

THE NAVIGATORS



August 4, 1981

Dear Pinkey,

I have enclosed copies of the letters of endorsement that have so far been sent in to support THE NAVIGATORS.

I plan to begin filming in Tahiti in late September and continue raising funds sufficient to begin once again filming in May/June of 1982. Both PRI and NEH look good for the money necessary to support the film.

Dr. Yoshi Sinoto does not know any of the local or territorial officials in Tahiti. I am now going through the State Department and the French Embassy to secure a permit to film in French Polynesia. If you have any contacts that might help both with the film permit or with simple local matters I would like very much to know of them. I would like to write a letter to the mayor/governor of Tahiti, for example, to explain what the film is about.

Thanks for all your support, Pinkey. It's going to be a good film.

Love to all the family,

Sam

PS. We are all happy in our new home in Newburyport. It's a great town, right by the Merrimac River. Our new house is funkey, old and comfortable.

Make out Falden



B I S H O P M U S E U M

P.O. BOX 19000-A • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819 • 808 847-3511

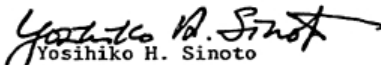
June 15, 1981

Dear Sirs,

During the last thirty years, great strides have been made in our knowledge of Oceanic prehistory. Modern linguistic studies coupled with archaeological excavation and analysis have allowed scholars to create a much more complete picture of both the origins and evolution of Polynesian societies. In my view it is now timely that a popular film based on this research be made and presented to a wide audience. THE NAVIGATORS should be such a film.

Dr. Low's background in both anthropology and documentary film production leads me to believe that he will produce a film that will both be an accurate statement of our current understanding as well as a fascinating story for the general public.

Sincerely,


Yoshihiko H. Sinoto
Chairman
Department of Anthropology



B I S H O P M U S E U M

P.O. BOX 19000-A • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819 • 808 847-3511

Anthropology Department
24 June 1981

Dr. Sanford H. Low

Dear Dr. Low:

It was a pleasure to meet with you regarding your plans to produce an hour-long documentary, "The Navigators." Based on our discussions, and on my reading of your preliminary script, I believe the film could potentially be a major statement of considerable scientific and educational value on a problem that has occupied Pacific scholars for two centuries: the origin of the Polynesians.

I was particularly impressed by your desire to penetrate beyond the facile questions of 'where' and 'when' Polynesian society originated, and to explore with the film the more fundamental question of what kinds of cognitive and behavioral adaptations permitted the ancestral Polynesians to successfully colonize nearly every island in 20 million square miles of ocean. By weaving together data obtained at the cutting edge of research in such disciplines as linguistics, archaeology, ethnobotany, and ethnology, you should be able to produce a film that in some respects goes beyond the issue of Polynesian origins per se, and address certain basic questions concerning human societies and their environments.

I would also point out that this is a particularly appropriate time for such an undertaking as you propose, since there is at present a great upsurge of interest amongst the indigenous peoples of the Pacific, including the Hawaiians, in their cultural heritage. Your film could thus potentially generate a great deal of interest, not only in North America, but throughout the Pacific Basin.

I look forward to consulting with you further on this project, which should be among the most rewarding applications of film to the humanities and social sciences.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick V. Kirch
Patrick V. Kirch, Ph.D.
Anthropologist



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Department of Linguistics
Moore Hall 569 • 1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

June 22, 1981

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing in reference to the proposed documentary film, *THE NAVIGATORS*, which is currently being planned by Dr. Sanford H. Low. Dr. Low has discussed the plan with me at some length.

I would very much like to see the film produced. I believe that this would be an exceptionally good time for a film of this kind. It is a time when Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are very seriously concerned to rediscover their own ethnic identities. The planned film should be helpful to them in documenting something of the achievements of their ancestors and the richness of their cultural heritage.

Of particular interest to me personally is the fact that it provides a vehicle for displaying the contributions which my own discipline, linguistics, is capable of making and, in fact, has already made to the reconstruction of this prehistoric heritage. I particularly welcome anything which will bring to the attention of the general public the contributions which can potentially be made by linguistics to providing a basis for a re-awakening of ethnic pride and an enhanced sense of personal worth among Pacific Islanders (and anyone else for that matter).

In my discussions with Dr. Low I have been impressed by his concern to maintain a high standard of scholarly accuracy, even though quite properly exploiting the inherent romantic appeal of the subject. In my judgment, his undertaking is highly deserving of support.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Grace
George W. Grace,
Professor of Linguistics,
Editor, Oceanic Linguistics

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ILLEGIBLE



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor
Saipan, Mariana Islands 969

Cable Address:
GPO NMI Saipan

JUL 13 1981

Mr. Sanford Low

Dear Mr. Low:

Jerry Norris just sent me a copy of the description of your proposed film THE NAVIGATORS and a copy of your biodata.

You are certainly very well qualified and have the necessary background to undertake a venture of this type.

As Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I wish to express my support for your film project. In my opinion, this film will do much to convey an appreciation for the achievements of not only the Polynesians, but all Pacific islands people.

In the Marianas, the Chamorros had perfected the swift "flying proa" sailing canoes which were admired by Anson and other Europeans who observed them as late as the 17th century.

The other ethnic group living in the Northern Marianas are the Carolinians, descendants of settlers who came originally from Satawal and other surrounding islands. These people came to Saipan in the 19th century using sailing canoes and navigation methods similar to the ones Mau Pialug taught the Hawaiians on the Hokule'a.

As a matter of fact Pialug and his crew have sailed from Satawal to Saipan several times and one of their self made canoes is on display at Saipan's international airport.

With best wishes and a warm

Hafa Adai,

CARLOS S. CAMACHO
Governor



PAUL M. CALVO
GOVERNOR

Territory of Guam

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AGANA, GUAM 96910
U.S.A.

5877

Mr. Sanford Low

Dear Mr. Low:

As Governor of Guam, I wish to express my support for THE NAVIGATORS film project. In my opinion, this film will do much to convey an appreciation for the achievements of the Polynesian people.

The two voyages of the Hokule'a, a replica of a Polynesian voyaging canoe, have instilled a sense of ethnic pride among the people of Hawaii. The accomplishments of Pius "Mau" Piaailug, a master navigator from the island of Satawal, and the research conducted by Nainoa Thompson, a Hawaiian who guided the Hokule'a on her second trip from Hawaii to Tahiti, have produced a resurgence of interest here in the islands concerning the cultural heritage and achievements of early Polynesian seafarers. THE NAVIGATORS film will do much to encourage that interest and to explore the new knowledge gained by the Hokule'a voyages and the research of scientists, archeologists, and anthropologists who have dedicated their careers to understanding the roots of Polynesian cultural heritage. The film will present this heritage through television broadcast and will also be of significant use to classroom teachers throughout the United States.

THE NAVIGATORS has my whole-hearted support.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL M. CALVO



Pacific Basin Development Council

Suite 620 • 567 South King Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone (808) 523-9325 • Telex 743-0668

Governor George R. Ariyoshi
Hawaii
President

July 6, 1981

Governor Carlos S. Camacho
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands
Vice President

To Whom It May Concern:

Governor Peter Tali Coleman
American Samoa
Secretary

As the Executive Director of the Pacific Basin Development Council, I am pleased to add my support to the film project---THE NAVIGATORS. In my opinion, this will contribute a great deal about the achievements of the Polynesian people.

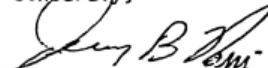
Governor Paul M. Calvo
Guam
Treasurer

I have followed closely to the two voyages of the Hokule'a and have sensed a sense of ethnic pride of not only those on the voyages, but those that have followed the successful efforts of Pius "Mau" Piailug, a master navigator from the Island of Satawal, and Nainoa Thompson, a local Hawaiian who guided the Hokule'a on his second trip. There has been a resurgence of interest here in the Pacific concerning the cultural heritage and achievements of early Polynesian seafarers and the opportunity to bring that story to others around the world is commendable.

THE NAVIGATORS film will do much to encourage that interest to explore the new knowledge gained by the Hokule'a voyages as well as the research by scientists, archeologists and anthropologists who have dedicated their careers to understanding the roots of Polynesian cultural heritage. At a time when we are trying to understand our neighbors in the Pacific and at a time when the national interest seems to be turning further West, I feel that THE NAVIGATORS has an excellent opportunity to draw interest to our area.

THE NAVIGATORS has my whole hearted support.

Sincerely,


JERRY B. NORRIS
Executive Director

JBN/cka

Jerry B. Norris
Executive Director

SPARK M. MATSUNAGA
HAWAII

WASHINGTON OFFICE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

HONOLULU OFFICE
3104 PRINCE KUHIO BUILDING
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 10, 1981

CHIEF DEPUTY
DEMOCRATIC WHIP

MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dr. Nora Mayor
National Endowment for the Humanities
806 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Mayor:

I understand that Sanford H. Low is applying for an NEH grant to help support production of a film about Polynesian ocean voyagers entitled "The Navigators." Sanford Low's professional qualifications speak for themselves. And I am sure my testimony on behalf of his excellent character is but one voice in a chorus. But perhaps I can contribute to your deliberations by explaining briefly why I believe this project deserves support from NEH in the form proposed by Dr. Low.

In my view, the humanities can be distinguished from other disciplines by their ability to speak to the spirit in man. They not only inform, they inspire, and in so doing they revitalize humanity's noblest impulses, among which is a restless questing impulse to explore the unknown. When that impulse weakens, societies recoil upon themselves and an unhealthy process of social fragmentation begins.

So the questing impulse, the urge to explore the unknown, is among humanity's noblest instincts, and one of our oldest. It was shaped in an age predating human conflict, when emergent human consciousness stood before a vast, incomprehensible, darkly threatening primordial world and struggled to overcome its fears in order to extend the boundaries of its perception and understanding. The questing impulse has carried us from superstition to reason, from caves and pits in the ground to the threshold of outer space, where we are now poised.

And among those who carried that impulse forward, few, if any, can match the resourcefulness and daring of the early Polynesians. Centuries before Columbus or Magellan, without compass or sextant, Polynesians moved out into the Pacific - the largest body of water in the world and to them an uncharted void. They were embarked on an enterprise of awesome proportions.

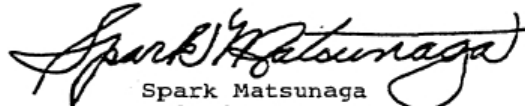
Dr. Nora Mayor
July 10, 1981
Page Two

The main difference between the ocean-spanning achievements of the early Polynesians, and, say, the Apollo space program, lies only in certain techniques accumulated over time. In both cases, the intelligence, imagination and daring involved spring from the same dynamically creative impulse that every culture hoping to perpetuate itself with any degree of originality and grandeur must nurture. Awakening us to that impulse, drawing us into communion with it so to speak, is, it seems to me, what the humanities are all about.

It is also what Dr. Low's project is all about. As a citizen of Hawaii, I have drawn inspiration from the story of the Polynesian navigators. As a citizen of the United States, I urge you to support Dr. Low's efforts to bring that story to a wider audience. In this age of self-centered social fragmentation, we need more than ever to be reawakened to the spirit that united the early Polynesians in their efforts to extend the boundaries of human understanding - a purposeful quest into the unknown.

Aloha and best wishes.

Sincerely,


Spark Matsunaga
U.S. Senator