

On an Easter Island rock drawing

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As has been shown earlier, an integrated analysis of the petroglyphs and hieroglyphs offers a clearer view of the mysterious culture of Easter Island (Rjabchikov 1994, 1995a, 1995b). Let us consider an additional example. A panel in the Anakena area has some signs (Lee 1992:176, figure 6.12) which reads as 6-7 Hatu (an epithet of the god Tiki, or Hotu, the first part of Hotu Matu'a's name; the signs represent a person [6=ha] and a star [7=tuu], 7=tuu and 19=ki according to my personal decipherment of the Rapanui script (Rjabchikov 1987:362-3). The latter petroglyph is a drawing of a rat (cf. my interpretation of the glyph 19 as the 'rat's' symbol (ibid. 1993:135, Appendix 1).

Rapanui legends tell of the landing of the first king, Hotu Matu'a, at Anakena Beach (Métraux 1940). On the other hand, it is known that Hotu Matu'a's soul was incarnated as a rat (Englert 1948:74). I conclude that the reading "tuu" apparently signifies 'the tribal union Tu'u which includes the tribe Miru--the tribe of the paramount chiefs.

So some petroglyphs inform the legendary history of the island.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

According to *Popular Science* (May 1995) which cites the *Guinness Book of Records*, Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited island in the world, not Rapa Nui. Tristan da Cunha lies 1510 miles (2416 km) southwest of St. Helena, its nearest neighbor. They place Rapa Nui 1260 miles (2016 km) from Pitcairn, its nearest inhabited island; however, the distance is actually 1320 (2112 km). Easter Island is west of

South America at 2300 miles (3680 km) whereas Tristan da Cunha is 1950 miles (3120 km) west of Africa. [But, when you are out there in that big ocean, what's a few hundred miles more or less?]

Spain

An exhibition titled *Los moai de la isla de Pascua, Arte y culturas de los Mares del Sur* was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 26 September to 26 November. The exhibit drew wide attention because of an unfortunate accident that damaged a *moai* borrowed from La Serena, Chile (see *RNJ* 9:4).

The Barcelona exhibition drew fifty thousand visitors to the Centro Cultural de la Fundación. A catalog accompanied the exhibit: *Els Moai de l'Illa de Pasqua. Art i Cultures Als Mares Del Sud*, Edicion Bilingue Catalan/Español, 270 pages; ISBN 84-7664-527-9. Editado por Fundacio La Caixa, Barcelona. The catalog, containing 7 articles, sold some 3,000 copies. Papers included are: "La Isla de Pascua y la Polinesia" by G. Orefici; "Arte y cultura de los mares del sur" by C. Huera; "La navegacion en el Pacifico" by M. Biscione; "Vegetacion y civilizacion en la Isla de Pascua" by J. R. Flenley; "La escultura en madera de la Isla de Pascua" by C. and M. Orliac; "El arte de Rapa Nui. El culto al hombre pajaro", by G. Lee; and "Piezas excepcionales del Pacifico" by G. Ortiz.

Assisting at the inauguration of the exhibit were Rapanui governor, Jacobo Hey; the Ambasssador of Chile, Alvaro Briones; the president of the Museo Fonck de Viña del Mar, Norma Sanguinetti; the Directors of the exposition, Guiseppe Orefici and Carmen Huera; and the Director of the organization, Lluís Monreal.

The damaged *moai* was repaired by Eduard Porta of the Museo Arqueologico de Catalunya in Barcelona.

The exhibit, which was a smash hit in Milan, Italy, is now headed for Bordeaux, France, where it will open in March 1996 and run through the end of summer.

United States

More *moai* sightings: Ancient Artsyles (PO Box 524, Huntington, WV 25710) is advertising ceramic "Mysterious Moais" [*sic*], either full figure or head only and in colors: Antique Clay, Antique White, Pure White, or Satin Black. The beetle-browed scowling figures are 9¼" high and sell for \$49. A real Rapanui hand-carved pumice figure can be purchased for much less on the island but, of course, you have to GO there to get one.

Chile

• As reported in *RNJ*, very well-attended exhibitions of Rapanui artifacts, including an authentic full-sized *moai*, were mounted last year first in Milan, Italy, and then in Barcelona, Spain. The show is due to open soon in Bordeaux, France. Among the pieces on display are several dozen treasures from the Fonck Archaeological Museum in Viña del Mar where the Mulloy Library is situated.

However, it has been reported to the editors of this journal that the financial obligations of the museum in Milan have not been met: after nearly a year, the Italians still owe more

than US \$3,000 to the Fonck Museum. We hope that this is nothing more than a bureaucratic glitch and that a check will be in the mail within a very short time.

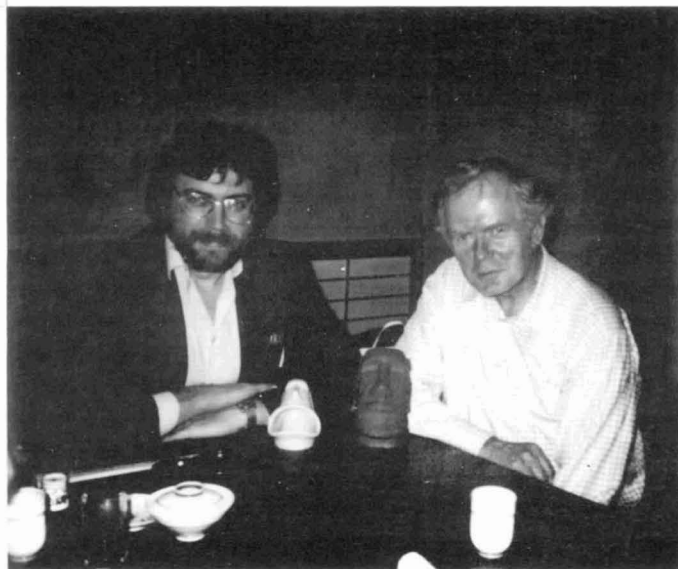
- Roberto Parraguez Singer, the first pilot to fly to Easter Island (in a Catalina 405 seaplane) has died. Parraguez pioneered the air route from Chile to Easter Island in 1951.
- The Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar, Chile, is exhibiting a series of color photographs by Wally McGalliard of Los Angeles in their Rapa Nui exhibit hall. McGalliard's photographs are on loan to the Fonck from the Easter Island Foundation.

Moai in Japan

Paul G. Bahn and John R. Flenley

We were privileged recently to be invited to an international symposium, "Wa no Kuni" (Forests, Myths & Civilizations), held in Nara and Kyoto, Japan, in December 1995, where we presented a total of three talks about the rise and fall of Easter Island's culture.

In Kyoto we were able to purchase two of the tasteful items in the "Easter Island" range of goods produced by the Iwaya Company of Tokyo—a large brown plastic moai-head money-



1) Bahn and Flenley in Kyoto, showing off their newly purchased Rapa Nui souvenirs. Bahn-Flenley photo.

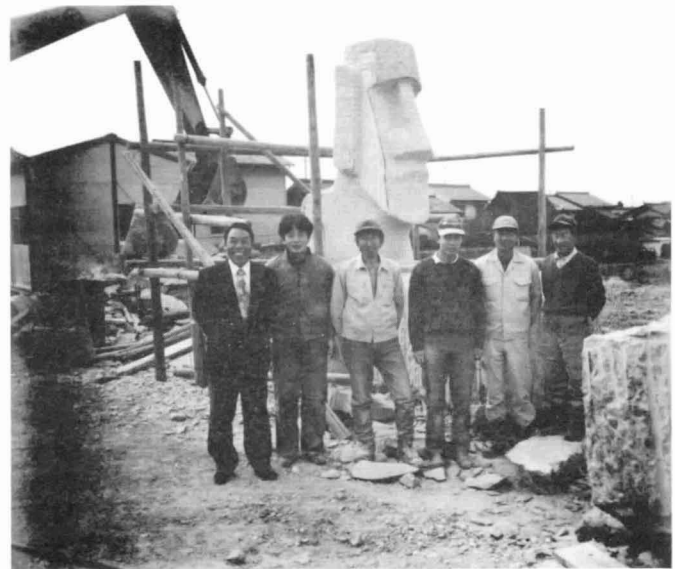
box, and a smaller, grey-green pottery moai-head ashtray with gaping mouth and a hole in the head for smoke to escape (fig. 1).

Forewarned by the information in *Rapa Nui Journal*, Vol. 9(3):87, that a Mr Sano of Nara was planning to construct a replica of ahu Akivi in Nara, we made contact with him during our stay there. We were able to have a long, fruitful

and enjoyable discussion with this Rapanuiphile, especially about his past, present and future projects on Easter Island.

Katsuji Sano is President of the Asuka Construction Company (motto "We prepare future"). His passion is stonemasonry, and for years he has traveled the world, looking at megalithic monuments, from Stonehenge and Brittany, from Egypt to Borobodur, studying and measuring the great stone structures and carvings, many of which he has subsequently reproduced back home. After the Tadano crane company pulled out of the Tongariki reconstruction (a project it had initiated), after only 18 months, it was Mr Sano who stepped into the breach and saw the restoration through to completion. His numerous visits to the island have produced a keen desire to do more to help the island both culturally and economically.

His current project is indeed a replica of ahu Akivi but it will not, as reported in the *RNJ*, be located in Nara itself. Instead, it will be set up on the coast at Miyazuki, in Kyushu—the nearest point of Japan to Easter Island. Mr Sano and his team (fig.2) have measured and photographed the Akivi moai in great detail, and are endeavoring to produce very similar versions. These are being carved in blocks of a volcanic tuff from a site near Tokyo. Since blocks of the required size are rare, some figures will have to be made of two pieces. Mr Sano has a team of five men working on the statues in a yard near his house; they are using modern



2) Mr Sano (far left) with his team of stone workers. Bahn-Flenley photo.

machinery and tools for the project, and he reckons it will take 3 men a month to complete each figure. The platform is expected to be finished and in place by April 1996; nearby will be three heads, based on some of the "heads" on the Raraku slopes, which will give the impression of being buried up to their necks.

WHAT'S NEW IN POLYNESIA

Hawai'i

Emissions from Kilauea volcano (called "vog") have been identified as the cause of eye and lung irritation on the island of Hawai'i. A physicist with the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, R. L. Chuan, reports that two vents on Kilauea are producing this pollution. A vent at Pu'u O'o produces an aerosol mass that is around 80% sulphur. Chuan estimates that the Pu'u O'o vent emits about 1,000 metric tons per day in a plume that is carried along by prevailing winds. Lava from another vent, closer to the sea at Kupaianaha, is mostly degassed before it reaches the sea and contains little sulfuric acid. However, it is still hot when it plunges into the ocean and explosively evaporates seawater along with the dissolved salts to produce hydrogen chloride gas which then hydrates to hydrochloric acid. These chemical reactions are no surprise to anyone who has hiked the lower reaches of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. If the winds are coming from the east, their usual pattern, the fumes can be stifling.

Chemical & Engineering News, American Chemical Society, January 15, 1966.

In August 1995, the Hawai'i Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling that alters land use in Hawai'i. The court expressed that all government agencies have an enforceable duty to preserve and protect traditional rights. The ruling requires state protection of traditional and customary rights and upholds native Hawaiian legal standing in issues relating to their gathering, cultural and spiritual practices. This ruling grew out of plans to build two resort hotels, residential units, a golf course, businesses, roads and a sewage plant on the Kona Coast of the Big Island. The development was to cover more than 400 acres of land and encompass more than 7,000 feet of coastline. The area is used by locals who gather shrimp from the ponds and fish from the coastline; the resort would have barred Native Hawaiians from their traditional activities on this land.

In Brief: Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Winter 1995-6.

New Zealand

Maoris in Poverty Bay have backed off from their threats toward the crew of the *Endeavour* replica but want an apology and compensation before settling a 226 year-old dispute. In December the tribes passed resolutions saying that past outrages committed by Captain James Cook in 1769 might be "cured" with an apology and a price (or fee) from the Queen and the British Government.

New Zealand Herald, 18 December, 1995.

Tokelau

E-mail is about to replace the usual sporadic mail service to Tokelau's three atolls that are now linked only by shortwave radio to Apia, in Western Samoa. Household telephones, card phones and a telephone exchange will be

installed on each of the low-lying atolls that rise a mere 5 meters above sea level at their highest point. Around \$3 million is being spent to give access to the rest of the world.

New Zealand Herald, 22 November 1995.

What's New in Hanga Roa

- Hanga Roa village has its first taxi! A private car is now sporting a "taxi" for rent sign. It is not clear how one engages this vehicle, other than waving it down on the main street.

- Another French restaurant is open for business in Hanga Roa, called Kona Koa. It features a South Seas decor and extensive menu not all of which was available the night we were there. The other French restaurant is Le Taverne du Pêcheur, located near the caleta. The former snack bar and changing rooms at the beach, Playa Pea, has been converted to a restaurant (of the same name) with a deck overlooking the bay.

- A statue at Ahu Tautira that formerly was in two broken segments has been repaired and set up, the project funded by the Municipalidad. The *ahu* now has two erect statues; another one is standing nearby, placed on a pedestal by the Chilean Navy some time in the 1940s. It is positioned incorrectly as it faces out to sea not inland. It is said that this statue came from the area around Ahu Tepeu.



Newly erected statue at Ahu Tautira.

- Hanga Piko, the little harbor just south of the village, is seeing some archaeological activity. Claudio Cristino is excavating piles of rubble that mark a former *ahu* and statue. The statue is broken in two segments. The *ahu* itself is destroyed, the *paenga* having been removed over the years for other projects. What is left are piles of rubble that comprised the interior of the *ahu*. Some burial crypts were found, containing skeletons. Skulls with incised designs were