

Archaeology in Samoa

The Vailele earth mound was the first archaeological sites in Samoa to be professionally surveyed and published by Thompson in 1927. This was followed by further survey and discussion of oral tradition of Vailele and *o Fale o le fee* (The house of the Octopus) by Derek Freeman in the 1940s. The first archaeological excavations were carried out at Vailele village in 1957 by Jack Golson and Wallace Ambrose from Australian National University. Survey and classification of archaeological remains in Samoa was also carried out at this time.

After the independence of Western Samoan in 1962 an extensive program for archaeology was carried out by Roger Green and Janet Davidson, and associates, during 1963-1968. Research in American Samoa also started out in the 1960s, and Tutuila features several large adze quarry sites such as *Tataga matau*, and an important pottery bearing site, *To'aga*, which have been excavated on Ofu.

On independent Samoa a site with pottery dated to around 2800 years ago was found in 1973. This is the submerged site at *Mulifanua* wharf, which features late Eastern Lapita pottery. This is the earliest, and only, Lapita site among the Samoan islands. In 1972-74 there was extensive survey done at Letolo abandoned ancient settlement and excavations at coastal settlements on Manono and Upolu by the American archaeologist Jesse Jennings and team. This was followed by extensive excavations at the large *Pulemelei* mound by the Swedish archaeologist Helene Martinsson-Wallin and associates in 2002-2004.

The Pulemelei investigations have led to collaboration with the National University of Samoa, Centre of Samoan studies and the development of an archaeological education in 2006. Education has been developed further by Tautala Asaua-Pese in to a full program. Within the frame of the education program, excavations have so far been carried out at, *Malaefono starmound*, *o Fale o le fe'e*, *Laupule mound* and a *German colonial site in Apia*. At the American Samoan Community College, a course in archaeology has been initiated by David Addison.