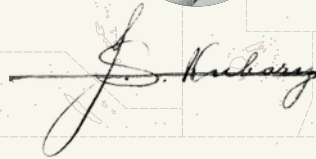


Polish explorations in Oceania

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Kubary".

JAN STANISŁAW KUBARY

Ethnographer, naturalist, and chief # Nov.13th. 1846, Warsaw, Poland - + Oct. 9th. 1896, Pohnpei (Ponape)

Pionieer in the exploration of Micronesian culture and nature,
from Poland. His life, achievements, and legacy

Text and booklet concept based on the poster exhibition:

by Aleksander Posern-Zielinski

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Jan Stanisław Kubary

Introduction

Jan Stanisław Kubary, a Polish explorer of the Pacific area and Micronesian islands, left valuable information in his rich scientific legacy containing detailed descriptions of the culture and society of the XIX century's Oceania. His reports show the indigenous inhabitants at a time when their daily lives have not yet undergone drastic changes due to colonial influence. He carried out his observations and field trips mainly in Palau, Yap, and Pohnpei, documenting in his publications the cultural heritage of the Micronesian which has been largely transformed. During his 27-year stay in Oceania, Kubary also collected many ethnographic artifacts and natural specimens for European museums, made detailed cartography of the Pacific archipelagos, studied indigenous languages, and conducted archaeological surveys. At the same time, he gained the recognition of the local authorities because he respected native customs, treated the sick, and applied his diplomatic skill to mediate conflicts between hostile chiefdoms. In honor of his engagement and openness to the local societies, he was endowed with the rank of a chief, and the memory of his merits has survived on some islands to this day.

The adventurous life of Jan Stanisław Kubary, first in his homeland - Poland, then in Germany, and finally in Oceania, was full of many dramatic turns that made his biography extremely fascinating. He was undoubtedly a pioneer of ethnographic and natural research in Micronesia, leaving behind a significant legacy that is unfortunately mostly forgotten. Kubary started his way of life as a young student at a Polish university. As an explorer, he cooperated with German scientists and museums for many years. During his stay in Oceania, he acquired

Australian (British) citizenship; his plantation and home was located on Ponape (Pohnpei), an island controlled by Spain. Most of all, he devoted his entire professional life to Micronesia, where he started a family, where his children were born, where he conducted his research, and where wrote his works. At the end of his industrious life, he died at the age of 50 in unclear circumstances on Pohnpei, where today a modest stone monument commemorates his activity.

For many decades, the achievements of Jan Stanisław Kubary were underestimated or poorly known. Today, this situation is gradually changing. The first translations of his reports from

German to English have been made (in this regard, the Kroemer Ethnographic Translation Committee in Palau was the pioneer). Books and articles about him have been published in Poland, Germany, Australia, and the USA, emphasizing the importance of his achievements in many fields. Nevertheless, his contribution to the studies on Oceania is still not very well known and, therefore, needs to be constantly emphasized.

To disseminate knowledge about Kubary's life and research activities, a team of Polish scientists from the University of Warsaw elaborated a poster exhibition showing the most important stages of the life and achievements of this explorer. The posters were exhibited at the Palau Community College in 2023 and in an electronic version at the College of Micronesia in Pohnpei. On the one hand, this event was intended to remind that Kubary was an outstanding researcher of Micronesia. On the other hand, it was a perfect symbolic pretext to initiate scientific and educational relations between Kubary's homeland, Poland, and the Republic of Palau.

A good expression of these intentions was the visit of an official delegation of the Polish Ministry of Education and Science (the exhibi-

tion's main sponsor) headed by Mr. Tomasz Rzymkowski, the deputy minister. The key issue of many official meetings was the question of cooperation between both countries and this idea was also expressed during the encounter with the President of the Republic of Palau - Mr. Surangel S. Whipps Jr. One of the first effects of this cooperation was the establishment of the Kubary Scholarship Fund dedicated to students of the Palau Community College. At this point, the organizers of the exhibition would like to thank the President of PCC - Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, for his kindness, support of the idea of the exhibition, and for making available the prestigious Assembly Hall for its organization. We would also like to thank the Honorary Consul of Poland - Mr. Uchel Tmetuchl, for his comprehensive help.

Due to the limited duration of the exhibition, its organizers decided to convert the posters contained therein into a booklet. It is important to mention here that the President of PCC and the Honorary Consul of Poland, supported the idea of its publication in Palau – because were firm in their belief that the people of Palau appreciate to learn more information about the Polish explorer of their homeland. The text about Kubary's life and research was elaborated on the basis of a number of scattered Polish, German, and Australian sources. On the other hand, the illustrations were taken primarily from Internet resources, most of which are available today as part of open access. The Polish Ministry of Education and Science provided financial aid to print and release the booklet.

As compatriots of Jan Stanisław Kubary, representing the same university at which this researcher studied many years ago, we pass this modest booklet on to readers from Palau, especially young people, with the conviction that Kubary's life and activity will become more known and appreciated. There is no doubt that his name is important to the people of Palau, Yap, Pohnpei, and the entire Carolinas. On the other hand, Kubary is also appreciated in his homeland because he one of many

outstanding Polish explorers and ethnographers who not only transmitted the knowledge of distant countries to Europeans but also contributed to the development of world anthropology and natural sciences.

Aleksander Posern-Zielinski and Mariusz Ziolkowski
University of Warsaw, Poland



The first official delegation from Poland in the history of mutual diplomatic relations, headed by Deputy Minister Tomasz Rzymkowski, from the Ministry of Education and Science, and Przemysław Skrodzki, Director of the Department of International Cooperation, was received by the President of the Republic of Palau - H.E. Surangel Whipps Jr. Opening of the exhibition about the Polish researcher of Palau - J. St. Kubary has become a useful platform to initiate scientific and educational cooperation between the Republic of Palau and Poland. (Photo. A. Posern-Zielinski).

**Jan Stanisław Kubary
and Polish explorers
of Australia and Oceania**

Drawing of J. St. Kubary during his stay in Samoa,
from the Polish weekly: "Tygodnik Ilustrowany",
Warsaw, 1873, vol. 12. Source: [www.twitter.com/
Przewodzik/status/1591828407905845249](https://www.twitter.com/Przewodzik/status/1591828407905845249)



Polish explorations in Oceania

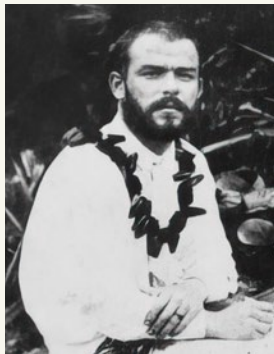
Jan Stanisław Kubary and Polish explorers of Australia and Oceania

The 19th century and the years preceding World War I was a period of great European interest in discovering and describing distant countries and overseas lands. After the era of great geographic discoveries came a time for more detailed exploration of “foreign” and hitherto unknown natural and cultural worlds. These trends stemmed from the Enlightenment idea of learning about the planet’s complex diversity. This trend was part of the logic of colonial expansion designed to ensure the domination of the powers of the old continent over the rest of the world. One of the manifestations of these phenomena was the fashion for distant scientific voyages, the fruits of which became not only descriptions, reports, maps, drawings, and photographs but also ethnographic collections filling museums of “natural history” and “overseas cultures.” Thus, travelers and explorers, largely amateurs who, over time, became professional researchers recognized by scientific authorities over the years, embarked on exotic routes.



Paweł Edmund Strzelecki (1797-1873)
An outstanding geographer, explorer of Australia, Tasmania, and Polynesia between 1838-1843.
Source: www.portalpolonii.com.au

J.St. Kubary during his research in Samoa,
author unknown, (Museum Godeffroy Photo Album, photo no.5; volume now in the library of the Grassi Museum of Ethnology in Leipzig).



Bronisław Malinowski (1884-1942)
Founder of social anthropology, carried out fieldworks in Melanesia between 1915-1918.
Source: www.wikimedia.org



After the era of great geographic discoveries came a time for more detailed exploration of “foreign” and hitherto unknown natural and cultural worlds.

Although Poland as a sovereign state did not exist at the time, as the region was controlled by neighboring imperial powers, Polish travelers and explorers participated in this great international description of the world. They conducted valuable research in Siberia, the Caucasus Mountains, Central Asia, the countries of Latin America, and into the interior of Africa. Polish travelers and explorers also studied Australia and the Pacific islands.

Among Polish explorers of the latter area, three figures that made significant contributions to world science deserve special attention. One of them is Paweł. E. Strzelecki, an eminent geographer, geologist, and cartographer famous for his descriptions of the unknown territories of Australia; the second is one of the founders of modern social anthropology - Bronislaw Malinowski, whose books describing the daily life and customs of the inhabitants of Melanesia are considered to this day as classic works full of inspiring ideas.



Source: www.wikimedia.org

The third significant figure is Jan Stanislaw Kubary, one of the pioneers of ethnographic research of Micronesia. He researched these archipelagos and published many articles and reports over the 27 years he lived there, systematically collecting and exporting the ethnographic and natural objects to European museums. Unlike Strzelecki and Malinowski, Kubary’s contributions to ethnology and natural sciences are not widely known, although his achievements are becoming increasingly appreciated. Therefore, it is worthwhile to bring this figure closer to us and show his dramatic life history, which took him from Poland to the Pacific islands, making him an outstanding ethnographer of Micronesian islands in the era before its radical acculturation changes.

(...) Kubary’s contributions to ethnology and natural sciences are not widely known, although his achievements are becoming increasingly appreciated.

Jan Stanisław Kubary His early years in Poland

The center of Warsaw in a painting from the 19th century. Source: www.blog.magiawarszawy.pl



Jan Stanisław Kubary

His early years in Poland

Jan Stanislaw (Johann Stanislaus) Kubary was born on November 13, 1846, in Warsaw, the capital of the Kingdom of Poland, which was one of many provinces of the Russian Empire. He grew up in a middle-class family. His mother, Tekla, who was of German descent from Berlin and had lived in Warsaw since childhood, passed on to him a good knowledge of German. This knowledge would serve him well later in his career, allowing him to write reports and publish in German scientific journals. The influence of his stepfather, Tomasz Marcinkiewicz, and the strong national sentiments among Warsaw's youth instilled within him a deep sense of patriotism. As a high school student, he was a member of an underground organization. With the outbreak of the January Uprising against Russian rule (1863-1864), he joined a partisan unit fighting against the occupying Russian forces.

The collapse of the uprising brought repression on its participants. J. St. Kubary was arrested twice and was forced to become an agent of the Russian police to avoid exile to Siberia. By avoiding deportation, he could take up medical studies at Warsaw University. Eventually, the pressure of this ambiguous situation was too much, and he revealed his secret ties with the police, which placed him in a difficult position: his colleagues stopped trusting him and considered him a traitor.



Picture “Battle” by A. Grottger (1863) – an artistic vision of one of many battles between Polish insurgents and Russian troops. Source: www.api.culture.pl



“Track to Siberia”, picture by A. Grottger (1867) – many participants of the anti-Russian uprising after its fall were sentenced to forced exile to Siberia. Such a fate also threatened young J. St. Kubary. Source: www.api.culture.pl

In contrast, the secret police threatened him with deportation deep into far-east Russia if he refused further cooperation. To disentangle himself from this dire situation, Kubary made a radical life decision, abandoned his studies, illegally crossed the border into Prussia, and traveled to Berlin and then Hamburg, thus beginning a new stage of his wandering life in 1868.



The Warsaw Citadel, at the time of the January uprising functioned as an investigative prison, where captured insurgents were kept. Source: www.wikipedia.org

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The main building of the University of Warsaw in the years 1862-1869, attended by J. St. Kubary, as a student of medicine. Source: www.archeologia.uw.edu.pl

Jan Stanisław Kubary in Hamburg, Germany

Former merchant houses on
one of Hamburg's port canals.
Source: www.westend61.de



Jan Stanisław Kubary in Hamburg, Germany



Portrait of Johann Cesar VI Godeffroy, (d. 1847) entrepreneur and owner of merchant ships from Hamburg who employed J. St. Kubary and sent him to the Pacific islands. Source: www.en.wikipedia.org

“Naturally my heart bleeds for the fact that, like a thief, I had to flee without Your blessing and hugs. But I am a poor outcast, ...from everyone ill-treated, I am prepared to worry, because my entire life, counting from 1863, has been nothing but sorrow”.

In 1868 J. St. Kubary secretly left Warsaw and crossed the border with Prussia on foot. At that time, he writes a heartfelt letter to his mother, whom he could not say goodbye to in person:

“Naturally my heart bleeds for the fact that, like a thief, I had to flee without Your blessing and hugs. But I am a poor outcast, ...from everyone ill-treated, I am prepared to worry, because my entire life, counting from 1863, has been nothing but sorrow” (quoted by W. Slabczynski, “On the Pacific Islands,” Warsaw 1956, p.11)

From Berlin, he continued to Hamburg, a city that was a proper window to the distant and unknown countries at the time. There he took a job in the great trading and shipping company of Johann Cesar VI Godeffroy, who sent his numerous ships all over the world transporting emigrants from Europe and bringing exotic



The currently non-existent buildings of the **Godeffroy Co.**, including the natural history museum, in the harbor district of Hamburg.

products from faraway lands. He established a natural history museum in Hamburg, known as the Godeffroy Museum, where he displayed objects from exotic countries brought to Europe by his agents. This institution (active from 1861 to 1885) quickly became one of Europe's most important ethnographic and natural history museums.

Thanks to his artistic and manual skills, medical training, and knowledge of languages, J. St. Kubary gained the recognition of Godeffroy, who decided to hire him and sent him to the Pacific islands as a professional researcher and collector of artifacts for his museum. Although the contract was for “only” five years, this step determines the further fate of J. St. Kubare, who would spend the next 27 years, until his death, in the archipelagos of Oceania. In May 1869, J. St. Kubary departed Hamburg on the sailing ship “Wandrahm” bound for Polynesia and arrived in Samoa in September of the same year.

Thanks to his artistic and manual skills, medical training, and knowledge of languages, J. St. Kubary gained the recognition of Godeffroy, who decided to hire him and sent him to the Pacific islands .professional researcher and collector of artifacts for his museum.

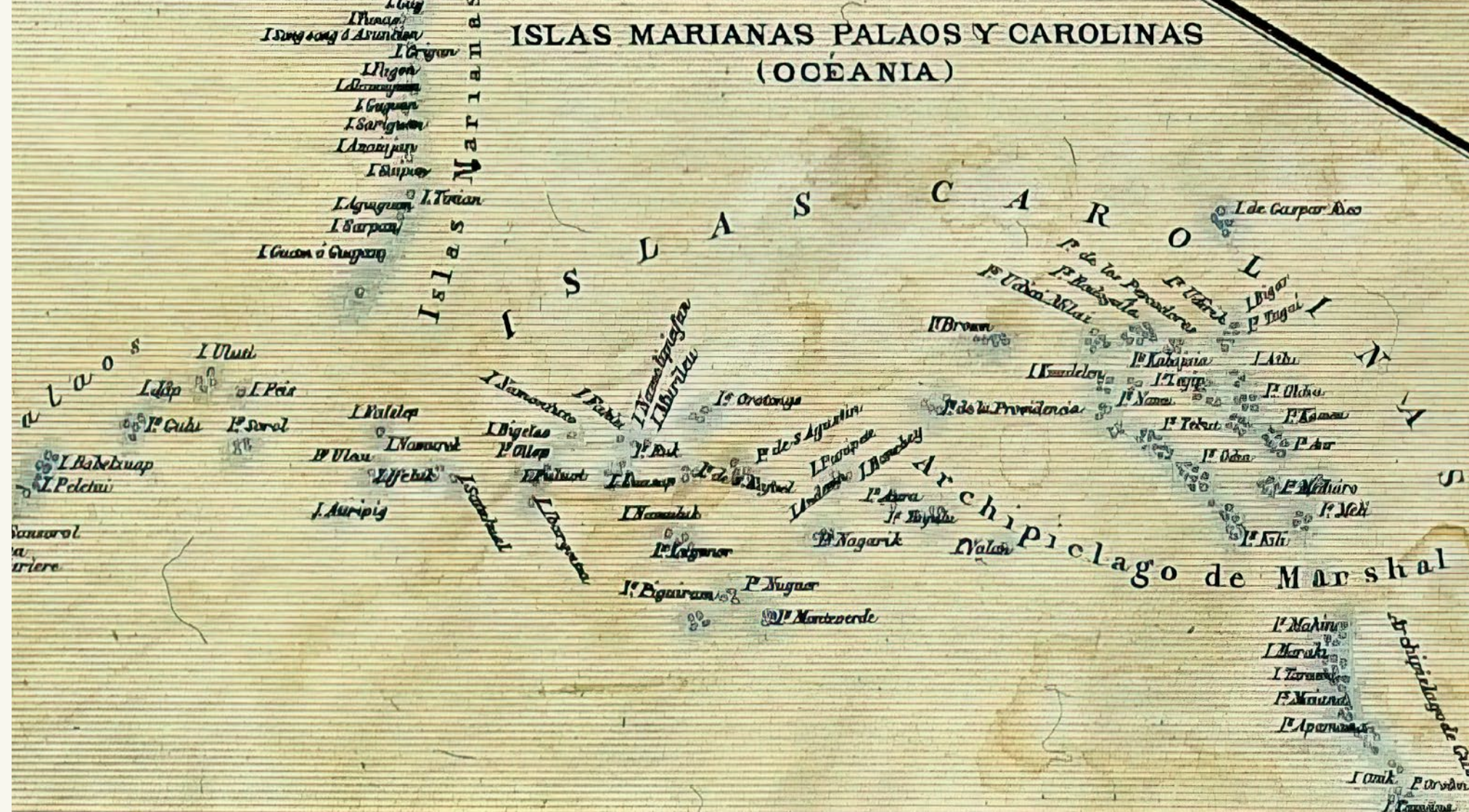


Harbor of Hamburg in 1860.



J. St. Kubary sailed to Oceania in 1869 on one of the sailing ships belonging to **Godeffroy's** company. Source: www.wikimedia.org

Map of Micronesia from 1888 when these islands still belonged to the Spanish East Indies.
Source: www.wikimedia.org



Jan Stanisław Kubary From Samoa to Micronesia

After several months at sea, J. St. Kubary arrives in Polynesia, disembarking at the port of Apia in Samoa, where the German consulate is already functioning, and the Godeffroy company had been increasing its economic position in the archipelago since 1855 with a trading post factory and its coconut plantations. At this point, Samoa was of interest to the great powers of England, the United States, and Germany.

Kubary stays in Samoa for a time, gaining new skills in professional collecting and scientific documentation of nature, ethnography, and photography under an experienced representative of the Hamburg Godeffroy Museum - Swiss zoologist Eduard Graeffe.



A great chief from the royal dynasty of Malietoa, ruling Samoa in the 19th century, (1869) (photo.: J.St. Kubary, Museum Godeffroy Photo Album, volume now in the library of the Grassi Museum of Ethnology in Leipzig).



Simoa, wife of the Mulianga, a great chief from Samoa, (1869), (photo.: J.St. Kubary, Museum Godeffroy Photo Album, volume now in the library of the Grassi Museum of Ethnology in Leipzig).

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At the same time, Kubary is already undertaking his first independent fieldwork research in Samoa. He learns the local language and takes an interest in the indigenous social system, legal relations, beliefs, and the local economy. He also establishes relationships with Samoan chiefs and photographs the local people.

After an eight-month stay in Samoa in 1870, he went, per his contract, to the islands of Micronesia, which became his main research area from then on. The Micronesian archipelagos at the time were nominally under Spanish colonial rule. However, from the present-day capital of the Philippines, Manila, Spain could barely control dozens of small



J.St. Kubary during his research in Samoa, author unknown, (Museum Godeffroy Photo Album, photo no.5; volume now in the library of the Grassi Museum of Ethnology in Leipzig). Source: www.nakrawedziraju.files.wordpress.com

islands scattered in Pacific waters. Most of the Micronesian islands in 1898-1899 (after Kubary's death) became a German possession. Thus, Kubary is one of the earliest explorers and observers of the indigenous peoples of Micronesia before the rapid cultural changes due to German colonial administration, Anglo-Saxon missionaries, and the influence of European sailors, plantation owners, and merchants.



Western Pacific Islands including Micronesia, explored by J. St. Kubary. Source: www.wikimedia.org

During his nearly 30 years in the area, J. St. Kubary inhabited, visited, explored, and described many Micronesian archipelagos and isolated islets.



The German consulate in the harbour of Apia on the Upolu island in the Samoa archipelago, which in the middle of the the 19th century was formally an independent kingdom. Source: www.wikimedia.org

During his nearly 30 years in the area, J. St. Kubary inhabited, visited, explored, and described many Micronesian archipelagos and isolated islets. On the trail of his travels were the Carolinas and the Marshall Islands. However, three islands focused this explorer's special attention: Palau, Yap, and Ponape (Pohnpei).



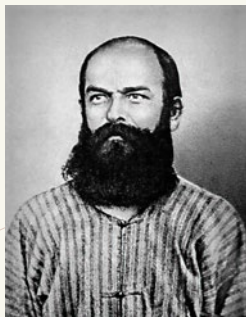
View of Samoa. Source: www.depositphotos.com

Jan Stanisław Kubary
on the Palau islands

**Badrulchau: megalithic constructions of the
ancient inhabitants of Palau, state Ngarchelong,
Babeldaob, photo: A. Posern-Zielinski.**



Jan Stanisław Kubary on the Palau islands



J. St. Kubary in 1882. Source:
www.przeglad.olkuski.pl

The Micronesian archipelago of Palau (also known as Belau), located at the western edge of the Carolinas, was an area of particular interest and research experience for Jan St. Kubary. He stayed in the area from 1871 to 1873 and again from 1883 to 1884, when he settled there with his wife Anna, a half-blood native of Pohnnepi (Ponape), where his daughter was born. J. St. Kubary resided for a more extended period on three of Palau's larger islands, namely Babeldaob, Koror, and Molokal, and it was from these areas that his observations mainly originated.

These were the years when Palau nominally “belonged” to Spain. Still, due to the relatively weak influence of this colonial power, the native culture remained relatively unaffected by western influences. Kubary is then considered a pioneering researcher of Palau's culture and society, and his reports are of particular value to ethnohistory and anthropology well as to the indigenous people. These detailed writings reveal Palau's



A village in Palau in early 20th c., (painting by R. Hellgrewe, from the “Das Buch von unseren Kolonien” by O. Beta, Leipzig 1908). Source: www.en.wikipedia.org

J. St. Kubary resided for a more extended period on three of Palau's larger islands, namely Babeldaob, Koror, and Molokal, and it was from these areas that his observations mainly originated.



View of **Palau islands** today.
Photo: Norimoto. Source:
www.shutterstock.com



Palau islands. Source:
www.worldatlas.com

culture before the tremendous cultural transformations that began in earnest after 1898/1899 when control of the islands was ceded to Germany.

Indigenous people arrived in the archipelago about 3,000 years ago from Southeast Asia, but over the centuries, they absorbed Polynesian and Melanesian influences, producing an original culture. The local language, which J. St. Kubary spoke, and the forms of social life (for example, the importance of the chiefdom system) have survived to this day, despite German colonial influence, Japanese occupation, and the post-war American administration.

Today (i.e., since 1994), Palau is a sovereign republic having special “free association” status with the United States and maintains friendly international relations with many countries, including, more recently, Poland (honorary consulate). Palau is extremely attractive for tourists due to its natural bounty (tropical climate, beautiful landscapes, beaches, rich undersea world).

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Jan Stanisław Kubary
his ethnographic studies of Palau

Kubary in his works documented many symbolic motifs decorating the Bai – chiefs meeting houses, which can still be admired in Palau today. Interior of the Melekeok Bai, Babeldaob, photo. A. Posern-Zielinski.



Jan Stanisław Kubary his ethnographic studies of Palau

J. St. Kubary surrounded by "exotic" objects collected during his explorations.



House of the inhabitants of Palau, drawing by J. St. Kubary (source: Journal des Godeffroy Museum).

(...), he devoted most of his attention to material culture, describing boats and fishing equipment, methods of farming and food preparation, weapons, money made of shells, clothing, and ornaments and buildings, especially the “bai” construction used as meeting places for chiefs.

J. St. Kubary's stay in Palau significantly shaped his formation as a professional observer of local customs, author of detailed ethnographic reports, and collector of material culture objects and natural specimens. His extended stay in Palau, his extraordinary adaptability to local conditions, his ability to gain trust, and, equally importantly, his knowledge of the native language allowed him to see the social relations and culture of the native people “from the inside.” Due to this approach, which aligns with today's requirements for anthropological research, Kubary's studies of Palauan's traditional forms of life remain a study of exceptional value.

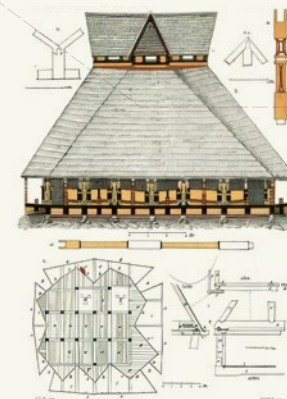
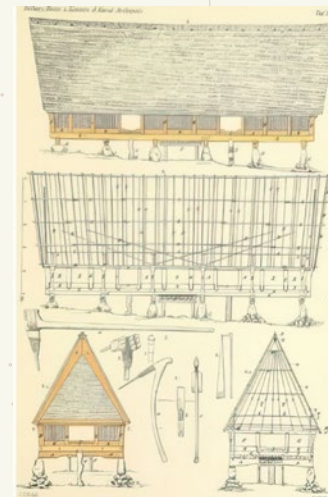
His reports include information on social and political relations, family life forms, legal rules, beliefs, and rituals. However, he devoted most of his attention to material culture, describing boats and fishing equipment, methods of farming and food preparation, weapons, money made of shells, clothing, and ornaments and buildings, especially the “bai” construction used as meeting places for chiefs. Thanks to his artistic abilities, he animates and elaborates these descriptions with numerous maps and drawings. The multiple objects of material culture he collected for German ethnographic museums added value to his detailed reports.

In keeping with the practices of the times, he also collected data on physical anthropology, taking numerous measurements of the bodies of Palau's inhabitants, making plaster casts of their heads, and photographing people. He also systematically studied the local wildlife, avifauna, fish, coral, shells, and plants. He passed on his findings and collected specimens to European specialists, who thus acquired important data on Micronesian “natural history.” Kubary also made a map of the Palau islands that later became the basis for a professional map used by sailors for many years.



Kubary's drawings showing polychrome parts of the chiefs' house (bai) with motifs of birds, human heads and local money (after J. St. Kubary, “Ethnographische Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Karolinen Archipels”, Leiden 1889, Taf.41).

Documentation of the construction of the “bai”, a chiefs' meeting house, in Palau, Kubary's drawings. (after J. St. Kubary, “Ethnographische Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Karolinen Archipels”, Leiden 1889, Taf.39).



Architectural documentation of the “sop”, a house-shrine, in Palau, Kubary's drawing (after J. St. Kubary, “Ethnographische Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Karolinen Archipels”, Leiden 1889, Taf. 38).

Jan Stanisław Kubary his public activities in Palau

Monument to Prince LeeBoo of Palau (1763-1784), son of the king Ibedul of Koror, who went to England in 1783, where he actually became the first ambassador of Palau. Almost a century before Kubary's pioneering research in Micronesia, LeeBoo acted as an inquisitive observer of European society. The statue is located on the campus of Palau Community College in Koror. Photo. A. Posern-Zielinski.



Polish explorations in Oceania

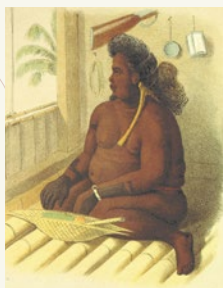
Jan Stanisław Kubary his public activities in Palau

An essential element of traditional power relations on Palau, still in place today, is the chieftom system, made up of several hierarchical categories of chiefs who head clans and the highest-ranking chiefs who control two, once highly conflicted, chieftom confederations: Melekeok (with the chiefly title of Reklai) and Koror (with the chiefly title of Ibedul). At the time of J. St. Kubary, the political arrangement in the archipelago was very unstable, and armed conflicts between clans and federations often broke out. Such a situation was unfavorable

At the time of J. St. Kubary, the political arrangement in the archipelago was very unstable, and armed conflicts between clans and federations often broke out.

for Kubary's activities, who - as a foreigner - had to maneuver deftly between the various factions.

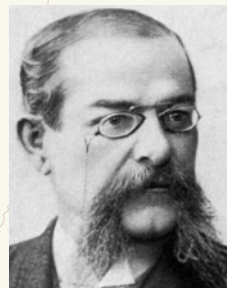
At the same time, a flu epidemic broke out in Palau, brought there by European sailors. Because of his medical training, Kubary nursed back to health many local chiefs, earning him respect, gratitude, and trust. Thus, his position on Palau gained importance, which allowed him to engage in diplomatic efforts to eliminate conflicts between feuding



The „King” Abu Thule (Ibedul) of Palau, supreme chief of the Koror island, c. 1783, (drawing from British Library, public domain).



Chief Aibedul from Palau, photo by J. St. Kubary (ca. 1871-1874). GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Foto: Archiv.



Jan St. Kubary in recognition of his merits in the field of diplomatic negotiations and healing skills, he was given the prestigious title of the chief in the Palau district of Melekeok. Zootaxa3511(2012), Auckland, p.7



Kubary's house on the island of Malakal, Palau, photo by J. St. Kubary c. 1871- 1874. GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Foto: Archiv

The meeting house called “bai” is in Palau an important traditional place of decision-making. The one (seen above) standing in Melekeok district, although it looks like new, comes from the times of Kubary, who as a chief had the right to attend the debates of the chiefs held inside this house. (photo: A. Posern-Zieliński, 2022).



chieftoms. His ability in these negotiations was valued, and, as a result, he was appointed chief of Sechar-uleong of the rank 5 in Melekeok state. As the holder of such a prestigious title, he could attend meetings of chiefs in special meeting houses - “Bai.”

The memory of his diplomatic and healing activities is still preserved. Paramount Chief Reklai, Raphael Bao Ngirmang, in his introduction to the new edition Kubary's work, wrote, “it is clear that he had been a very influential personality in Palau politics... and was a special friend to Melekeok and my clan” (J. St. Kubary, West Caroline Isl. Palau, vol.1, Koror, Palau 2021, p.5). Another remarkable expression of this memory is that Kubary's surname, over the years, has become a popular first name given to children in Palau today.

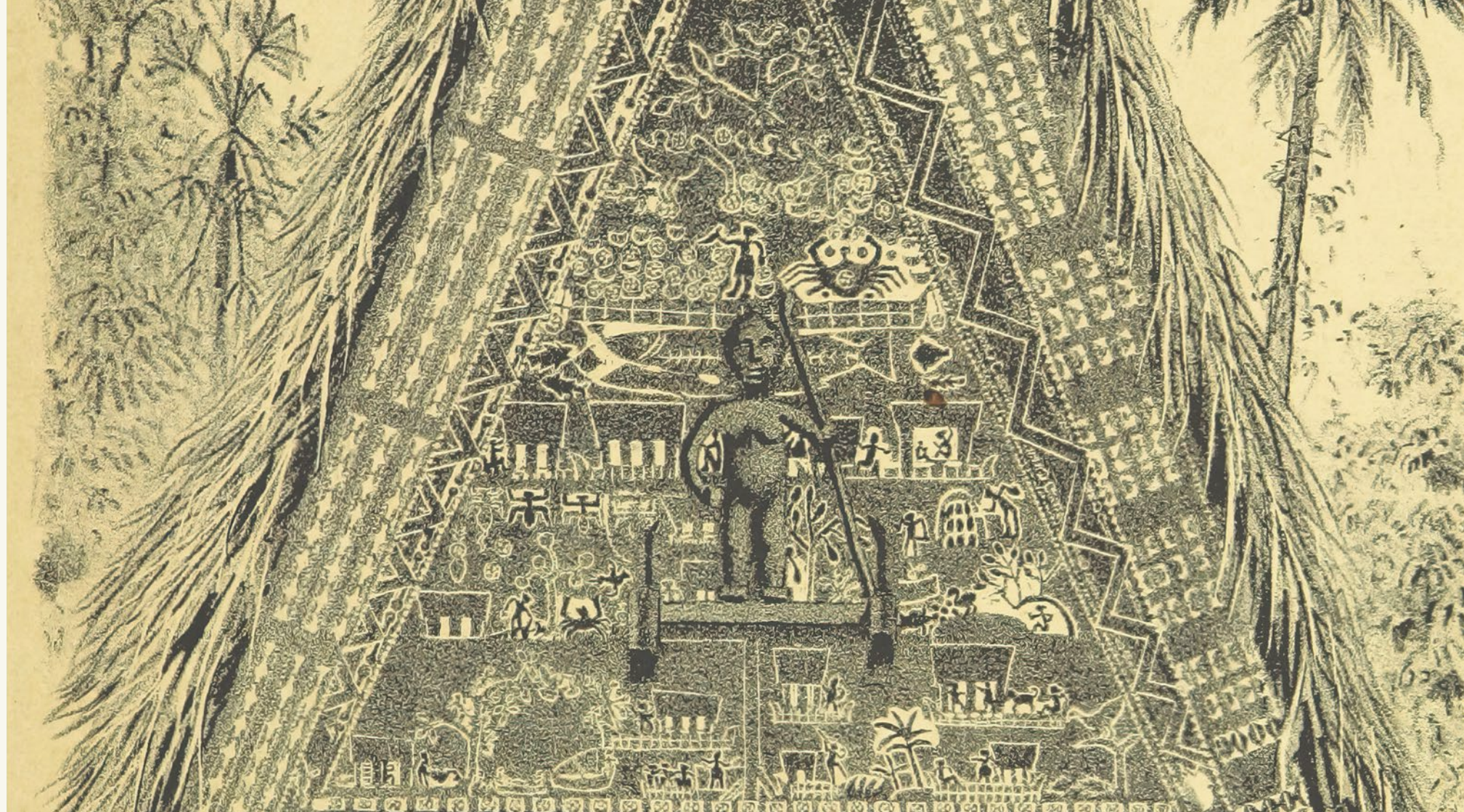
“it is clear that he had been a very influential personality in Palau politics... and was a special friend to Melekeok and my clan”



Paramount Chief Reklai - Raphael Bao Ngirmang, member of the clan befriended in the 19th century with J. St. Kubary, and the author of the introduction to Kubary's book published in Palau (from Island Times, Palau, May 31, 2022).

Jan Stanisław Kubary as “pioneer explorer of Palau”

Kubary not only documented the architectural details of many constructions in Palau but also left behind some drawings of “Bai” meeting houses, thus expressing his artistic skills. (Drawing from the work “Ethnographische Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Karolinen Archipels”, Leiden 1895, Taf. 45.).



Polish explorations in Oceania

Jan Stanisław Kubary as “pioneer explorer of Palau”

Already in his lifetime, the books, articles, artifacts, photographs, and drawings authored by J. St. Kubary were recognized by ethnologists and naturalists alike as original and extremely valuable. Many aptly described him as a “pioneer of science in Pacific waters” (F.W. Christian, The Caroline Islands, London 1899).

This body of work was particularly appreciated by the eminent German researcher Augustin G. Kraemer (1865-1941), who conducted



Page of the Journal des Godeffroy Museum with Kubary’s article about Palau, in which he describes local politics, money, and family life; next: a page of Kubary’s manuscript (from the archive of the Ethnological Museum in Hamburg).

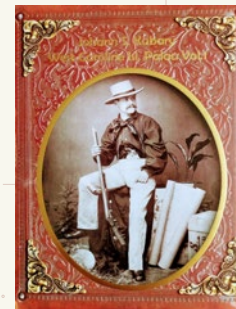
Already in his lifetime, the books, articles, artifacts, photographs, and drawings authored by J. St. Kubary were recognized by ethnologists and naturalists alike as original and extremely valuable.

ethnographic research on Palau and other islands of the Caroline archipelago nearly a quarter of a century later, a time when Micronesia had already undergone significant cultural changes as a result of colonial influences. He gave emphatic expression to this by dedicating to Kubary the first volume of his 5-volume work, published in Hamburg in 1917, in which he included the results of his research conducted between 1908 and 1910.

Both J. St. Kubary and A.F. Kraemer, with their inquisitive and solid ethnographic research, documented the lives of Palau’s inhabitants, thus saving the ancient cultural heritage of the archipelago from oblivion. Due to the inaccessibility of both of these works to modern Palauans and their importance in learning about the traditions of their ancestors, a group of Palau intellectuals initiated a project to translate Kubary’s and Kraemer’s publications into English, resulting in the publication of a 7-volume series describing the world of Palau and Yap in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Thanks to this initiative, the works of J. St. Kubary have become available in English for the first time. Thus, Palau residents, scholars working on Micronesia, and Kubary’s compatriots interested in his research activities can freely access them.



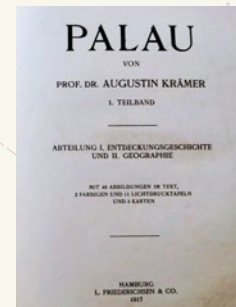
Dr. Augustin Kraemer, a German ethnologist during his fieldwork in Palau, conducted as part of an Oceanic scientific expedition from Hamburg in 1908-1910. He highly appreciated Kubary’s contribution to studies of the cultures of the Caroline Islands. Source: www.wikimedia.org



Cover of the first volume of Kubary’s works translated into English and published on Palau thanks to the Kraemer Ethnography Translation Committee. (photo by A. Posern-Zieliński).



The Kraemer Ethnography Translation Committee from Palau, during the special presentation of two volumes of Kubary’s works, published in English in 2021. (from “Island Time”).



The first edition of A. Kraemer’s book (1917) on the culture of Palau, dedicated to J. St. Kubary as a form of “commemoration of the pioneer explorer of Palau”.

Both J. St. Kubary and A.F. Kraemer, with their inquisitive and solid ethnographic research, documented the lives of Palau’s inhabitants, thus saving the ancient cultural heritage of the archipelago from oblivion.

Jan Stanisław Kubary

Memory of him in Poland

In June 2023, a poster exhibition dedicated to the life and achievements of J. St. Kubary was opened in the Assembly Hall of the Palau Community College. It was elaborated by a team of Polish specialists from the University of Warsaw. The opening ceremony was attended by the President of PCC - Dr. Patrick Tellei, the Honorary Consul of Poland in the Republic of Palau - Uchel Tmetuchl, and on behalf of the Polish Ministry of Education and Science – its Deputy Minister - Tomasz Rzymkowski, and Przemysław Skrodzki - director of the Department of International Cooperation. (Photo.: Aleksander Posern-Zielinski).



Polish explorations in Oceania

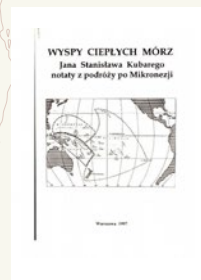
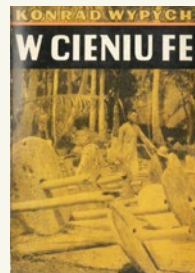
Jan Stanisław Kubary

Memory of him in Poland

In the 19th century, while neighboring empires deprived Poland of its sovereignty, Polish scientists explored many distant countries, including the Pacific islands. One such explorer was Jan Stanisław Kubary, whose life and work arouse considerable interest today. The few little-known books and a documentary film about his life do little justice to this notable scholar's achievements. Apart from the e-publication of Kubary's collection of articles originally published in Polish geographic journals, his ethnographic reports from Oceania are underused or effectively unavailable due to their scarcity in academic libraries and limited knowledge of German.



Polish geographic magazines with Kubary's articles published in Warsaw in the 1870s and 1880s.



Books about J.St. Kubary published in Poland.

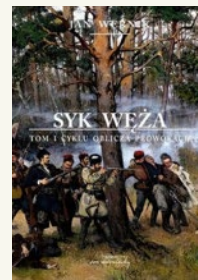
- "W cieniu fe" (In the shadow of fe) – biography, published in 1969.
- "Wyspy ciepłych mórz" (Islands of warm seas) – a collection of J. St. Kubary's articles from Polish periodicals of the 19th century, published in 1997.
- "Na wyspach Pacyfiku" (On the Pacific islands) – biography, published in 1956.

J. St. Kubary, despite many years of distance from Poland, maintained contact with his homeland.

J. St. Kubary, despite many years of distance from Poland, maintained contact with his homeland. He published some articles in his native language in Polish geographical journals, visited Warsaw and Lviv (Lwow) twice, presented his research at conferences of physicians and naturalists (1875, 1891), established contacts with well-known Polish scientists (naturalists), and tried (unsuccessfully, unfortunately) to obtain an academic job, which would allow him to return to his country permanently.



Polish anthropologists and professors of the University of Warsaw, Dr. Aleksander Posern-Zieliński and Dr. Wojciech Beben (sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Poland) during their stay in Palau in 2022 presented some ideas for future scientific cooperation between Palau and Poland in two relevant institutions: in the Bureau of Culture and Human Preservation, headed by Ms. Kiblas Soaladaob, and in the Belau National Museum, directed by Ms. Olympia E. More. Phot. A. Posern-Zieliński



Polish popular books about J. St. Kubary

- "Syk węża" (Hiss of the Snake) - a novel about Kubary and his fate during the January Uprising of 1863 against the Russian Empire colonizing Polish lands, published in 2022.
- "Na krawędzi raju" (On the Edge of Paradise) - a travel report from Pohnpei, published in 2020.



Memory about the activities of J. St. Kubary in Palau could be a symbolic theme today for establishing a good relationship between Palau and Poland, also in the scientific field. This is facilitated by the presence in Palau of the honorary consul of the Republic of Poland (who is Mr. Uchel Tmetuchl), as well as the visit of two Polish anthropologists (in 2022), interested in Kubary's activities on the island and consulted on this occasion the possibilities of scientific cooperation between Palau and Poland with Mr. Ngirabelas Tmetuchl, Minister of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism, and Development. Phot. W. Bęben

In the 19th century, while neighboring empires deprived Poland of its sovereignty, Polish scientists explored many distant countries, including the Pacific islands.

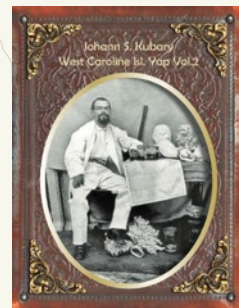
Jan Stanisław Kubary
on Yap and other islands of the Caroline

Large discoidal stone slabs were hewn out from limestone deposits on the Rocky Islands in the Palau archipelago, about 400 km from Yap. After they were transported to Yap, they served there as money deposits, the value of which depended on the size of the disk. J.St. Kubary carefully observed this practice during his stay in Yap and Palau and devoted one of his articles to this extraordinary custom. Source: www.dynamic-media-cdn.tripadvisor.com



Jan Stanisław Kubary on Yap and other islands of the Caroline

J. St. Kubary pioneered the study of the islands of the Caroline archipelago during his stay in Micronesia. Among his reports on the subject, we find accounts of the inhabitants of Truk (Ruk), the Mortlock Atoll, the lonely island of Nukuoro, Ebon in the Marshall Archipelago, and the island of Yap. The latter caught his attention because of the custom of using stone money shaped like large disks, usually placed near the owner's home. On this island, he also studied local architecture, boat-building and learned the basics of grammar and vocabulary. He also took photographs of the Caroline indigenous inhabitants. He collected many ethnographic artifacts for European museums and devoted much attention to local avifauna, insects, and fish.



The second volume of J. St. Kubary's work on Yap culture, translated into English and published in Palau in 2021.

J. St. Kubary pioneered the study of the islands of the Caroline archipelago during his stay in Micronesia.

His scientific achievements in this field were recognized after he died in 1910, when another European explorer of the island of Yap, W. Mueller, stated emphatically that no professional researcher had made a more significant contribution to the study of Micronesia in the 19th century than the lone-acting J. St. Kubary. The work carried out by J. St. Kubary was only continued by the ethnographic expedition from Hamburg in 1908-1910, which conducted systematic research of Micronesia, at that time already under German colonial administration.

J. St. Kubary's scattered articles on Yap were collected, translated into English, and published in Palau in 2021 as a volume entitled West Caroline Isl. Yap through the efforts of the Kraemer Ethnographic Translation Committee. This work is proof of the importance of Kubary's research for the ethnography of West Micronesia, as well as for preserving the knowledge of ancient Yap culture – today treated as an important part of the indigenous tradition.

J. St. Kubary collected many ethnographic artifacts for European museums and devoted much attention to local avifauna, insects, and fish.



Painting from the 19th century showing the old-style house on Yap and traditional stone money (Journal des Museum Godeffroy, Heft. 2, Taf. 3).



The traditional assembly houses on the island of Yap, and the old stone money preserved from the old days. Source: www.globtroter.pl



Inhabitants of the Yap island; pictures based on the photos taken by J. St. Kubary (Journal des Museum Godeffroy, Heft. 2, Taf. 5).



Men's tattoo designs from Yap, drawing by J. St. Kubary, 1875, (Journal des Godeffroy Museum).



Portrait of a woman from the Truk archipelago, named Inecawic, made by J. St. Kubary (Album: Museum Godeffroy. Sudsee-Typen" Taf. 23, (Museum fuer Voelkerkunde, Dresden).



Photo of a native inhabitant of Fefan Island in the Truk Archipelago, named Itana, taken by J. St. Kubary (Album: Museum Godeffroy. Sudsee-Typen" Taf. 22, (Museum fuer Voelkerkunde, Dresden, no. F. 1898).

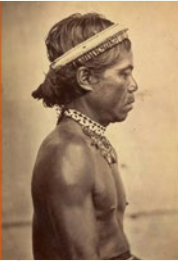
**Jan Stanisław Kubary
on Pohnpei/Ponape**

One of the most spectacular walls in the cluster of Nan Dowas ruins which is a main part of the city of Nan Madol built for the ancient rulers of Pohnpei. Kubary was one of the first explorers of these ruins and thus made an essential contribution to the archeology of the northern Pacific Islands. (Photo. A. Posern-Zielinski).



Jan Stanisław Kubary
on Pohnpei/Ponape

Pohnpei (called Ponape in colonial times) was an important object of study for J. St. Kubary; he also raised his family on the island, and it is the site of his final resting place. The island is located on the eastern edge of the Caroline archipelago. Today it is the largest state within the Federated States of Micronesia, a Pacific state established in 1979 and with free association status with the U.S. since 1986. It is a volcanic island surrounded by coral atolls and inhabited by a Micronesian population speaking several distinct languages.



Indigenous inhabitant of Pohnpei (Ponape), (photo by J. St. Kubary, ca.1870s) (Museum fuer Voelkerkunde, Lipsk, Ph.Mi. 463).



Indigenous inhabitant of Pohnpei (Ponape), (photo by J. St. Kubary, ca.1870s) (Museum fuer Voelkerkunde, Lipsk, Ph.Mi. 463).

Nan Madol was a political and religious center, a manufacturing hub, and a necropolis.

The island is known for its megalithic ruins known as Nan Madol. These ruins consist of stone structures built of basalt blocks on a coral reef bed connected by canals. The city dates back to the 12th-13th century AD and functioned until the early 17th century as a form of a Oceanic proto-state or chiefdom. Nan Madol was a political and religious center, a manufacturing hub, and a necropolis. J. St. Kubary conducted pioneering archaeological and ethnohistorical research at the site, and although it was covered with dense vegetation, he produced a very detailed map of the entire ruins. He complemented this documentation with a series of photographs and published in 1874 in the Journal des Godeffroy Museum. As one of the first scientific reports on Nan Madol, his article is widely cited today. Due to its unique nature, UNESCO bestowed Nan Madol World Heritage status in 2016.

Pohnpei was a little-known island until the mid-19th century. Previously, it was visited by sailors, whalers, and missionaries, especially Anglicans, who established schools and built chapels to civilise” the inhabitants according to Western standards. Nominally, the island belonged to Spain. The remains of this colonial rule can be seen in the ruins of the fortress erected in Santiago de la Ascencion, in the state’s current capital, Kolonia. The indigenous inhabitants of Pohnpei resisted Spanish rule. The island was purchased by Germany in 1898, two years after Kubary’s death. The native people also opposed the new colonial regime in the form of an uprising.



Map of Pohnpei (Ponape) in the Senyavin Islands, named after the 18th-century Russian admiral D. Senyavin. Source: www.wikipedia.org



Plan of the ruins of Nan Madol on Pohnpei made in 1874 by J. St. Kubary (from Journal des Museum Godeffroys).



Central burial chamber in the ruins of Nan Madol on Pohnpei (Ponape), photo. by J.St. Kubary, (Kubary’s collection, Ph. A 32-57, Museum fuer Ethnologie, Leiden.



View of part of the ruins of Nan Madol today, which are often called the Venice of the Pacific. CT Snow CC BY-20; Human. libretxts.org/Micronesia

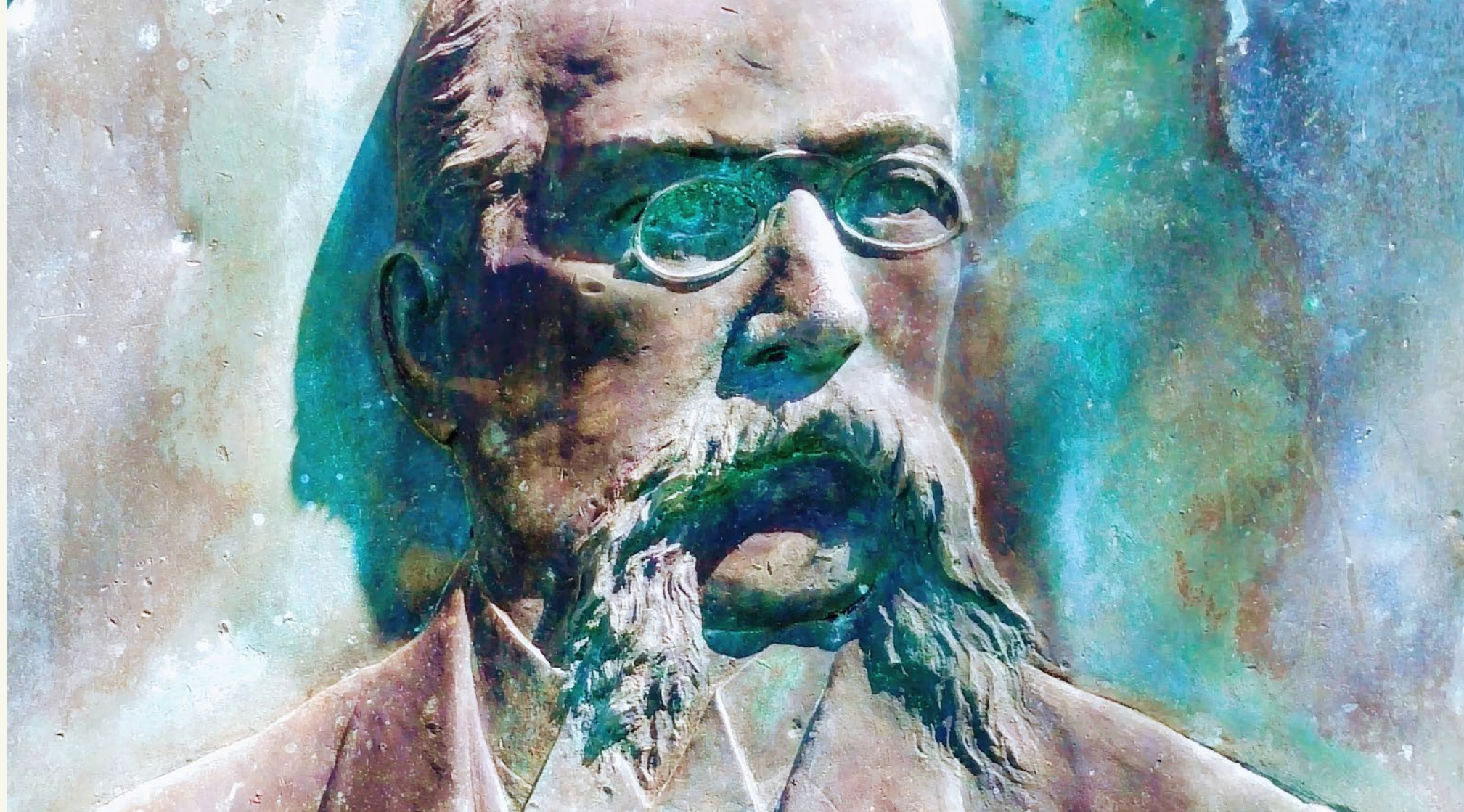


Contemporary plan of the ruins of Nan Madol based on current archaeological findings shows that the survey made by J. St. Kubary was very accurate. Source: www.booksfact.com

The island was purchased by Germany in 1898, two years after Kubary’s death. The native people also opposed the new colonial regime in the form of an uprising.

Jan Stanisław Kubary
Pohnpei: at the end of life

Portrait of J. St. Kubary on a bronze plaque placed on a stone pyramid in the center of Pohnpei in 1905 on the initiative of German scientists cooperating for many years with a Polish researcher of Micronesia. (photo. A. Posern-Zielinski).



Jan Stanisław Kubary Pohnpei: at the end of life

For J. St. Kubary, Pohnpei (Ponape) was his Micronesian home. He stayed there from 1873 to 1880, returning in 1895 until his tragic death in 1896. On Pohnpei, he conducted ethnographic, archaeological, and natural history research and made his living by farming on a plantation in the north of the island. Despite the considerable hostility of indigenous peoples toward foreign visitors, Kubary's knowledge of the languages and respect for local customs allowed him to maintain good relations with local chiefs and the immediate population. Kubary's attitude towards the indigenous population markedly departed from colonial authorities' intolerance towards native customs. Berlin authorities terminated its scientific contract with Kubary, due, in part, to his respectful attitude towards indigenous peoples, which left Kubary again in a difficult financial situation.



House of J. St. Kubary on Pohnpei (Ponape) on his plantation in Mpom, phot. by J.St. Kubary (Museum fuer Voelkerkunde, Leipzig, Ph.Mi. 556).

For J. St. Kubary, Pohnpei (Ponape) was his Micronesian home. He stayed there from 1873 to 1880, returning in 1895 until his tragic death in 1896.

On Pohnpei he married Anna Yelliot, (1865-1937), the daughter of an Anglican missionary and his native wife, in 1880. After Kubary's death, she remarried one of the leaders of the 1911 anti-colonial uprising and was forcibly displaced to Palau due to subsequent reprisals. From this union, Kubary had two children: a son, who died in early childhood, and a daughter named Humbeline (Bella, Isabella), who traveled with him across the Pacific islands. To provide her with an education, Kubary sent her to a Catholic convent in Singapore, where she remained as a nun after completing her education.

After several years as a plantation administrator in New Guinea, Kubary returned to Pohnpei in 1895. After years in the tropics, his health began to fail. Additionally, he struggled with increasing financial



Kubary's wife - Anna Yelliot, (Yelirt) born in Ponape, phot. from 1882. Source: www.scribdassets.com

After several years as a plantation administrator in New Guinea, Kubary returned to Pohnpei in 1895. After years in the tropics, his health began to fail.

difficulties, as his plantation, damaged by typhoons, pest infestations, and local anti-Spanish rebellions, was faring poorly. To complicate matters further, his title to the plantation was disputed by the Spanish administration. This convergence of many obstacles, including family issues and the weight of failing to acquire an academic position in Europe, Australia, or Japan, drove an increasingly lonely Kubary into depression and, ultimately, suicide in 1896.

This outstanding explorer of Micronesia and expert on the local wildlife, indigenous languages, and cultures ended his busy life at only 50 years old. Thus, he was a man in his prime who could have still made many original discoveries and enriched the knowledge of the world of the Pacific islands. A group of prominent scientists from Hamburg, Berlin, and Leiden, moved by Kubary's tragic death, decided to commemorate his pioneering work on Micronesia. Through their efforts, a monument of basalt slabs in the shape of a small stepped pyramid was erected in 1905 in Pohnpei, in the city of Cologne, on the site of the then cemetery where Kubary's grave was located, on top of which was placed a brass plaque with the outline of the explorer's head and his name. This monument, although somewhat dilapidated from the passage of time, still exists in the historic center of Kolinia on the grounds of Spanish Wall Park in front of the ruins of the Spanish fortress.



Historical photo of the monument to J. St. Kubary in Kolinia, the capital of Pohnpei, erected in the early XX century by German scientists cooperating with him, in recognition of his contribution to studies of the Pacific islands. Hambruch P., Ponape, Hamburg 1932.



The current state of the Kubary Monument. The pyramid on which the plaque is placed was constructed of basalt pillars, the same as those used to build the ancient city of Nan Madol, studied by J. St. Kubary. (Photo: A. Posern-Zielinski).

Jan Stanisław Kubary as a naturalist

During his many field trips, Kubary collected not only birds, butterflies, snails, fish, and corals, but also bats. Drawing of one such specimen from Mortlock Island, identified as *Pteropus phaeocephalus* (from the Kubary collection at the Godeffroy Museum (after Th. Oldfield, Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 1882).



Jan Stanisław Kubary as a naturalist



Map of Ailinglaplap atoll, in the Marshall Islands, from 1893, see: the small island at the passage to the inner lagoon named Kubar (after P. Langhans, Deutscher Kolonial-Atlas, Gotha 1897, Map 30).

One of J. St. Kubary's important tasks was learning about Micronesia's natural world and documenting geographical data about the atolls and islands. To successfully achieve these goals, he conducted many natural observations while collecting species of birds, fish, insects, butterflies, mollusks, corals, plants, and minerals mostly unknown in Europe. His research in this area was intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of Micronesia's natural environment. Kubary did not stop in these efforts, and on each island he visited, he systematically collected "exotic" specimens unknown to naturalists. He sent

During his explorations, Kubary often encountered many previously undescribed species of birds, fish, and mollusks.

the samples to European museums, from where they were delivered to professional scientists, who identified, classified, and described the new specimens. Reports of these studies were published in scientific journals, and most often the name of Kubary as the discoverer and collector was not mentioned. On the other hand, Kubary, having insufficient competence in these area, also did not publish about his natural findings.

For this reason, Kubary's contribution to the natural history of Oceania is still poorly recognized, although his knowledge, collections, and findings were undoubtedly abundantly used by scientists around the world. During his explorations, Kubary often encountered many previously undescribed species of birds, fish, and mollusks. Some of them were therefore named in such a way that their identifying international terms (in Latin) included direct references to Kubary's name as their first "discoverer."

Kubary's name was also "immortalized" on the map of the Pacific islands. Thus, in the territory of Papua New Guinea, in the province of Madang, we find Mount Kubari (1858 meters above sea level), one of the peaks of the Finisterre range. On the other hand, in the Marshall Islands, within the atoll of Ailinglaplap, we find a small island named Kubari, located on the side of the isthmus to inner lagoon.



In the Finisterre range, located in Madang province, in north-eastern Papua New Guinea, close to the area where Kubary lived and worked in the 1880s and 1890s, there is Mount Kubari. Source: www.cohp.org



Mariana Crow, (*Corvus kubaryi*), called also Aga, the only one of the crow family in Micronesia, currently an endangered species. Source: www.avibase.bsc-eoc.org



Dark gray fantail (*Rhipidura kubaryi*), lives on Pohnpei only. Source: www.ebird.org



Caroline Islands Ground Dove (*Pampusana kubaryi*), a species of bird in the family "Columbidae", is endemic to Micronesia. Source: www.en.wikipedia.org



J.St. Kubary also collected information about Oceanic fish, and sent relevant data along with his drawings to European ichthyologists. (Journal des Museum Godeffroy's, Heft 16, Fische der Sudsee, Taf. 146.).

[...] on each island he visited, he systematically collected "exotic" specimens unknown in Europe.

Jan Stanisław Kubary
his collections in museums

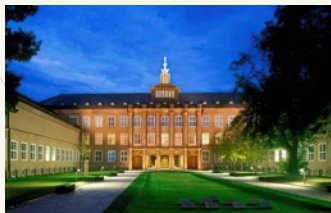
Decorative tortoiseshell comb from Melekeok, Babeldaob Island, Palau, 1886, obtained by J. St. Kubary, currently in the collection of the Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin (no. VI 7588) (cc. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin/Martin Franken/ CC BY-NC-SA 4.0; ID. smb.museum/ob. 974220).



Jan Stanisław Kubary his collections in museums



The Ethnological Museum in Hamburg, has a large collection of artifacts from Micronesia collected by J. St. Kubary and keeps his manuscripts and photos. Source: www.markk-hamburg.de



The Grassi Ethnological Museum in Leipzig has a rich collection of artifacts collected by J. St. Kubary and a set of photos depicting the inhabitants of Oceania. Source: www.grassimak.de



Wooden cult sculpture - "Tino" from the island of Nukuoro, from the collection of J. St. Kubary, (Ethnological Museum (MARKK) in Hamburg, no. E.1894).

Individual artifacts collected by J. St. Kubary have also been found in museum and private collections in the UK, Japan, and Australia.

An essential result of J. St. Kubary's explorers activity in Oceania is the ethnographic objects that he collected and sent to Europe. Majority of these artifacts have been preserved in good condition despite the passage of time, but some of them were lost at sea due to shipwreck. During the first years of his stay in the Pacific Islands, J. St. Kubary collected objects for Godeffroy Museum in Hamburg. After the end of this collaboration, he continued supplying objects to the Museum of Ethnology in Berlin. He cooperated also with the Museum of Ethnology in Leiden in his last research phase.

The financial crash that hit the Godeffroy Co. in 1885 resulted subsequently in the liquidation of the museum and its collections. Thus, artifacts from J. St. Kubary's collection were dispersed across several museums as a result of their sale on the open market. Today the majority of them are in the ethnological museums of Leipzig, Dresden, Berlin, and Hamburg. Each of these museums has several hundred objects from Kubary's collection, and due to their time of acquisition in the period preceding significant cultural changes in Micronesia, they are of considerable value.

Fortunately, these objects survived World War II and today constitute a significant collection of traditional Micronesian culture. However, today it is difficult to see these objects in museum halls on display, because they are mostly in stockrooms. The only exception is the Museum of Ethnology in Berlin, where part of Kubary's collection is exhibited in a room dedicated to Micronesia. Individual artifacts collected by J. St. Kubary have also been found in museum and private collections in the UK, Japan, and Australia. Meanwhile, some of his manuscripts (mostly



The Humboldt Forum, together with the reconstructed former imperial castle, is today a prestigious center for intercultural encounters located in the center of Berlin. Its integral part is the Ethnological Museum, with which J. St. Kubary cooperated at the end of the 19th century. Source: www.smb.museum

published) and a valuable collection of photographs are kept in Hamburg and Leiden. Kubary's archive from his home in Pohnpei was unfortunately destroyed, as were the documents in possession of his daughter, who lived in Singapore.

However, Kubary's books, articles, reports, photographs, and hundreds of today's unique artifacts remain. Gradually, the scholarly community's appreciation of the achievements of the pioneer of ethnographic and natural history research on Micronesia is also being restored. It is also important that Kubary is perceived by the indigenous inhabitants of Palau and Pohnpei as a newcomer from a distant country who was not only interested in local culture and nature, but was able to establish friendly relations with the natives, gaining their recognition and respect.

An essential result of J. St. Kubary's scientific activity in Oceania is the ethnographic objects that he collected and sent to Europe. Only some artifacts have survived as many were lost at sea.



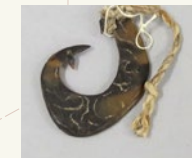
Dr. Patrick Tellei, president of Palau Community College, led in 2022 the renovation of the "bai" - Palauan chiefs' meeting house, which was brought to Berlin in 1908. Today, the building is on display at the Humboldt Forum in the room dedicated to Micronesia, along with many artifacts from the collection of J. St. Kubary. Source: blog.smb.museum



Showcases containing artifacts from the collection of J. St. Kubary in the room dedicated to the culture of Palau and Micronesia, in the Ethnological Museum of the Berlin Humboldt Forum, (phot. by A. Posern-Zielinski).



Prestigious tortoiseshell bracelet from Palau, from the J. St. Kubary's collection, (The Grassi Ethnological Museum in Leipzig, (skd-online collection: no. 05461).



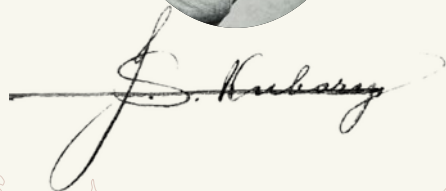
Tortoiseshell fishing hook from Yap (from the collection of J. St. Kubary (Ethnological Museum in Berlin (recherche.smb.museum, VI 8179a).



Mat made of banana fibers from the island of Yap, from the J. St. Kubary's collection (Ethnological Museum in Berlin (recherche.smb.museum, VI 7815).



Decorative spoon from Palau, made of orange wood and coconut shell (from the collection of J. St. Kubary (Ethnological Museum in Berlin (recherche.smb.museum, VI 7661).



Sponsored by the Polish Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with the Center of Andean Studies at Warsaw University.



Honorary patronage of Mr Uchel Tmetuchl, Honorary Consul
of Poland in Palau.



Polish explorations in Oceania