

# Acknowledgements

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For one moving into a new cultural area late in career I was surprised at some of the responses received in answer to my inquiries by colleagues who had preceded me. There were those who displayed an unexpected territoriality, blocking out large areas of the Pacific for their future study or for the future study of their students. Then there were those who expressed the view that with the large number of anthropological theses and publications that had been produced there was little left to do in the area. While I was somewhat discouraged by these negative reactions, on balance, those who were helpful and encouraging far outnumbered such naysayers, as indicated below.

My original plan had been to study a Polynesian outlier in the then-British Solomon Islands Protectorate. Roger Green and Tim Bayliss-Smith gave encouragement to me in this plan. With negative response from the government in that region I turned my interests in a new direction. Ivan Brady first suggested that I explore the possibility of research in the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific, and he has continued to offer encouragement through the years. Saul Riesenbergs suggested Ngatik and Pingelap atolls as appropriate places for my study. Bruce VanDyke sent a tape from Ngatik to aid me in my decision, but it was Dr. Newton E. Morton whose descriptions of Pingelap were most instrumental in my choosing that atoll for study, a decision which proved most fortunate. Dr. Morton provided me with copies of his genealogies and offered advice and provided valuable information whenever I passed through Hawaii on my trips to Micronesia. Others whom I met with in Hawaii have been sources of psychological and professional support. Most prominent of these have been William Alkire, E.H. Bryan, Jr., Roland Force, Ward Goodenough, Robert Kiste, Leonard Mason, Norman Meller, Kenneth Regh, and foremost, John and Mary Thomas, whose friendship has been a source of comfort since our meeting in 1975.

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Anyone attempting to explore the documentary history of Micronesia must struggle with the problem of the polyglot nature of the sources. In this regard I have been helped by the translation of Japanese publications by Chris Pearce, by the translation of the French by Diane Dyer, and the German by Thomas E. Willey. Douglas Davidson provided help and instruction for rendition of botanical taxonomy.

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