

NECKER

October 31, 1977

Dr. G. Brent Dalrymple
U. S. Department of the Interior
Geological Survey
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Dr. Dalrymple:

This past August I spent seven days and nights on Necker Island in conjunction with studies of Hawaiian green turtles. It will probably be of interest for you to learn that during this visit I "rediscovered" the presence of bombs, bomb fragments and machine gun bullets on the island, as well as the destruction which had occurred to the archeological sites. You will of course recall your own similar observations in 1968 which were communicated by letter to Mr. Bryan at the Bishop Museum (copy enclosed). Your letter was also "rediscovered" after I gave a lecture on my Necker trip to the staff of the Bishop Museum and made inquiries as to existing knowledge of the bombing.

For reference purposes, I have also enclosed a copy of my manuscript report entitled, Ecological Aspects of Green Turtles at Necker Island.

Based principally on my photographic records, I am now in the process of preparing a report specifically on the bombing and other disturbances which have taken place on the island since Dr. Emory collected archaeological data in 1923 and 1924. This report will probably be entitled, Status of the Archaeological Remains on Necker Island. Although certainly not my field of expertise, I am nevertheless undertaking this work due to considerable encouragement from Dr. Emory (who will be 80 on Nov. 23).

One of my reasons for writing to you at this time is to present certain observations which I have made, and ask for your assistance with interpretation. In Dr. Emory's 1928 publication on Necker, it was stated on page 53 that:

"No evidence of faulting was found on Necker, nor other signs of disturbance which would have resulted from any marked and sudden recent upheavals or sinkings in the neighborhood. Any violent shock to Necker

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subsequent to the erection of the rows of uprights on platforms would certainly have toppled over most of the uprights, which are very insecurely fixed, yet more than half are standing, and a third of the fallen ones were evidently (my emphasis) knocked down and moved by human agency."

I had a copy of Dr. Emory's publication with me while on Necker and, consequently, in evaluating the extent of bomb damage I initially thought that the entire northeast side of Flagpole Hill had been impacted. This interpretation was based on the lighter colored rock exposed on the cliff face and the large volume of rubble at the base of the cliff. Additionally, crawling up and down over this slide area I found shrapnel, though not as much as I thought should have been present. After returning to Honolulu I was able to find a photograph of Flagpole Hill which was taken in 1923. This was, of course, before any bombing would have been possible. The photo clearly showed that the same condition was previously present in the cliff face. Can we now say that Dr. Emory was in error about there being no evidence of faulting, and that this break in the continuity of the rock formation could have been caused by earth tremors? I have xeroxed several photos to show you the area in question. Hopefully you will be able to provide some insight on this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Jr. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

November 8, 1977

Dr. Frank Radovsky
Acting Director
Bishop Museum
Box 6037
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Dear Frank?

After giving a talk on Necker Island to the Museum staff on September 19, Dr. Emory asked if I would duplicate some of my color transparencies for the Museum's records. I am therefore sending you 17 slides portraying views of the island, maraes and bomb damage. A brief description of each slide appears on the attached sheet.

Please consider this as a donation in that reimbursement for the duplicating costs will not be necessary.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Jr. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

December 19, 1977

Dr. Kenneth P. Emory
Bernice P. Bishop Museum
P. O. Box 6037
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Dear Dr. Emory:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your associates in the Archaeology Department for inviting me back to the Museum to give a second presentation on my study visits to Necker Island. Your personal encouragement after my first presentation on September 19th prompted me to gather further photographic material during my November visit to Necker. As a result, I now appear to have a reasonably comprehensive record of the status of the island's archaeological remains. In concordance with your earlier suggestion, within the next few months I will be preparing a concise report on my findings. I will of course send you a copy for evaluation and comments.

It seems to me that Necker and the mysteries surrounding its former inhabitants are of considerable interest to most people once they become aware of the island's existence and known history. Given this premise, I wonder if it would be worthwhile to explore the possibilities of preparing and publishing a booklet on the island which is designed to appeal to the general public. Such a booklet could be fully illustrated with both past and present photographs and, in essence, briefly tell the story of Necker from an ecological and archaeological standpoint. What I have in mind is perhaps something patterned after my color booklet, *Hawaii's Seabirds, Turtles and Seals*, but with more text. If you believe that such a publication may have merit, let us meet at some time in the near future to discuss the subject in detail.

You may be interested to learn that I am tentatively scheduled to give a lecture presentation on Necker to the general public on February 10th at the Waikiki Aquarium. It is my understanding that the time and other details will appear in the daily newspapers several weeks in advance.

Best regards for the Holiday season.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md
cc: Dr. Radovsky