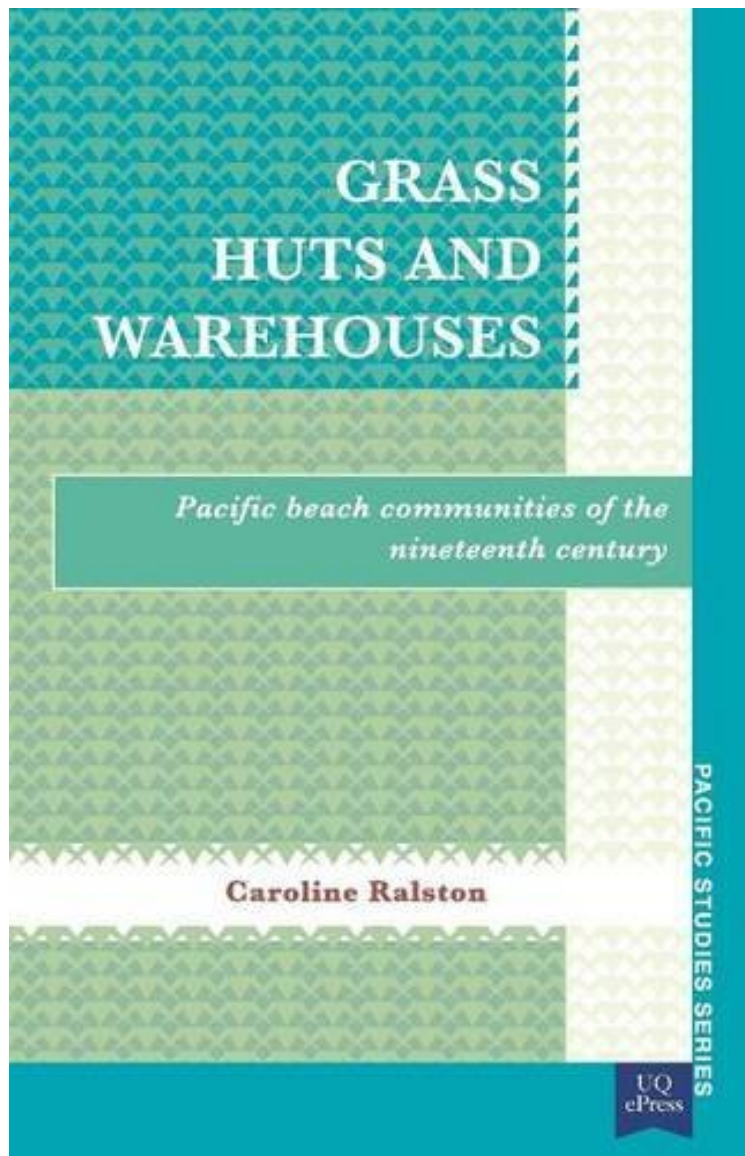


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Grass Huts and Warehouses: Pacific Beach Communities of the Nineteenth Century (Pacific Studies series)

Caroline Ralston

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Caroline Ralston : Grass Huts and Warehouses: Pacific Beach Communities of the Nineteenth Century (Pacific Studies series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grass Huts and Warehouses: Pacific Beach Communities of the Nineteenth Century (Pacific Studies series):

A pioneering study of early trade and beach communities in the Pacific Islands and first published in 1977, this book provides historians with an ambitious survey of early European and Polynesian contact, an analysis of how early trade developed along with the beachcomber community, and a detailed reconstruction of development of the early Pacific port towns. Set mainly in the first half of the 19th century, continuing in some cases for a few decades more, the book covers five ports: Kororareka (now Russell, in New Zealand), Levuka (Fiji), Apia (Samoa), Papeete (Tahiti) and Honolulu (Hawaii). The role of beachcombers, the earliest European inhabitants, as well as the later consuls or commercial agents, and the development of plantation economies is explored. The book is a tour de force, the first detailed comparative academic study of these early precolonial trading towns and their race relations. It argues that the predominantly egalitarian towns where Islanders, beachcombers, traders, and missionaries mixed were largely harmonious, but this was undermined by later arrivals and larger populations.

About the Author Caroline Ralston lectured in the department of politics and history at Macquarie University and is a coeditor of *Sanctity and Power: Gender in Polynesian History*.