

philatelists out there, Hawai'i is also being featured on a stamp from the U.S. Post Office.



**THE LATEST BUZZ ON MOSQUITOES:** Australian and Chinese researchers have found a way to shorten the lifespan of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, vector for such nasty things like Dengue Fever. By infecting the mosquito with the *Wolbachia* bacteria, the mosquitoes die before they can infect a new human host. Bravo to the School of Integrative Biology, University of Queensland and the College of Life Sciences, Central China Normal University!

Source: *Science* 323:141-144 (2009).

## WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

**THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** has released a 9-part TV documentary series exploring cultures and stories from around the Pacific. Three of the documentaries, each of which is about 10 minutes in length, are about Easter Island. All were posted online after their broadcast premier. Direct your Internet browser to <<http://www.teleschool.k12.hi.us/>> and scroll down to "View Episodes of Pacific Clues:" where you'll find, among other programs on Pacific archaeology, Hawai'i, whales and whaling, and Pohnpei, "Rapa Nui - Ecological Disaster, What Happened?"; "Rapa Nui - Mapping the Moai"; and "Rapa Nui - Moai on the Move".

Source: *Honolulu Advertiser* (November 4, 2008)

**EASTER ISLAND CARVINGS IN THE NEWS:** According to an article in *ArtDaily.org*, part of an African and Oceanic art auction consisting of the collection of Frieda & Milton Rosenthal included a *moai kavakava*. Estimated to go for between \$250,000 and \$350,000, it sold for \$614,500 — a record for an Easter Island sculpture at auction.

Source: *ArtDaily.org* (November 18, 2008)

**ACCORDING TO A REUTERS NEWS REPORT**, the wreck of a Spanish slave ship that once carried an illegal cargo of African slaves (believed to be the ancestors of many of today's inhabitants of the British colony of Turks & Caicos) once had on board two *moai kava kava* carvings. The ship, known as the *Trouvadore*, carried 193 African captives eight years after Britain had abolished its slave trade and sank in 1841 after hitting a reef south of the Bahamas. A letter in the Smithsonian Institution dated 1872 mentioned what were once thought to be African idols but were apparently later identified as to their Easter Island origin and finally ended up in the Museum of Natural History in New York.

Source: *Yahoo! News* (November 26, 2008).

**VOYAGE OF TAI KAHANO, CANOE OF THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS** - Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de La Rochelle, 28 rue Albert ler - January 10 to June 28, 2009.

The result of a collaboration between ethno-archaeologist Helene Guiot and Marquesan sculptor Jean Huukena, this traveling exhibition (which will eventually return to Nuka Hiva for the Festival of the Marquesas Islands in 2011) explores the techniques of Marquesan ocean navigation, including history, artistry, technical training, and design.

For more information, visit <[www.museum-larochelle.fr](http://www.museum-larochelle.fr)>

## HELP THE KON-TIKI MUSEUM

If you have any Tiki memorabilia you could consider lending to the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo, Norway, you might be part of next Summer's exhibition at the Museum, from May 24th to September 30th 2009. On October 6 Thor Heyerdahl would have turned 94. His world-famous expeditions, which attempted to show that people had used the world's oceans as important means of communication as early as many thousands of years ago, thrilled an entire world and irritated many researchers. The Kon-Tiki Expedition is probably the best known of these in the four corners of the world. The book about the expedition has been translated into more than 70 languages over the years, thanks in large part to the film of the expedition winning an Oscar in 1951. A less discussed result of the Kon-Tiki Expedition was the so-called Tiki trend. The Tiki trend took off when American soldiers arrived home from the Pacific Ocean and brought with them souvenirs and tastes from Hawai'i and other islands in the region. Tiki bars serving drinks that used pineapple and rum as the main ingredients were especially popular, as were Tiki restaurants that served food and had interiors inspired by the southern ocean. The Kon-Tiki expedition and the popularity the book and film attained helped to spread the Tiki phenomenon in America and to other countries. When Heyerdahl later visited Easter Island, his film and book, *Aku-Aku*, helped to re-vitalize this sub-culture. This also spread to Norway where for many years the Kon-Tiki restaurant in Sjølyst, Oslo, presented this culture and where in more recent times the Aku Aku bar in Grünerløkka, Oslo, has picked up the baton from the 1940s and 1960s and run with it. The Tiki Effect Exhibition at the Kon-Tiki Museum in the Summer of 2009 will show how this phenomenon arose and spread.

The Kon-Tiki Museum would like to borrow memorabilia and contributors to the exhibition will be invited to its opening along with friends and family. Memorabilia could be anything from menus to cocktail sticks and matchboxes from the Kon-Tiki restaurant on Sjølyst, or from other Tiki bars and restaurants from around the world. They could be models of the Kon-Tiki raft you made when you were a child. Perhaps you have cinema posters or advertising posters for the *Kon-Tiki* book or film, or one of the many objects, drinks, or sweets that over the years bore the Kon-Tiki name? If you have something you think the museum may be interested in, please contact: Reidar Solsvik at the Kon-Tiki Museum (phone: +47-23-08-67-76; e-mail: [reidar.solsvik@kon-tiki.no](mailto:reidar.solsvik@kon-tiki.no)).

Source: *The Norway Post* (January 31, 2009).