The Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences strives to be the leading source of information of humanities research in Micronesia. It aims to provide a mix of research that will offer something for all readers. In keeping with that aim, this volume contains a number of refereed contributions, ranging from anthropology to colonial and modern history, and literature. A number of non-refereed contributions as well as book reviews round out this volume.

*Eric Metzgar* describes the creation of sacred taboo spaces (*roang*) on Lamotrek Atoll. He outlines how traditional practices associated with weather and navigation, described in early twentieth century anthropological literature, continued to be practiced despite of cultural pressures brought about by western, commercial values and by the Christianisation of much of the Central Carolines in the 1950s. His paper has great relevance as it also shows how in the aftermath of typhoon Owen (1990) many of these practices were abandoned in favour of Christianity, because the well-built church-building provided better protection than traditional spirituality during that typhoon event.

The contributions made by Filipino men and women in the service of the Spanish mission and administration in the Marianas are discussed by *Augusto V. de Viana*. He suggests that the Tagalog, Pampagnos and Visayans who went to the Marianas and who were already acculturated to concepts of Spanish rule and Christianity, played a major role in ‘translating’ Spanish governmental and missionary objectives to the Chamorro community of the Marianas.

*Glenn Petersen* discusses the background of the Micronesian status negotiations based on interviews he conducted across the region. Petersen paints the Micronesian moves towards independence against the canvas of US colonial and territorial history and examines the level to which the Micronesian decision makers of the day were aware of that history and its implications.

*Robert Tenorio Torres* picks up his critical discussion of Chamorro literature, looking at short stories and novels mainly written after World War II.

The information technology revolution has brought about major changes in Micronesia, with the uptake of mobile phones and internet access particularly high in Guam and Saipan. This has implications on the maintenance of cultural identity and increases the amount of...
external cultural influences that exert their presence in the region. Jon O’Neill and Dirk H.R. Spennemann discuss the use of the world wide web as a delivery tool for social sciences surveys and the extent to which this a feasible technique in a Micronesian setting.

A great deal of very valuable work is being carried out in the Micronesian region, much of which goes unreported for want of a suitable publication venue. This volume introduces a new regular segment in the journal, “Micronesian Round-up,” which will provide humanities and social sciences institutions in the region with an opportunity to showcase their activities and achievements over the previous year. By necessity, this section is not refereed and the contributions are clearly identified as such.

This is now the third year of publication of the Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The journal has successfully navigated the shoals that endanger many new publication ventures. The publication on the world wide web does away form the financially crippling cost overheads caused by printing and postage, and the warehousing of back issues.

It is intended that from 2005 onwards two issues will be produced annually, which in homage to the now defunct journal ISLA, are to be called the Dry Season issue, to be published in May, and the Rainy Season issue, to be published in November.