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SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE OUTGOING EDITOR

After many satisfying years, initially with Judith Huntsman (2012 to mid-2016) and then as solo Editor from 2016, I am stepping down from the *JPS* editorship. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve the Polynesian Society, the scholarly community and the *JPS* readership in this capacity. However, “it takes a village” to produce a successful journal, and I take this opportunity to thank some of the individuals and groups who have contributed to the success of *JPS*.

For my first few years, long-standing editor Judith Huntsman mentored me in the traditions and practices of the *Journal*, along with copy-editor Dorothy Brown. I am also grateful to the Polynesian Society Council, who allowed me considerable latitude in steering *JPS* through the sometimes tumultuous waters of twenty-first century publishing, including the rise of academic benchmarking. Some related innovations included implementation of the international Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system, links to author ORCID records, piloting of 3D imagery (March 2020: doi.org/10.15286/jps.129.1.85-112) and, most recently, the launch of online-only Supplemental Materials (December 2021).

Other more strategic directions aimed to widen the *JPS* readership and strengthen its position as a major venue for inter- and transdisciplinary research. Special Issues, instituted by Judy, are now a regular feature, allowing for in-depth coverage of particular geographical, substantive and historical themes. Recent examples focus on whakapapa ‘genealogy’ as practical ontology (March 2019), religious conversions across the Pacific (December 2019), landscape archaeology of Sāmoa (March 2018) and East Polynesian ceremonial architecture (September 2016). Synthetic articles on topics of broad interest have been sought out, including ones on oral traditions and archaeology, Pacific voyaging technologies, indigenous models of health, regional patterns of interaction and settlement (e.g., Sheppard this issue), Māori perspectives on gift exchange and economy, and traditional ecological knowledge systems. Additionally, along with a diverse range of discipline-based studies, transdisciplinary teams are increasingly represented in *JPS*, offering novel holistic perspectives on both historical and contemporary issues.

Thus, I thank the many authors who have entrusted their manuscripts to *JPS*, and in so doing have helped the *Journal* survive and thrive. Launched in 1892, *JPS* is one of the oldest continuously published anthropological journals in the world. During my involvement, some 150-odd papers were published—on a remarkable range of topics, by authors of diverse backgrounds and including emerging scholars, mid-career professionals and disciplinary rangatira ‘esteemed leaders’. I am also exceptionally grateful to the many referees who assisted me and our authors, giving generously of their time and intellectual insights. Their careful and helpful reviews have raised the calibre of our publications and, I hope, the scholarly reach of *JPS* authors. Thanks to both authors and reviewers, *JPS* has retained its international ranking—currently 60th out of 93 anthropological journals worldwide (<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/journal-citation-reports/>).

I also wish to acknowledge the assistance of our members and subscribers. They have made it possible for *JPS* to stay firmly under the Society's control—during a period when many other journals have been taken over by large multinational presses. This independence allows *JPS* to work with local communities and those of the wider Pacific in unique, place-based ways.

Finally, I wish to thank the editorial support team who have shared my passion for *JPS*. Ben Davies serves as webmaster and Facebook manager, two key public-facing venues. Simon Bickler generously maintains the web platform that supports the online operation of *JPS* and the Polynesian Society as a whole. Mona-Lynn Courteau provides exceptional copy-editing services, much remarked on by our authors. Hamish Macdonald, our dedicated production manager, transforms mundane Word files into handsome, well-laid out print pages and graces each issue with a memorable cover. Mona-Lynn and Hamish have on many occasions gone well beyond the call of duty to meet tight deadlines and “sweat the small stuff” that really does matter—from macrons and glottal stops to whakapapa and ¹⁴C details to elusive imagery and missing links (URLs).

I leave with many fond memories, having met so many interesting people and learned so much. I look forward to completing the forthcoming September issue with incoming editor Dr. Marcia Leenen-Young (Pacific Studies, University of Auckland) and to seeing *JPS* prosper under her leadership.

Mahalo nui loa

Tēnā rawa atu koutou

Melinda S. Allen
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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Albert Davletshin completed his PhD thesis on the palaeography of Maya hieroglyphic writing at Knorozov Centre for Mesoamerican Studies, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, in 2003. He has been with the Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies at the same university since 2003. He has been a research fellow at the Institute for Anthropology, Veracruz University, Xalapa, Mexico, since 2021. Albert works on logosyllabic writing systems, methods of decipherment, iconography and historical linguistics of Mesoamerica and Polynesia. He has published on the Epi-Olmec, Harrapan, Kohau Rongorongo, Maya, Nahuatl, Teotihuacan and Zapotec scripts. He has led research projects on Proto-Totonacan (University of Mexico) and on Nahuatl script (Bonn University). In addition to his studies on the Rapanui (Easter Island), Albert has carried out field work on the Polynesian Outlier language of Nukeria (Papua New Guinea) and the languages Pisaflores Tepehua (Mexico) and Sym Evenki and Kellog Ket (Siberia).

Judith Huntsman retired as an Associate Professor from the University of Auckland in 2000 after 21 years on staff. She was the University's first Honorary Professorial Research Fellow and has continued her research and writing. Judith was also Honorary Editor of the *Journal of the Polynesian Society* for 25 years (a tenure only exceeded by S. Percy Smith) and recipient of the Society's Nayacakalou Medal in 2017. Judith's scholarship has focussed on ethnographic and historical research in the Tokelau atolls and among Tokelau people residing in Aotearoa New Zealand. She often co-published with her long-time colleague the late Antony Hooper, including *Tokelau: A Historical Ethnography* (Auckland University Press, 1976). Judith had particular interests in oral narratives—historical and fictional—and their raconteurs, kinship and gender relations. Publications with colleagues from other disciplines included *Migration and Health in a Small Society: The Case of Tokelau* (edited by Wessen, Huntsman and Hooper, Oxford University Press, 1992) and *The Future of Tokelau: Decolonising Agendas: 1975–2006* with Tokelau colleague Kelihiano Kalolo (University of Auckland Press, 2007). She also facilitated and edited local Tokelau publications, such as *Matagi Tokelau: History and Traditions of Tokelau* (Office of Tokelau Affairs and Institute of Pacific Studies, USP) in both Tokelauan (1990) and English (1991).

Peter Sheppard is an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, University of Auckland, having joined the academic staff in 1992 and retired in 2021. He has conducted archaeological research in the Solomon Islands since 1989 when, as a post-doctoral fellow, he was sent by Roger Green to Malaita to locate sources of chert found in the Lapita sites of Temotu Province. Returning to the Solomon Islands in 1996 he began a series of projects with his students and colleagues that involved survey and excavation throughout the islands of the Western Province. In 2009 he turned to the eastern Solomons, where he carried out field studies on Santa

Ana, followed by research on Santa Cruz in Temotu Province with re-excavation and dating of the SE-SZ-8 Lapita site originally excavated by Green. Much of this work is summarised in the first monograph-length survey of Solomon Island archaeology, *Archaeology of the Solomon Islands* (University of Otago Press, University of Hawai'i Press), which he published with Richard Walter in 2017. Peter is also Co-editor of the journal *Archaeology in Oceania* with Peter White.