

**RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE MICRONESIAN
RESEARCH CENTER (MARC)**

By

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Dr. Marie-Hélène Sachet was a long-time friend of MARC and the University of Guam who contributed regularly to the MARC Collections and our scientific journal MICRONESICA. Her scholarly works enhanced MARC's leadership capability to serve scientists who conduct research in the Pacific. She is sorely missed by all of us at MARC. As a tribute to her and at the request of Dr. F. R. Fosberg, we are contributing the following account of MARC's current role in facilitating scholarship in the western Pacific.

Since its inception, the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) has had a threefold mission: to develop a collection of Micronesian and Pacific area materials, research Guam and Micronesia from direct fieldwork and documentation within and outside the Collections, and communicate the results of this research through publications, teaching, and public lectures. In addition, MARC has taken steps to strengthen its community service within the purview of its expertise. The past year has seen the fulfillment of this mission in a way consistent with MARC's tradition and the promise for further development.

Even before MARC was formally organized in September 1967, work on its Spanish Documents Collection (SDC) had begun. MARC's first director, the historian Paul Carano, was anxious to bring to Guam copies of primary source documents so that the people of the Marianas could have readily available informational sources that had only been available in archives in faraway places. During the first ten years of MARC's existence, four Spanish language and history experts searched for, acquired, organized, transcribed, and translated materials for the Spanish Documents Collection. The members of this team of experts were Marjorie Driver (still with SDC at MARC), Sister Felicia Plaza, Professors Teresa del Valle and Dale Miyagi. Maria Teresa Arias, a journalist and historical researcher, has served as a MARC Research Associate in Madrid since 1980 and has located additional materials for the Collection. Several publications have resulted from the historical research and translations work in the SDC, among which have been the account of Fray Juan Pobre de Zamora in 1602 and Spanish governors Villalobos, Olive, de la Corte, and Ibanez y Garcia. Spanish documents pertaining to this region continue to enhance MARC's reputation as a valuable resource network both on and off island. In addition to Spanish translations, translations from the French, German, and Japanese have also been completed by University of Guam faculty and research associates. Their efforts have resulted in the publication of works by Augustus Marche, Karl Semper, George Fritz, and several Japanese authors.

The Pacific Collections in 1985-86 subscribed to 62 serial titles. Not including serials and continuations, 221 items were cataloged and added to the Collections. Approximately 2,500 items are awaiting cataloging presently. From the 1985-86 acquisitions budget for the Pacific Collections program, much of the funds were spent in acquiring materials on backlog. In January 1986, MARC Pacific Collections assumed responsibility for continuing the Micronesian Area Tropical Agriculture Database owing to the expiration of the USDA grant for that program. During the Fall and Spring

semesters, the Collections were open to the public an average of 39 and 49 hours per week respectively.

A principal purpose of the Micronesian Area Research Center is to serve as a research and teaching resource in the region of Micronesia. Among the Center's programs aimed at attaining this purpose, is the geographical research and teaching component which strives to provide opportunities and facilities for the acquisition, organization, dissemination, and exchange of information concerning Micronesia. Some of the specific programs of the Geography Unit are to: direct baseline research on the physical, cultural, and spatial aspects of the region; one such ongoing program has been the GEO MAP Project which identifies and classifies the toponymics of the individual islands in Micronesia. This project has integrated linkages within the University by utilizing the facilities of the Computer Center (Mainframe SQL System) and the College Work/Study Program (training and employing UOG students). Another program conducts areal research by investigating spatial relationships (man/environment activities) and complex interrelationships between temporal process and spatial interaction in Micronesia; and provides published results of these analyses. A relatively long term program has been to develop and produce for publication an atlas and gazetteer of Micronesia by emphasizing synthesis and cartographic methodologies. In addition to these programs within the Geography Unit, will be the responsibility of providing hypotheses on resource utilization and development (and other spatial topics) in the region, and the development and communication of heuristic devices for the research grant proposals. Furthermore, this unit will assist others in the Center by providing academic support for various programs and individual academicians.

There has been a constant interest in the prehistory, colonial history and modern history of the Marianas, the Carolines and the Marshall Islands. Archaeological research and applied research have both added greatly to MARC's wealth of informative data. Archaeology, by definition, is the study of the life and culture of ancient peoples. Archaeology of the Pacific is mainly concerned with the study of ancient Micronesian, Polynesian and Melanesian cultures. Examination of ancient Pacific Island cultures by means of archival work and field research has become one of the most active social science research endeavors at MARC over the past several years. MARC now supports primary research mainly concerning the origins of human settlement in the Western Pacific; applied research in connection with historic preservation programs; and teaching archaeological methods to students enrolled at the University of Guam. For ever growing tourism-related construction activities, MARC also provides professional consulting services for effective cultural resource management.

Theoretical orientations of archaeological research include the dating of early Chamorro settlement sites on Guam by means of systematic data retrieval in the field and radiocarbon age determination. Elucidation of prehistoric adaptive strategies to volcanic high islands is another main research objective. Other research hypotheses are formulated with respect to the continuity and change in the material culture of the ancient Chamorro people. For these important research objectives, MARC has undertaken research projects at Tarague Beach, Tumon Bay, Asan, Merizo, Agat, Orote, Northwest Field, Naval Communications Station at Finegayan, and other localities on Guam and elsewhere in the Southern Mariana Islands.

The funding for such research has come from a number of organizations, including the National Geographic Society, the Gannett Foundation, the Guam Historic Preservation Office, the CNMI Historic Preservation Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Navy, to name but only a few. For some of these research endeavors, MARC has worked cooperatively with other regional research institutions such as the Bishop Museum in Hawaii and the University of Tokyo Museum in Japan. For the past two years, the Center for Field Research in Massachusetts has provided funding for the archaeological and anthropological research pertaining to the Cook Islands Marae found on the islands of Aitutaki, Atiu and Rarotonga. For this particular research program, the South Pacific Commission in Noumea, New Caledonia provided a grant-in-aid in 1986.

Applied research in response to contracts from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Pacific Division of the Navy keeps the research staff in contact with both the changing present day situation and the historical sources which formed it. Continued efforts to probe the Spanish Documents Collection have brought to light data on the period before intense colonization and research into the Spanish governors has created an excellent picture of the administration in the Marianas during the Spanish occupation. Documentation of the American Naval Period on Guam (1898-1950) from Navy and Marine Corps sources provides raw data on the present century. There has been a parallel interest in the German and Japanese administrations in Micronesia as well. Research is on-going into the local view point of the Japanese colonial achievement in the region as there seems to be continual praise for the improvement in the educational system and the standard of living as a result of the period of Japanese administration. Efforts have been especially aimed at gaining a better understanding of the Japanese period and several research grants have been obtained from both government and private sources for this endeavor. A collection of oral history materials relating to the WWII experience on Guam and other islands where battles took place, is constantly being made. The oral histories are gathered by taping interviews of eye-witnesses, and then transcribing the testimonies to typescript for use by scholars and researchers, as well as university students. This collection is small, but growing constantly.

Research has continued in specialized aspects of Micronesia such as the history of the missions, the impact of the whalers in Guam and the Marianas, the social and political developments in the TTPI during the American Period, the emergence of new nations and states, the growing interest of the Soviet Union in Micronesia, the adjustment of students to college life both on Guam and elsewhere, and computer-assisted reconstructions of Chamorro family genealogies.

The center has prepared bibliographies on Diego Luis de Sanvitores dealing with the first few years of the Spanish Colonial Administration, water resources on Guam, and Energy Literature for Guam, the Trust Territory, and American Samoa. Translations from original sources have been printed from the German and Japanese administrations in the Republic of Belau, and from the Spanish and French for Guam and the Marianas. Works also published include an archaeological survey of Guam, the site formation and cultural sequence at Tarague, an archaeological investigation at Merizo in the boat harbor area, social and cultural change in the community of Umatac, and the Spanish forts of Guam. The Working Papers contain a variety of information on the region. A newsletter is also produced containing news of events and research projects.

The members of the MARC faculty offer a variety of courses in the College of Arts and Sciences within the departments of history, anthropology, geography, and philosophy. They offer general introductory courses within their disciplines, area courses on the Pacific with emphasis on Micronesia, and some specialized courses. These range from cultural and economic geography to field methods in archaeology and archaeological theory, from Cultures of the World to the Philosophy of Religion. A number of faculty have given lectures in the MARC Seminar Series and in the College of Arts and Sciences Research Conference on the campus. Some have accepted invitations to speak before groups on the island and have given papers at conferences in North America and the Pacific which later appeared in journals. One of the professors earned a Fulbright fellowship and lectured at one of the Australian universities. He later gave lectures in Melanesia and Polynesia before returning home. During the last academic year, MARC faculty taught 11 courses in the College of Arts and Sciences, served on 22 University committees, and continued their membership in 29 professional societies or associations. Some 33 papers were published in various journals or in other types of information dissemination media. Twenty-four public lectures were presented as part of the MARC Seminar Series. MARC faculty, staff members and associates conducted 19 externally funded projects, and 22 self supported projects. Of the 19 projects with funding from external sources, five of them were federally funded while six were funded by grants and contracts from local government agencies. Eight

projects were supported by grants and gifts from various private foundations. New projects generated \$170,522.00 from external funding sources and contributed to the increase in research productivity of MARC faculty over the past twelve months. With continued support and enthusiasm, these high standards for achievement will continue and increase in the years to come.

In closing, the faculty and staff of the Micronesian Area Research Center wish to express the sincerest condolences to the family and close colleagues of Dr. Marie-Hélène Sacht. She is sorely missed by us all.