

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGAROA

More fallout from the ill-fated *Mata Rangi*.

The yacht *Stray Dog* that went to the rescue of the sinking *Mata Rangi*, as described in our last issue, has itself met a sorry fate. The day after the *Stray Dog* arrived to Easter Island, it was pressed into service by the Chilean Maritime Authority and it left immediately to rescue the men from the sinking *Mata Rangi*. It took 30 hours of sailing to reach the reed boat, which was barely afloat some 150 nautical miles (279 kilometers) northwest of Easter Island. It was spotted with the help of flares that were first seen at 8:30 p.m. After the rescue, it took another 30 hours to return to the island.

In command of the yacht was Bryan Scott Kronmeyer, the owner. The rescue maneuver was directed by the captain of the port of Easter Island, 1st Lt. Eduardo Rubilar and 2nd Sgt. Luis Vergara, who traveled in the US yacht.

The Navy office on the island reported that the rescued men were all huddled in the aft section of the raft and were in good physical condition. Upon arrival back at the island, they were received with great joy by some 600 islanders who were waiting to greet them at La Pérouse bay. The *Stray Dog* subsequently was anchored at La Pérouse, but broke loose during a fierce squall on May 29th. She was totally destroyed after smashing up against the rocks. A few pieces of soggy navigation and electronic equipment were retrieved but everything else, including clothes and credit cards, was lost. The two *norteamericanos*, Kronmeyer and Cinque Ryan Corrin, his companion, stated that the uninsured ship was valued at US\$110,000.

No mention was made of the fate of the two stowaways (see RNJ Vol. 11:2, pg. 96) who presumably are still under indictment on the island. (Leaving the island as a stowaway on the *Mata Rangi* is akin to trying to stowaway on the *Titanic*. Bad choice).

Following all this, Kitin Muñoz, who had initiated the *Mata Rangi* project, stated to newsmen (as reported in *El Mercurio de Santiago*) that he would begin boat building again soon, but perhaps in Arica or Peru and he declared that *titora* reeds are a "... super choice for they float so well and stayed on top of the waves." Muñoz reported that "... little by little the raft was breaking apart and losing *titora* where the boat separated ..." and "... a fierce storm with waves of 6 meters [caused] the raft to begin to break up."

When asked if he considered the expedition a failure, he replied "These things are normal in an expedition. This isn't a vacation, right? These are the things that demonstrate the problems and the risks of an expedition of this type and we have to assume that these things happen and it is necessary to assume it might happen—as expeditionaries, men of the sea, and men in general." [*Clearly, this is a guy thing.*]

[*In consideration of the needs of the island—for example, the school—the expenditure of nearly one million dollars, plus the loss of the ship Stray Dog, suggests that this entire project is beyond sense. And now we will undoubtedly be treated to yet another raft expedition, by "men of the sea."*]

NEWS FROM THE EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION

"Ingrained Images. Woodcarvings from Easter Island" is the title of the exhibit which opened in June at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico. The exhibit, sponsored by the Easter Island Foundation and curated by founding President of the Foundation, Dr. Joan Seaver Kurze, will be in place until October 12, and will be a feature of the South Seas Symposium in August. A museum reception will be held on Wednesday, August 6th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and directly following the Wednesday sessions. Exhibits director, Ian Wagoner, designed the layout of the exhibition.



Guest curator, Joan Seaver Kurze and exhibits director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Ian Wagoner at the opening reception of "Ingrained Images" (Photo: G. Lee)

Ingrained Images is a delight for Rapanuiphiles. Various kinds of wood carvings are displayed along with photographs that illustrate the island as well as life today in the village of Hangaroa. A special part of the exhibition contains earlier pieces and drawings from the collection of Mark Blackburn.



Joan Seaver Kurze stands before the entry display for *Ingrained Images* at the Maxwell Museum which features colorful examples of Polynesian crab claw sails, designed by artist Mark Oliver (Photo: G. Lee)

A popular addition to the exhibition is a short video by Seaver called "*Legacy*" which deals with wood carving and how the traditions are passed along from one generation to another. The footage includes *anciano* Juan Haoa in the process of carving one of the pieces in the exhibition.

A lavishly illustrated book/catalog (titled "*Ingrained Images*") that accompanies the exhibit will be sold at the Maxwell Museum bookstore and is available through the Easter Island Foundation (see page 131).

PUBLICATIONS

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- Pacific News Bulletin*. 1996. Vol. 12(1) for January. Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, PO Box 803, Glebe NSW 2037, Australia.
- Pitcairn Miscellany*, The *Miscellany* is a monthly newspaper of Pitcairn Island with a circulation of 1500. Address: Pitcairn Miscellany, South Pacific Ocean, via New Zealand.
- Pole, Len. 1966. Pacific Collections in the Saffron Walden Museum, Essex, U.K. *Pacific Arts* 13/14:85-91.
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- Rongorongo Studies*, 1997. Vol. 7(1). Edited by Steven Roger Fischer. P.O. Box 6965, Wellesley St., Auckland 1, New Zealand. Email: rongonz@iconz.co.nz. The current issue contains papers by K. W. Cook (Subject Pronoun Fronting in Samoan and Hawaiian), and A. Bierbach and H. Cain (Tangaroa: Another Final Demystification). The latter is a continuation from the previous issue.
- Scarangelo, Christina Hellmich. 1996. The Pacific Collection in the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts. *Pacific Arts* 13/14:69-84.
- Thomas, Nicholas. 1995. *Oceanic Art*. Thames and Hudson, London. (World of Art Series). ISBN 0-500-20281-8.
- Tok Blong Pasifik: News and Views on the Pacific Islands*. Vol. 50 No.3-4 South Pacific Peoples Foundation, 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria BC, Canada V8T 2Y6. Email: sppf@web.apc.org. [Tok Blong has a spiffy new look. Check it out.]
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- The University of the South Pacific Bulletin*, Suva, Fiji. 1996. Vol. 29 (30-31) for September. USP is the regional University serving Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.
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THE 23RD SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE for the Study of Australia and Oceania (Department for South Pacific Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of Russia), was held on May 29, 1997, at Moscow. Papers by N.A. Butinov, I.K. Fedorova, V.I. Belikov, D.D. Tumarkin, M.V. Tendryakova and others were presented and the Proceedings of the Conference have been published. Two titles may be of interest for readers:

- Fedorova, Irina K., 1997. Otrazhenie obryadovykh deystviy na stranitsakh kohau rongorongo [Representation of the ceremonial activities on the pages of kohau rongorongo; in Russian]. In: V.P. Nikolaev (ed.) *Strany Yuzhnykh morey: proshloe i sovremennost'. Tezisy dokladov XXIII nauchnoy konferentsii po izucheniyu Avstralii i Okeanii*. Moscow: Institut Vostokovedeniya RAN, pp.85-88.
- Rjabchikov, Sergei V., 1997. Solntse i zatmeniya (k simvolike rapanuyskogo fol'klora) [The sun and eclipses (on the symbolism of the rapanui folklore); in Russian]. In: V.P. Nikolaev (ed.) *Strany Yuzhnykh morey: proshloe i sovremennost'. Tezisy dokladov XXIII nauchnoy konferentsii po izucheniyu Avstralii i Okeanii*. Moscow: Institut Vostokovedeniya RAN, pp. 88-92.

