
Montgomery County, MD Archaeologists
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Expeditions to the Real “Bali Hai”

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Topics:



Vanuatu - What's That?



Past Expeditions



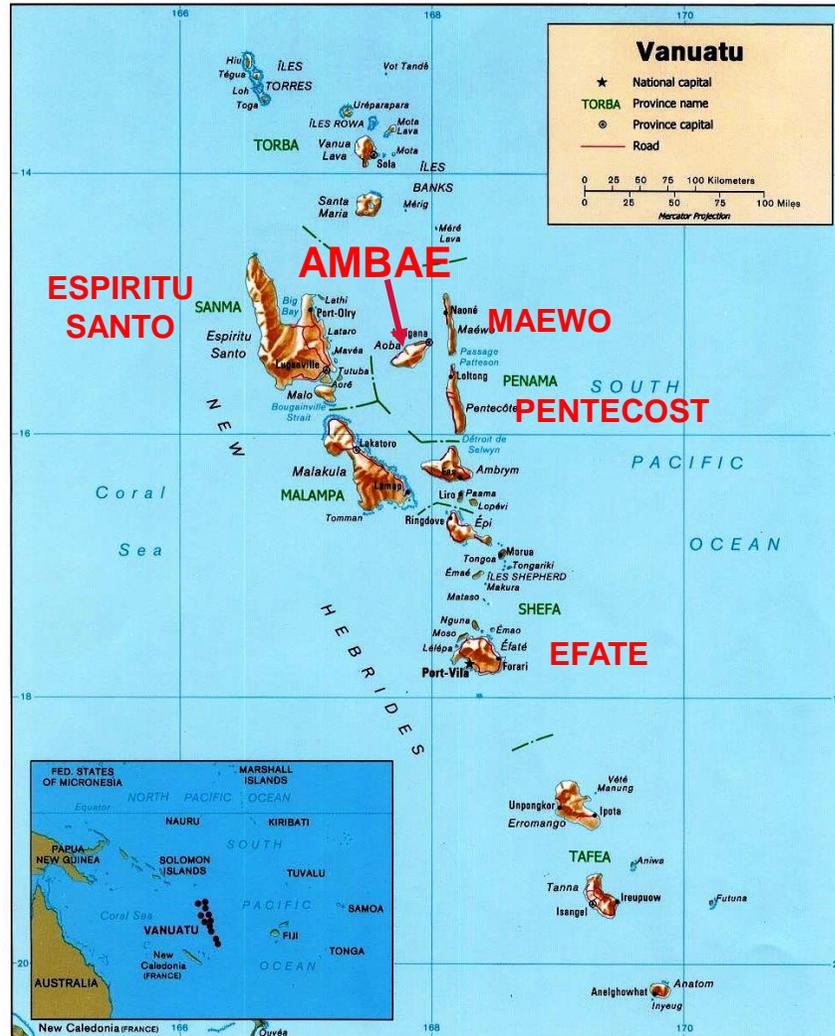
The Next Effort: Bali Hai -- Destroyed?



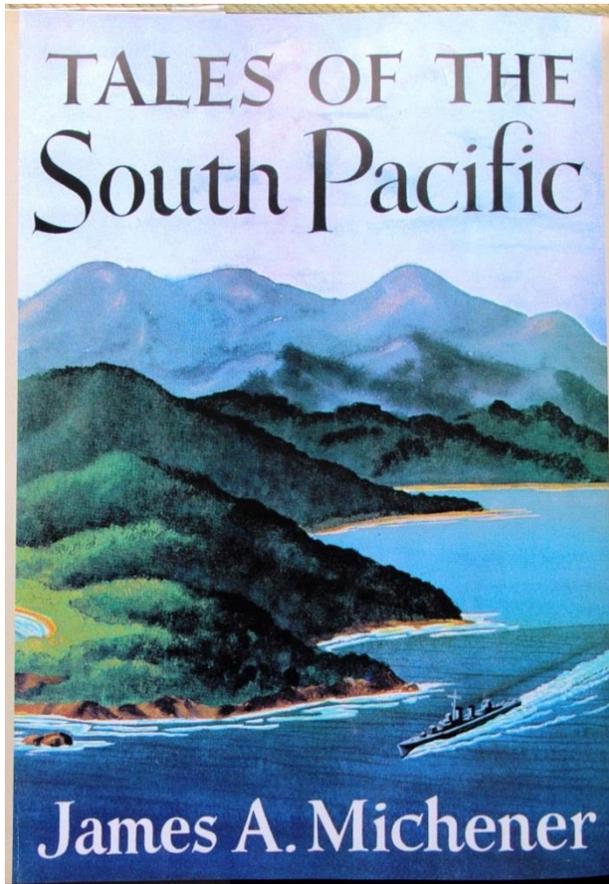
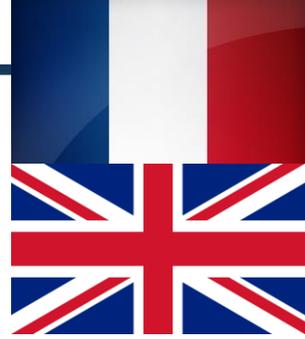
Vanuatu - What's That?



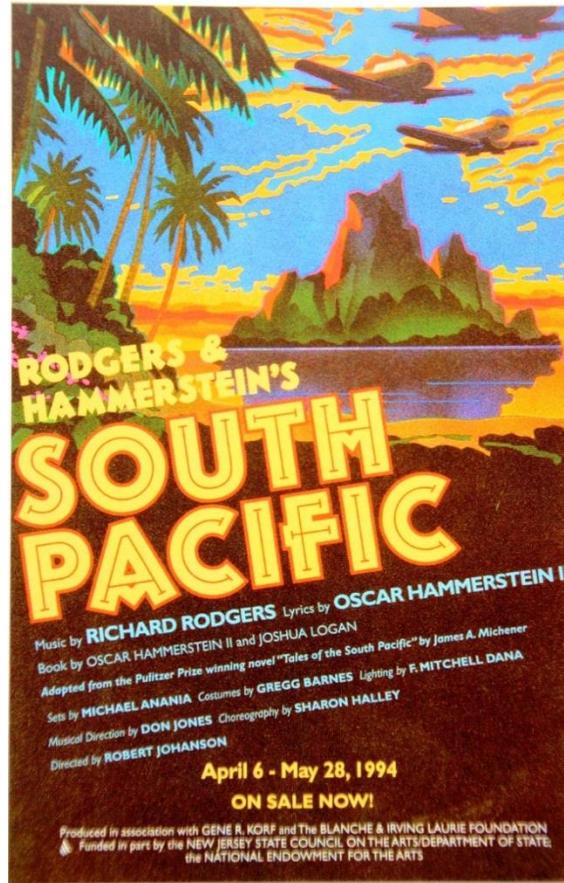
Vanuatu is a country in the SW Pacific, with 83 volcanic islands and 250,000 friendly people



Previously the New Hebrides, Vanuatu was the setting for *South Pacific*, and got independence in 1980 from Britain and France



BOOK



PLAY



MOVIE

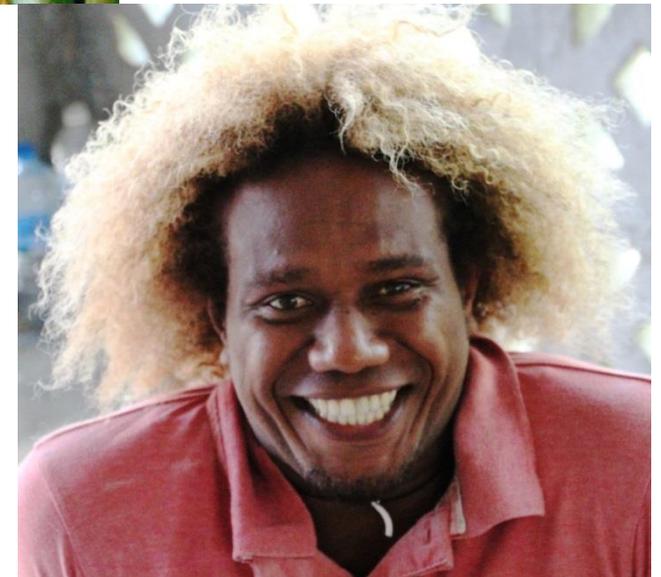
**Vanuatu is famous for volcanos, beaches,
and land-diving into the dirt below...**



**...which
inspired
bungee
jumping!**



The best wreck dive in the world, beautiful people, and exciting culture



Vanuatu is dominated by male chiefs, who rise in rank by killing sacred pigs with circular tusks



Past Expeditions



First expedition in 2001 found WW II plane and interviewed chiefs



Explorers Club Flag expedition in 2013 solved aviation archaeology mystery

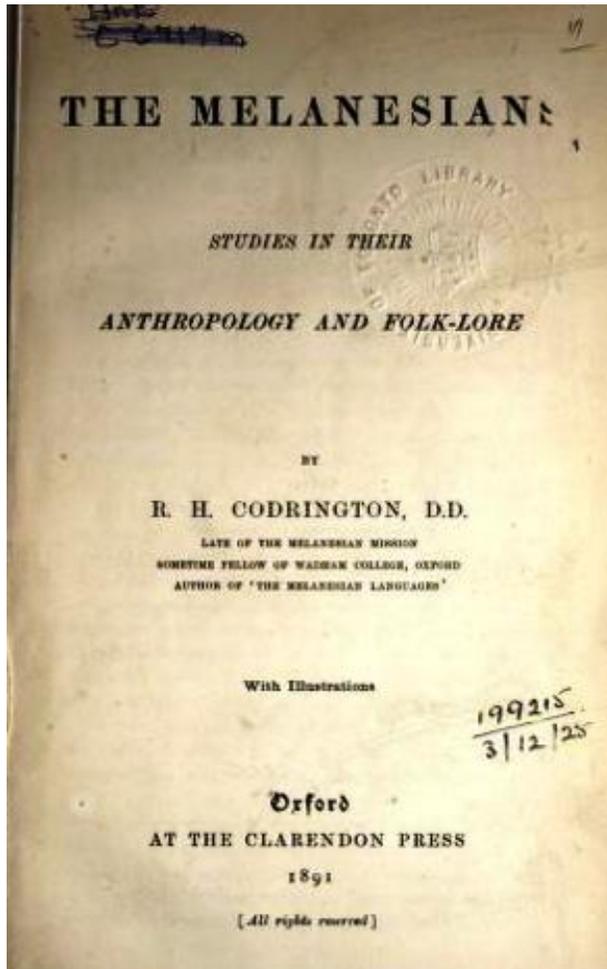


...evaluated the island emergency management plan...



....and observed a boar-killing ceremony

For 126 years anthropologists have stated or assumed that there are no female chiefs in Vanuatu

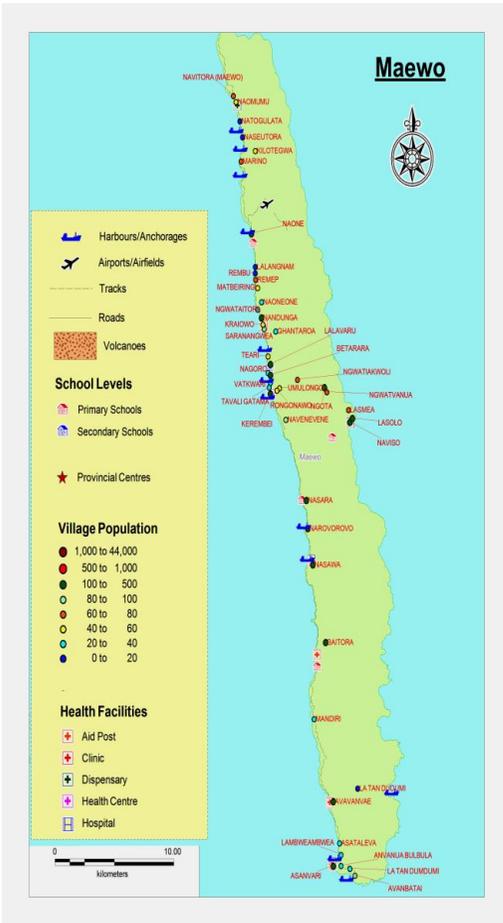


**Codrington
in 1891:**

**“Women are
completely
excluded from
the *Suge* of the
men...”**



Our 2016 expedition team arrived on Maewo to observe the Women's Festival and interview female chiefs



The Festival emphasized traditions



Women in traditional pandanus leaf garments



Males opened and closed the Festival

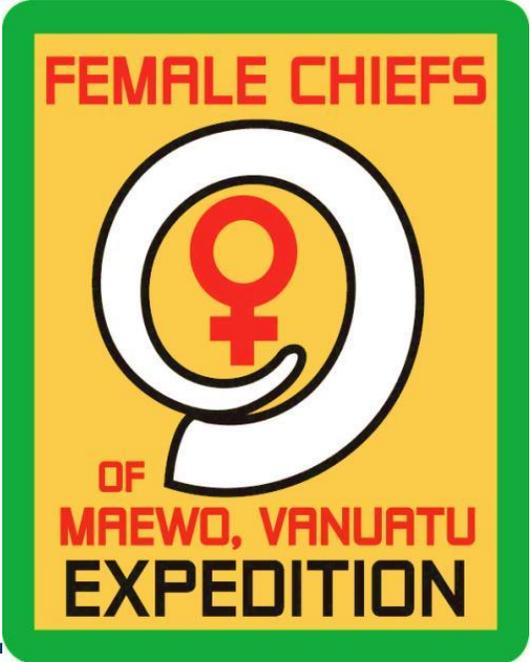


Cooking
w/ hot rocks

Food prep.
w/ bamboo
knife



Doreen Leona and her mother, from Pentecost island, ARE female chiefs



The Next Effort: Bali Hai - Destroyed?



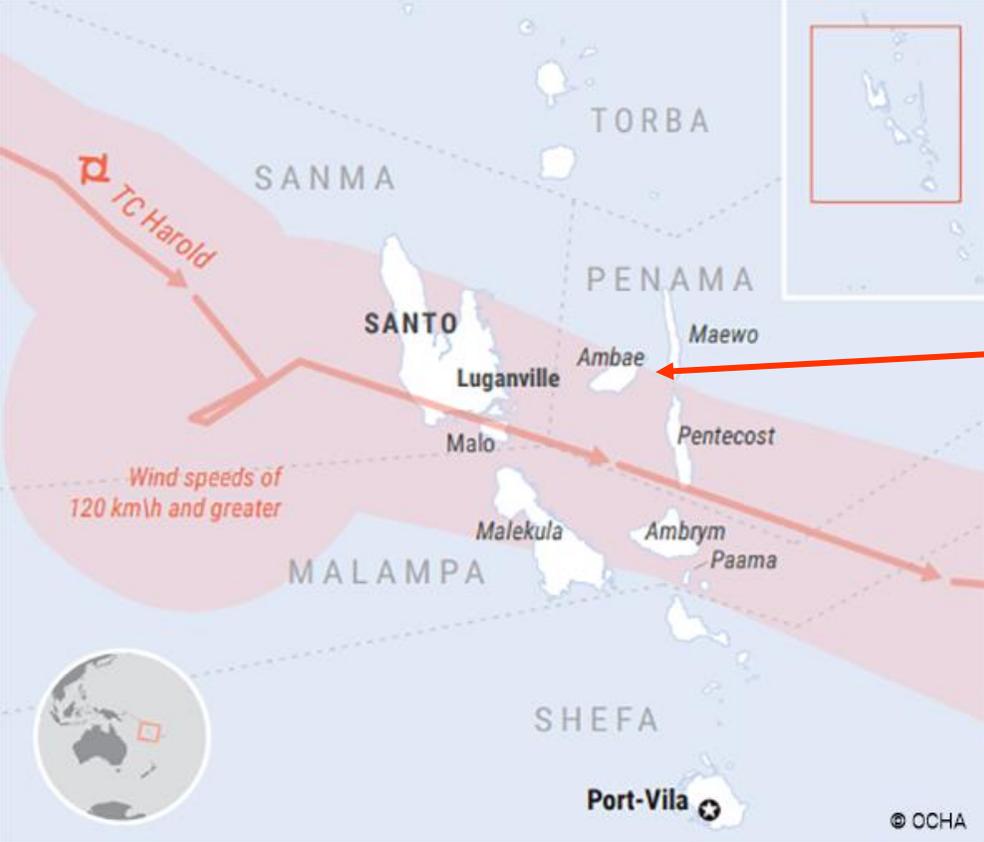
Mt. Manaro exploded in 2018 – 2019...



**Ashfall covered
25% of the island**

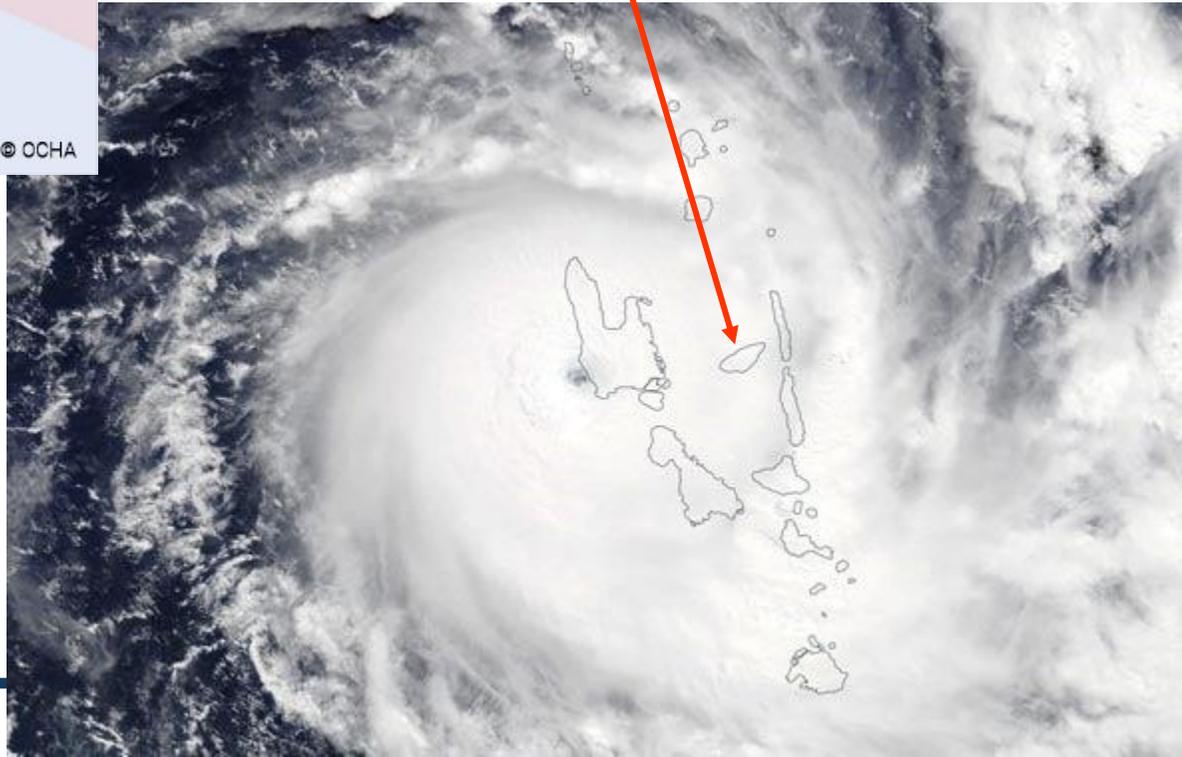






AMBAE -- BALI HAI

IN APRIL 2020 CYCLONE HAROLD HIT VANUATU AND AMBAE





**OVER 60% OF
HOUSES &
STRUCTURES
DESTROYED**

2021 Ambae Expedition:



Evaluate disaster response



Review emergency plan & island habitability



Aviation archaeology



Find more female chiefs



Tank Yu Tumas!



QUESTIONS?