
Editorial

This issue of *The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs* marks the beginning of its fourth year of publication. *The Contemporary Pacific* is designed to fill a void and provide an interdisciplinary scholarly forum focusing on current affairs and developments in the islands of the Pacific. The journal is intended for both the scholarly community and a more general audience, and contributors are strongly encouraged to avoid the private jargon of their own disciplines.

Responses to *The Contemporary Pacific* have been gratifying. In 1990, the journal received two national awards. From a field of more than two hundred entries, the Association of American Publishers (one of the leading professional associations in the United States) selected *The Contemporary Pacific* as the year's most outstanding new journal in its Business/Social Sciences/Humanities category. A jury of the Association of American University Presses awarded the journal a certificate in recognition of its excellence in concept, design, and manufacture. More important, and reflecting a growing and international readership base, the number of subscriptions has enabled the journal to approach financial self-sufficiency earlier than expected. The commitment to an interdisciplinary approach has also been successful; contributors to the initial three volumes represented more than a dozen areas of academic specialization.

The end of the journal's third year has brought changes to its editorial board. Coinciding with his move from the University of Hawaii to Australian National University, Brij Lal is stepping down as *The Contemporary Pacific's* founding editor and will become its first corresponding editor, with major responsibilities for coordinating contributions from down under. This issue is the last produced under his editorship. Volume 4, number 2 is planned as a special issue on the Bougainville crisis, edited by Associate Editor Terence Wesley-Smith. Beginning with volume 5, Associate Professor David Hanlon of the history department at the University of

Hawaii at Manoa will become the journal's second editor, relinquishing his previous position as book review editor. Following this period of transition, further changes in the composition of the editorial board will be announced later.

Everyone associated with *The Contemporary Pacific* is indebted to Brij Lal. The journal's initial success owes much to his commitment, leadership, high scholarly standards, and firm editorial hand. Lal's efforts will long be appreciated, and as corresponding editor, he will remain an integral member of the journal's editorial team.

Aloha Brij, and mahalo nui loa.

ROBERT C. KISTE