

their little peninsula on the western end of the Asian continent. From the 13th century, Genoese, Portuguese and the eventual conquerors, the Spanish, occasionally raided sheep and goats, sometimes people, the latter whom they sold as slaves. The conquest of the Canaries began in earnest in 1402, led by the Spanish. Conquest? Alone amongst the temperate Atlantic Islands north of the equator (Madeira and the Azores were uninhabited), the Canaries were inhabited by a people we remember as the Guanche, light skinned, perhaps of Berber stock, who had abandoned sailing craft of any size. We know little of these people as, along with the fierce battles of resistance, disease and enslavement cleared the island of its native inhabitants by the end of the 16th century. Even when the first account of the Guanche was published by Fray Alonso de Espinosa at Seville in 1594, the Guanche already were fading. By the time anybody took any real interest, the Guanche were no more, obliterated completely. Perfect territory for the enterprising Heyerdahl!

You may visit the Pyramids of Güímar, discovered by Heyerdahl, virtually and in English, by going to <<http://www.fredolsen.es/>>. Their e-mail address is: ferco@fredolsen.es. That's right: the pyramids and Heyerdahl's latest museum hang off the website for the Fred Olsen Lines, a well-known Norwegian shipping company. Those without Internet access could try contacting the Museum at: Pirámides de Güímar, S.A.; Edificación Fred Olsen, Polígono Industrial Añaza, S/N; 38109 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain.

The site declares that visits to the Park commenced at the end of 1997 and that the site comprises the restored pyramids, the Casa Chacona Museum, a cinema auditorium, cafeteria and gift shop. "A portion of the revenues from the Park will be contributed to F.E.R.C.O., Foundation for Exploration and Research on Cultural Origins, Thor Heyerdahl, President, with headquarters in the Casa Chacona Museum". Anyone fearful of hearing the Heyerdahl name should probably not consider a visit though since the Museum likely will mention his name a number of times.

However, dear reader, a Heyerdahl is better than a Barbie Doll!

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• The Kon-Tiki porn item that appeared in the December issue with accompanying limerick has brought out the beast in some of our readers. The limericks are coming in, as for example, the following submitted by Paul Bahn:

Two porn stars while visiting Norway
Decided to try it one more way
So they managed a quickie
on board the Kontiki
Which certainly isn't the Thor way!

Correction: those who have had a problem reaching the email address for the CD on Easter Island (see Review by Grant McCall in RNJ 11(4):166): <<http://www.lvi-press.com>>, the CD can be ordered directly from the publisher, or from an excellent source for anything French, recommended by McCall: M. David Bancroft; Centre Parisien D'Etudes et de Documentation pour L'Enseignement et le Rayonnement

du Français; 10 Ave. Félix-Faure; 75015 Paris, France; e-mail: <106275.3245@compuserve.com>

Correction: Dan Gartner of Australia, an alert reader (and the world needs more lerts), noted an error in our Vol. 11 (3). In the article by José Miguel Ramírez, the text states that the Rapa Nui National Park covers 42% of the total area of the island; however, that number translates into 67 km², not 6.7 hectares as the article stated. Sorry about that.

Reviews

THE EDGE OF PARADISE. AMERICA IN MICRONESIA.

by P. F. Kluge

A Kolowalu Book

University of Hawaii Press 1991 \$15.95 (Paperback)

Review by Grant McCall

Let me say at the onset that this is not as its title suggests, a scholarly study of what the USA has done to and with its American colonies north of the equator. It is not someone's revamped Ph.D. thesis, with a better selling title. The focus of the book is on the experiences of the author who went to those outposts of the American empire in 1967 as a Peace Corps volunteer.

If you were a Peace Corps volunteer, you likely will find this book interesting. If you did your service in Micronesia, your interest will mount. I suspect that if you were a male volunteer in the late 1960s who is now a respectable professor of English literature, this is the book for you! These are not cheap shots. The author recognizes that he is a ". . . Micronesia head part of a tiny freemasonry that could indulge itself, pig out on talk about places hardly anyone else knew" (p. 40). And, let me be clear also at the beginning, this is very well written, evocative and almost novelesque story, all positive qualities to recommend "Edge" as a relaxed read.

Kluge tells a very personal story of callous Yankee youth in charge of experienced Micronesian underlings and his reflections twenty years later on what he did. In particular, he is following up the life of Palau's Lazarus Salii, who died, perhaps a suicide, and who Kluge, I think, feels was a kind of protégé of his. Similar tales might be told of brash Australians meddling as Patrol and District Officers in Papua New Guinea during the colonial era. PNG's attraction was its exotic strangeness and, even, threatening quality. Micronesia, with not so much as a painted native or poisonous animal to threaten, offers no such threat. Kluge tells us of the many bars he visited, the women that he loved and the people he administered. He confesses that his Peace Corps time was an easy one, stationed at the Territorial Governor's office as a journalist and general writer, traveling widely on an expense account.

In some of his reflections, there is a kind of Mitcheneresque "Rascals in Paradise" quality about Kluge with which association he no doubt would be proud. He looks up a few of his fellow freemasons who "stayed on". "Just as the Japanese left stragglers behind, soldiers who hid out and lived off the land for years after the war ended, so the Peace Corps deposited volunteers, dozens of them through Micronesia" (p.

47). He is as critical of himself (then) as we might be of him (now).

“Edge” is dominated by a strong thread of nostalgia, that lying and cloying human emotion that makes people imagine that their own deterioration in age is reflected in the deterioration of world around them, past and present. Kluge’s mellifluous word processor oozes with reminiscences of lost islands and lost people.

As a nostalgic reverse Dorian Gray, he surveys the fall of the noble savages of American Micronesia and how the USA has let them down. For Kluge’s youth, people either are high noble (Salii) or rather naughty, the latter often being his bar companions.

As I was putting together this review, I wound up on a long coach journey with a colleague who happens to be Micronesian. I gave him a summary of the book, which was unfamiliar to him, and he smiled and suggested a title for my review:

“Kluge-less in Paradise.” Not bad, Bob, and thanks!



KAUAI HANDBOOK, INCLUDING THE ISLAND OF NIIHAU
J.D. Bisignani (Third Edition)
Moon Travel Handbooks. \$15.95. Soft cover, 299 pages, index, 23 maps, black/white sketches and photos

Review by Georgia Lee

The Hawaiian island of Kaua’i was devastated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992. We have not been back since then, so it was a pleasure to hear that Hawai’i’s “Garden Island” has made a comeback—although some of the big hotels are only now ready to reopen.

This guide is divided into preliminary sections dealing with land, climate, government; and “On the Road”—dealing with sports and recreation, shopping, food and drink, getting around, health and safety, etc. The latter includes information on Hawaiian folk medicine and cures, and services for the disabled. Following that is a section specifically on Lihue, the one “town” on the island (with all of 4000 inhabitants). The three next sections divvy up the rest of the island: North of Lihue, South of Lihue, and Southwest Kaua’i.

One chapter is on Niihau, “The Forbidden Island” and is only 3½ pages long but—considering the size (6 x 18 miles) and isolation of that island—probably that is about all one can say about it. Access is so limited that few persons are allowed to set foot there.

Kauai Handbook has good sections on flora and fauna, fishes, and Hawaiian history. Bisignani’s books are noted for their detailed descriptions on food, restaurants (including decor), menus, prices, etc. This book is no exception. You can eat your way around the island by consulting the *Handbook* and know in advance the specialties and their cost, the flavors and the sauces, whether or not the restaurant takes credit cards, the color of the bar stools, and whether or not it has

hanging Chinese lanterns.

A Book List and Glossary precede the Indexes which also are divided into handy sections: one for Accommodations, one for Food (listing every place to eat on the island including health food stores and other grocery stores), and then a “general” Index.

The Book List lacks a few of the important publications that should be in a guide of this sort: Patrick Kirch’s study of the islands’ past (*Feathered Gods and Fishhooks* 1985), and the classic book on Hawaiian petroglyphs by J. Halley Cox and Ed Stasack (*Hawaiian Petroglyphs* 1970) although, for some reason, a below-par book on the same subject is included in the book list (McBride’s *Petroglyphs of Hawaii*, 1996).

I note that the word “petroglyph” is not in the Index and the famous petroglyph site at the mouth of the Wailua River is not mentioned although the nearby *heiau* is described. It is presumed that the author left this out to protect the site, although being in the middle of the river provides a lot of protection!

I recommend this guide for its amazing detail; it is simply loaded with information for visiting Hawai’i’s loveliest island.

THE VOICES OF EDEN. A HISTORY OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE STUDIES
by Albert J. Schütz

University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu. 1994, 512 pp.

Review by W. Wilfried Schuhmacher

An account of Hawaiian history from a language-centered point of view has been written by Professor Albert J. Schütz who begins with observations of Captain James Cook and his crew in 1778, and continues through the profound effect on the language by the missionaries. He includes current material on the issue of language policy, and a discussion of the standardization of the writing system in 1826. Schütz also discusses the reasons for the near demise of the Hawaiian language, and recent efforts to recapture and renew it.

The bibliography is extensive, annotated, and includes nearly every work written about the language. It can only be hoped that Schütz’s valuable efforts will contribute to a rebirth of the Hawaiian language among both native speakers and *haole* so that, in the end, *aloha* and *mahalo* will not be the only memories of the Hawaiian language.

© Some of our readers will be familiar with the CD recordings of Rapanui songs and music with natural sounds added, made by Jörg Hertel of Germany (see *RNJ* 11(4):171). Jörg tells us that he has another 40 hours of music from Rapa Nui and he’d like to make another CD. If anyone out there is interested, contact him at Gottschallstr. 24; 04157 Leipzig, Germany.

Easter Island Foundation News

• The publications department of the EIF is finalizing the Foundation’s most recent project: a book containing the pa-