

Preface

The work upon which the present dictionary is based is Fr. Edwin McManus' "Word List and Grammar Notes—Palauan—English and English—Palauan." It first appeared in 1955 in Koror, Palau, where it was mimeographed and distributed on a very limited scale. The 1955 edition incorporated revisions solicited through several preliminary versions shown to interested Palauans and Americans. One such version prepared in 1949 with the assistance of David Ramarui, then a teacher in Koror, relied primarily on Dr. A. Capell's "A Grammar of the Language of Palau"¹ and contained an English—Palauan word list of approximately 3,000 items supplemented by a discussion of Palauan grammar. A nearly identical version was mimeographed and distributed in mid-1950 by Cecilia H. Hendricks, then assistant professor of English at Indiana University and under contract to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as educational advisor at Koror; this project contained a sixty-page word list followed by a ten-page set of grammar notes.

Between 1955 and 1968, Fr. McManus spent much time expanding and revising his word lists, and by 1968 he felt the need for publishing an updated version. With this in mind, he came to Honolulu for two weeks in the spring of 1968 in order to discuss problems of Palauan grammar with Clayton Carlson of the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute of the University of Hawaii. As a result of those discussions, Fr. McManus further revised his grammar notes and sometime thereafter sent both the grammar notes and the word lists to Georgetown University, where they were typed onto photo-ready galleys (totaling more than 400 pages) in anticipation of publication.

It is reported that the typed galleys were being mailed to Fr. McManus for proof-reading at the very moment of his untimely death in September 1969. After Fr. McManus' sudden passing, the manuscript fell into a state of limbo, which lasted for more than two years.

When I came in contact with the Georgetown galleys in 1972, several problems had already arisen. First, it was not clear what was to be done with the various revisions and annotations added by Fr. Felix Yaoch of the Koror Catholic Mission, to whom the galley pages had been given in 1969 for proofing. Even more perplexing was the question of what to do about the orthography of Palauan as presented in Fr. McManus' word lists: in 1972 and 1973 the spelling conventions of Palauan were being standardized through the work of the Palau Orthography Committee,² and the resulting system differed in significant ways from that used by Fr. McManus. Moreover, my *Palauan Reference Grammar*, distributed in manuscript form from 1972 to 1974 and ultimately published in 1975,³ utilized the spelling system agreed upon by the aforementioned committee. Clearly, the publication of Fr. McManus' word lists

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in their 1969 form alongside the *Palauan Reference Grammar* would have produced a hopelessly confusing situation in which two different Palauan orthographies were competing with each other as standard.

After an exchange of correspondence between Fr. Richard O'Brien, director of Publication, Georgetown University, and Dr. Donald Topping, director of the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute (now the Social Science Research Institute), it was decided in mid-1973 that under the auspices of the institute, I would undertake responsibility for the revision and publication of Fr. McManus' word lists. Every item in Fr. McManus' work was to be respelled according to the new orthography and carefully checked for accuracy of form and meaning. Lexical entries were to be expanded (or totally new entries added) when any new information as to meaning, usage, or derivational relationships was discovered. Items were to be further identified by part-of-speech affiliation and, where applicable, by morphological analysis and historical origin. All of these additions, which have hopefully served to expand Fr. McManus' dictionary of Palauan, will be discussed in detail in the Introduction.

I received the Georgetown galleys in August 1973 and shortly thereafter began the task of revision with Masa-aki Emesiochel, then a teacher at Koror High School and now the Chief, Division of Curriculum Development, Bureau of Education, Republic of Belau. The greatest debt is owed to Mr. Emesiochel for his enthusiastic and invaluable assistance during the academic year 1973/74; without his patience and skill in supplying information about thousands of lexical items, the present dictionary could never have been realized. Much gratitude is also due Oikang Sebastian, who assisted greatly in the identification and definition of numerous items important to Palauan culture—parts of the Palauan house and *abai*, canoe parts, terms of kinship, geographical names—as well as many varieties of flora and fauna. Paul Geraghty, a graduate student in the Department of Linguistics, University of Hawaii, was also very helpful in the early stages of data checking and provided useful suggestions about the format of the dictionary entries.

The editing of the 1977 version of this dictionary was tremendously facilitated by data-processing techniques designed by Dr. Robert Hsu and Dr. Ann Peters, both of the Department of Linguistics and the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Hawaii. They gave most generously of their time in familiarizing me with those techniques and in overseeing the manuscript as it progressed through numerous computer printouts. Without their assistance, as well as that of keypunchers Dawn Reid and James Tharp, the task of organizing such a massive amount of data as is represented in this dictionary would have been nearly insurmountable.

New Palauan–English Dictionary.

The lexicon of any human language is so rich and complex that the idea of producing even a reasonably complete dictionary of a language within a relatively short period of time (such as five or ten years) must certainly be considered ludicrous. On the very day that the final manuscript for the original 1977 version of this dictionary was being sent to the publisher, I discovered ten new lexical items, as well as additional facts about at least fifteen others, that could not be included in the catalog of information then destined for publication. Even at that moment, I knew that a revision of Father McManus' Palauan–English Dictionary was inevitable. While the present volume bears witness to that inevitability, I have no illusions that it, too, will someday be replaced by a dictionary of greater scope, detail, and perfection.

The current volume is an improvement over the original in numerous ways. In addition to containing several thousand entirely new entries, it includes a wide variety of revisions to an equal number of original entries. Many definitions have been expanded or corrected, especially the names of Palauan flora and fauna. The works of Helfman and Randall, Johannes, Otobed, and Owen (see bibliography) were invaluable in assisting me to produce a more accurate listing of Palauan fish, birds, land animals, and plants.

In order to give the reader a wider knowledge of proper idiomatic usage, phrasal and sentence examples have been added to a large number of entries. A particular effort has been made to include a wide range of popular Palauan proverbs, which are used often in normal conversation and reflect much about Palauan morality, social norms, and legend. In this regard, McKnight's 1968 article "Proverbs of Palau" provided a basis for investigation without which this unique aspect of Palauan verbal tradition could not have been brought to the attention, and often delight, of readers.

Whereas the original Palauan–English dictionary used a format in which each subentry was listed on a separate line indented under its head word, the current volume lists all subwords in run-on fashion following the main entry, resulting in a much more compact appearance. Most notations within entries are obvious in their import, but the reader should be especially aware of the following:

- (1) the notation "See" points to the word or words to which a main entry is related through inflection or derivation;
- (2) the symbol < introduces the group of words from which a single, more complex word is morphologically derived, often with phonetic contraction;
- (3) the notation "syn." indicates either a synonym—a word or expression of equivalent meaning—or a phonetic variant;
- (4) the notation "ant." provides an antonym—a word of opposite or contrasting meaning.

As shown in my article "The Impact of Borrowing on Palauan," Palauan has a very rich loanword component from Japanese, English, German, and Spanish. Whereas the 1977 dictionary simply identified the source language of a foreign bor-

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rowing, the current revised edition also supplies the actual word from the source language. This is of particular interest in showing gross distortions of pronunciation or a variety of semantic shifts that occurred during the borrowing process. By convention, a loan source from Japanese, German, or Spanish has been supplemented with an English gloss if there has been a significant shift in meaning or usage in the Palauan borrowed form. To take a striking example, the loan source of Pal. *hónto* 'Babeldaob' is given as Jp. *hontoo* 'main island' to illustrate the semantic narrowing in Pal. (since Pal. *hónto* refers specifically to Babeldaob, the largest island of Palau). On the other hand, if a source word from Japanese, German, or Spanish has no accompanying English gloss, it can be assumed that its meaning in the original language is identical to that of the corresponding Palauan word (e.g., Jp. *kyuuri*, Pal. *kiúri* 'cucumber').

For Spanish, German, and English, the loan source is given in the modern standard orthography. For Japanese, the Romanization system used is that found in Kenkyūsha's New Japanese-English Dictionary, ed. Koh Masuda (4th edition, Tokyo, 1974), with one exception to be mentioned below.

The Kenkyūsha system presents a phonetic (rather than phonemic) spelling of Japanese syllables using English orthographic equivalents for the sounds in question. The syllables of Japanese are rendered as follows:

a	i	u	e	o
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
sa	shi [ʃi]	su	se	so
ta	chi [tʃi]	tsu [tʃu]	te	to
na	ni	nu	ne	no
ha	hi	hu [ɸu]	he	ho
ma	mi	mu	me	mo
ya		yu	yo	
ra	ri	ru	re	ro
wa				
ga	gi	gu	ge	go
za	ji [ʃi]	zu [ʃu]	ze	zo
da			de	do
ba	bi	bu	be	bo
pa	pi	pu	pe	po

In addition to the above, a palatal glide can occur between a consonant and a following a, u, or o, as indicated in the following syllables:

kya	kyu	kyo
sha [ša]	shu [šu]	sho [šo]
cha [ča]	chu [ču]	cho [čo]
nya	nyu	nyo
hya	hyu	hyo
mya	myu	myo
rya	ryu	ryo
gya	gyu	gyo
ja [ja]	ju [ju]	jo [jo]
bya	byu	byo
pya	pyu	pyo

Though Kenkyūsha indicates long vowels within a single syllable by a long mark (e.g., *kū*, *gō*, etc.), in this dictionary the long vowels of Japanese are written double (uu, oo, etc.) Geminate consonants are spelled double as well (tt, pp, etc.). The symbol *n* stands for a syllable-final nasal phoneme that assimilates to the initial consonant of the following syllable within the word (e.g., *shinpai* [šimpaj] ‘worry’, *kankei* [kankey] ‘relationship’) and is realized in word-final position as a nasalized version of the preceding vowel (e.g., *hon* [hoŋ] ‘book’, *shinbun* [šimbuŋ] ‘newspaper’). In Tokyo dialect, the *g* in syllable-initial position is usually pronounced [ŋ] word-internally (e.g., *negi* [neŋi] ‘green onion’). The location of the pitch accent, although marked in Kenkyūsha’s Romanization, is omitted in all Japanese loan sources given in this dictionary.

The original Palauan–English Dictionary contains a 111-page English–Palauan finder list. Whereas the format of this finder list has not been changed in this volume, the list itself has been automatically expanded to reflect the thousands of new and revised Palauan entries and their meanings. In the finder list, the arrow notation → is used to indicate the major entry under which a particular multi-word expression is listed.

In working on this expanded dictionary, I have spent countless hours in discussion and consultation with native speakers and others dedicated to Palau and the Palauan language. For helping me bring our catalog of knowledge about Palauan to its current state, I offer my heartfelt thanks to Romana Anastacio, Masaaki Emesiochl, Theodosia Faustino, Robert Hsu, Greg Lee, Clara Orrenge, Robert Owen, Richard Parmentier, Maria Rehuher, Billal Soaladaob, David Stampe, and Donald Topping. The Bureau of Education, Government of the Republic of Palau, deserves special thanks for its strong interest and financial support.

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