

American Indian art, the Appraisers Association of America, and the Antique Tribal Art Dealers Association (ATADA). He owns and operates Hurst Gallery in Cambridge Massachusetts.

Art of the Pacific Islands CD

A Technical review by Katherine Burton Jones

In the worlds of Information Technology and Education much has happened since 1995. Technologies such as digital imaging, electronic mail, and digital video production that were emerging in the mid to late 1990s have matured and are becoming part of everyday life. The World Wide Web has radically changed our access to information and the audiences of content providers (corporations, educators, museums, etc.) have expanded. We have seen early generations of CD developers whose production costs were astronomical go out of business because there were no viable means of distribution. Now production costs are down and the technologies are widely available.

Educators are using these technologies to place content in the hands of teachers and the general public. The web has some advantages over CD and DVD in terms of the creation of dynamic information sites. CD ROM and DVD, while static, allow the users to "take the information home". Each of these may contain more content than the average web site.

As someone who has been both a content provider and a content developer, I had certain expectations of the technical components of *Art of the Pacific Islands*. Some of these were met but many were not. The section following provides comments on these components.

We viewed this with Windows 95 using a Pentium III computer and due to memory requirements were not able to view some of the video (specifically the *Looking at Art*, Dr Lori Phillips intro movie). The minimum requirements listed for this CD are: "PCs require Windows 95 and 486 processor (or higher) for optimum performance".

All menu screens provide clear options for navigating the CD except a back button is missing on many screens. The search feature is flawed in that if your search finds no records, there is no BACK or other mechanism button to take you to a new search. When an object has several images, the images are not synchronized to the scrolling text. The designers could have used audio as background for educational text especially when showing objects related to ceremonies. Audio is used as a general background medium in other cases. Photo credits and the terms in the glossary could have been done using a hyperlink to the full text or to roll over to show the credit or definition. As they are, it is difficult to navigate from the section you may be viewing to the section with the credits. Rollovers could have been used effectively throughout the CD but were not.

Given the capabilities of the web now, searching, navigating as well as presenting video, audio, and images have surpassed the capabilities used on this CD. These technologies were available at the time the CD was produced. Their incorporation would have made this presentation of material more effective and the use of the CD easier.

Katherine Burton Jones is the Director of Information Technology and Media Services at the Harvard Divinity School. Ms.

Jones was formerly an Assistant Director of the Harvard Peabody Museum and was Program Director of the Museum Computer Network.

MICHIGANITES TAKE NOTE: The Halsted Gallery, 560 N. Old Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan, is hosting an exhibit of the most recent Easter Island photographs by Michael Kenna. Along with the gallery opening, there will also be a book signing event for Kenna's new black/white photo book titled *Easter Island* (Nazraeli Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001). The book, cloth bound with tipped-in plate on cover and in a cloth slipcase has an introduction by Bill Jay. The book has 72 pages, with 40 duotone plates printed on matt art paper; size 12 x 12 inches. This first edition is limited to 1000 numbered copies. Michael Kenna has photographed Easter Island over a period of two years, creating a powerful new body of work which pays homage to the beauty of the island and the continuing mystery of its past. The phone number for the Halsted Gallery is 248-644-8284.

PUBLICATIONS

- Beardsley, F. R., G. G. Goles and W.S. Ayres. 1996. Provenance Studies on Easter Island Obsidian: An Archaeological Application. *Archaeological Chemistry* :47-63. American Chemical Society.
- Becket, Jan and Joseph Singer, eds. 1999. *Pana O'ahu: Sacred Stones, Sacred Land*. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu.
- Borofsky, Robert, ed. 2001. *Remembrance of Pacific Pasts: An Invitation to Remake History*. University of Hawai'i Press.
- Le Bulletin du Centre d'Études sur l'Île de Pâques et la Polynésie*, No. 45, 2001. Délégation de la Polynésie française à Paris, 28, boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris, France.
- Eckert, Fred J. The Mysterious Moai. 2001. *The World & I*, Vol. 16 (3):186-193. A Publication of the Washington Times Corporation. This short photo-essay has some interesting color photographs, including one that has been worked over with a computer so that Ahu Vai Ure appears to be sitting in Hangaroa village. Asking such in-depth questions as "Who built the moai?", this article is clearly aimed for those still wishing to believe in extra-terrestrials. And of all the lovely females on Easter Island, the author chose to include a photograph of a Chilean policewoman.
- Firth, Sir Raymond. 2001. Tikopia Dramas: Personal Images of Social Reality. *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 110(1):7-29.
- Fischer, Hermann. 2001. *Alegato por un Pueblo Olvidado*. Editorial LOM, Chile. This 294 page book is a translation from the original published in 1999 in German. It contains short essays about the time the author spent on the island in the 1990s. ISBN 956-282-362-8.
- Forment, F., D. Huyge and H. Valladas. 2001. AMS 14C age determinations of Rapanui [Easter Island] wood sculpture: *moai kavakavs* ET 48.63 from Brussels. *Antiquity* 75 (289):529-532.
- Fullagar, R., L. Head, T. Bryant and S. Beaman. 1999. Tsunami Disturbance on Coastal Middens: McCauleys Beach, New South Wales. *Australian Coastal Archaeology*: 235-38.
- Goff, J. R. and B. G. McFaden. 2001. Catastrophic Seismic-related Events and their Impact on Prehistoric Human Occupation, Coastal New Zealand. *Antiquity* 75:155-162.
- Higham, F.G. and W. J. Gumbley. 2001. Early preserved Polynesian *kumara* cultivations in New Zealand. *Antiquity* 75(289):511-512.
- Kirch, Patrick V. and Roger C. Green. 2001. *Hawaiki, Ancestral Polynesia. An Essay in Historical Anthropology*. Cambridge Univer-