



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW
September 15, 1975

Ms. Jean Martin
P.O. Box 150
Hawi, Hawaii 96719

Dear Jean:

Many thanks again for your hospitality during our recent visit to Hawi. Needless to say, I was very much impressed with what I saw and heard. Certainly this is the finest sea turtle petroglyph outside of the Society Islands. In addition to my interests in the conservation and biology of turtles, the visit has now prompted me to take a closer look at the historical aspects of turtle utilization in polynesia. Presently I am going through all of Bishop Museum's publications and extracting relevant turtle information. I will keep you informed.

Concerning the Kohala site, several questions seem to me to be quite important at this time. That is, 1) what degree of importance did the turtle have to this particular marae; 2) who was the builder and what was the time period of its prominence; 3) what course of action can be taken to ensure the safety of the site; and 4) how can we get the stolen stones returned to their rightful place. Perhaps at a later date when you are in Honolulu we will have time to discuss these points in detail.

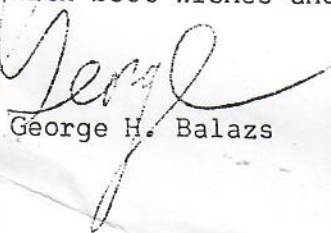
There is one point of confusion, however, that I hope you can clear-up for me by letter. On your xeroxed map the image stone is listed as being the "ahu". It is my understanding that the ahu of a marae is the predominant elevated platform and not a single stone alone. If the image stone rests on the ahu (where we were sitting this would unfortunately mean that the bulldozer extensively damaged the most important structure of the site. Do you interpret this side to be the ahu?

As I indicated, in the Tuamotus those maraes that were used for the feast of the turtle had two ovens as well as a "refuse pit" located outside of the courts. It would be important to me to locate the refuse pit and carefully look for the presence of turtle bones (most of which are very characteristic). Hopefully, the closeness of the land clearing did not destroy this site.

I wonder if you have had the opportunity to speak with Violet Hansen? I would very much like to write to her and would appreciate receiving her address.

I thought you might like to have the enclosed pictures.

With best wishes and Aloha,


George H. Balazs