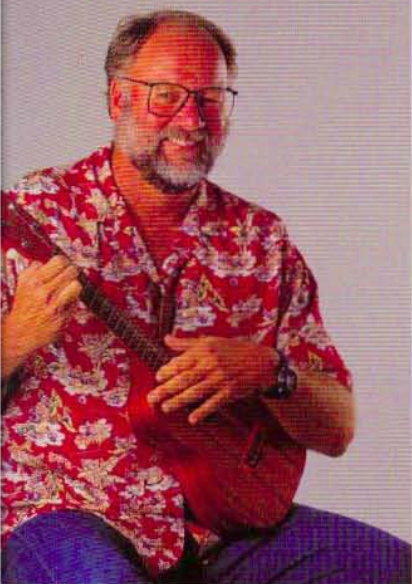


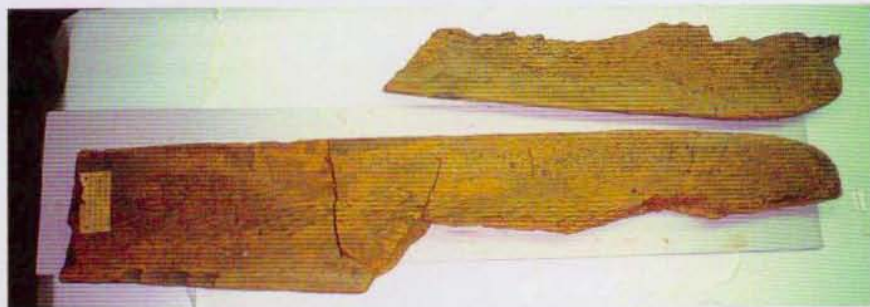
Indiana Seymour in the Temple of Oceanian



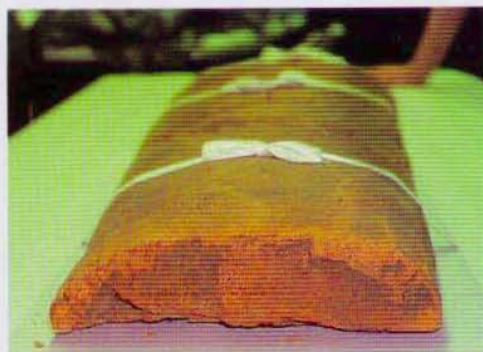
ALLAN SEYMOUR has been a dabbler in beach culture curios for the last decade. Over the last five years, he's begun seriously pursuing certain antiquities that have personal

meaning: old wooden surfboards with pedigree, early books referencing the sport of kings, California impressionist landscapes, musical instruments and various artifacts of the Sandwich Isles and the like. Over a year ago, on a hunch, Allan called the Peabody Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, to inquire whence they might hold knowledge of any such items. He does inventive things like that. The Peabody directed him to Adria Katz, Keeper of the Oceanian Collection, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. When Allan queried Ms. Katz about ukuleles, South Pacific origin fish hooks of shell or bone, or surfboards from Hawaii, she responded that yes, they might possibly have some things of interest to him. She mentioned two surfboard-like objects that he was welcome to inspect if ever in the area. It so happened that Seymour was indeed headed east soon after that call, on his annual trek to view the fall change of color in Jay Gould's neck of the New Hampshire woods. During that trip he arranged to stop in at the University where he met with Ms. Katz. It turns out that prior to Allan showing interest in the boards, their presence was virtually unknown outside the Oceanian Section. While there, Seymour proceeded to examine and photograph the two specimens and provide the Keeper with new and valuable information while uncovering the following tale of two boards, possibly the first to come to the mainland, perhaps the first to ever leave Hawaii.

Writes Seymour, "It appears that Titian Ramsay Peale (1799-1885), son of the famous American artist Charles Willson Peale, founder of the Peale Museum of Art and Natural History in Philadelphia was the first surfboard collector in the continental U.S. The younger Peale, a naturalist and painter, served aboard the Peacock under the command of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes during the Wilkes' Expedition to the Hawaiian Islands and South Pacific. The Peacock was in Hawaii September 30-November 23, 1840 and June 14-21, 1841, during which time specimen L-120-373 was collected. It was brought around the Horn and documented as having been part of the Peale Museum Collection donated to the University



of Pennsylvania Museum in 1856." The board is believed to be constructed of either breadfruit or wiliwili (Hawaiian balsa) and measures w: 12 1/2" at nose, 9 1/2" at tail, 56 1/2" long, with convex bottom, shaped rails and nose rocker and slightly concave deck."



(top and above) These views of L-120-373 show the two pieces of this 1840s surf craft laying separated and held together with ribbon.

The second board in the Museum's possession, P5019 (not shown), is of less known origins other

than it was a gift to the Museum by Dr. Judson Daland in 1918. Constructed of California redwood. W: 16 1/2" at nose, 12" at tail, L: 65 1/4", with a shape similar to the board in the famous Bishop Museum photo of a Hawaiian native in loin cloth, holding a short-board, horizontally, behind his back at Waikiki, taken in the late 1800s.

Seymour speculates that boards predating the above specimens might well exist, resting in anonymity in some dusty, forgotten archive in England, having been collected during the Cook or Vancouver Expeditions.



ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES PHILADELPHIA, DEC. 20, 1841
 Surf-board, used by natives for riding through the breakers. One face is convex, the other concave. L-120-483
 probably Hawaiian Islands