This work by Diane Langmore is the sixth volume in the Pacific Islands Monograph Series and has an important feature in common with volume 4. In Nan'yō: The Rise and Fall of the Japanese in Micronesia, 1885–1945, Mark R. Peattie wrote not about Pacific Islanders but about the Japanese and their activities in the islands. Despite his focus on the Japanese, Peattie helped to provide an understanding of much of Micronesia’s history and why things are the way they are today.

In a similar vein, Langmore has not written about the indigenous peoples of Papua. Rather, her focus is on the more than three hundred European missionaries who served in the southeastern quarter of the island of New Guinea before World War I. Langmore presents us with a group biography of the diverse aggregation of individuals who came from several nations and four separate mission movements. She examines and dispels stereotypes about missionaries and, equally important, gives new insights about the roles of the European women involved in the mission efforts.

The impact of Christianity on Papua is well documented, and Langmore informs us about the first individuals who introduced the new faith to the area. Langmore’s scholarship is impeccable, and the people she writes about were remarkable.

Robert C. Kiste