

Rose, of New Jersey. Both Marla and Gail bring new enthusiasm and generosity to the board and it's many projects to benefit Easter Island.

A scholarship award for a Rapanui student has been initiated by the Easter Island Foundation, thanks to a grant from board member, Marla Wold. The deadline for applications is 1 October 2001, for an award to be presented for the school year, 2002. This is a first step in our scholarship program. The scholarship award was advertised on the island on TV and we quickly had two dozen applications. We are extremely proud to be in a position to make such a tangible and useful contribution to benefit the people of Easter Island.

Board member Alan Drake has been working on our web site to make it more useful and appealing. Pass it on – this is THE place to find information about the EIF and our projects on the island, with links to other island sites. Please check it out and give us your feedback. Website: www.islandheritage.org

Thank you all for your generous support. You are helping to make a difference in a very special and unique place in the world – Rapa Nui.

Maururu,
Kay Sanger, President
Easter Island Foundation

THE EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION IS PREPARING A PERMANENT PLAQUE that will be installed in the Mulloy Library. The plaque will recognize donors who have contributed \$1000 or more toward the establishment of the Mulloy Library on Easter Island. If you have given close to that amount and wish to have your name added to the plaque, please bring your contribution up to \$1000 as soon as possible by sending the additional funds to the Easter Island Foundation, PO Box 6774, Los Osos, CA 93412-6774. If you believe your name should be on list and is not included below please contact the EIF immediately (805-528-8558; rapanuibooks@worldnet.att.net). Thank you.

\$1000+

Norma Ackel	University of Wyoming
Joan Amico	Tom Hoskinson
Ben Baldanza	Ben Leaf
Avonne Bradshaw	Georgia Lee and Frank Morin
Sandra Broadrick Allen	James and Virginia Parker
Carlos Cardoen	Kay K. and Thomas C. Sanger
Robert Chisnell	Nelle Tobias
Tom Christopher	Marla Wold
Orson Clay	
Gary Comer	

\$5000+

Barbara and Marks Hinton
Emily Ross Mulloy

\$10,000+

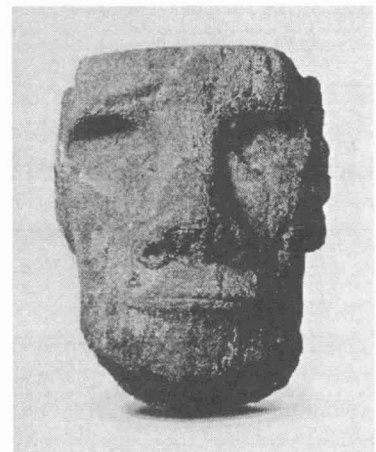
William Liller	Peter Stern / Don Lippincott
Joan Seaver Kurze	Hannah Marie Wormington

Splendid Isolation: Art of Easter Island

December 11, 2001 - August 4, 2002
The Michael C. Rockefeller Wing
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The first ever American exhibition devoted to the Polynesian art of Easter Island will open at The Metropolitan Museum of Art on December 11, 2001. Featuring some 50 works, including a celebrated stone head, *Splendid Isolation: Art of Easter Island* will explore the island's distinctive art forms as expressions of supernatural and secular power. Dating from the 13th to the late 19th century, works in the exhibition will range from a monumental stone head to refined wooden sculptures, painted barkcloth figures, and inscribed tablets. They will be brought together from the Museum's own collection as well as from museums and private collections in the United States and Canada. Many will be on public display for the first time.

The art on Easter Island both embodied and signified the supernatural power of the gods and the chiefs who were believed to be their direct descendants. To harness this power, their artists created images of diverse supernatural beings, who mediated between the divine and material worlds and sought to tap the supernatural power, or mana, of the gods for the benefit of human society.



Moai head from Ahu O'Pepe will be featured at the Met's exhibit, opening in December.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is the massive head of a *moai*, whose weight is over a half ton (Smithsonian Institution).

One of only two examples in North America, it was brought to the United States by an American expedition in 1886. Easter Island also artists created a diversity of other art forms. Working in wood and stone as well as more delicate materials such as feathers, reeds, and barkcloth, artists produced highly refined objects. Among the most striking is a birdman figure (American Museum of Natural History), which was associated with the annual birdman ritual. Admired by early-20th century European artists and intellectuals, birdman and other figures from Easter Island became an important influence on the Surrealists, particularly Max Ernst, whose works often include birdmen inspired by Easter Island imagery.

Also featured in the exhibition will be a painted barkcloth-covered human figure (Peabody Museum of Archaeology). Among the finely crafted ornaments is an elegant *reimiro* (Indiana University Art Museum). Two extremely rare wooden tablets inscribed with the island's unique hieroglyph-like script called *rongorongo* will also be on view. Lenders to the exhibition are: National Museum of Natural History, Smith-

sonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University; Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, American Museum of Natural History, New York; Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington; Springfield Science Museum, Springfield, Massachusetts; and New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, Canada, as well as a number of private collections. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Metropolitan Museum will offer a variety of educational programs and resources, including a series of lectures and films designed to inform the visitor about the origins and significance of Easter Island's diverse artistic traditions.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue, which will be distributed by Yale University Press. The exhibition is organized by Eric Kjellgren, the Evelyn A. J. Hall and John A. Friede Assistant Curator for Oceanic art in the Metropolitan's Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. <http://www.metmuseum.org>

EMBLEMS OF PASSAGE:

ART OF AFRICA, OCEANIA AND THE AMERICAS

Museum of Craft & Folk Art (MOCFA), San Francisco
January 16 – April 7, 2002
Opening reception January 16, 5 - 7

The Museum of Craft & Folk Art presents the exhibition *Emblems of Passage: Art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas* in conjunction with the Friends of Ethnic Art. *Emblems of Passage* brings to light the extraordinary quality of art in private Bay Area collections and the power art has to connect cultures. The exhibition and catalogue gather over 100 works of art or "emblems of passage" representing a variety of living and historic cultures from Africa, Oceania and the Americas. Curated by Gregory Ghent, the exhibition features treasures, many never before been exhibited publicly, from the collections of the members of the Friends of Ethnic Art.

The focus of *Emblems of Passage* is on the role of art in life's passages from birth to death, across cultures and time. Art is created and exchanged to mark important turning points such as birth, initiation, marriage, parenting, and death. This art carries the spirit that moves a person from one stage in life to another. As such, this is a unique "life cycle" exhibition, going beyond an exploration of the culture of origin to include the life of the object in the hands of the collector. The exhibition and catalogue give the collectors the opportunity to tell the story of their relationship to each object, to describe what drew them to a particular work of art and why they added it to their collection.

Emblems of Passage: Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas brings together the Friends of Ethnic Art and the Museum of Craft & Folk Art. Founded in 1974, the Friends of Ethnic Art is a nonprofit member-supported organization that includes 500 individuals who are private collectors, scholars, artists, museum professionals, and art dealers. The Museum of Craft & Folk Art is the only museum in Northern California focusing entirely on contemporary craft, folk art, and tribal arts. MOCFA's exhibitions range from the historical to the contemporary, and to the strange and wonderful.

Emblems of Passage: Art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas opens on January 16 and runs through April 7, 2002. The Museum of Craft & Folk Art is located in Building A at Fort Mason Center, at Buchanan St and Marina Boulevard. Exhibition hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 am – 5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, and Sunday 11 am – 5 pm. For more information, call (415) 775-0991 x109 or visit www.mocfa.org.

WEB SITES

THE ADVENTURES AND DANGERS OF RAPANUI WEB SURFING

by Alan Drake

RNJ readers not connected to the Internet should count themselves lucky. The World Wide Web is a hodgepodge universe, a free-for-all, a sordid manifestation of the human condition. Garbage and more garbage. It smothers us in dissatisfaction, distractions, enticements, promises, inaccuracies, disappearances, and dead ends...not to mention its constant assault on our visual sensibilities. It is everything we want, but probably don't need. What does this have to do with Rapa Nui? On any given day, troops of curiosity seekers and stalwart Rapanuiphiles prepare to explore Easter Island by surfing the 'Net. They soon learn to anticipate the dreaded Rapababble! Will we meet yet another self-trained tour guide eager to take us out the hot Rapa Nui sun and offer us nothing but blue sky? A simple search for 'Easter Island' brings up tens of thousands of pages making reference to our beloved island.

When on the net we're either looking for a specific site or just surfin' to see what's new. Often it seems impossible to locate a site, even when we're certain it's out there. Or, we can't find anything worthwhile. Occasionally you'll hit it lucky and find a newly-discovered page, a full blown site that will delight, inform, inspire. Just What Is Out There? We never know and can't say for sure. There are five basic reasons for this.

1. The web is in eternal flux. Between today and tomorrow half of everything has been updated or has disappeared. It is a world-wide archaeological site continuously being plundered.

2. Never trust anything you find on the web. Web sites fall into two basic categories: commercial sites pushing their own agendas (money interests) and individuals with their own interests (more opinion and enthusiasm than fact/experience). There is also a smaller group of altruists, but they must be approached with some skepticism as well.

3. No two web searchers see the same thing on their monitors. There are so many browsers, browser settings, computer configurations, system settings... and things can change from day to day. This makes web creation a nightmare. What looks stunning on one computer may appear as gobbledygook on another.

4. You won't find everything in one place, and nothing is comprehensive. It's a perpetual read through *People Magazine*.

5. We'll never agree on a definitive list of the top Easter Island sites. There are always individual favorites and personal dislikes. This issue offers 3 helpful hints.

Hint 1: For foolproof connections to some of the best