

# Contents



Acknowledgments xi

Introduction 1

1. Objects, Exchange, Anthropology 7
  - Prestations and Ideology* 9
  - The Inalienability of the Gift* 14
  - Immobile Value* 22
  - The Promiscuity of Objects* 27
  - Value: A Surplus of Theories* 30
2. The Permutations of Debt: Exchange Systems in the Pacific 35
  - Alienation in Melanesian Exchange* 37
  - Debts and Valuables in Fiji and the Marquesas* 59
  - Valuables with and without Histories* 65
  - The Origin of Whale Teeth* 69
  - Value Conversion versus Competition in Kind* 75
3. The Indigenous Appropriation of European Things 83
  - The Allure of Barter* 84
  - The Musket Economy in the Southern Marquesas* 100
  - The Representation of the Foreign* 103
  - The Whale Tooth Trade and Fijian Politics* 110
  - Prior Systems and Later Histories* 118
4. The European Appropriation of Indigenous Things 125
  - Curiosity: Colonialism in Its Infancy* 126
  - Converted Artifacts: The Material Culture of Christian Missions* 151
  - Murder Stories: Settlers' Curios* 162
  - Ethnology and the Vision of the State* 167
  - Artifacts as Tokens of Industry* 175
  - The Name of Science* 177
5. The Discovery of the Gift: Exchange and Identity in the Contemporary Pacific 185
  - Transformations of Fijian Ceremonies* 189
  - The Disclosure of Reciprocity* 200
  - Discoveries* 204

Notes 211

Index 257

## Maps

The Pacific Islands	40
Papua New Guinea	42
The Fiji Islands	58
Viti Levu, Fiji	60

## Illustrations

- Modern kula exchange. (Photograph by Shirley Campbell; reproduced with her permission.) 13
- Shell with tortoiseshell open-work decoration. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 45
- Wicker shield. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 46
- Canoe for headhunting and trading. (Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney.) 47
- Villagers at Narokorokoyawa. (Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney.) 64
- Whale teeth. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 66
- Fijian barkcloth. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 71
- Headrest. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 72
- Necklace made of sawed pieces of whale teeth. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 73
- Exchange between Australian Aborigines and French mariners. (Engraving after Jacques Arago, from L.C. de S. de Freycinet, *Voyage autour du monde pendant les années 1817 . . . 1820, Atlas Historique*, Paris: Pillet, 1824-1826; by permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library.) 86
- The Russians in the Marquesas. (From G. H. von Langsdorff, *Voyages and Travels in Various Parts of the World*, London: Henry Colburn, 1813-1814; by permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library.) 95
- Rifle with inlaid shell decoration. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 104
- Iron hatchet in ornamental haft. (Courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 105
- Papalagi ship. (Engraving after A. T. Agate, from Charles Wilkes, *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition*, Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1845; author's copy.) 109
- Whale tooth with scrimshaw design. (In author's collection.) 112

- Tongan artifacts. (From James Cook, *A Voyage toward the South Pole*, London: Strahan and Cadell, 1777; courtesy of the Australian National University Library, Canberra.) 133
- Maori artifacts. (From James Cook, *A Voyage toward the South Pole*, London: Strahan and Cadell, 1777; courtesy of the Australian National University Library, Canberra.) 134
- Malekulan, Tannese, and New Caledonian artifacts. (From James Cook, *A Voyage toward the South Pole*, London: Strahan and Cadell, 1777; courtesy of the Australian National University Library, Canberra.) 135
- Marquesan artifacts. (From James Cook, *A Voyage toward the South Pole*, London: Strahan and Cadell, 1777; courtesy of the Australian National University Library, Canberra.) 136
- Joseph Banks. (Mezzotint by J. R. Smith, after a portrait by Benjamin West; courtesy of the Dixson Library, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney.) 142
- Large tureen. (Engraving by H. Kingsbury, from George Keate, *An Account of the Pelew Islands*, London: G. Nicol, 1789; author's copy.) 149
- Artifacts from the Pelew Islands. (Engraving by H. Kingsbury, from George Keate, *An Account of the Pelew Islands*, London: G. Nicol, 1789; author's copy.) 150
- Pomare's family idols. (From *Missionary Sketches* no. 3, October 1818; photograph courtesy of Niel Gunson.) 154
- Burning idols. (From *Missionary Sketches* no. 6, July 1819; photograph courtesy of Niel Gunson.) 155
- Spearheads. (From Thomas Williams, *Fiji and the Fijians*, London: Alexander Heylin, 1858; author's copy.) 159
- Clubs. (From Thomas Williams, *Fiji and the Fijians*, London: Alexander Heylin, 1858; author's copy.) 160
- Australasian Methodist Missionary Society postcard. (Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney.) 161
- Back page of W. C. Gardenhire's pamphlet *Fiji and the Fijians*. (Courtesy of the British Library.) 166
- End wall of the dining room in Government House. (Photograph by W. A. Duffy; courtesy of the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Von Hügel Collection, Archives.) 173
- McCulloch with preserved heads. (From Frank Hurley, *Pearls and Savages*, New York: Putnam, 1923; courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney.) 180
- Skulls. (Courtesy of the National Library of Australia, Canberra, Frank Hurley Collection.) 181