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978-1-107-04299-5 - The Power of Feasts: From Prehistory to the Present

Edited by T. H. Carpenter, K. M. Lynch and E. G. D. Robinson

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## THE POWER OF FEASTS

In this book, Brian Hayden provides the first comprehensive, theoretical work on the history of feasting in prehistoric societies. As an important barometer of cultural change, feasting is at the forefront of theoretical developments in archaeology. *The Power of Feasts* chronicles the evolution of the practice from its first perceptible prehistoric presence to modern industrial times. This study explores recurring patterns in the dynamics of feasts, as well as linkages to other aspects of culture such as food, personhood, cognition, power, politics, and economics. Analyzing detailed ethnographic and archaeological observations from a wide variety of cultures including Oceania and Southeast Asia, the Americas, and Eurasia, Hayden illuminates the role of feasts as an invaluable insight into the social and political structures of past societies.

Brian Hayden is professor emeritus in the Archaeology Department at Simon Fraser University. His research focuses on the behaviors behind the artifacts in terms of societies, economics, rituals, and political organizations of past people, specifically in terms of the dynamics of feasting from an ethnoarchaeological perspective. He has worked with traditional people in Australia, the Maya Highlands, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Polynesia, and British Columbia in order to learn about traditional technologies and how they are linked to the other aspects of cultures. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Archaeology: The Science of Once and Future Things*; *The Pithouses of Keatley Creek*; *Shamans, Sorcerers, and Saints: The Prehistory of Religion*; *Feasts* (with Michael Dietler); *Paleolithic Reflections*; and *Lithic Studies Among the Highland Maya*.

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# The Power of Feasts

FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT

**Brian Hayden**

*Simon Fraser University, British Columbia*



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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	page vi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
1 Before the Feast: Initial Considerations	1
2 Food Sharing and the Primate Origins of Feasting (Suzanne Villeneuve)	25
3 Simple Hunter/Gatherers	35
4 Transegalitarian Hunter/Gatherers	47
5 Domesticating Plants and Animals for Feasts	109
6 The Horticultural Explosion	162
7 Chiefs Up the Ante	233
8 Feasting in Early States and Empires	296
9 Industrial Feasting	347
<i>References Cited</i>	373
<i>Index</i>	423

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04299-5 - The Power of Feasts: From Prehistory to the Present

Edited by T. H. Carpenter, K. M. Lynch and E. G. D. Robinson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Figures

1.1	A modern dinner feast	<i>page</i> 2
1.2	A traditional feast in Futuna	2
1.3	Lavish expensive displays of reproductive desirability in animals	5
1.4	Classification of feasts	10
1.5	Weightings of various motives for hosting different kinds of feasts	11
1.6	Kaleidoscopic sensations in feasts	13
1.7	The normal distribution of self-interested versus altruistic behavior in people	16
3.1	Site and ethnic locations for simple hunter/gatherers	43
3.2	An Algonkian feasting structure at the Daniel Rattle site	44
4.1	Site and ethnic locations for complex hunter/gatherers	48
4.2	Inverted socioeconomic pyramid of Northwest Coast groups	52
4.3	Potlatch given by a Quatsino chief	54
4.4	Diagram of the social effects of surplus production on the Northwest Coast	60
4.5	Northwest Coast prestige “grease bowl”	65
4.6	Southeast Asian prestige stemmed serving bowls	65
4.7	Mesoamerican prestige serving gourds	66
4.8	Ornately carved prestige spoons of the Yurok (California)	67
4.9	Native fishing platforms at Celilo Falls, Columbia River	74
4.10	Making eulachon oil in a dugout canoe on the Chilkat River	75
4.11	Ornately dressed guests at a potlatch in Klukwan	80
4.12	Assembly of general “guests” outside a corporate house at a potlatch near Victoria	82
4.13	A Chilkat chief with his young son initiated into a secret society	86
4.14	The Hupa White Deerskin dancers displaying prestige obsidian bifaces	88
4.15	Details of Hupa prestige obsidian bifaces	89

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04299-5 - The Power of Feasts: From Prehistory to the Present

Edited by T. H. Carpenter, K. M. Lynch and E. G. D. Robinson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of Figures*

vii

4.16	Two finely carved stone bowls from southern California	90
4.17	Outside view of a Medewiwin structure of the Menominee Indians	91
4.18	Inside view of a Medewiwin structure	92
4.19	Early representation of a bear sacrifice and feast in Siberia	94
4.20	A ritual feast at a forest shrine of the Khanty in Western Siberia	96
4.21	An elaborately carved antler spoon from a Northwest Coast burial	98
4.22	A dense mound of burned shell at the Pender Island site, British Columbia	99
4.23	A large roasting pit at the Keatley Creek site in the interior of British Columbia	100
4.24	Circular and other forms of Late Archaic massive shell mounds in the Southeastern United States	102
4.25	An aerial photograph of Poverty Point	103
4.26	A dentalium headdress on a Natufian burial	104
4.27	Storage pits at the Natufian site of Ain Mallaha	105
4.28	Prestige “flame”-style cooking or heating Jomon pots	107
5.1	Locations of sites and ethnic groups related to domestication	110
5.2	Exceptionally large gourds used for Maya competitive ritual feasts	111
5.3	Average distributions of livestock holdings within Southeast Asian tribal communities	121
5.4	Albino water buffalo highly valued for Torajan feasts	123
5.5	Excessively fat pigs highly valued for feasting in Southeast Asia and Polynesia	126
5.6	Bimodal cross-cultural frequency distribution of reliance on agriculture	130
5.7	Map of clover and cinquefoil gardens on the Northwest Coast	138
5.8	Northwest Coast clam garden	139
5.9	A Natufian plastered corporate burial pit at Ain Mallaha	141
5.10	Stacked caprid horn cores at Hallan Çemi, Anatolia	142
5.11	Stone bowls or cups from Hallan Çemi	144
5.12	Large Natufian basalt and limestone “mortars,” bowls, or possible brewing pots	145
5.13	Large ritual structures and associated plaza area at Hallan Çemi	146
5.14	Greek Neolithic female figurines	148
5.15	A traditional-style European “corn dolly”	149
5.16	A Southeast Asian “grain spirit” (Mae Sompok)	150
5.17	Natural distribution of wild rice and early sites with domesticated rice	154
6.1	Locations of sites and ethnic groups of horticultural transegalitarian societies	164

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04299-5 - The Power of Feasts: From Prehistory to the Present

Edited by T. H. Carpenter, K. M. Lynch and E. G. D. Robinson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)viii *List of Figures*

6.2	Graphic representation of time spent foraging versus returns for foragers versus cultivators	165
6.3	Inverted socioeconomic pyramid typical of Southeast Asian hill tribes	168
6.4	An animal sacrifice at a Torajan feast	169
6.5	Procession of guests at a Torajan funeral	170
6.6	Wealth investments in New Guinea children for marriage (above) and a New Guinea bride with her bride wealth (below)	173
6.7	Butchering practices at feasts and discard patterns after Torajan feasts	181
6.8	A “curing” feast among the Akha (Thailand)	192
6.9	Special guests at an Akha wedding feast eating inside on platforms	193
6.10	An Akha display of a bucranium to commemorate sponsoring a feast (above) and a similar display of bucrania at Çatalhöyük (below)	194
6.11	General guests at an Akha marriage feast eating outside the host’s house	195
6.12	A Torajan megalithic memorial ground	203
6.13	A Sumban (Indonesia) megalithic tomb	204
6.14	The traditional technique for transporting megalithic stones in Indonesia	205
6.15	Record keeping of Torajan feasting “gifts” and debts	212
6.16	Near Eastern clay tokens probably used to keep records of “gifts” and debts	213
6.17	A lineage structure in Vietnam	214
6.18	Early pottery forms in Southeast Mesoamerica imitating prestige gourds	229
7.1	Locations of sites and ethnic groups related to chiefdoms	234
7.2	Diagram of the structure of chiefdom settlement and political hierarchy	235
7.3	Diagram of the exponentially increasing feasting and administrative costs in relation to sociopolitical complexity	238
7.4	First communion gifts (above) and feasting (below) on Futuna (Polynesia)	244
7.5	Competitive intervillage feasts and large gift displays on Futuna	246
7.6	A large enclosed plaza at a temple in Hawai’i	247
7.7	A small ritual meeting house on Futuna with associated feasting refuse	248
7.8	A Maori tree-shaped structure used to display food at large feasts	249



Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04299-5 - The Power of Feasts: From Prehistory to the Present

Edited by T. H. Carpenter, K. M. Lynch and E. G. D. Robinson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of Figures*

ix

7.9	“Gift baskets” of food to be given to special guests at a Futunan feast	258
7.10	A task group shredding coconut meat for a Futunan feast	259
7.11	A butchering task group for a feast on Futuna	260
7.12	A small section of underground passages with the “Lanzón” sculpture at Chavin de Huántar	283
7.13	Depiction of a human half-transformed into a power animal at Chavin de Huántar	284
7.14	The large plaza area at Chavin de Huántar	285
7.15	The Neolithic chamber tomb of Newgrange (Ireland)	286
7.16	The Celtic temple at Gournay-sur-Aronde	292
8.1	Locations of sites and groups related to state organizations	298
8.2	A funeral procession for a wealthy man in Bali	302
8.3	The “Standard of Ur” depicting Sumerian feasting	303
8.4	Depictions of feasting on Sumerian cylinder seals	303
8.5	A rural village temple in Laos	308
8.6	Inclusion of temple priests in competitive household feasts in Bali	308
8.7	A funeral or ancestral feast depicted on the Hagia Triada sarcophagus (Crete)	313
8.8	Foundations of a Minoan peak sanctuary temple at Youchtas (Crete)	320
8.9	Large open courtyards used for feasting at the early state center of Huambacho (Peru)	327
8.10	Smaller, more intimate and exclusive feasting patios at Huambacho	327
8.11	A Mesoamerican ballcourt at Mixco Viejo where competitive feasting took place	332
8.12	A large open plaza constructed by the Inca at Pachacamac, Peru	344
9.1	A mid-century Industrial wedding anniversary feast in the United States	353
9.2	A modern Industrial adult birthday feast in the United States	353
9.3	A formal “corporation” feast	354
9.4	A mid-century children’s birthday feast	357

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04299-5 - The Power of Feasts: From Prehistory to the Present

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[More information](#)

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