villages and 37 rural schools from Navutu to Vunaniu and also the Sigatoka Valley as far as Keiyasi.

The mobile library calls every 4 weeks. Details of calls can be obtained from Western Regional Library, Lautoka telephone 60091.

HERITAGE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Published monthly by the National Trust for Fiji, The Fiji Museum and the Fiji Arts Council to keep you informed of events and news concerning art, cultural and environmental matters in Fiji.

Enclosed is $1.00 being my subscription to Heritage for one year. (Please make cheques payable to Heritage).

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The Fiji Museum

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BANK OF NEW ZEALAND ART WORKSHOP

This years Bank of New Zealand School Art Workshop will be held from 15th to 19th May at Nasinu Training College. The fourth workshop of its kind, others have been sponsored by the Bank of New Zealand at Lautoka, Suva and Labasa in previous years, will bring to-gether 30 students from the Suva/Nausori district who share a particular interest in art.

Several experienced artists will attend as tutors and will instruct groups in drawing, water colour and poster colour painting.

Each day one group of students will paint a mural and the completed murals will later be shown in Suva and other centres in Fiji.

The students will exhibit their work in the art room at the Training College on Friday 19th May from 2.30pm to 4pm and the public is invited to attend.

EXHIBITION FOUR FIJI ARTISTS, FIJI MUSUEM - May 9-29.
PAINTING, BATIK, POTTERY, MACRAME.

Liebling Marlow -
Liebling started painting when she was living in Lautoka in 1967 and has continued dabbling away ever since. She has been involved with the Arts Club painting group while living in Suva and has been actively involved with art and craft development in Fiji. She is a founding member of the Fiji Crafts Association and one of the ladies who run the "Cottage" crafts shop in Ellery St. Her macrame tends to use natural materials from the Fiji environment such as magimagi, driftwood and shells.

Joe Tuwai
Joe is the head of Art Department at Nasinu Teachers College and has a particular interest in silk screen printing. He uses both traditional and contemporary motifs in his prints, drawing largely upon the Fiji flora as inspiration for some of his designs. He has had several exhibitions of his silk screen printing both in New Zealand and Fiji.

Tupou Nakete
Tupou has always had an interest in carving and this is evidenced in his pottery which is often incised with a motif reminiscent of masi. His clay dug from Koronivia, when first dug it is a light gray but when fired turns to salmon coloured terra cotta. Tupou is an art teacher who last year attended a six month course studying ceramic techniques in India. He has only just started to pot again, but looks forward to using the medium in his own unique way.

Lou Cottage
Lou originally came to Fiji to work in the development of text-book production but soon found himself involved with art and craft and presently works with the Ministry of Education as an adviser in art/craft education. Lou paints primarily in acrylics often using them as a light wash in a water colour technique. He has just started experimenting with batik in the last few years, and although worked in a somewhat traditional style is trying to adjust batik to his own mode of expression.

Museum Bulletin No.3 (Latest publication)

"Ring-Ditch Fortifications in the Rewa Delta ; Fiji. Air photo interpretation and Analysis" by John T. Parry.

A well-documented book on the ring ditch fortifications of the Rewa Delta the area noted for the almost continuous warfare, the extent of its cultivated land and for its fertility. The study undertaken to locate and map the distribution of ring ditch sites used air photo interpretation methods. The historical background summaries the main phases in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries incorporating details available from literature relevant to the study.

Available at the Fiji Museum for $7-00.

- Fiji Museum.

DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

5 JUNE 1978 is a day when world attention will focus again, for the sixth time since 1972, on the main challenges that mankind is facing today - the challenge of making the Earth one common healthy and enjoyable home for all living-beings, including man.

5 JUNE 1978 - the day when the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, will deliver from the United Nations headquarters in New York, his message on the State of the World's Environment, this year focused on the following four subjects:

- Environmental Disease, Malaria
- Chemicals and Environment
- Increasing the agricultural base for food production: the use of waste
- Conservation: the case of energy and energy sources.

At the same time and place, the PAHLAVI PRIZE will be presented to the outstanding world environmentalist. (First given in 1976, it was presented to Maurice Strong, in 1977, jointly to Captain Jacques Cousteau and Dr. Peter Scott.)

An Earth Day/World Environment Day Festival will be held in the United Nations plaza by non-governmental organisations expressing their concern about the management of our planet - EARTH.

5 JUNE 1978 is the date when the UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, through the information and audiovisual materials produced by the World Environment Day project, call the attention of all governments of the world, inviting them to evaluate and to reassess the actions related to each country's environment.

BUT not only New York, World Capitals and Governments ... Also, thousands of non-governmental organisations and groups throughout the world are preparing to commemorate the 5th of June 1978, not just as a date to think and act about crucial problems of their villages, towns, countries or regions, but as a culminating date of many efforts carried out through the entire year to work for a better life for all people.

In Fiji the National Trust is bringing the attention of the public and all agencies concerned with the care of our beautiful islands by holding a 3 to 4 week Exhibition on "Development and the Environment" . This exhibition will be held at the Fiji Museum from 7 to 30 June 1978. Come and see the 'Price of Progress' we have to pay and how Fiji is trying to achieve development without destruction.

LAW OF THE SEA: THE NEW BARGAIN

The main obstacle that developing countries face is in their desire to participate in the control of resources in areas beyond the 200-mile limit. Conservative estimates indicates that there are several hundred thousand million tonnes of recoverable mineral nodules in just the high potential areas of the Pacific Ocean floor. The developing countries want these marine resources to be exploited in a rational and equitable basis with the needs of the entire international community in mind, so as to enable them to make a reality of their right of participation in the explitation of the oceanic resources.

Much work still remains to be done on several problem areas, particularly those related to the new international regime for the seabed and the organisation necessary for its administration. These are very difficult issues to sort out. In the absence of generally acceptable treaty provisions, several industrialised countries are preparing legislation that would offer government protection to companies which wish to commence seabed mining at once. Those developing countries that are land-based producers, faced now with the inevitability of seabed productions of the same metals they possess on land, may consider that it is time to compromise on some form of production management acceptable to the advanced ocean mining countries. For them it may be worse to hold out for greater protection and end up not having any at all. This "softer" approach may concide with the position of those developing countries that are within reach of the relevant technology and contemplate engaging in seabed mining themselves in the foreseeable future.

When we add to these stirring among the Group of 77, a certain flexibility on the part of the industrialised countries, we realise that the international community could well be on its way to a new comprehensive treaty on the Law of the Sea by the end of 1978 - a treaty that reflects the best-attainable balance of the multitude of interests involved.

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COMING EVENTS - May 1978.

Thursday 4th	Economics Association meeting at 4.45pm in the Directors' room of the Union Club, Kimberley St. Mr. Robin Rothfield, Agriculture Department Statistician, will speak on "The census of agriculture". NC PRESS. (Note: This talk has been moved from April 20).
Friday 5th to Monday 22nd	School holidays.
Saturday 6th	Suva Orchid and Horticultural Circle. Field afternoon 3pm Colo-i-Suva. (Secretary Mrs. O. Parshotam 383359)
Monday 8th	Indian Cultural Centre will present a programme at Fiji Teachers Union Annual Conference at N.T.C. - 8pm.
Monday 8th to Friday 12th	Fiji Art Teachers Association Workshop. N.T.C.
Tuesday 9th to Friday 26th	Four Fiji Artists Exhibit. Fiji Museum - work by Joe Tuwai, Lou Cottage, Liebling Marlow and Tupou Nakete.
Tuesday 9th	Fiji Arts Club Playreading session at 8.00pm. at the home of Ian and June Honeyman, U.S.P. Campus. Phone Gill Dixon on 27529 for details.
Wednesday 10th	Fiji Rucksack Club meets 8pm, Fiji Museum.
Thursday 11th	Suva Orchid and Horticultural Circle - Speaker John Wolmesley, orchids and Exotic Plants in Papua New Guinea. 7.30pm, The Professional Centre Dervoux Rd.
Thursday 11th	Fiji Arts Club Photography Section Lecture at 8.00pm at Wesleyan Church Hall, Butt Street, Suva. All Welcome. Phone Charles Cheng at 23087 (office) for details.
Thursday 11th	Fiji Society - Speaker Mr. Cedric Power - The effects of Earthquakes on Man-made Structures in the Pacific Basin, 8pm Fiji Museum.
Friday 12th	Guard change at Government House Gates, 12md by Royal Fiji Military Forces.
Saturday 13th	Fiji Girmit Association - centenary celebration at Suva Civic Centre 7.30pm. Programme by Indian Cultural Centre.
Monday 15th to Friday 19th	At Tubou, Lakeba - Meeting of Great Council of Chiefs.
Monday 15th to Friday 19th	Bank of New Zealand School Art Workshop at Nasinu Training College - organised by Fiji Arts Council.

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Wednesday 17th	Suva Civic Auditorium 5 to 6pm. Talk by the new managers of the auditorium on conditions of hire, facilities available, booking procedure etc. This should be of special interest to schools, clubs, service organisations etc.
Thursday 18th	Economics Association. Mr. I. Hreish, Manager of the National Bank of Fiji, will speak on "The development of the National Bank of Fiji". NC PRESS - Directors' room of the Union Club, Kimberley St. at 4.45pm.
Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th	Fiji Arts Club production of "The Matchmaker" by Thornton Wilder. At the Playhouse, bar open from 7.30pm curtain up at 8.00pm. About the play; A certain old merchant of Yonkers is now so rich that he decides to take a wife. To this end he employs a matchmaker, a woman who subsequently becomes involved with two of his menial clerks, assorted young and loverly ladies, and the headwaiter at an expensive restaurant where this swift farce runs headlong into a hilarious climax of complication. After everyone gets all straightened out romantically, and everyone has his heart's desire the merchant of Yonkers finds himself affianced to the astute matchmaker herself. He is fooled by apprentices in a series of hilarious hide-and-seek scenes, and finally has all his bluster explode in his face. Tickets will be on sale from 8th May at Main Stream Record Bar, Pacific Arcade, Suva.
Friday 19th	BNZ School Art Workshop at N.T.C. Exhibition of work done during the week at 2.30 to 4pm. All welcome.
Monday 22nd	Miss Susan Fried - Chairman Commonwealth School Bookfund arrives for an extended visit to Fiji - contact 25691 Biro Lal, Ministry of Education.
Thursday 25th	Fiji Arts Club Photography Section Lecture at 8.00pm. at Wesleyan Church Hall, Butt Street, Suva. All welcome. Phone Charles Cheng at 23087 (office) for details.
Thursday 25th	Fiji Craft Association meets at Fiji Museum 8pm.
Friday 26th	Beating the Retreat at Queen Elizabeth Barrack 5pm, Ring R.F.M.F.
Sunday 28th	Fiji Arts Club Music Section, Musical Listening evening at the Plummer home. Qtrs. 146 Barton Place, The Domain, Phone 25767. All welcome.
	Ballroom Dancing is held every Monday night at 7.30pm. followed by Scottish Dancing from 8.30pm held at Suva Grammar School.
	Creative Dance/Drama group is held on Wednesday evenings at 8p.m. at the Playhouse. Phone Brenda Knuckey 22963 for further details.

Tuesday 30th	Fiji Society "Fijian Pidgin" by Dr.Rodney Moag. 8pm Fiji Museum.
June 1st Thursday	Economics Association. Mr. Robert Stone, Chief Fisheries Officer, will speak on "The Ika Corporation: the economics of fishing". NO PRESS Directors' room of the Union Club, Kimberley St. at 4.45pm.
June 2nd Friday	21 gun salute at 12md in Albert Park by Royal Fiji Military Forces to celebrate the anniversary of the coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.
June 3rd Saturday	Queens Birthday Parade by Royal Fiji Military Forces at Albert Park 9am to 10am. Parade will be reviewed by the Governor General **21 gun salute at 12md.**
June 5th Monday	Public Holiday - Queens Birthday
June 6th Tuesday	Suva Orchid and Horticultural Circle speaker Mr. Dick Phillips "Orchids". Suva Professional Centre, Dervoux Rd.
June 26th Monday	Special stamp issue by Philatelic Bureau to commemorate aviation history of Fiji - Release of first day covers.
June 29th to July 1st	Duke and Duchess of Gloucester arrive at Nadi for visit to Western Division before going on to Honiara where they will represent the Queen at the Solomon Island Independence ceremonies.
June 7th to 30th	Environment Exhibition, Fiji Museum. Organised by the National Trust for Fiji.
Late July	Soqosoqo Vakamarama exhibition of handcraft made during Training Programme at Nabua.
August 12-19	INSEA Convention - Adelaide.

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