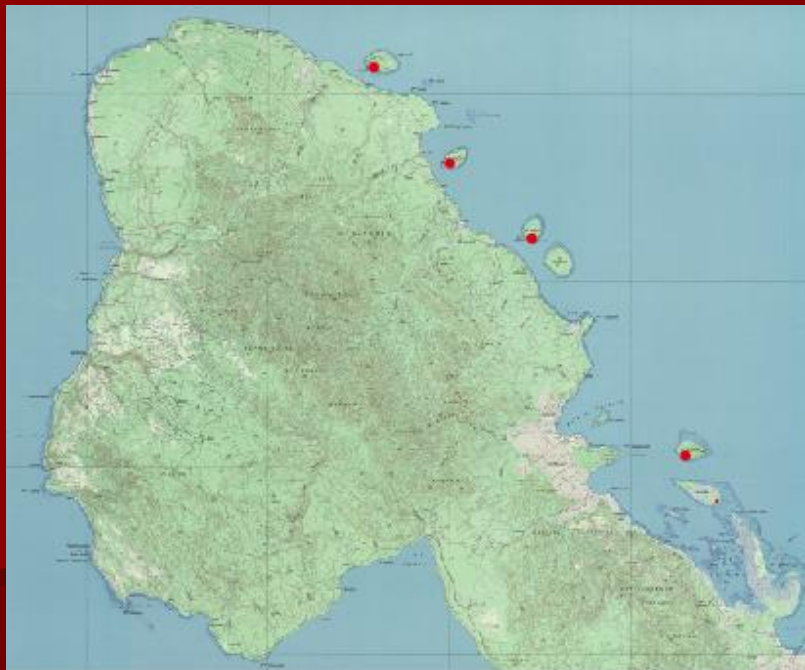
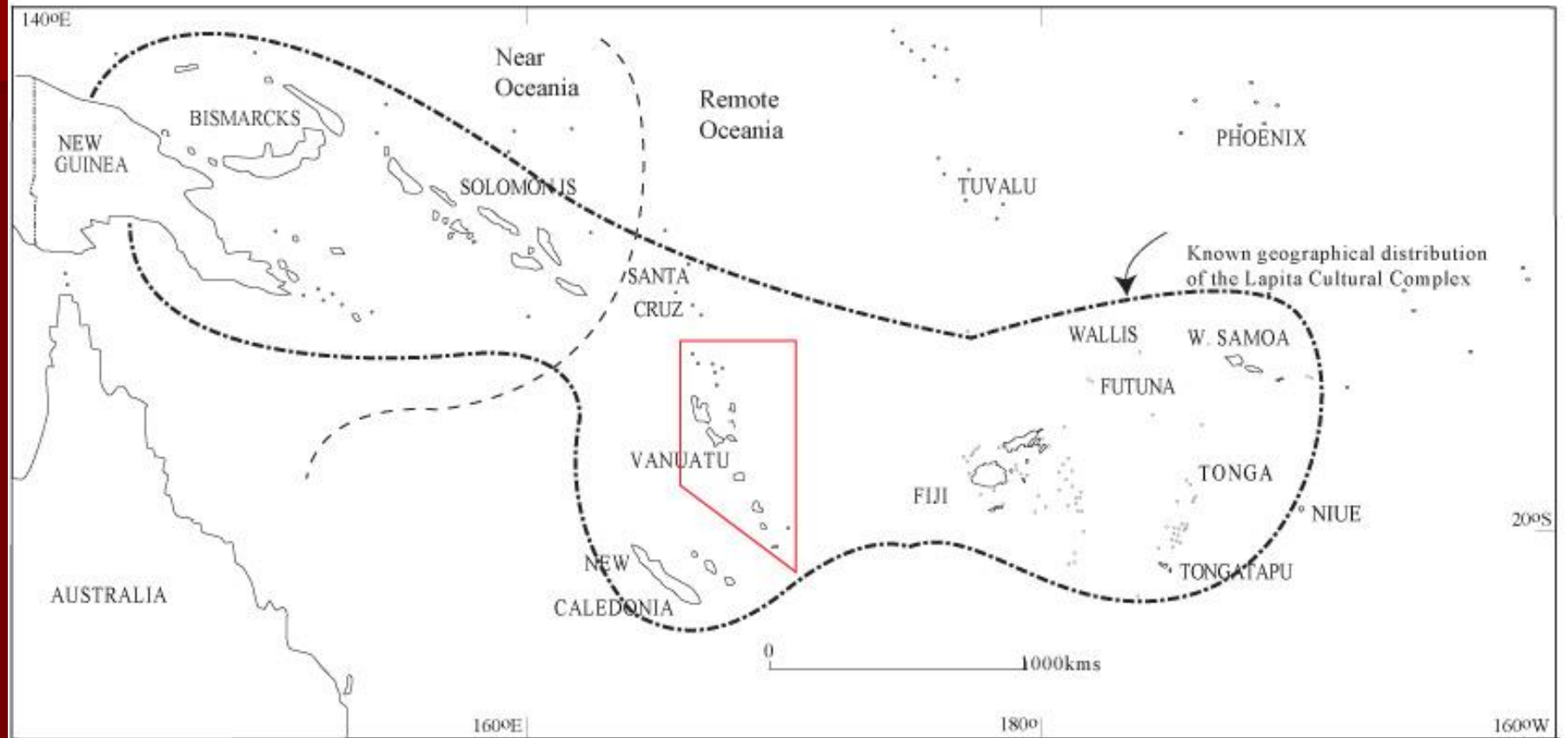


Cultural homogeneity and linguistic diversity: evidence from the Islands of northeast Malakula, Vanuatu

Stuart Bedford

The Australian National University/MPI-SHH





Lapita settlement of the Pacific associated with Austronesian expansion speaking Proto-Oceanic. C. 3000 BP. Very initial colonisation aDNA indicates genetically Asian groups. Small sample and human remains are very rare. Almost 300 sites but a handful of sites with human remains.

30 Lapita sites found throughout the Vanuatu archipelago. Initially thought as marginal but sites where hard to find due to uplift and volcanic ashfall.

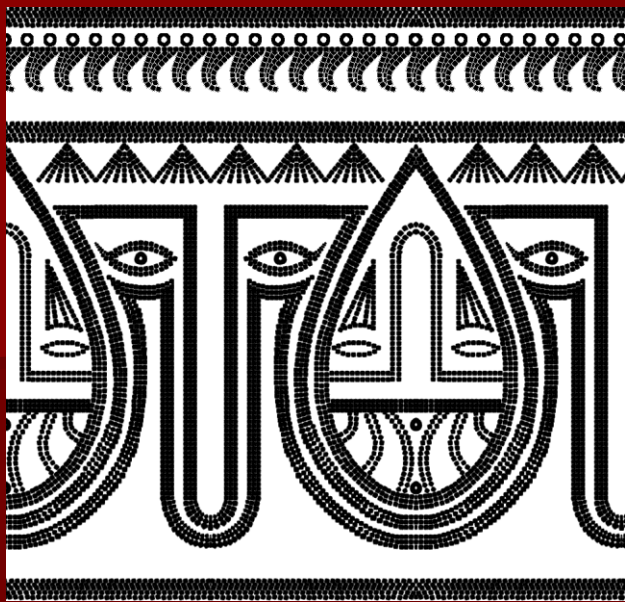


- Capitale/Capital City
- Site Lapita / Lapita Site





Lapita vessel, Teouma site, Efate



Whole range of vessel forms often with anthropomorphic motifs



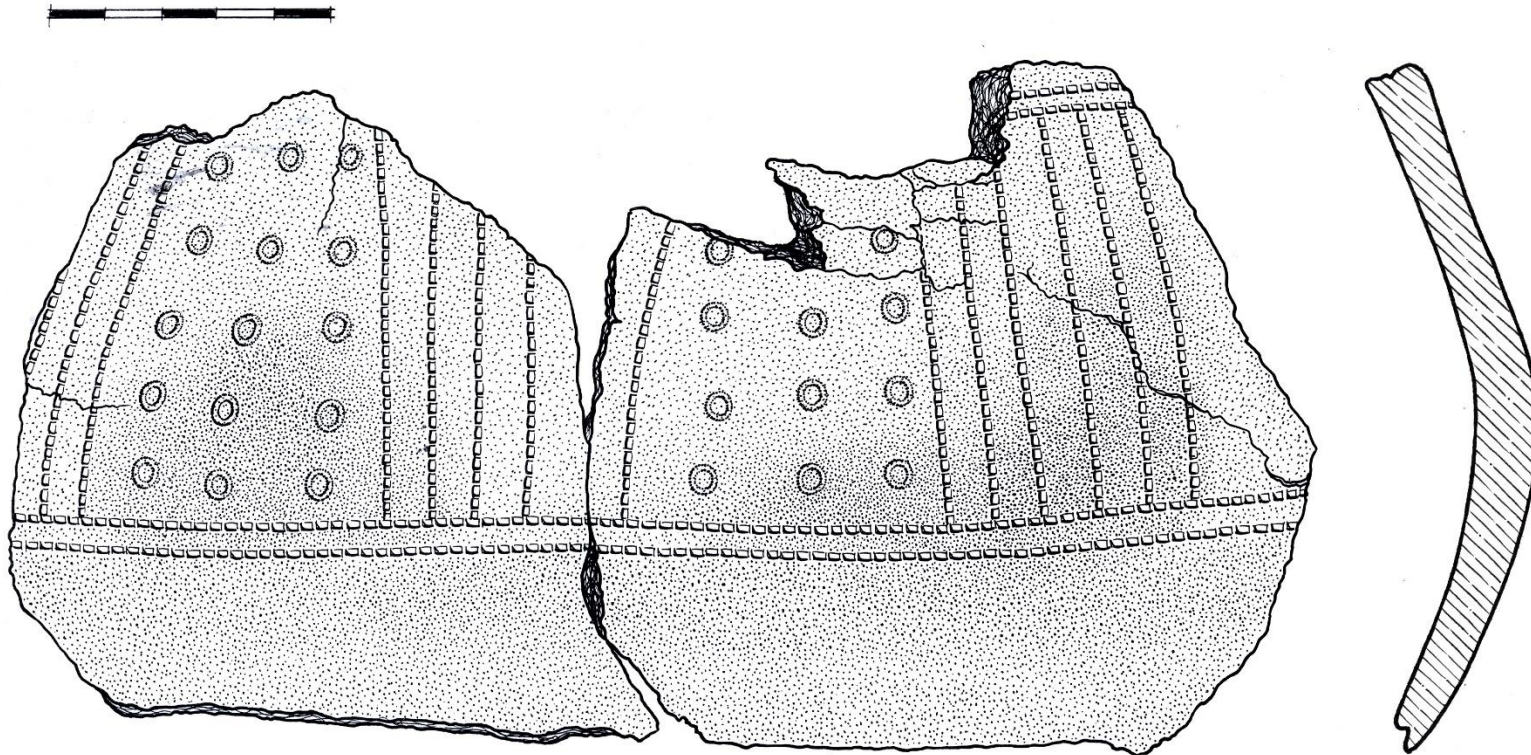
Rapid simplification in
design motif and range of
vessel forms





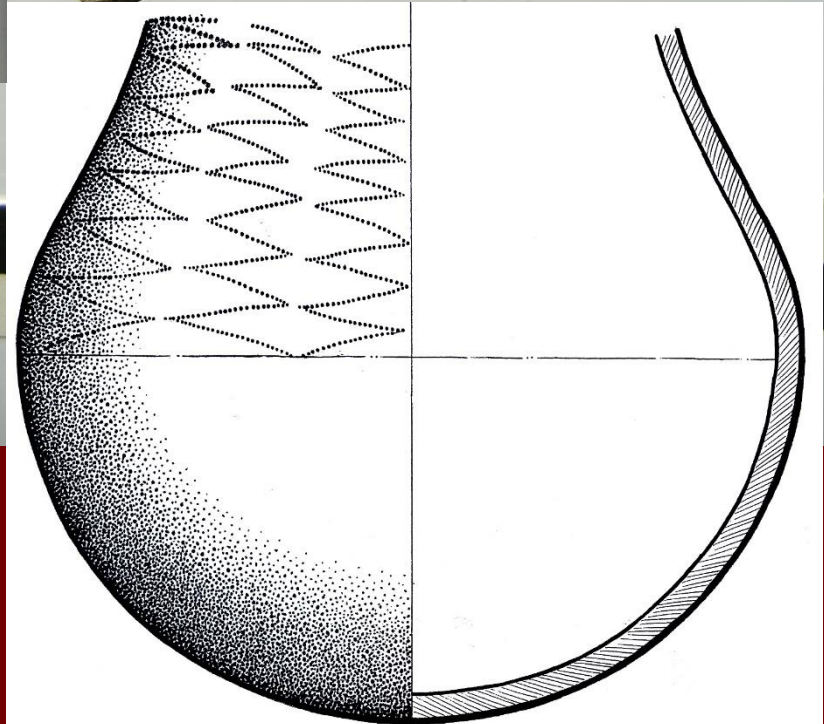
Lapita period: rapid simplification along
with diversification

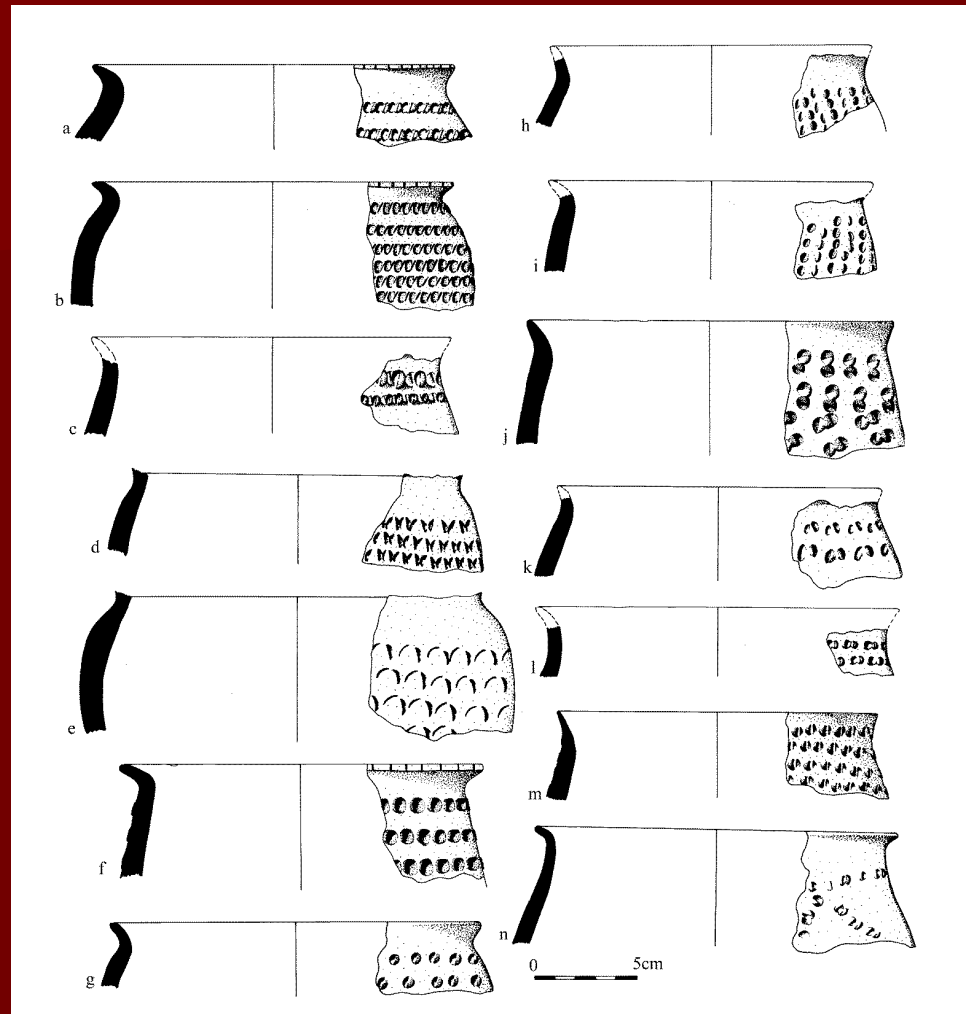
Distinctive NE Malakula Lapita



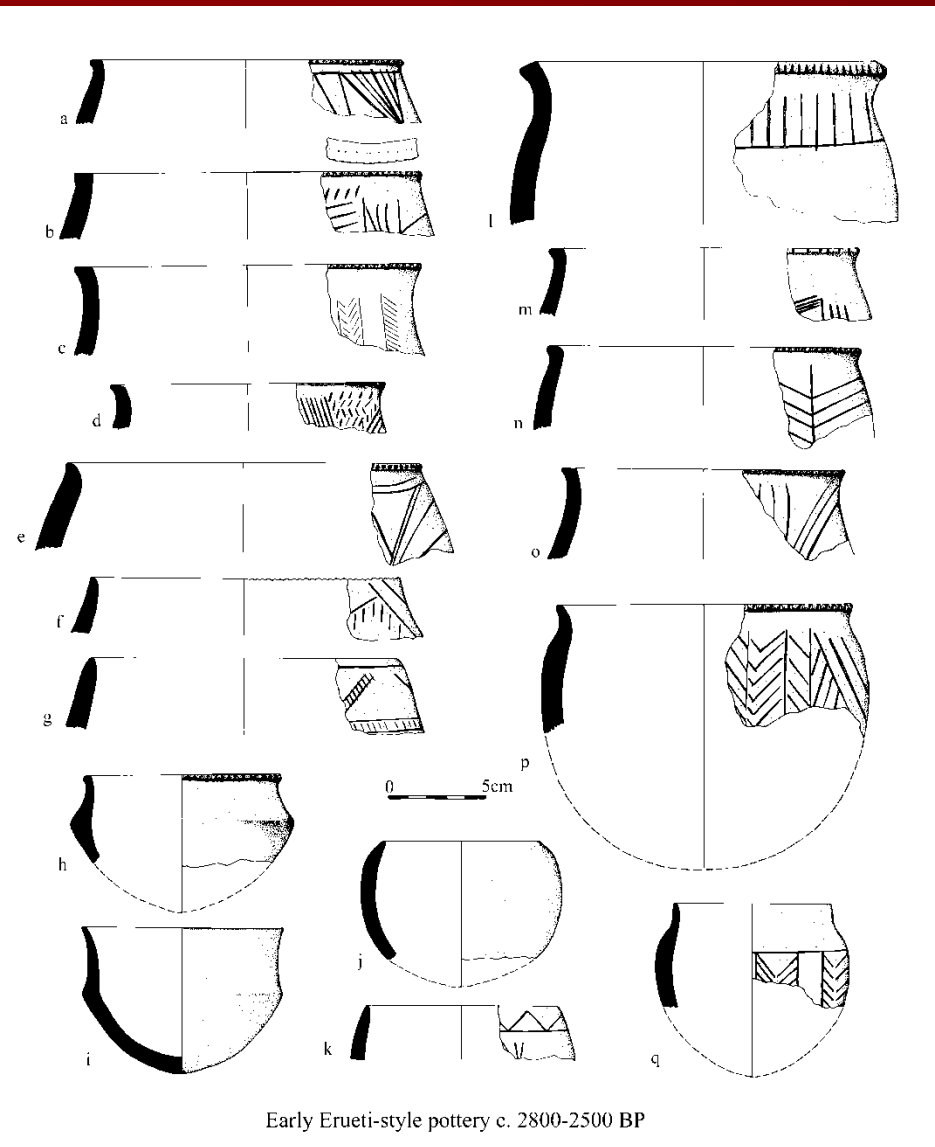


While regional diversification is occurring there is still evidence of contact. Zigzag motif and shell impression

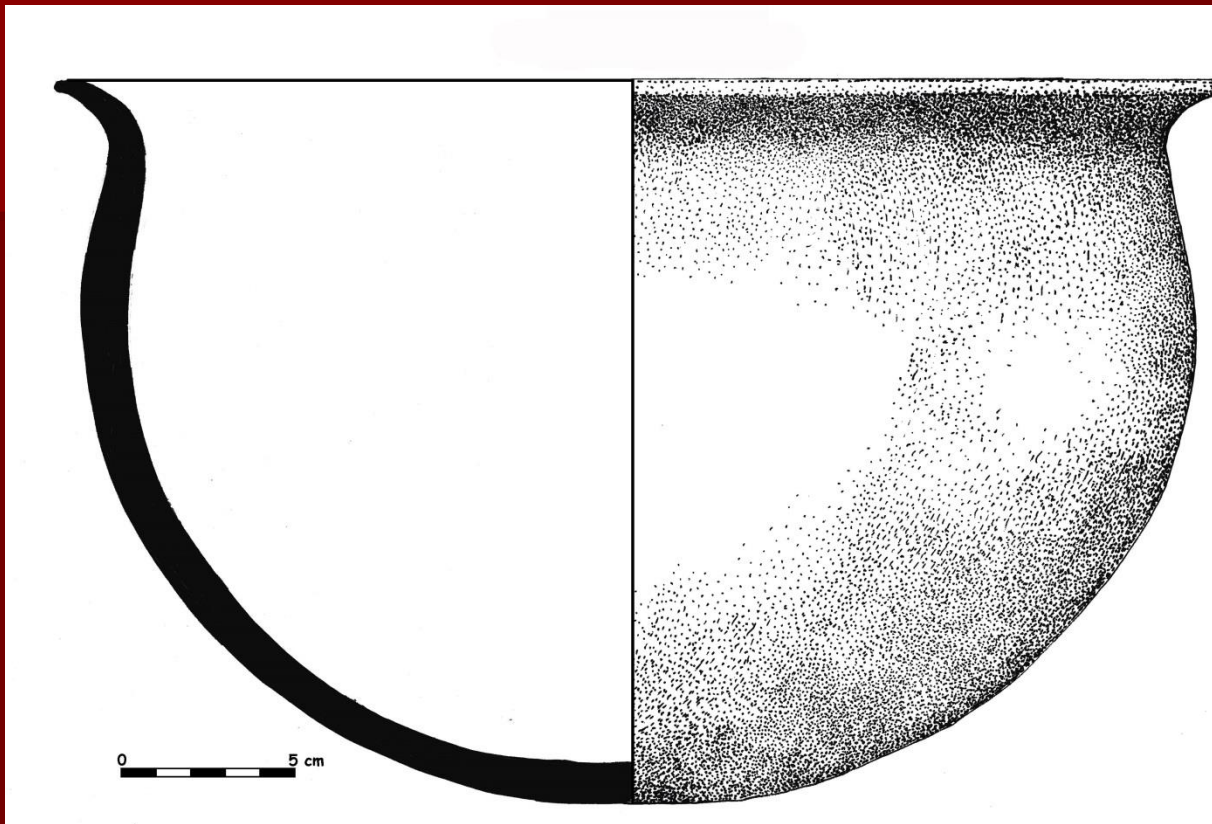




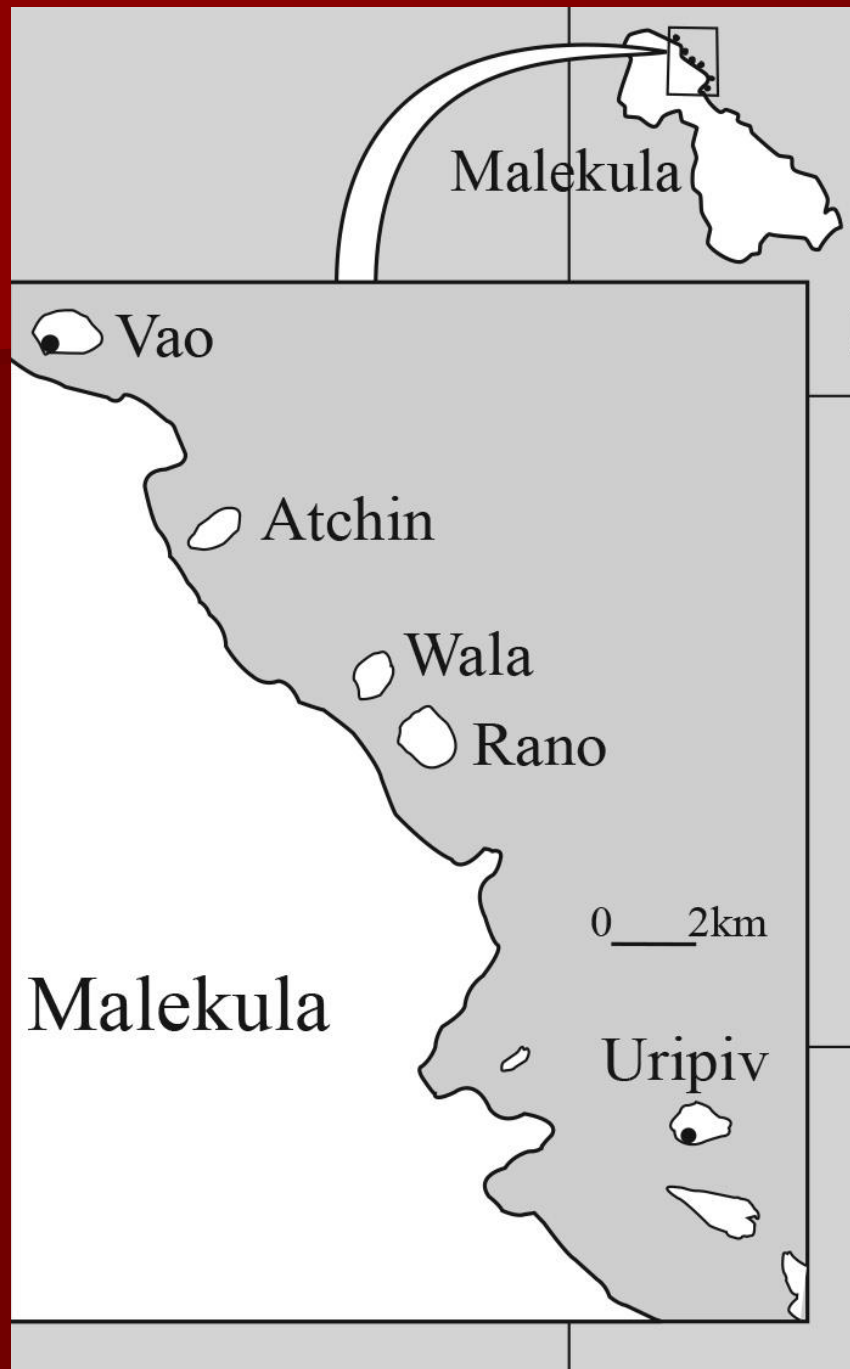
Immediately Post-Lapita Erromango (2800BP), south Vanuatu. Pottery production ends in the south c.2000BP



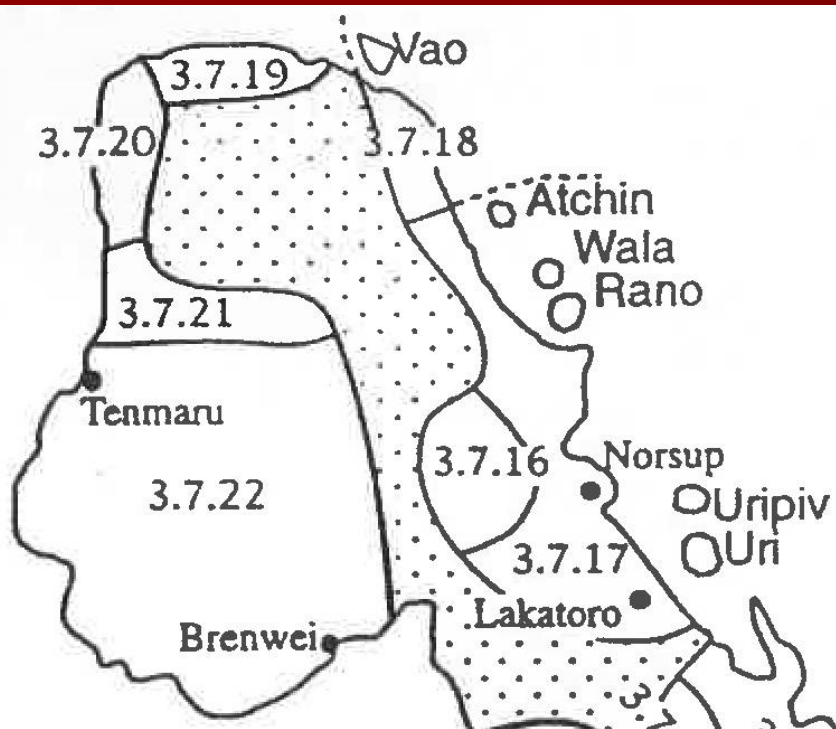
Immediately Post-Lapita Efate/Shepherds.
Pottery production on Efate ends c. 1200
BP



Immediately Post-Lapita Malakula to c.
2300 BP. Pottery production continues
here and in much of the north till
European contact.

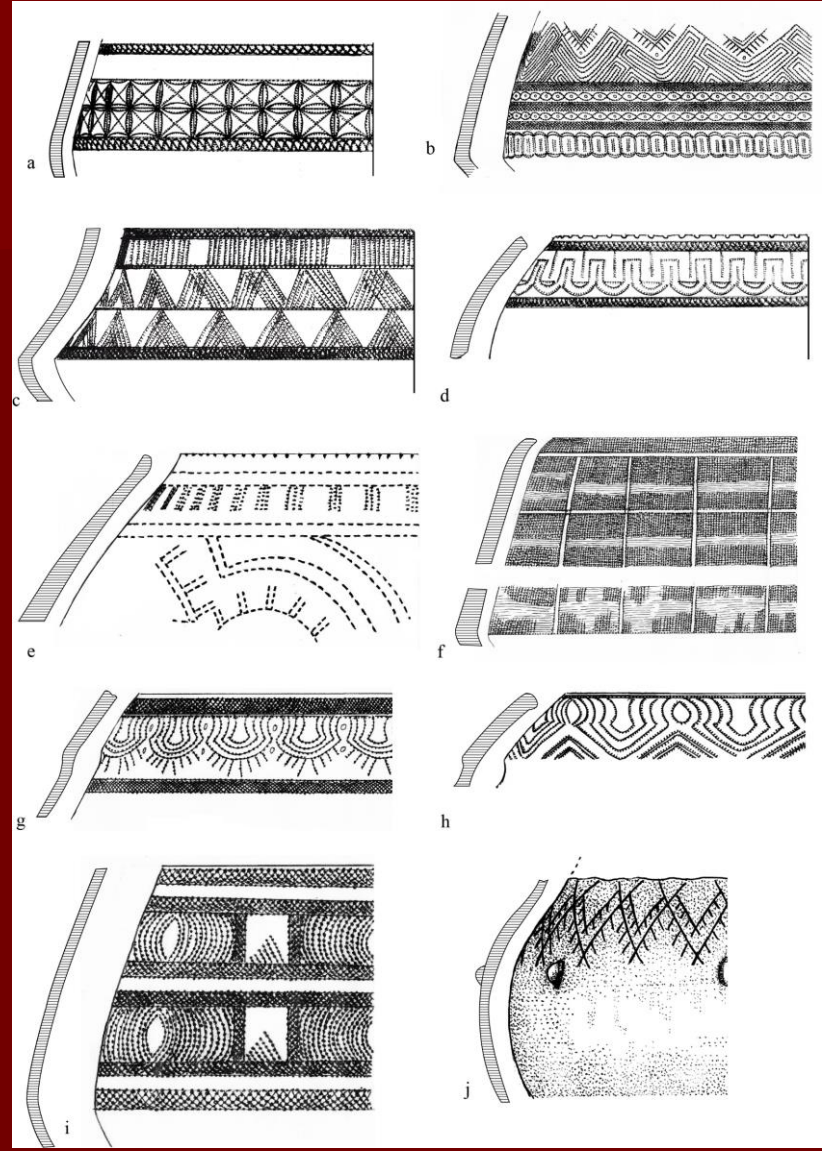
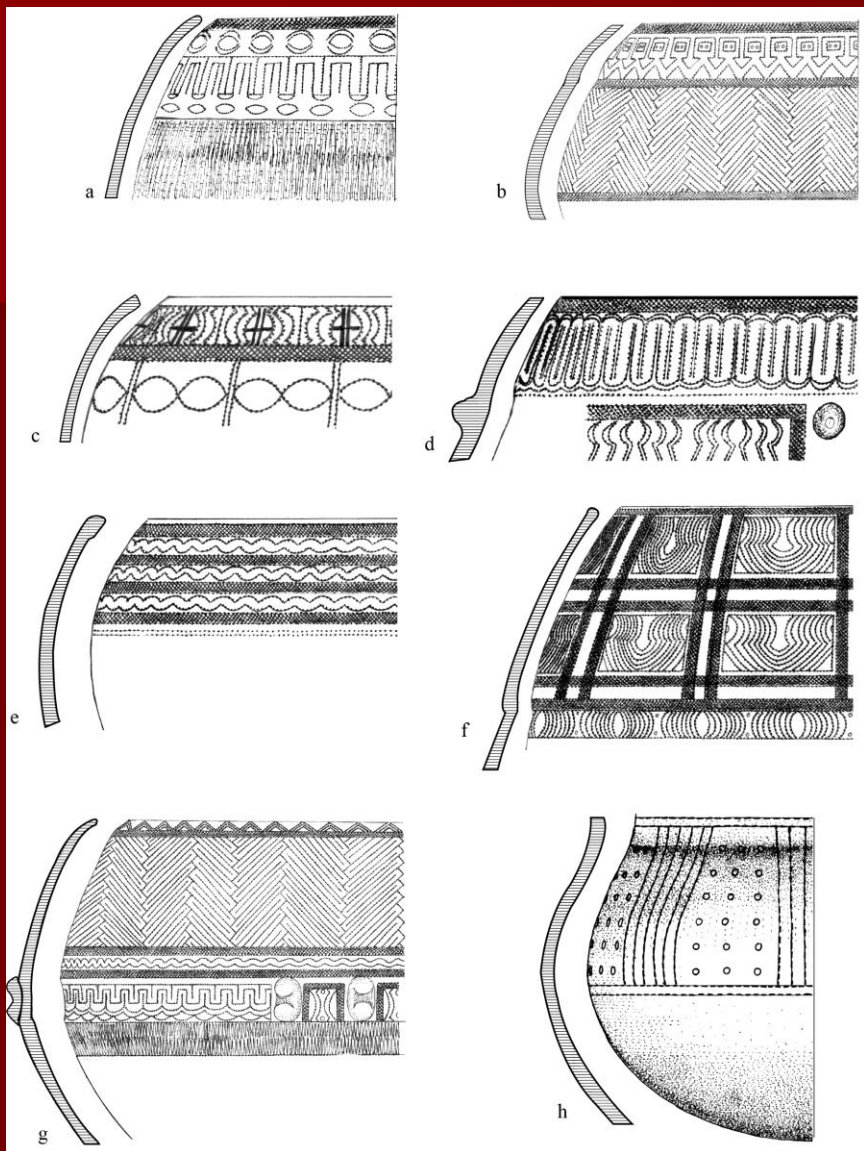


Islands of northeast Malakula all less than 2km sq. Subject to uplift and tephra-fall





Excavations on Uripiv, Wala, Atchin and Vao. Well preserved sites that represent 3000 years occupation. Almost identical stratigraphy and archaeological deposits

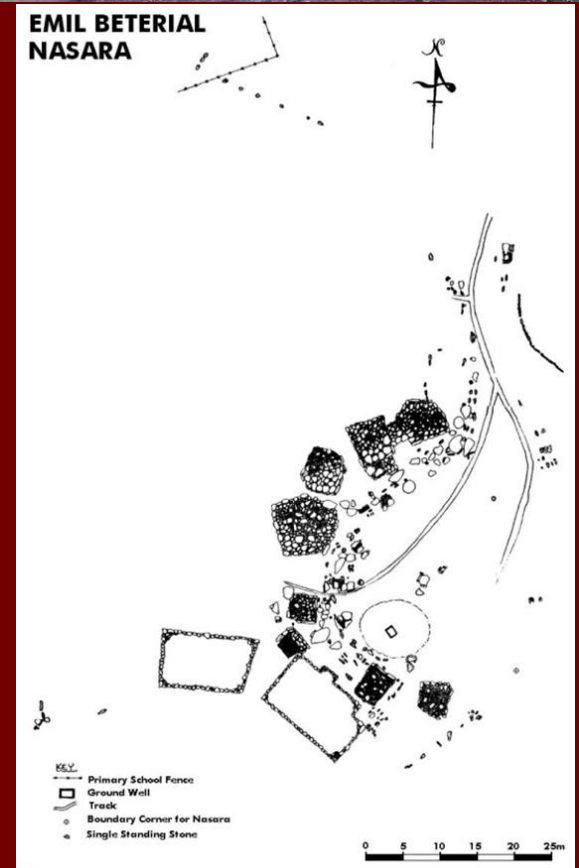


Lapita vessels from Uripiv and Vao. Associated with first arrival but already regionally distinctive vessel forms and design motifs



- Lapita occupation on the beach then 1000 years of occupation in similar zone
- Coral gravel imported from 2300 BP acting as free draining surface
- Massive Ambrym eruption c. 2000 BP and active ever since
- Dispersed settlement across the islands from 1500 BP and appearance of distinctive ceremonial structures (nasara) made of beach rock, fossil and reef coral from 400BP

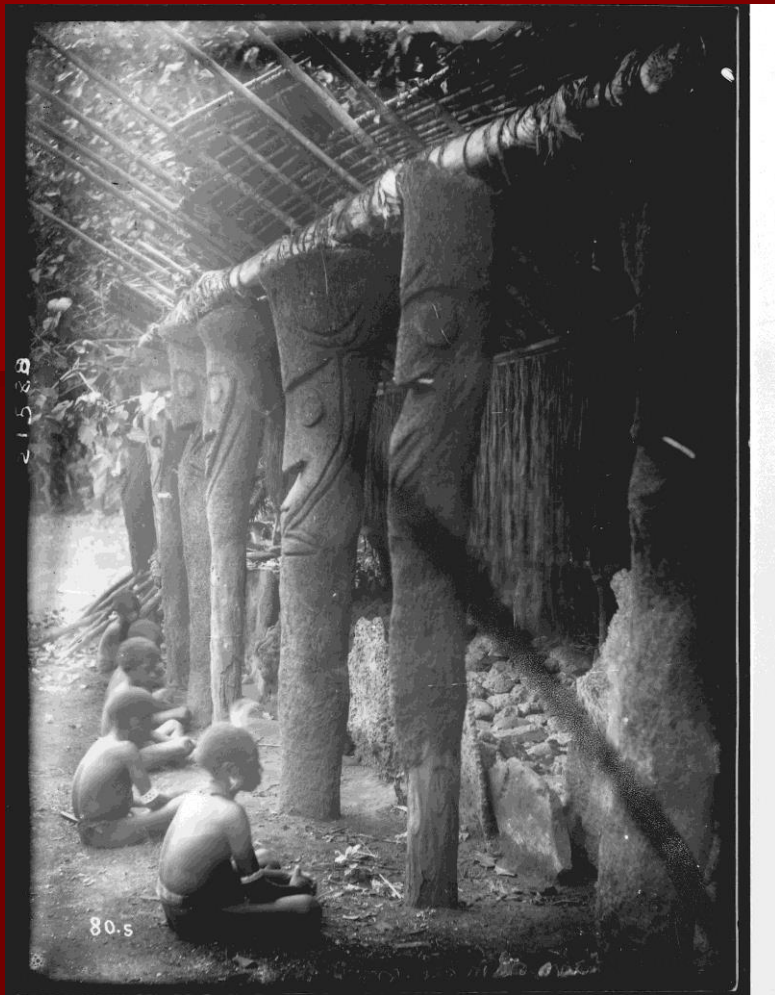
Nasara of various forms found throughout Nthn Vanuatu and across Malakula. Central to social and political life. Beterial nasara Uripiv Island, platforms, tables, standing stones





Wala





Boyle Somerville 1891

Uripiv Island

A.B Lewis
1914



76563

Neg. No. 76563. Beating Drums,
Uripiv, Eastern Malekula, New



Peterhul, Vao Island

Chronologically late



Coral dating has proved to be ideal method for establishing chronology. *Acropora* coral commonly used in nasara near the sea but often also found as part of burial shrines well in the interior.

Uripiv Is., NE Malakula

Nord

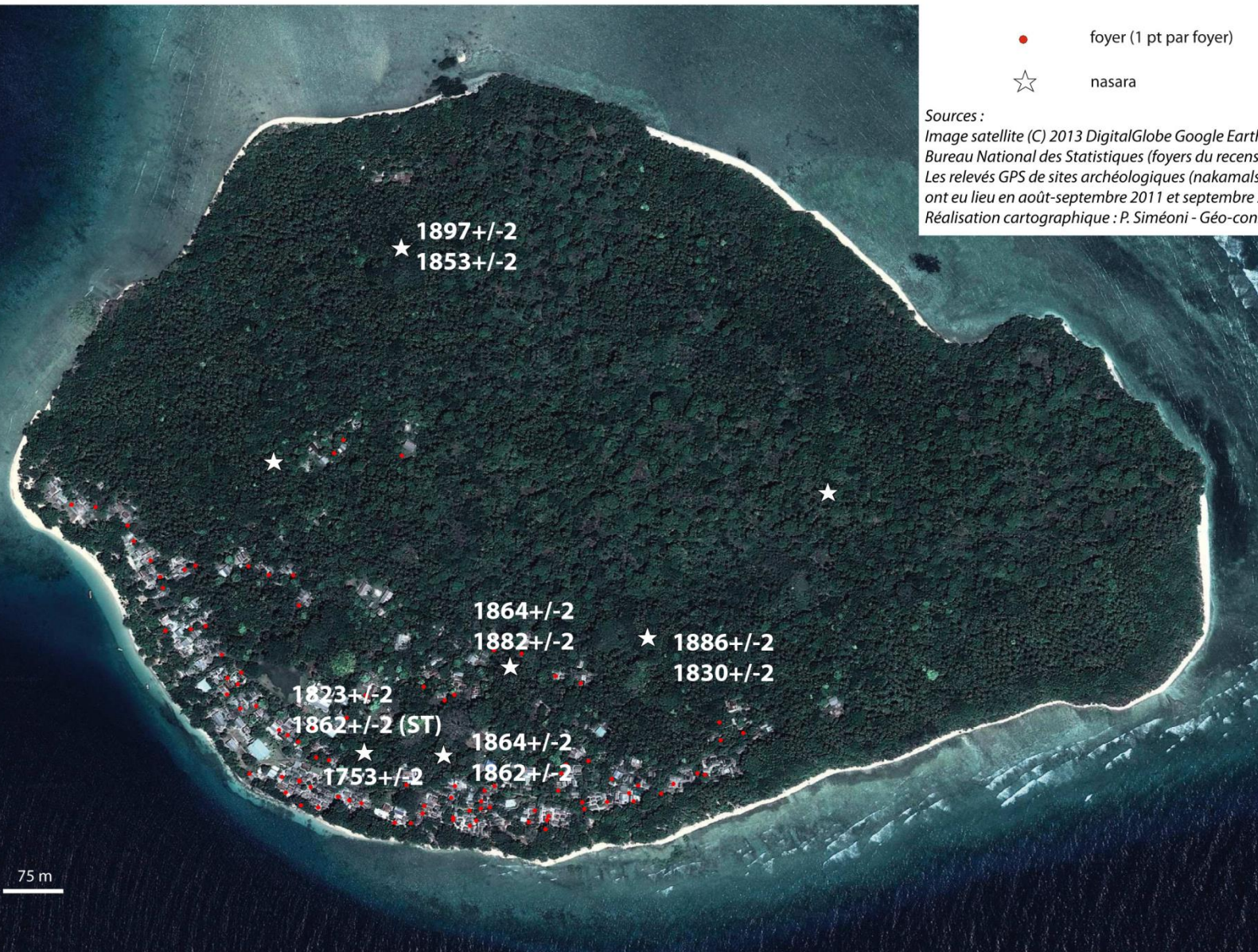


1 cm = 75 m

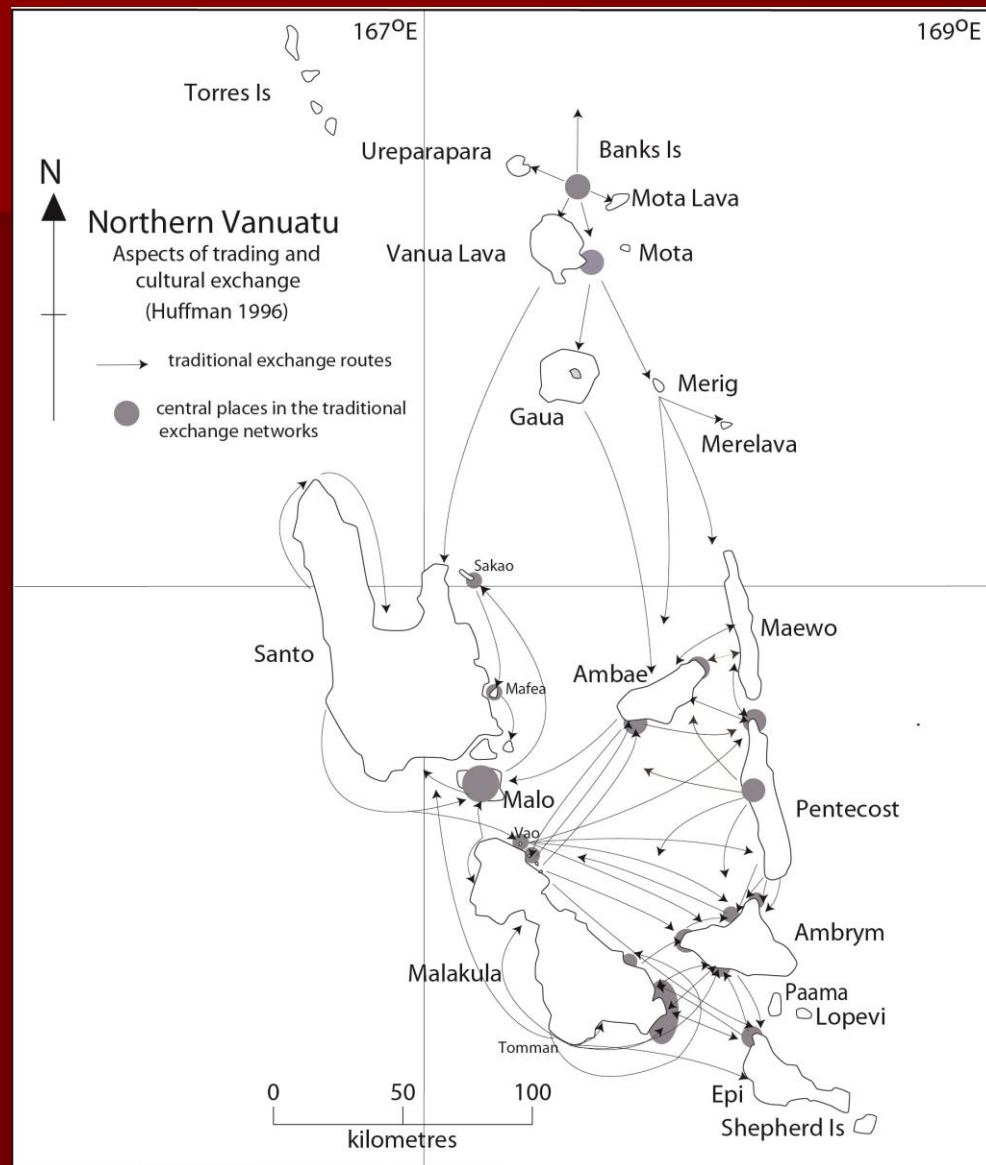
- foyer (1 pt par foyer)
- ☆ nasara

Sources :

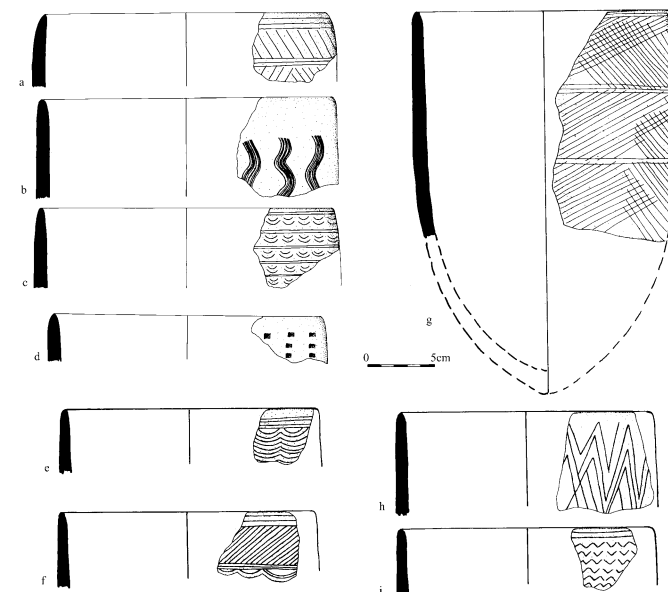
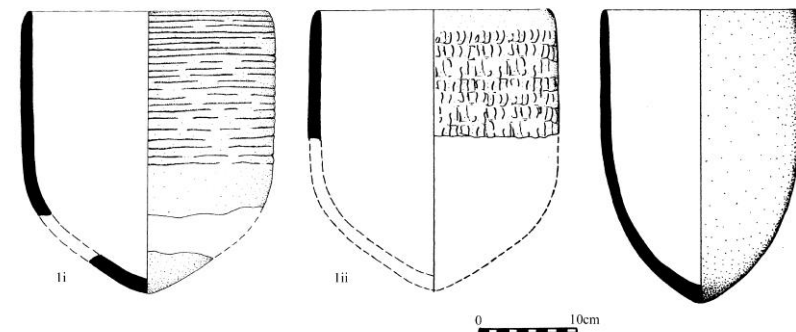
Image satellite (C) 2013 DigitalGlobe Google Earth,
Bureau National des Statistiques (foyers du recensement 2009),
Les relevés GPS de sites archéologiques (nakamals, narasa, pierres sacrées)
ont eu lieu en août-septembre 2011 et septembre 2013 (Stuart Bedford).
Réalisation cartographique : P. Siméoni - Géo-consulte



Extensive local and inter-island connections.



Late pottery: distinctive form, manufacturing technique and design motifs and found across north Vanuatu



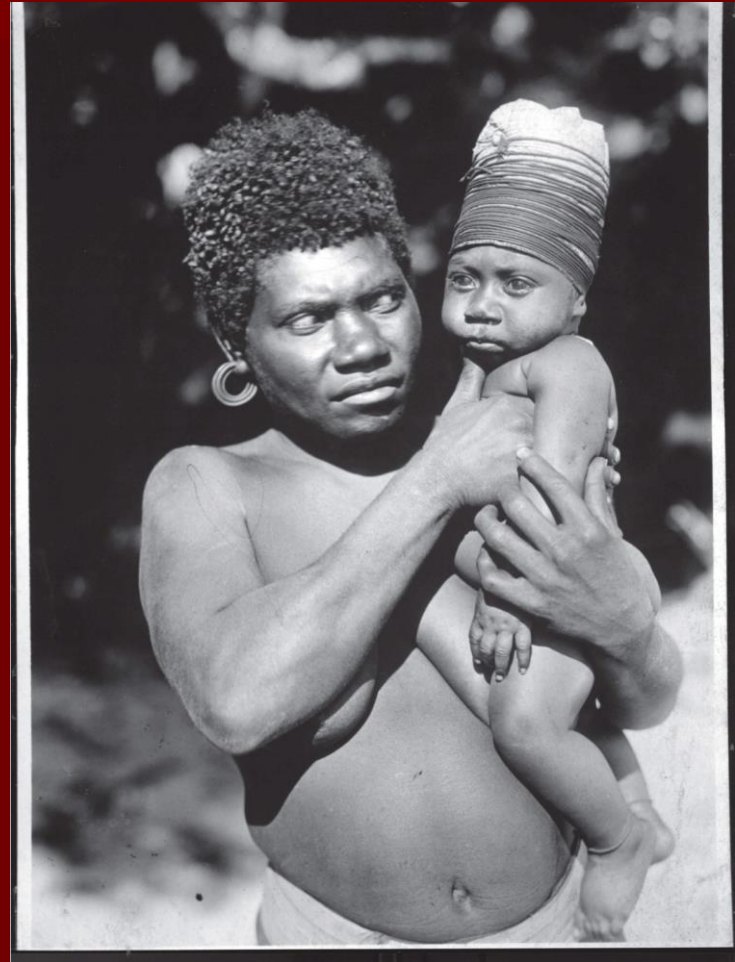


Inter-island canoes NE Malakula 1900

External influences/connections? Generally considered to be very limited, almost no hard evidence. Banks Islands obsidian on Tikopia and presence of very distinctive cultural practises. aDNA also indicates contact through to later periods. VERY limited archaeological research associated with the last 1000 years anywhere in SW Pacific.



Arawes



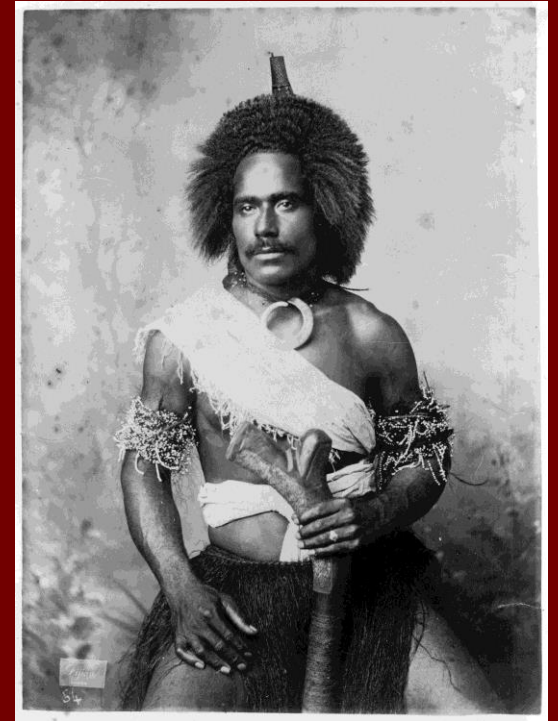
South Malakula



New Britain



Vanuatu



Fiji



Earliest dates are 400 BP

