

AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGY 28 (JUNE 1989)

debitage

BLIND FREDDY IN SYDNEY?

Dear Editors,

In Jim Specht's pungent review of my review of his exhibition (AA 27:128-30) I read with interest the statement:

Blind Freddy could see formal similarity between Erromango bark-cloth designs and those of Lapita pottery...

This led me to return to the Exhibition catalogue, text by Jim Specht, where I read, again with interest:

Not all areas that once had Lapita pottery still retain the Lapita designs. The pottery has been found on the island of Erromango in southern Vanuatu but the island's present-day bark cloth has decoration very different from that of Lapita (page 16).

Might I suggest that Jim Specht's visual acuity is not up to that of Blind Freddy?

I remain, of course, your most obedient and humble servant,

Mathew Spriggs
Fellow in Oceanic Prehistory
Australian National University

BLIND FREDDY'S REPLY

Dear Editors,

Dr. Spriggs has rightly castigated me for a too casual usage of the English language, by confusing composition and content. Erromango bark-cloth designs include design elements that seem to echo Lapita design elements, but they do not display the

compositional structure of Lapita or its possible contemporary derivations such as Fijian bark-cloth or tatoos in general as discussed by Roger Green.

Jim Specht
Senior Research Scientist
Australian Museum

Editors Note: This is definitely the end of this discussion.

From Sandra Bowdler:

My review of Peter Ucko's *Academic Freedom and Apartheid* in a previous issue (No.26, pp.114-7) may have read a bit strangely, in that three passages of quotations from the book were not clearly indicated as such. The assiduous reader might like to insert marks around the following:

- p.114, par. 3 ('concerned with ... World Archaeological Congress')
- p.115, par. 3 ('I have decided ... of manual')
- p.116, last par. - p.117, par. 1 ('Though he appeared ... on that subject').

Oxymoron of the Year

John Beaton (University of California, Davis, USA) suggests that AAA have yet another annual award - 'The Oxymoron of the Year'. He has a foundation submission. It comes from a seminar given at Davis University, USA by David Rindos (now in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Western Australia). Apparently David said:

'Selection will favour optimally maladaptive systems.'

This could have been a contender for the 'Big Man Award', had David managed to say it at the Armidale AAA Conference.

Caption for Fremantle Photographs.

Lucy Parish (Griffith, ACT) has suggested for following captions for the plates on pages 4 and 5 of AA 27.

Photo 1: 'Paradise' Photo 2-4: 'Nerds in Paradise'.

She also suggested that if there was a prize the money should be used to hire the video of the same name for next year's conference.



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