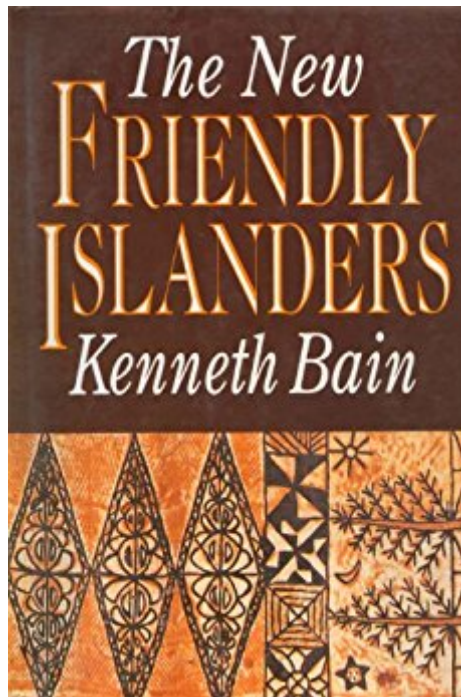


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The New Friendly Islanders (Tonga: A Polynesian Trilogy)



Synopsis

Reviews: The Australian Bulletin of Books "An extremely well-written book, full of good stories and characters." "An important insightful source about contemporary Tonga written with charming simplicity and wry humour. There is a sharp mind at work here, without mockery or cynicism." The Dominion, New Zealand "Bain's prose has an elegance that is rare in modern non-fiction. He is a writer, not simply a presenter of information. The result is a book that is a joy to read and a timely well-informed study of Polynesia's last Kingdom." The Christchurch Press, New Zealand "A fascinating read for adventurers and armchair travellers alike." Southern Cross Press "An excellent (and easy) read." Evening Standard, London "Bain's journey takes us beyond the hackneyed portraits of Pacific paradises and into Eden's rotten administrative core." The Daily Telegraph, London

About the Author: KENNETH BAIN was born in New Zealand in 1923, and educated at Auckland Grammar School, Auckland University College and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was appointed to the Colonial Administrative Service in 1946 and assigned to Palestine as an Assistant District Commissioner in Gaza. After transfer to Fiji in 1949, he began his long association with the island peoples of the South Pacific, the Caribbean, and South Atlantic; and has travelled widely throughout all three regions. He was Secretary to the Government of Tonga 1953-56; Commissioner, British South Pacific Office in Fiji, including responsibility for Pitcairn, 1965-70; Deputy High Commissioner for Fiji in London 1970-75; a Director at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London 1975-80; then for five years, Financial Secretary and, for a period, Deputy Governor in the British Virgin Islands. He has also been Director of Studies in Financial Management at the Royal Institute of Public Administration in London. In close to 60 years, Kenneth Bain has written eleven well-received books. They include seven with worldwide island themes, including three on the South Pacific Kingdom of Tonga and its people. There is one each on Fiji, St Helena, British Virgin Islands, and Pitcairn, together with books on schizophrenia, Doggerel Ditties in the style of Ogden Nash, Obituaries he wrote for the London newspaper The Independent, and Gaza, his Palestine mandate diary 1946-48. He now lives on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, where he and his wife were made Honorary Belongers in 1985. His wife Margaret Anga-Aefonu is part-Tongan; their three children were born in Tonga and Fiji. He was awarded the OBE in 1976, and appointed by King George Tupou V of Tonga to be Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Queen Salote Tupou III in 2010.

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Customer Reviews

I read it as I was visiting Tonga. Insights were interesting but dated. I doubt the book would have too much general appeal.

Wonderful book about Tonga, I love all his books

I found this very entertaining. And it was useful for a paper I was working on for school. Tonga sounds like a place I would like to visit.

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