

Moai Sightings

MOAI SIGHTINGS ARE COMING IN FROM ALL OVER, SUGGESTING THAT THE STATUES HAVE BECOME A POPULAR ICON ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS. FROM NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ADS TO GOOFY MINIATURE GOLF COURSES, THE MOST RECENT REPORTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

California

Sharp-eyed Rapanuiphile, Suzanne Williams of North Hollywood, spotted a mysterious *moai* in (of all places) the Forest Lawn Cemetery Museum in Glendale. The 3-foot head of a statue, named "Henry" is said to have come from Easter Island and "... was found in a fishing boat where it had been used as ballast for generations." A nearby sign offers the following text: "... named for Henry Wendt, who assisted Dr Hubert Eaton in obtaining the figure from Easter Island." If any of our readers can provide a lead on either Henry, Hubert, or the statue, please let us know. Several things are curious: the carving, which shows protruding fat lips and a bulbous nose; the size, which would be rather too large for ballast; and the identification of the collectors. Docents at the museum were unable to provide any clues.



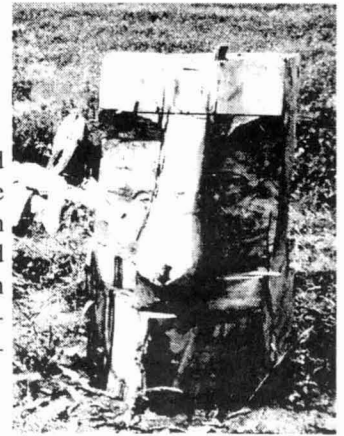
Florida

A special "*moai* sighting" was made by another Rapanuiphile, Marks Hinton, of Houston, Texas. The statue is in a goofy golf course in Key West, Florida, making it the southern-most *moai* in the continental U.S. (Key West is 85 miles further south than Brownsville, Texas). Hinton says that the next question is to find the most northern, eastern and western relatives of this little *moai*.



South Wales, England

A *moai* carved from wood has been sighted near Ogmores Castle in Glamorgan in South Wales (between Cardiff and Swansea). Rapanuiphile Brian Cox found this unexplained example—and noted the beginnings of a second one nearby.



Maryland

The "Easter Island mini Golf Course", located on the way to the Boardwalk in Ocean City, also sports *moai* figures. "The big head", as it is called, stands at attention, accompanied by Kaitlyn and Karleigh Swales. This statue head is only one of some dozen at the golf course which is also decorated with various birdman figures. Thanks to Valerie Young for capturing this lumpy version of our beloved statues.



What's New in Polynesia

Hawaii

A slack key contest held in the gardens of the Bishop Museum in mid-August provided a great photo-op for Rapanuiphile Bud Henry. From a straight-on view, the cameraman seems to be perched on the head of the cement *moai* replica that graces the museum gardens. The formerly-distinguished *moai* head was replicated from one at Tongariki but has now turned into Kermit-the-*moai* since the addition of the "bug-eyes".



- A US Senate bill seeks to make Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) an "Indian Tribe", a domestic dependent nation and Federal Wards, according to Dr Kekuni Blaisdell of Ka Pakaukau. Blaisdell stated that "wardship" violates Kanaka Maoli rights to self-determination, and that the Senate bill is not only contradictory within itself but is also ambiguous.

Pacific News Bulletin 12(6)

• Small island nations complained at the UN Earth Summit in June that they are becoming the first victims of global warming. The five-day 173-nation conference noted a lack of progress since the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Small island nations, including the Maldives, Cyprus, Caribbean States and Pacific archipelagos say their survival is threatened by rising sea levels that are expected to increase some 30 to 100 cm in the next century, as the warming trend continues. Some smaller islands have been abandoned; on Nukuoro, taro patches were inundated with sea water that ruined the harvest.

Pacific News Bulletin, 12(6)

Fiji

KAVA IS BECOMING A MAJOR pharmaceutical drug in Germany and the United States. Kava extract, tablets, and chewable kava are available in many parts of the world and are used as an anti-anxiety drug like Valium or for a muscle-relaxant, but without side effects. Kava growing is a big industry in Fiji, estimated at \$100 million annually. People on the Big Island of Hawaii are turning to kava growing as an alternative to the sugar industry. Some negative impacts have been noted, for example, the clearing of land for kava plantations in Pohnpei caused environmental damage to watersheds and has deposited silt on coral reefs.

While the plant is native only to the Pacific, others are trying to obtain kava for plantations elsewhere. It is expected that, as the export market expands, there will be an upward trend in kava prices for local drinkers.

University of the South Pacific Bulletin, June 1997

Niue

WINNER OF THE 1997 POLYNESIAN LITERARY COMPETITION whose theme area was the island of Niue, is Samoa Tongakilo. A 52 year-old woman writer from Namoui, Makefu, on Niue, she authored the poem "Ko e Motu, Maka-ha-Polinesia" ("The Island, Rock-of-Polynesia"), a beautiful and emotive panegyric to her island home. Her poem, in Niuean with an accompanying English translation, was unanimously judged the winner for 1997 by the two adjudicators, the Honorable Atapana Siakimotu, Consul General for Niue in Auckland, and Dr Wolfgang Sperlich, of the Niue Dictionary Project, and by the two permanent moderators, Dr H.G.A. Hughes of Wales and Dr Steven R. Fischer of New Zealand. Samoa Tongakilo wins a Certificate of Award and NZ \$250. The winning poem will be published shortly in the journal, *Rongorongo Studies*. The annual Polynesian Literary Competition is sponsored by the Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literatures, Auckland, New Zealand.

Marshall Islands

THE SIGNING OF A NUCLEAR WASTE disposal feasibility study agreement between the Marshall Islands and a United States firm, B&W Nuclear Environmental Services, Inc., has been strongly condemned by the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade.

It is claimed that B&W took advantage of uninformed officials who signed an agreement on behalf of the government. Arguments against a nuclear dump in the islands include the projected climate change that will affect low-lying coral atolls, as well as danger from cyclones.

Pacific News Bulletin 12(6)

Pitcairn Islands

MEMBERS OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT International Ltd. team are carrying out a rat eradication project on Pitcairn, Oeno and Ducie Islands and they also made bait trials on Henderson. Pitcairners had been informed that feral cats must be destroyed or they would prey on the Grey Warbler once the rats were gone. They were relieved to hear they could keep their pet cats.

Lines were cut through scrub and forest so that bait could be placed every 25 meters and this was done as a first application (there will be two). So far, it seems effective as dead rats were being seen.

Only Pitcairn Island has the Pacific rat, a relic of the original Polynesian occupation. Other rat species have not manage to get ashore as they seem to gain access to islands via wharves or sheltered moorings. Rats are not only a source of disease but they compete with man for food and also have a disastrous effect on the natural environment, causing the extinction of many bird species. Islands are particularly vulnerable. New poisons and improved technology make it possible to remove rats from even large islands. In New Zealand alone, some 20-30 islands have been cleared of rats. The program is financed by the Overseas Development Administration and Worldwide Fund for Nature (U.K.)

Some of the benefits of eradication include houses and fields free from rodents, safety of seabirds, and better regeneration of some plants. If feral cats are also removed and pet cats controlled, seabirds may recolonize some parts of the island. Perhaps it will be possible to re-introduce lost species such as the dove and parakeet, etc.

The Pitcairn Miscellany, Vol 40, 1997

What's New in Hangaroa

• DATES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED for the 1998 Tapati festival: January 30-February 14. This is the first time the festival has been planned for a two week span of time.

• HANGAROA HAS ITS OWN NEWSPAPER! *Te Rapa Nui*, "The Gazette of Easter Island" is the name of a new paper to which you now can subscribe. Issued four times a year, the most recent issue is 8 pages, some in color. Text is in English as well as Spanish. The paper is under the direction of Juan Soler Bolt and edited by Caroline Hotu Hey. For subscriptions, send checks payable to "Editorial Te Rapa Nui", Correo, Isla de Pascua, Chile. Price is \$10 US. [It is not clear, but apparently checks on a US bank are acceptable].

Te Rapa Nui is intended to become "a small light radiating Te Pito o te Henua . . . outwards" and oriented toward the social progress of the island and its people. The current issue has articles on the recent festival in Samoa, the National Park, and the arrival of the King of Spain. Let's support this effort!

• A FEW RECENT AND FAMOUS VISITORS TO RAPA NUI include the Norwegian explorer, Thor Heyerdahl, who made a visit to the island as part of a documentary about the investigations he began in 1955.

Japanese Prince Hitachi and his wife stayed three days on the island as part of their tour to Chile. The Japanese government has donated US\$2 million to conserve the patrimony of Rapa Nui.

El Mercurio de Santiago, 29 September 1997

- ACCORDING TO *EL MERCURIO DE VALPARAISO*, 18 October 1997, the City Council of Hanga Roa has petitioned for the removal of Mayor Pedro Edmunds Paoa "for notable abandonment of responsibilities" and "multiple irregularities and arbitrary administration of the municipality". The petition was presented before the Electoral Tribunal at Valparaiso by Antonio Oneto, attorney representing Alberto Hotus, Marcelo Pont, Claudio Cristino, Enrique Pakarati, and Rodrigo Norambuena.

- A RECENT COMMUNICATION from the island expressed anxiety over the problem of mixing alcohol and driving. Young islanders are increasingly involved in nasty accidents that are drinking-related. One such casualty recently resulted in the amputation of a leg. Those who are caught up in drinking episodes are generally young, out of school, and unemployed. Older residents complain of brawls and other transgressions, and voice concern that tourists will be offended or antagonized.

- A FIRE THAT RECENTLY BURNED OVER 50 HECTARES at Rano Kau volcano and blazed for three days is said to have started from the slash-and-burn practice of islanders who periodically set fire to the grassland. It has been suggested by CONAF that grazing areas on the island be limited in order to avoid damage to the cultural patrimony of the island. At least three distinct places separated by 500 to 1000 meters show indications of intentional fires set to burn off dry grass and thus promote new vegetation for grazing animals. The fire entered the crater at three sectors. Last July, 500 saplings of *mako'i* were planted there, thanks to a grant from PNUD, a UN program of development. The news report was not clear as to whether or not these small trees survived.

CONAF chief, J.M. Ramirez, said that a strong wind, scarcity of water, and limited personnel hampered efforts. He noted that because islanders do not have access to other land for grazing their animals, they use National Park land. Governor Hey said that blame for the fire cannot be placed as yet, but that everyone should protect the environment and the ecology.

El Mercurio de Santiago, 14 September 1997

- SPECIAL WALKING TOURS OF EASTER ISLAND are being plugged on the Chilean mainland; advertisements suggest hiking as a way to see the island. Getting around on bicycle is also being touted. The Chilean press (*El Mercurio de Valparaiso*) points out that one can get to know Isla de Pascua by auto in a couple of days but, on a bike, the adventure "can be metaphysical". In case you can't guess, the news items gives ten reasons why one should bike on Easter Island: (1) the road is "the destiny" and time unimportant; (2) the road acquires a significance of its own; (3) there is satisfaction in arriving at one's destiny; (4) one can talk with locals; (5) the bumpiness connects one to the land; (6) one can reach places a car cannot; (7) at day's

end one feels well; (8) biking removes stress; (9) a broken bike can be repaired but not a broken car; and (10) it implies a life that is "chaste and pure."

[Bikes are a recent phenomena on the island, seen only in the past few years; the ruts that formerly served for roads were hardly the stuff for bicycles. But now roads are improved and bikes are becoming more common. However, that track around the north coast has to be an acid test.]

- LIGHTS ARE BEING INSTALLED AT THE SOCCER FIELD. Floodlights, placed on 60 foot towers, will light up the entire area, presumably for night games.

- AN EARTHWATCH TEAM, under the direction of Dr Christopher Stevenson, has discovered a large number of sites inland from Ahu Heki'i (La Perouse Bay). Among these are a number of basalt quarries and reduction areas where *toki* were being manufactured. They also identified large repositories of raw material for the making of *toki* but are not sure at this time where these boulders came from. We hope to have a full report in our next issue of RNJ.

NEWS FROM THE EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION

- The Biblioteca Mulloy in Viña del Mar now can be reached via email: BiMulloy@intelchile.net

- Mr. Enrique Klein, son of the late Otto Klein (1901-1986), who in 1947 founded the highly regarded School of Decoration at the Santa Maria University of Valparaiso, has generously donated nearly a hundred books and articles from Prof. Klein's personal library to the Biblioteca Mulloy in Viña del Mar, Chile. Several of the books, long out-of-print, were not in the Mulloy Library and are an extremely valuable addition to the collection. There are also original drawings and photographs made by Prof. Klein in the preparation of his classic book, "*La Iconografía de la Isla de Pascua*". Mr. Klein kindly donated other valuable books as well as artifacts, both from the continent and from Rapa Nui, to the Fonck Museo de Arqueología.

The Foundation is extremely grateful and thanks Mr. Klein profusely for his generosity.

- The EIF welcomes two new members of the Board of Directors: Brigid Mulloy and Mark Blackburn, both of Hawai'i.

REPORT ON THE SOUTH SEAS SYMPOSIUM

THE OPENING RECEPTION of the South Seas Symposium was held at the Hilton Hotel in Albuquerque where participants and guests were greeted by Barbara Hinton, President of the Easter Island Foundation, and Governor Jacobo Hey Paoa, of Easter Island. Rapa Nui wood carvings were presented with thanks to Mary Dell Lucas and her staff at Far Horizons who were in charge of logistics for the conference.

Guests at the opening ceremonies were enchanted by talented Mahani Teave (Chavez) who entertained with several selections on the piano. A gifted Rapanui, 14-year old Mahani