

## Pere Village Remembers Margaret Mead

*Margaret Mead, who died 15 November 1978, was AAAS president in 1975, chairman of the Board of Directors in 1976, and a member of the Board from 1955 to 1962.*

Margaret Mead lived in Pere village on the south coast of Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, for 6 months in 1928, when she was 27 years old. She was the first "European" who lived in the village, the

first who learned the language, the first who shared the way of life. She returned to Pere six times after that initial trip, the last time in 1975. She observed and recorded a remarkable transition from the Stone Age to the 20th century.

When Margaret Mead died on 15 November 1978, anthropologists mourned the passing of their most famous colleague; millions mourned the staunch woman they admired for her public

speeches and writings. Pere village mourned for her with the special ceremonies reserved for a great leader or chief.

After the Papua New Guinea National Broadcasting Company relayed the news that Margaret Mead would not be coming back again, Pere closed its schools, and all the people in the village went into their houses for 24 hours of mourning. Twenty-six women who had known her well went into the house they had built for her in 1965; they stayed for 5 days and nights singing dirges for the dead. Three of Mead's colleagues who had worked with her in Manus (Theodore Schwartz, professor of anthropology, University of California, San Diego; Barbara Honeyman Roll, anthropologist; and Fred Roll, photographer) traveled to Pere to share the sorrow and mourning of her friends.

A year after her death, Pere village dedicated to her memory the Margaret Mead Community Center. Among those present for the dedication of the Center on 22 December 1979 were John Kilepak and Petrus Pomat—the two remaining of the five teenage helpers who worked with Mead in 1928—her daughter Catherine Bateson, and her granddaughter Vanni.

December 22 was an emotional day. Emerging traditions of the present and traditions of the past were celebrated together. The flags of Papua New Guinea, Manus Province, and the United States flew alongside welcomes on a carved and painted *tchinal* (dancing pole)—an exact replica of ancestral ones—constructed for this occasion. Traditional



Standing in front of newly dedicated Margaret Mead Community Center are Catherine Bateson (Mead's daughter) with Petrus Pomat (left) and John Kilepak (right), the two survivors of the five teenage boys who were Mead's special helpers in 1928. Both play important parts in her two books about Pere. [Source: Fred Roll]

Part of the ceremony at the dedication of the Margaret Mead Community Center in Pere Village, Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, was the traditional dancing to the tattoo of six *garamuts* (slit drums). [Source: Fred Roll]



## Grants Offered to Foreign Graduate Students to Attend R&D Colloquium

Self-sponsored foreign graduate students studying in the United States are invited to apply for grants of up to \$200 toward travel expenses for attending the fifth Annual R&D Public Policy Colloquium, to be held in Washington, D.C., 19-20 June. Registration expenses for successful applicants will be paid by AAAS.

Applicants should submit (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a budget (round-trip transportation to Washington, D.C., and living expenses); and (iii) a short statement (250 to 300 words) describing focus of current research, career plans (how training is expected to be applied on return to home country), and interest in attending the R&D Colloquium. Materials should be sent to Denise Weiner, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address. Applications must be received no later than 9 May 1980.

dancers, in grass skirts, strings of dogs' teeth and shells and beaded arm and leg bands, waved bundles of croton leaves as they danced to ancestral feast tattoos sounded on six *garamuts* (slit drums). Barnabas Kombil, premier of the Manus Provincial Government, and Catherine Bateson cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Margaret Mead Community Center.

Mead, who had built a *haus miting* (meetinghouse) of native materials for the village, would have applauded the more permanent building that was replacing it now that the old building was gone. She would have been pleased that a small group of her friends, including John Kilepak, had made a substantial contribution to the completion of the Center.

Her friends and associates are carrying on studies in Pere, made possible largely by Mead's generosity in sharing her records. Schwartz has completed a 25-year study which will be published as a dictionary and grammar in Titan, the language of the people of Pere and other Manus people. It will preserve their hitherto unwritten language, which might otherwise be forgotten in a generation or two.

As a longtime associate, I am, with the aid of Mead's field notes and censuses, constructing genealogies for each family in Pere.

The people of Pere and Margaret Mead shared their vivid and cherished memories of the past, their sense that the present is but a bridge between past and future, and their concern for the continuities which make a tapestry of past, present, and future. With her sense of the strength that comes from relatedness of generations and ties that bind together nuclear and extended families, Margaret Mead was at home and congenial with

her friends in Pere. They poured out their grief in the most important of ancient ceremonies. For them she had made the passage from life among the living to life among the ancestors who always seemed near and concerned for those who remained behind. For her friends in Pere, Margaret was now an ancestor, who was with the ancestors who had accepted her in Pere 50 years before.

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## Chile Hosts Arid Lands Congress

The third International Congress on Studies in Arid and Semi-arid Zones was held 15-19 January in La Serena, Chile.

Some 300 participants attended sessions on a variety of topics, including problems of desertification, soil resources, climate, production of primary forage, animal production, energy, and arid land crops.

Thirty invited representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Israel, Mexico, Peru, and the United States drafted a position paper on policies and technologies for development in Latin-American arid zones. Priscilla Reining, of the AAAS Office of International Science and staff representative of the Committee on Arid Lands, participated in the congress and helped draft the position paper.

The paper calls for a reinforcement of national programs and institutions and considers the possibility of a permanent secretary. It further recommends that education in arid areas be devised in the context of agriculture, mining, and irrigation on the one hand and migration, social groupings, and urbanization on the other. Conferees suggested special atten-

tion be placed on developing extension programs for rural residents.

The congress was held under the auspices of the University of Chile's Research Program in Arid and Semi-arid Zones; the Organization for American States; the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; and the regional government in La Serena.

## Fifth Annual R&D Public Policy Colloquium

For the fifth year, the AAAS will hold a colloquium in Washington, D.C., at which leaders from government, industry, and the scientific and technical community will discuss issues of current concern relating to research and development (R&D) and public policy.

The R&D Public Policy Colloquium will be held 19-20 June 1980 at the Shoreham Americana Hotel in Washington, D.C. In keeping with AAAS policy, the meeting will be accessible to handicapped participants.

In addition to topics related to federal R&D, the FY 1981 budget, industrial R&D and the economy, and international aspects of R&D, the program will include state and local interests in R&D.

*Research and Development: AAAS Report V* will be available in book form in time for the June 1980 Colloquium.

In another part of the R&D and Public Policy project, AAAS and 15 other scientific, engineering, and higher education organizations collaborated in the preparation of the third annual intersociety report on R&D in the federal budget. The document, *Intersociety Preliminary Analyses of R&D in the FY 1981 Budget*, is designed to provide independent examinations of the administration's proposals for support of R&D soon enough after release of President Carter's budget to serve as a resource for members of the participating organizations and other persons in government, industry, and academia who are involved in the congressional budget process. The report was published on 29 February.

The intersociety project began in 1978 when seven groups cooperated in the preparation of a report on support for R&D in the President's FY 1979 budget and of a follow-up report in the fall summarizing congressional actions on the President's recommendations. With 16 organizations participating this year, more comprehensive coverage of the major R&D agencies was possible, and