

The world of the Japanese Woodblock Print

Week 6 Paul Jacoulet Coming of age & South Seas travel

U3A 18 August 2025 Michael Harrington

Week 6 outline

Week 5 review

Week 6 Coming of age & South Seas travels

Lifelong passion for butterflies



最後の浮世絵師 ポール＝ジャクレー (1896 ~ 1960)



秋山太郎氏所蔵



「Izu Japon」ポール・ジャクレー作（当館所蔵）

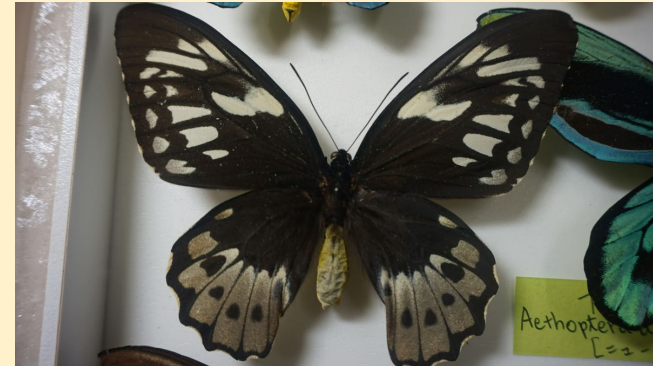
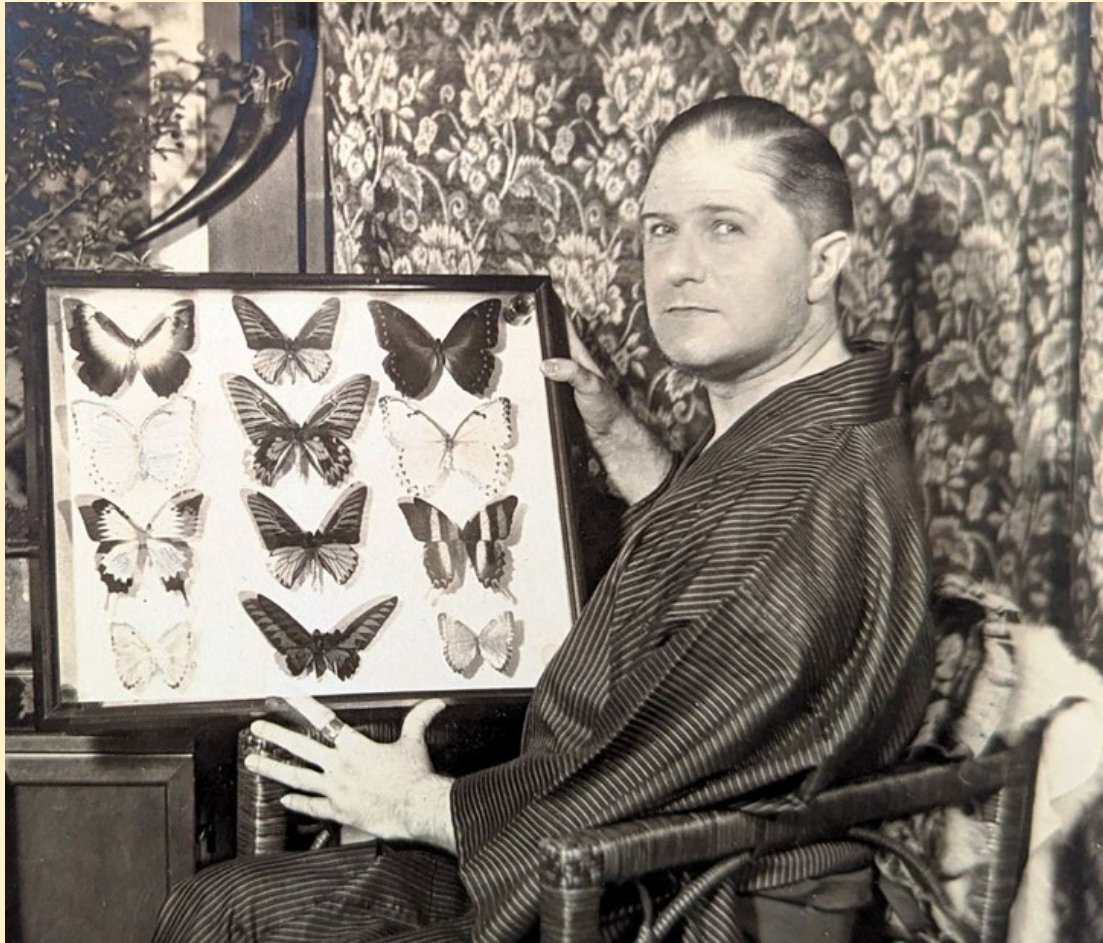
1936年には『世界風俗版画
第一輯』を彫師、摺師と
ラボレーションによって
大きな反響を呼んだ。没
までに総制作点数166点
を残した。戦後、長野県
沢に疎開して作画を続け、1960
年(昭和35)、逝去。



La pêche miraculeuse, Izu, Japon 1939
(The Miraculous Catch, Izu, Japan)

A lifelong passion for butterflies

蝶への情熱収集







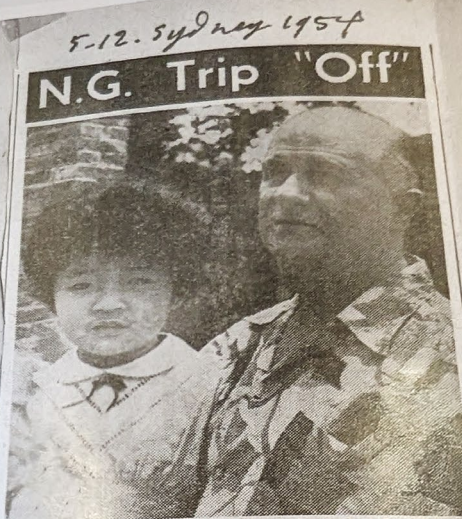
6.12.54
Sydney

Belvedere

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Dear Elise

Yes here I am in Australia Sydney where I arrived one month earlier than I expected - as I didn't succeed to take a good ship in Singapore - all the papers talk about my arrival and exhibitions will be held but in one way many people are a little against as they consider my work as Japanese - all Japanese things are terribly hated - I have been very ill in the ship with my bad honia - Ryn in bad temper - news from Kourouwa had - my trip until now has not been so interesting for me - they are all good people but funny ideas - Asiatics and Comly life is not what it should be for me after all I do love him - I hope you will have a long and serious talk with Ryn when you will see him - Sydney is an enormous and magnificent town - but people are rough, not intellectual and do not love foreigners it is a very new country so we can't help it - I will leave Australia on the 17th of January going to Tahiti etc and will arrive in Panama beginning



Paul Jacoulet and his adopted daughter Therese, 8.

ARTIST ABANDONS "LIFE'S AMBITION"

M. Paul Jacoulet, 52-year-old French artist, has had to abandon, temporarily, his life's ambition to hunt butterflies in New Guinea.

Australian experts had told him the trip would be too expensive, he said yesterday.

They also told him that this was not the butterfly season in New Guinea.

He said he would now hunt butterflies in New Zealand instead.

M. Jacoulet has a collection of 200,000 butterflies at his studio home at Karuizawa, near Tokyo.

He arrived in Sydney this week with his adopted daughter, Therese, 8, and his South Korean assistant, Mr. Louis Rah.

Apart from collecting but-

terflies, he had since designed Japanese prints.

He said he applied new techniques to the oriental style of presentation.

He used pulverised pearls, silver and gold - and even white of egg - to achieve effect.

Each design took more than a month to prepare.

"I believe I am the first artist to have employed real metals in these prints," he said.

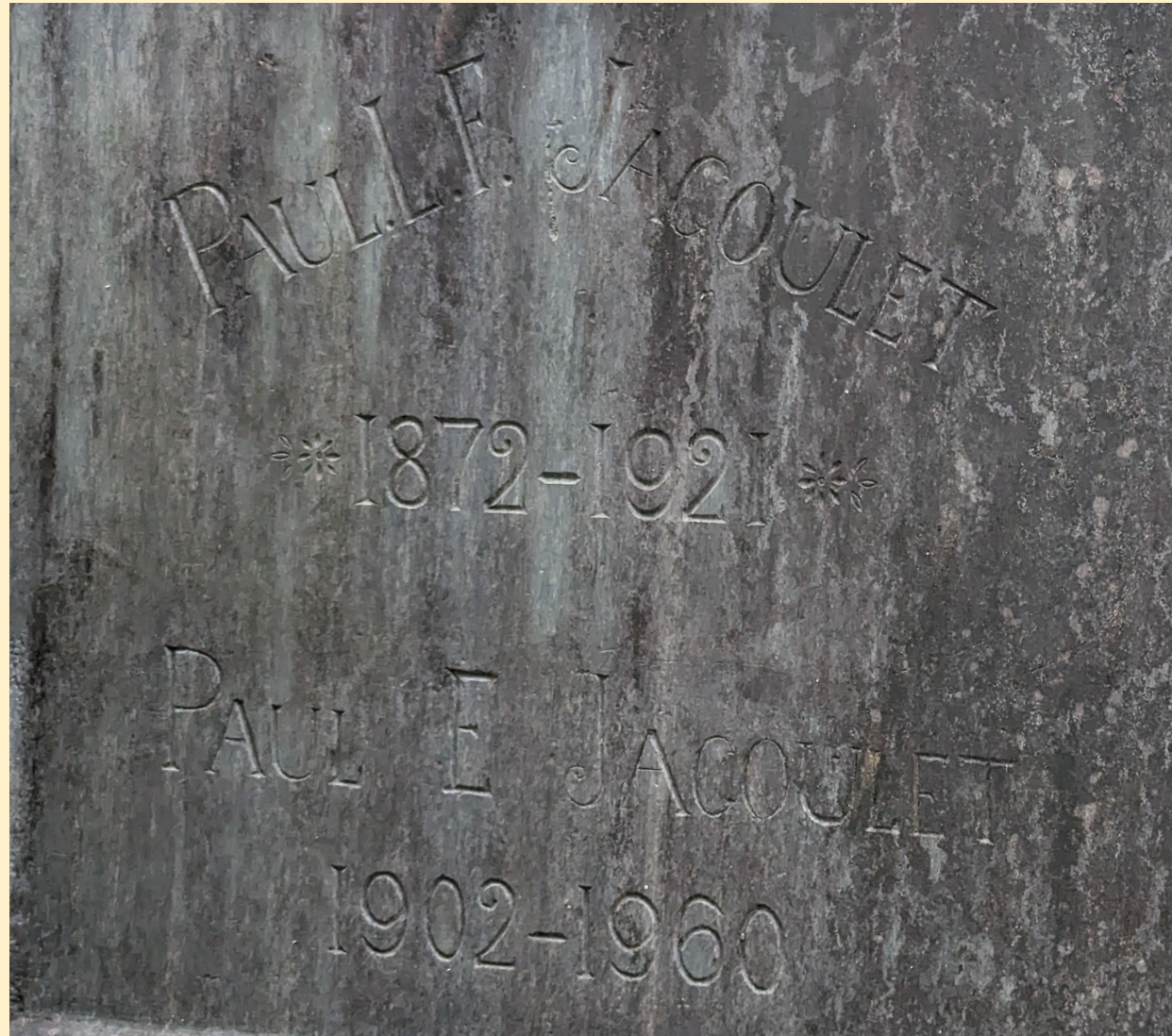
M. Jacoulet said some of his prints were in the possession of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

Members of the British Royal family had others.

Big life changes in the early 1920's

- Jacoulet's father in French army in WW1. Gassed at Verdun in 1918, dies in Japan in 1921
- Jacoulet takes job at French Embassy in 1920
- Jacoulet's mother returns to France after Father's death





Jacoulet was born in 1896. Why does his tombstone say 1902?

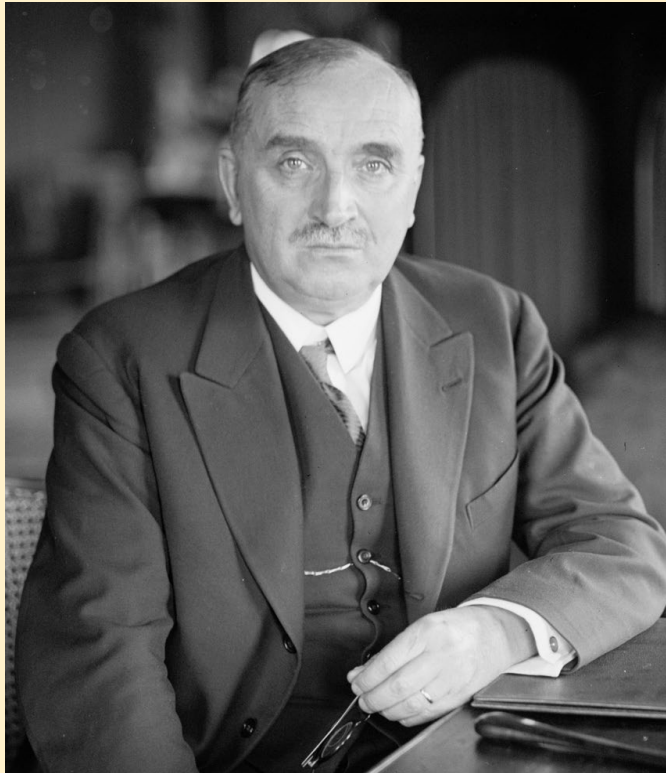
Embassy years (1921-1928)

- Takes job in French Embassy as secretary and interpreter after father's death.
- Busy social life and interest in Japanese arts, esp kabuki, joruri, *uki-yo-e*
- *Mother* is away in France for 7 years, returning from France married to a young Japanese doctor. The couple moves to Korea and provides Jacoulet with financial support until her death in 1940.
- 1923 Tokyo Earthquake is life-changing event.

Seoul 1934 Mother & stepfather



Father's departure for WW1 meant difficult financial times for Jacoulet and his mother. He takes job as secretary & interpreter at the French Embassy in Tokyo



**Paul Claudel, (1868-1955),
French poet, playwright, and French
ambassador to Japan**



Taisho Era Japan

Coming of age

Taisho Period 1912-1926



Ginza, c 1920



Japan's modernist Jazz Age, an age of *ero-guro-nansensu* — (eroticism, grotesquerie, nonsense).

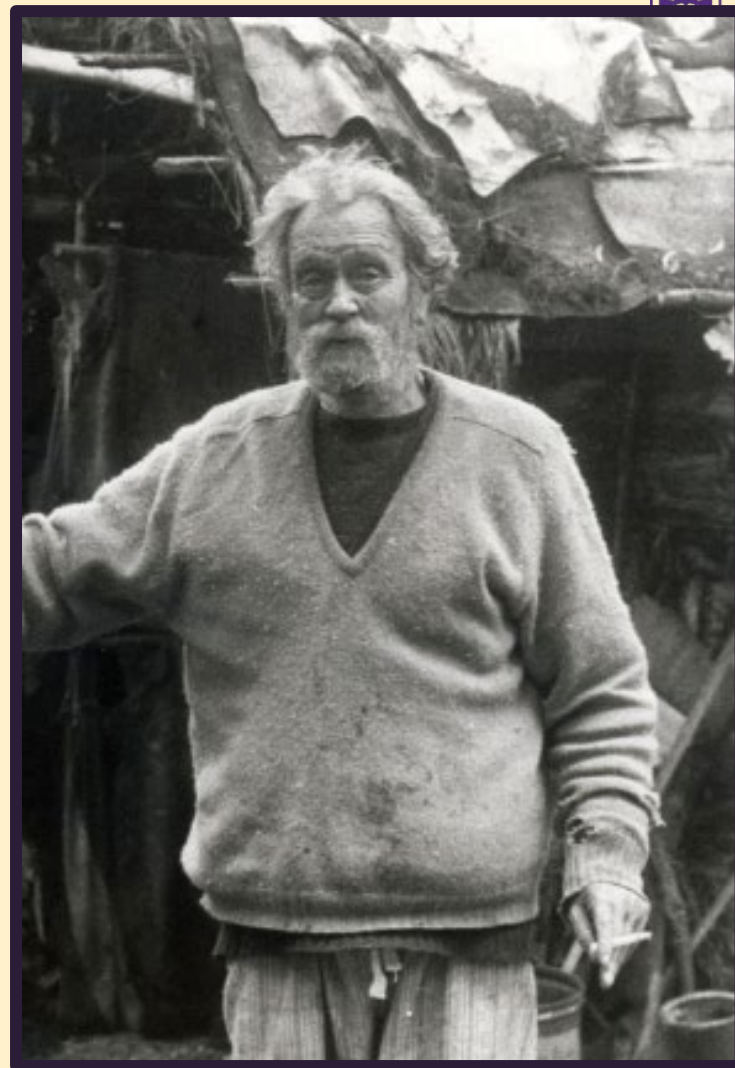


“Tokyo Musicale” music group. 1922
26 yrs old





Paul Jacoulet undated



Ian Fairweather c. 1970



Great Kanto Earthquake, Tokyo 1923 関東大震災

Shimbashi Station, Tokyo
新橋駅, 東京





The 1923 Earthquake as an Omen

"... the earthquake showed me how I should live my life。 From now on it would be nihonga, gidayu, and the collection of butterflies from around the world."

Oral recollection attributed to Jacoulet,
Numazu City Museum of History and Folklore, 1997



Travels around the Japanese empire (1929-1935)

- **Travelled around Micronesia from 1929-1932**
- **Mother encourages and pays for travel**
- **One of the few Westerners to visit Micronesia. Produced a record of peoples, customs and cultural, most lost.**
- **Also visits Manchuko (Manchuria), China, and Korea to visit mother.**
- **Meets Louis Rah, who along with his brother Jean-Baptise becomes lifelong assistants to Jacoulet in Japan. Late in life Jacoulet adopts a daughter of Jean-Baptise. Therese Inagaki is an artist still living in Tokyo.**

Paul Jacoulet

Paul Jacoulet's art trembles between two traditions, one rooted in 18th century Japanese print-making, with Utamaro as a leading influence, and the other inspired by 20th century European painting. Jacoulet was wont to say, "There are three Pauls: Paul Gauguin, Paul Cezanne, and Paul Jacoulet." Especially in his "South Seas" voyages and visions, Jacoulet saw himself as an artistic kindred spirit of his admired Gauguin.

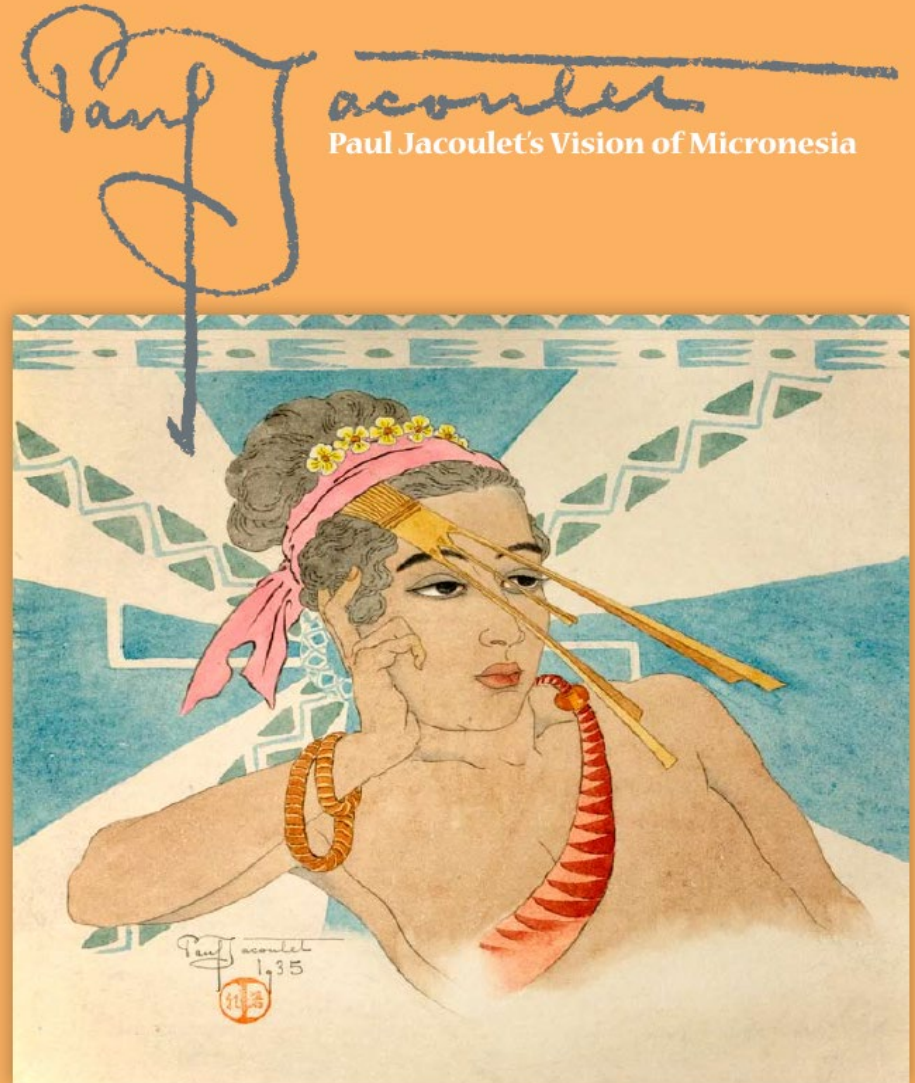
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Don Rubinstein
University of Guam



ISLA Center for the Arts at the University of Guam

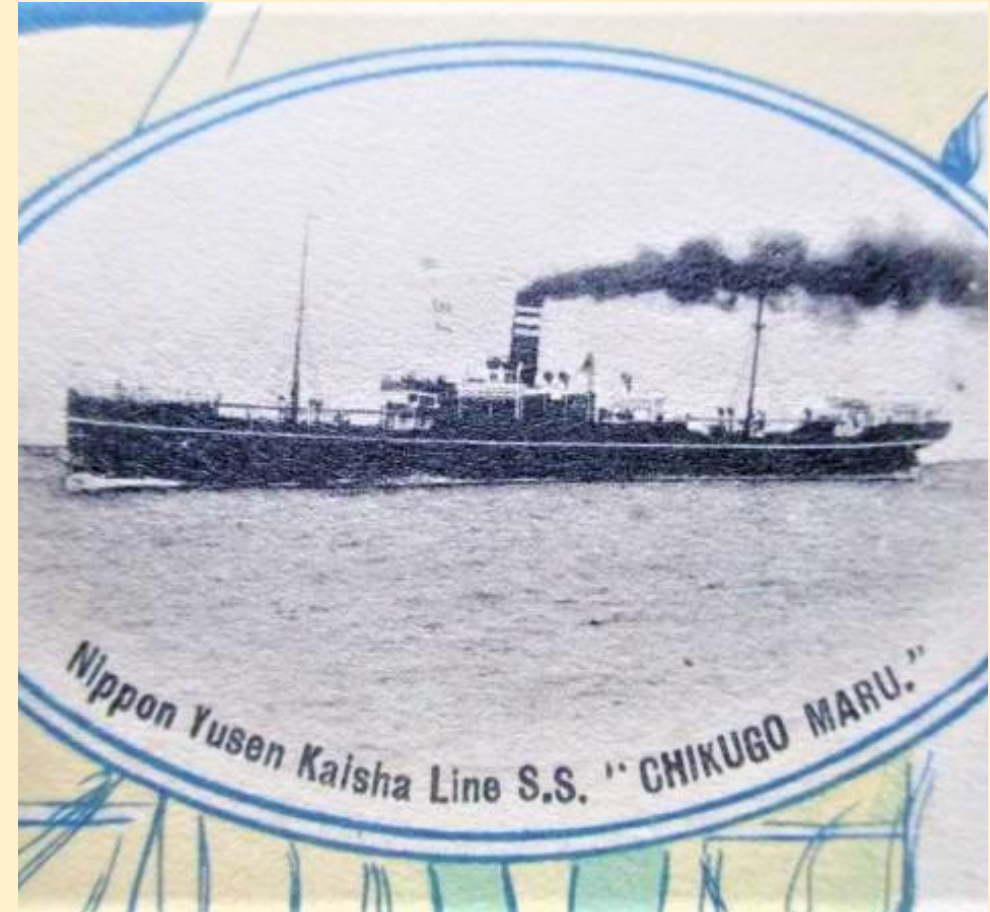
2007



Why the South Seas?

Regularly attributed to frail health

He said it was Gauguin and more personal reason.



Rubinstein DH 2007 - Paul Jacoulet's vision of Micronesia. University of Guam exhibition catalog.pdf

Jacoulet's fascination with the island people of Micronesia began, in his own words, with a chance encounter in the spring of 1928 with a sturdy young Micronesian lad on the street in Sannoshita, Tokyo.

One day I was overtaken in Tokyo by an almost tropical shower of rain. Having no umbrella I turned up my collar and hurried home. Suddenly I heard someone calling out to me from behind: "Moshi, moshi!" Turning around, I saw a strange-looking boy standing there and offering me his huge umbrella, a model from the days of our grandfathers. The boy was about thirteen or fourteen years old, remarkably well built, and decently dressed. He had pale-brown skin and big dark eyes. It was quite obvious that this was no Tokyo face and, as I slipped under his protective rain-roof, I inquired with curiosity where he was from. He answered with something that sounds like "Truk" or "Ruk." I thought he had not understood me and repeated my question. Again I heard that peculiar word "Truk." As far as I knew there was no country of that name on the globe. Impatiently I finally asked him his nationality. "Truk" was the stereotyped answer. My patience came to an end, and I cried: "What the devil is Truk?"

Well, several months later I landed on the South Sea island of Truk, upon the invitation of Pierre Nedelic, the father of my exotic acquaintance. Nedelic had once been a seaman in the French service and had drifted into the South Sea Islands some fifty years before. In contrast to his predecessor Robinson Crusoe, however, he had found plenty to eat, a friendly Kanaka tribe and, moreover, an orderly German administration on his island. He married a South Sea beauty, the mother of my young friend.

Rubinstein DH 2007 - Paul Jacoulet's vision of Micronesia. University of Guam exhibition catalog.pdf

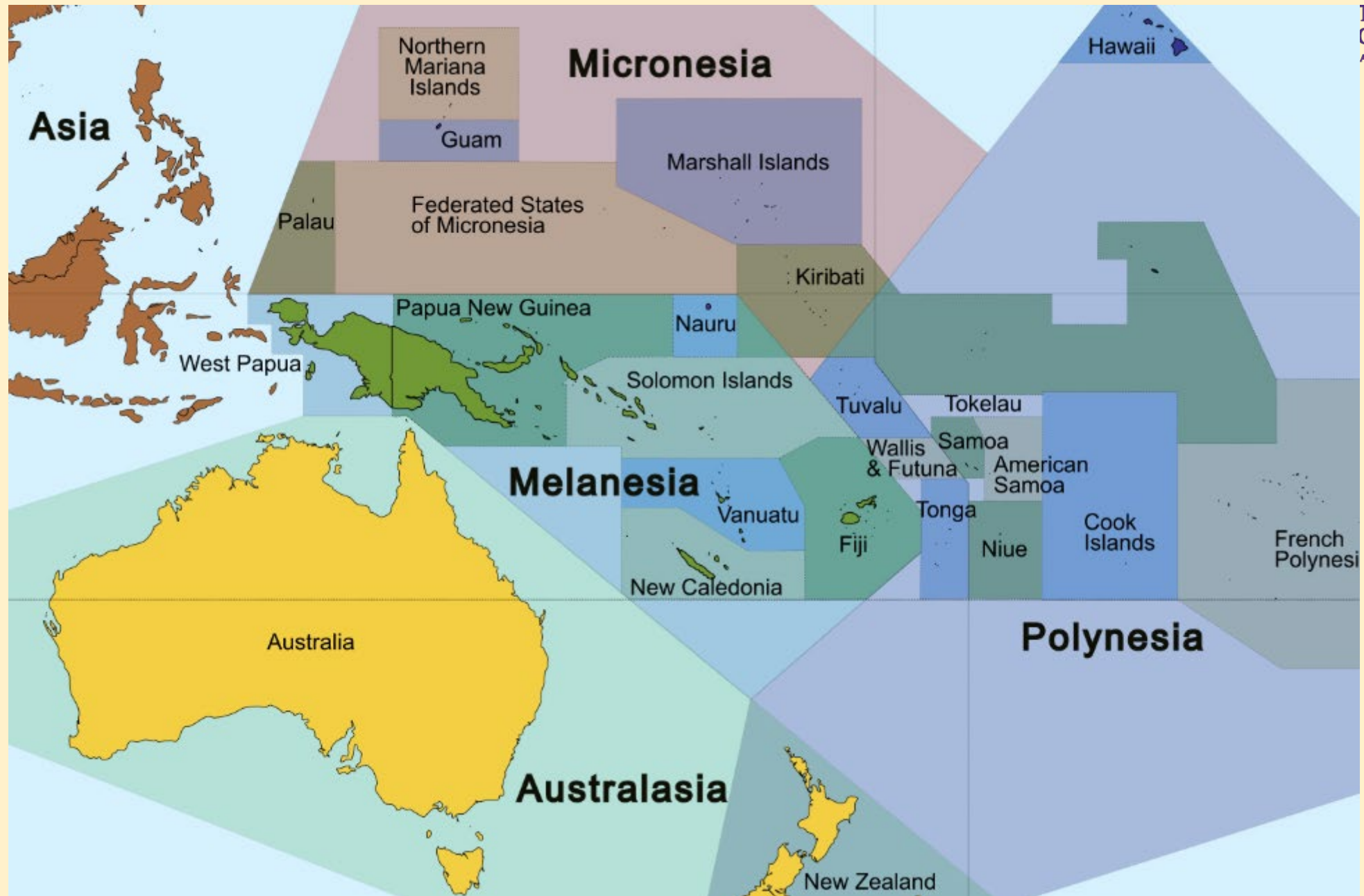
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Rubinstein, 2007 p11



Mr Pierre Nedelec and His Granddaughter
Liwan Hartmann, Truk. Watercolour. 1929

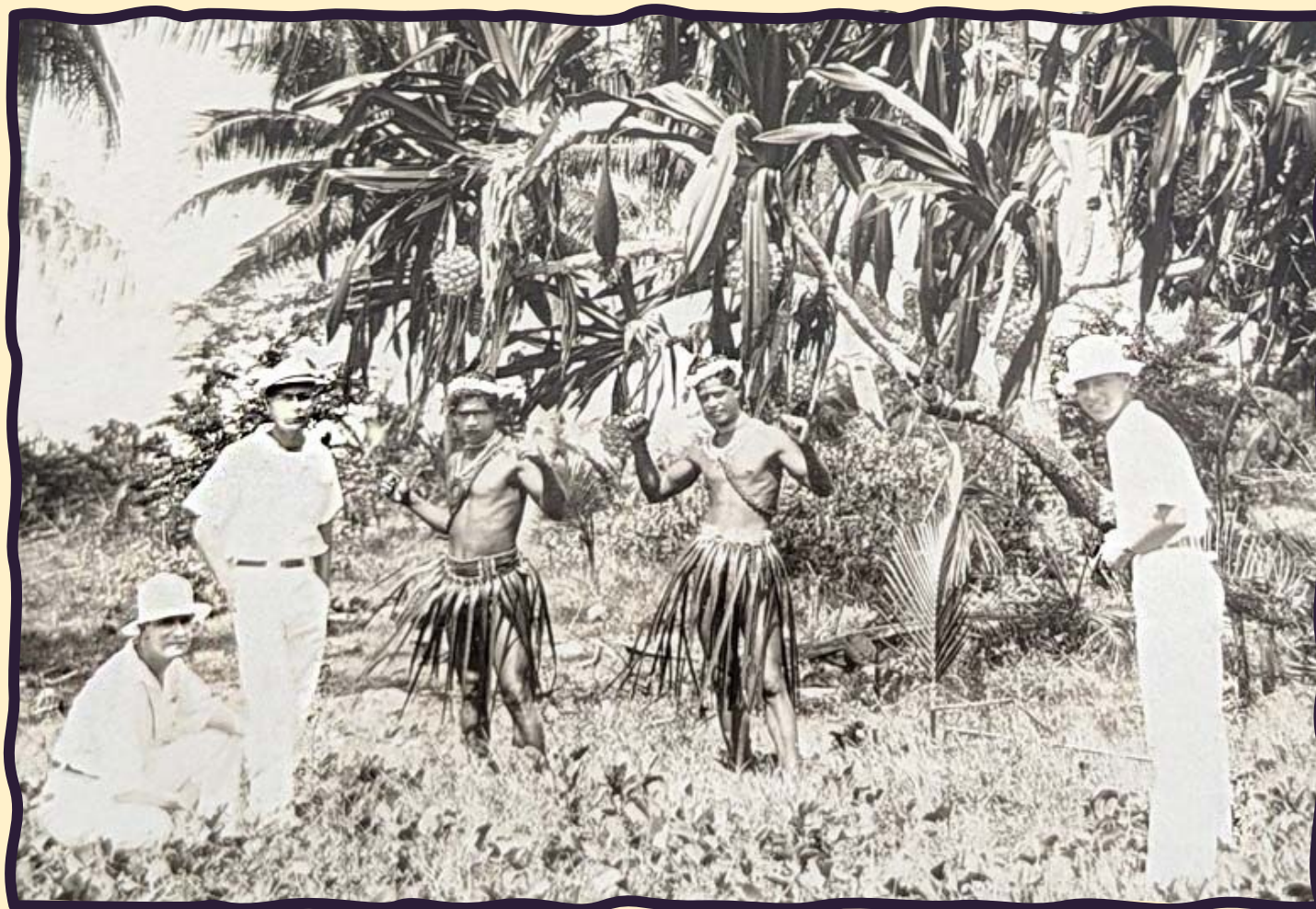


South Sea destinations

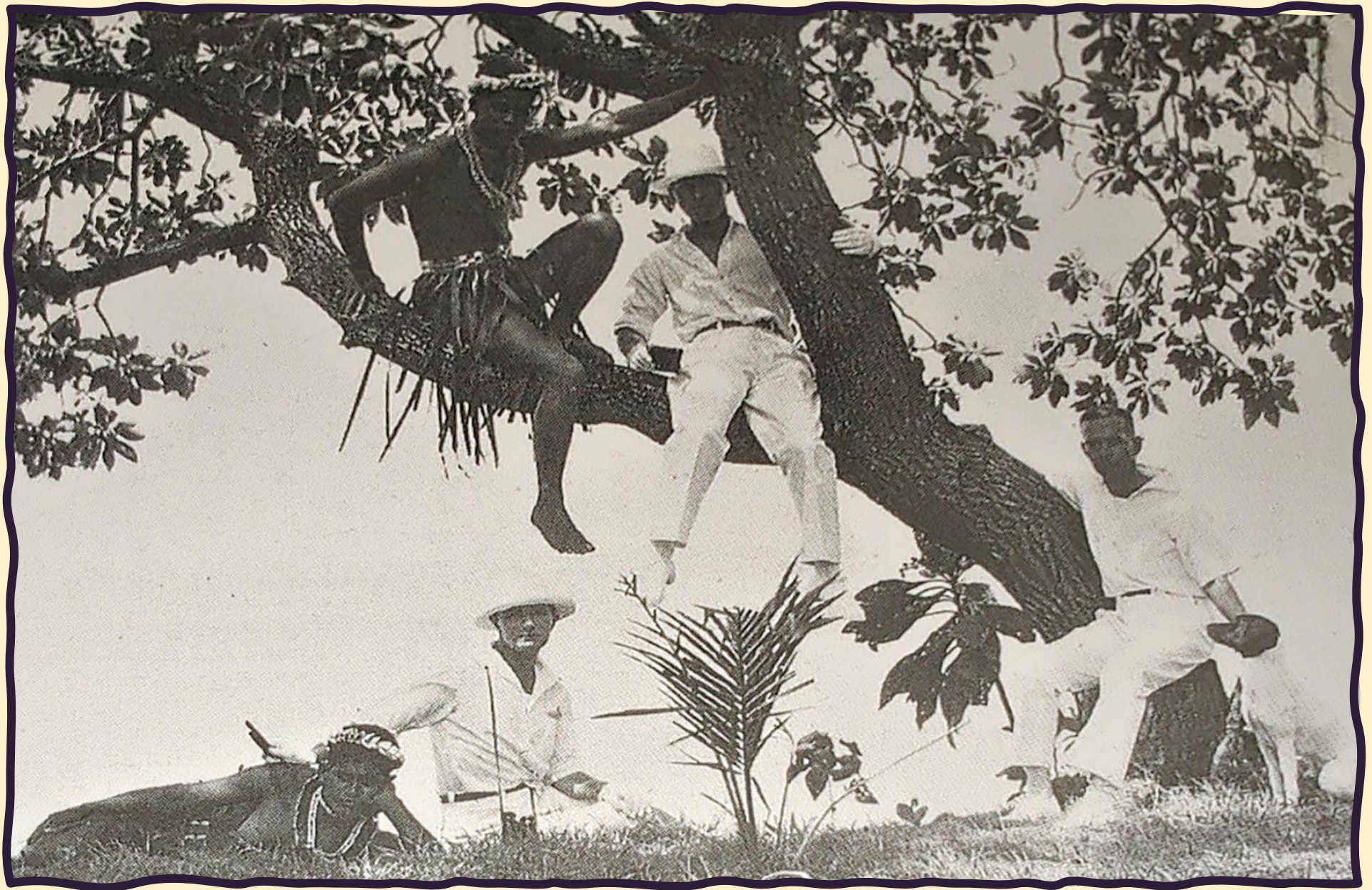
南洋の目的地

1929-32





Saipan, 1930



Marianas, Guam

Gregorio Sablan family 1930
Chamorro family Jacoulet stayed
with.

マリアナ諸島のチャモロ



Miss Rita Sablan Diaz, 1934





Violet



Red



Yellow



Indigo



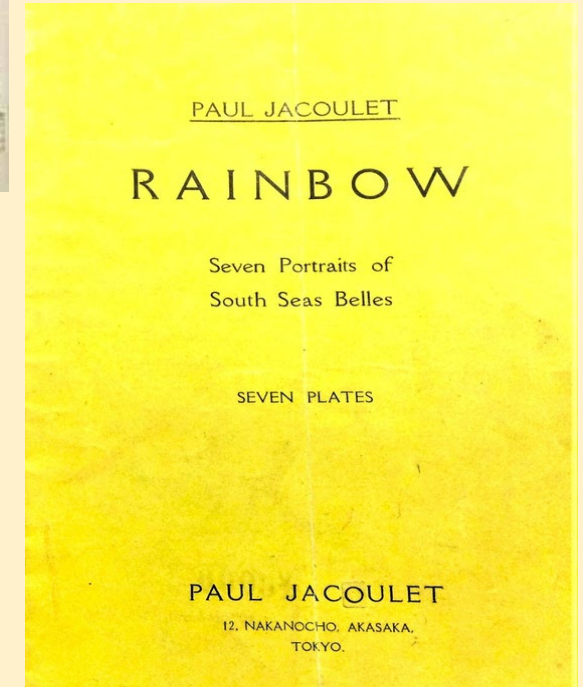
Orange



Green



Blue



Rainbow Series cover, 1934

Portrait of a Chammoro Woman series aka Rainbow Series

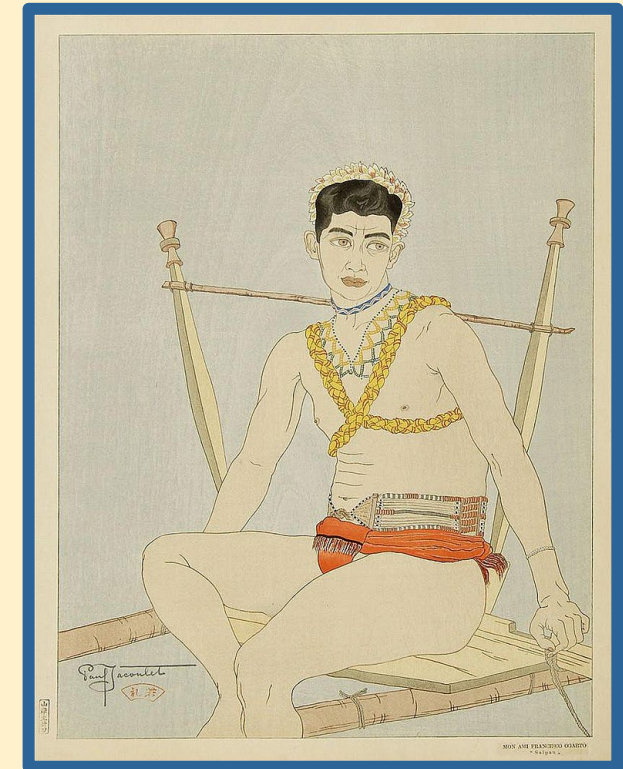
Marianas, Saipan



The young girl of Saipan, 1934



Basilio, young boy of Saipan, 1934



My friend Francesoco Ogarto 1935

Yap, West Carolines

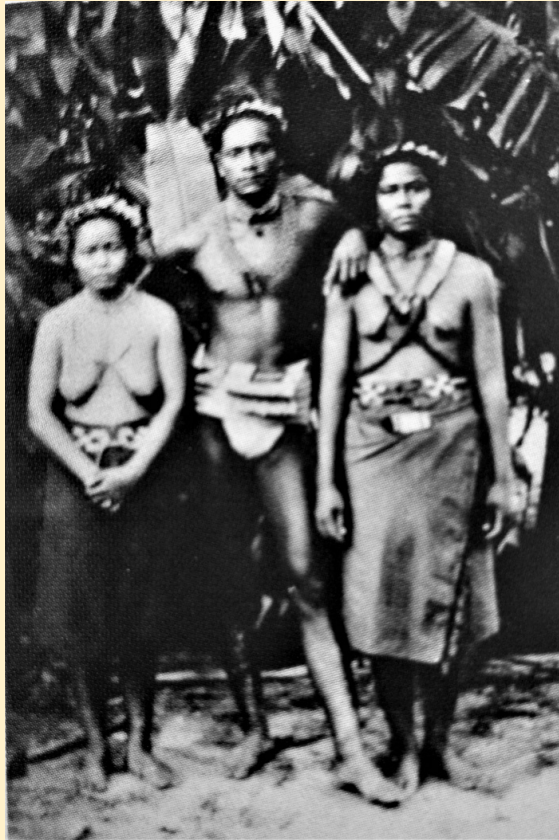


Photo c 1930 by Missionary Wilhelm
Siemer

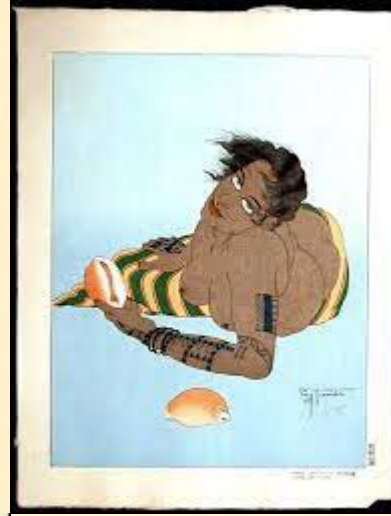
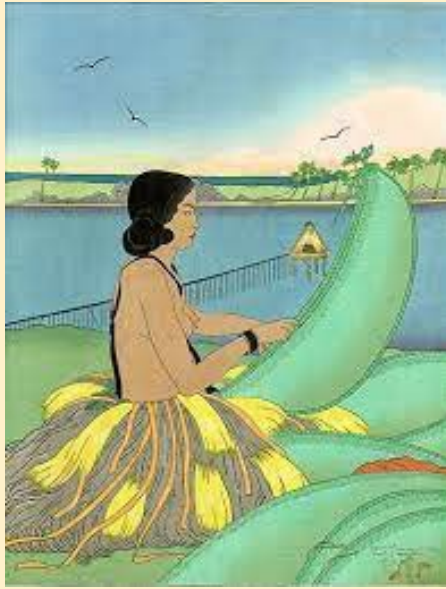


Belle du village de Tomi, Yap 1930
watercolour

Yap, West Carolines



Amoreux A Tarang. Yap, Ouest
Carolines, 1935



Yap



Ponape



East Carolines



The sorrows of love, 1940, Kusaei



The yellow-eyed boys, 1940, Ohlol

Chuuk/Truk



Palau/Anguar





WW2 pin up

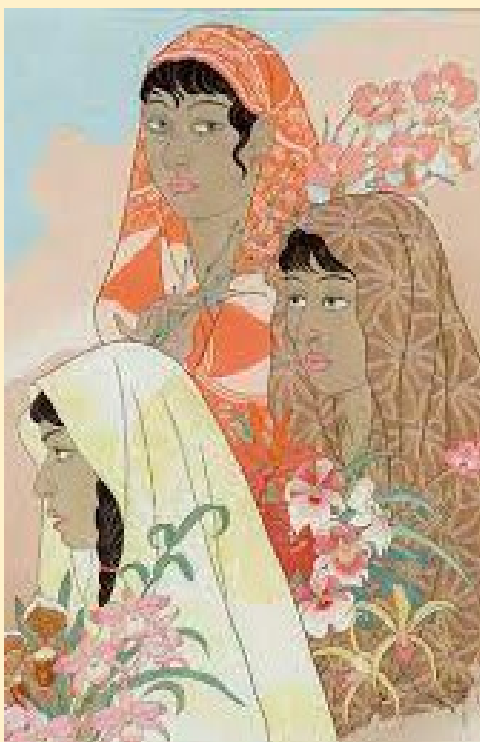
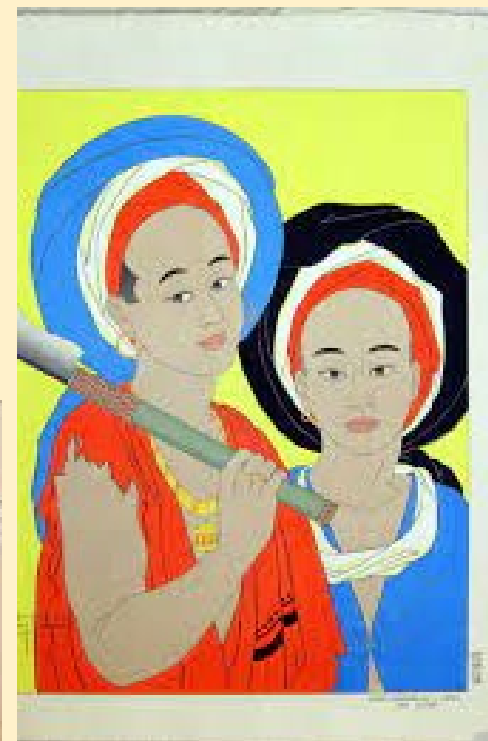


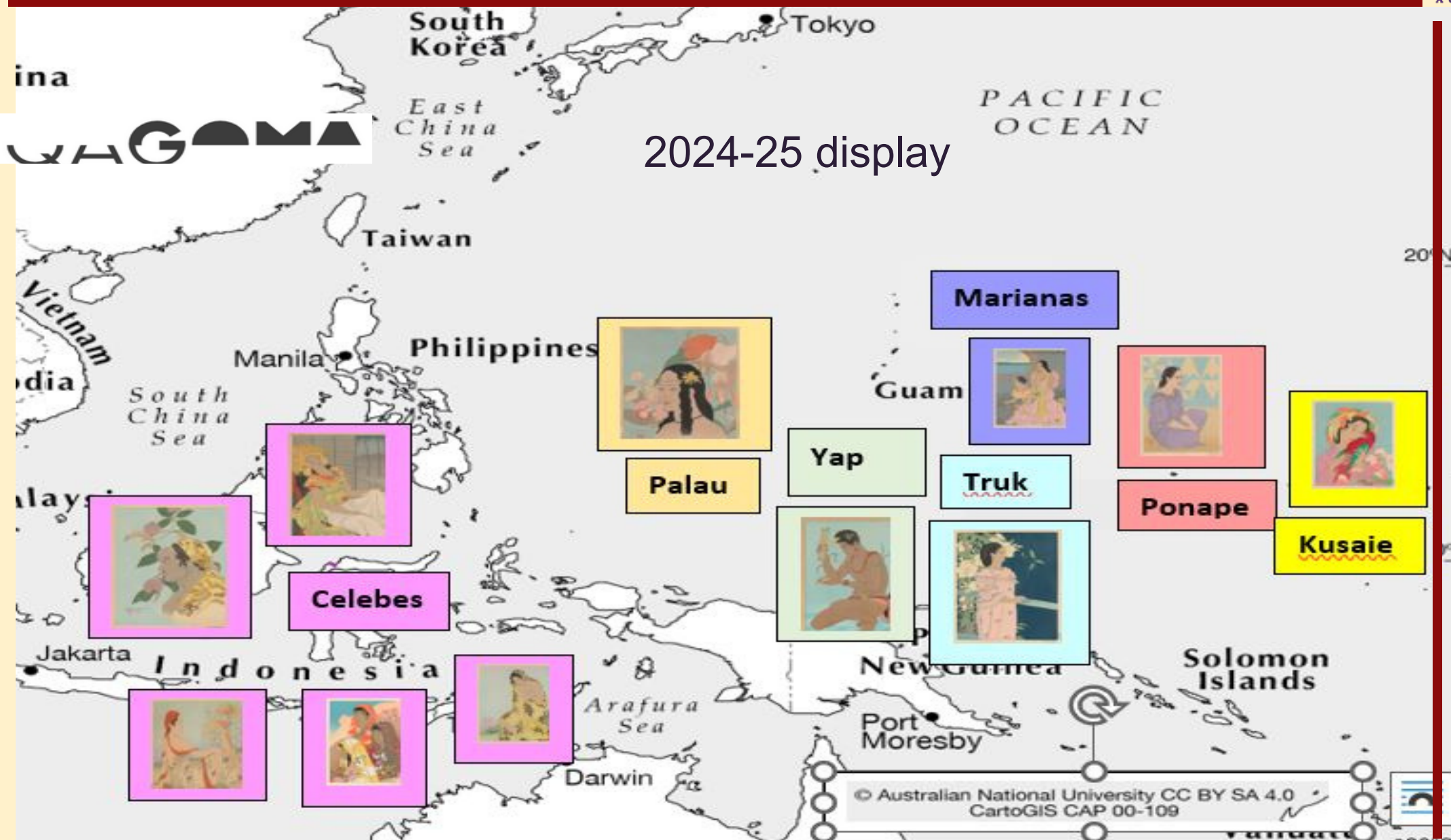
Dans la Nature, Anguar 1949

From https://www.campbell-fine-art.com/cat_works.php?art=330:

The finest of Paul Jacoulet's few female nudes, this image did not appeal to Jacoulet's regular subscribers who were of a rather different persuasion, but was particularly well received by a wider range of collectors than most of his normal works. Paul Jacoulet's personal orientation is suggested by the strategically placed insectivorous plants with their trap-like orifices leading to long tubular chambers of slow corrosive death for those unwary creatures enticed to enter.

Menado, Celebes (Sulawesi)





Week 6 wrap up