

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

R.W. PAINE

Photograph albums, 1924-51

Reel M2727

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ronald Wood Paine (1903-1992) was born in Norwich, England. He was educated at Eton College and the University of Cambridge, where he studied natural sciences. In 1924, while doing a postgraduate course on entomology, he was recruited by John D. Tothill to assist in a campaign to control the *Levuana iridescens* in Fiji. Since about 1916 this moth was gradually spreading from Viti Levu to the copra-producing islands and threatened one of Fiji's major export industries. Paine arrived in Suva in 1925 and was attached to the Department of Agriculture, which was headed by Tothill. His principal task was to study the activities of the moth in different parts of Fiji, while his colleague T.H.C. Taylor travelled to New Guinea and Malaya in search of a parasite that might keep it under control. The Malayan tachinid fly (*Bessa remota*) proved to be highly effective in reducing the *Levuana* to relatively small numbers. Paine assisted Tothill in writing his report, *The coconut moth in Fiji: a history of its control by means of parasites* (1930).

After returning to England on leave in 1928-29, Paine spent over a year in the Dutch East Indies, where he studied the *Tirathaba rufivena* (coconut spike moth). He left Fiji in 1934, following his marriage to Noel Fawcett, and became a horticulturalist in Scotland. He resumed his career as an entomologist in 1956 when he returned to Fiji to do work on the banana scab moth and the coconut flat moth. In subsequent years he spent long periods in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and Indonesia. Paine retired in 1966 and settled in Cambridge.

Reference: R.W. Paine. *Recollections of a Pacific entomologist 1925-1966* (Canberra, 1994)

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Add. 8824. Three albums of photographs of Hawaii and Fiji, c. 1924-51

Album 1

Photographs taken by Paine in 1925-26 while travelling from England to Fiji, including his journey across Canada and his stay in Hawaii, and during his first year in Fiji. The subjects of the Hawaiian photographs include individuals whom Paine met, picnics, mountains and other landscapes, and Hawaiian fishermen. The Fijian photographs were taken at Suva, the Ra coast, Ovalau, Lautoka Ba, Viti Levu, Caboni, Navua, Namosi, Waimanu and Beqa. They depict various Europeans and Fijians, coconuts destroyed by the Levuana moth, defoliation of palm trees, dying palms, young coconuts, towns and villages, hill stations, the insectory at Suva, houses, canoes, an Indian shrine at Navua, the burial ground at Beqa, estates, picnic parties, mountains, rivers and other scenic views.

Among the individuals who appear in the photographs are J.D. Tothill and T.H.C. Taylor. Taylor was recruited at the same time as Paine and was sent to New Guinea and Malaya to search for parasites that might combat the Levuana moth.

Album 2

Photographs taken by Paine in Fiji between 1926 and 1934. The subjects include Europeans, Fijians and Indians, pandanus and coconut plantations, the release of beetles, barrels for breeding *magashinus??*, coconuts, copra, breadfruit, ships and boats, houses, a mission, a church, fishing parties, dancing, mountain ranges, rivers and other scenes, and Charles Kingsford Smith's plane *Southern Cross* at Albert Park (June 1928). The photographs were taken at Suva, Rewa, Vanua Levu, Ovalau, Koro, Viti Levu, Beqa, Taveuni, Laucala, and Nadarivatu.

Among the individuals depicted are J.D. Tothill, Colin Southall, Charles Nott, Ronald Garvey, Bob Snodgrass, Sir Maynard Hedstrom, R.A. Lever and Jakopi, Paine's Fijian assistant.

Album 3

Photographs taken by Paine and a number of other photographers in Fiji between 1925 and 1951 (mostly 1927-28). The subjects include Europeans, Fijians and Indians, Paine's cottage at Suva, the

Agriculture Department buildings, the Suva Hospital, Indian settlements, government stations, an Armistice service at Levuka, sugar mills, coconut plantations, a trades carnival procession at Suva, the visit by the Duke and Duchess of York (Feb. 1927), villages, breeding cages for sugar cane borers, and landscapes. The photographs were taken at Suva, Vatulele, Wakaya, Kadavu, Nairai, Gau, Naitauba, Vanuabalavu, Mago, Cobia, Lakeba, Fulaga, Matuku, Totoya, Moala, Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Namena, Beqa, Levuka, Ovalau and Taveuni.

Apart from Paine, the photographers include Sandy Lees, Ken Allardyce, Lorna Reay, John Campbell, Charles nott, Harry S. Ladd, C. Meyer, G.K. Roth, Ronald Garvey, A.C. Smith and A.F. Lees.

Each album contains a summary listing of the photographs.