

feathers. This was the flag of *reimiro* and a hymn is still sung on the island, *Reva-reimiro*, the flag song.

- <sup>17</sup> Sepúlveda claims that a French cruiser arrived a few days after Toro's proclamation with orders to take over the island but there is no proof that this incident took place.
- <sup>18</sup> As late as 1991, the French Ambassador to Chile had to publicly deny that France had any interest in the island. See *La Nación*, 30 August, 1991.
- <sup>19</sup> But see McCall (1994:159) for another opinion of these years under Navy control.
- <sup>20</sup> Hanson's Disease was brought to the island from Tahiti in 1860. Thanks to modern medicine, it is now under control on the island.
- <sup>21</sup> In Agustín Prat's otherwise splendid article of 1902, Toro's name is not mentioned once. Toro's biography can be found in Fuenzalida Bade, 1985:238.

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## What's New in Polynesia

### PITCAIRN ISLAND

AN AUSTRALIAN ELECTRONICS RETAILER may be the savior of Pitcairn. The island's communications officer, Tom Christian, claimed that there are only 30 islanders left on the island, and only eight of them are working men. He voiced the concern that soon they may have to abandon the island due to a shortage of manpower. Their new hope may be an airstrip on the rugged island. Although Pitcairn is Britain's last colony, there is no interest in London for building an airstrip. Enter Dick Smith, who owns a chain of electronic stores in Australia and New Zealand. Smith wants to build a grass airstrip of some 500 meters long, provide a small plane and train an islander to be a pilot. Then tourists could be flown in from Mangareva, the nearest airstrip.

*Pacific Islands Monthly*, March 1998

### POLYNESIAN LITERARY COMPETITION

THE INSTITUTE OF POLYNESIAN LANGUAGES and Literatures and the journal *Rongorongo Studies* are pleased to announce that the winner of the Polynesian Literary Competition for 1998, whose theme area was the Marquesas Islands, is Pierre Kohumoetini of Hakahau, 'Ua Pou, with his poem "Peto 'Enana" ("Dogs of the Marquesas"). Pierre Kohumoetini, who is still a student, has been awarded a Certificate of Award and a cash prize of NZ \$250. The winning poem, with accompanying French translation, has been published in the journal *Rongorongo Studies* 8 (1998): 43-4. The adjudicators for the 1998 Competition were M. Benjamin Teikitutoua and the teaching staff at the Centre Scolaire on 'Ua Pou. Permanent moderators were Dr H. G. A. Hughes of Denbigh, Wales, and Dr Steven Roger Fischer of Auckland, New Zealand.

## What's New in Hanga Roa

### ISLANDERS SEEK VAITEA FARM LAND

THE NATIONAL PARKS of Chile on the island has received money to provide protection at Vinapu to keep out cattle; and, at Tahai, to build a new entrance, parking, and toilet facilities. The new entrance to the site will be on the north side, approaching from the Museum. There will be a replica *hare paenga* constructed for use by artisans as a place to sell their carvings, and *manavai* will be built for growing native plants, including *mahute*.

The project to create an ethno-botanic garden at Vaitea was cancelled after strong criticism was published in *El Mercurio* by Alcalde Petero Edmunds. The project began with the donation of four huge Chilean palm trees by a Palm tree foundation that also brought in 400 little palms. The garden was to be at Vaitea, in the center of the island. Islanders protested because it comprised a portion of the best farmland on the island.

As for the give-away of land at Vaitea, as announced in RNJ 12(3), the program was cancelled due to action of the Consejo de Ancianos # 2, which has become more powerful in recent times because they now represent more people. President-Frei was supposed to travel to the island to present the land, but

islanders refused to accept that which was selected to be parceled out. They claimed it was the worst land in the area, covered with eucalyptus trees or rocks, and not suitable for either farming or cattle grazing.

#### LEY INDIGENA

THE PROBLEM with the *Ley Indigena* was finally solved by the Congress so now it is the law that Rapa Nui land is available only for full or half Rapanui people. The Chilean Senate—with nine abstentions—approved the suppressive veto of Chilean President Frei that again leaves Easter Island within the norms of the “Indigenous Law”: land on the island can only be acquired by members of the Rapanui ethnic group. By error, this little detail had been omitted in early legislation. Alberto Hotus, the head of the Consejo de Ancianos #1, was pleased with the vote, 27 to 0. Those who abstained did so because they did not agree with this legislation. The Distribution of land will be managed by the official Comisión de Desarrollo.

*El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 20 August 1998*

#### A RAPANUI DEPUTY IN CONGRESS?

RAPANUI ISLANDERS planned to ask President Frei for their own deputy in Congress upon his September visit the island. Governor Hey stated that such a representative would know the island and its problems, and could adequately present their position. The idea is not new: in January 1996, four senators made such a motion but nothing was done. However, Frei cancelled his trip to the island, presumably because of the demonstrations planned by the Consejo de Ancianos #2.

*El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 13 August 1998*

#### TOURISM

EASTER ISLANDERS fear an invasion of tourists. While islanders recognize that tourism is an important source of income, they made their concerns known in a congress organized by UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Relations, and the Federation of Tourist Agents of Chile. Now some 17,000 tourists arrive every year and many islanders fear for the culture and the patrimony of the island. The conference took place on the island. Islanders, archaeologists, and directors of the Consejo de Ancianos all voiced their anxiety about tourism and the effects of projects such as installing a new port, air bases, and markets.

*El Mercurio de Santiago, 16 August 1998*

The invasion of tourists seems to be underway, big time. In October, a huge charter of 500 persons from Sweden arrived, as well as some 200 passengers from the *World Discoverer*. All ended up at Anakena for a barbecue/picnic. Huge groups such as these stress the fragile archaeological sites.

#### TRAFFIC JAMS

AN INCREASE IN AUTOMOBILES on the island (now more than 2000) causes severe dust problems in dry weather due to the fast speed at which they are driven. To ameliorate this, Rapanui throw rocks on the road so people have to slow down to negotiate them [speed bumps from hell]. As there are no controls on the importation of vehicles, each supply ship brings in more to add to the village traffic jams.

#### NEW GAS STATION

THE SUPPLY SHIP *Araki* carried, on its recent trip, a modern me-

chanical structure of galvanized iron for the construction of a gasoline station on the island. The September sailing was delayed because the anchor got stuck on the ocean bottom and scuba divers had to free it. The cargo included vehicles, combustibles, and light construction material for a total of 650 tons.

*El Mercurio de Valparaíso 15 August 1998*

#### CHANGING NAMES

THERE SEEMS TO BE a move afoot to change the name of the main street in the village, Policarpo Toro. The following letter was written by Navy Capitán Hugo Alsina Calderón to the editor of *El Mercurio de Valparaíso*, 6 November 1998.

“I have been to Easter Island three times, the last being for two years. This has permitted me to know the Rapanui people well, including their customs and manner of thinking.

It hurts me to hear that the Hanga Roa City Council voted to change the name of the main street of the village from ‘Policarpo Toro.’ It got the name years ago in memory of the Chilean who was instrumental in getting the island annexed to Chile, thereby saving the last one hundred islanders from extinction for lack of resources.

This shows a lack of appreciation for all the Navy has done . . . . We know that there exists profound differences between the Mayor and the Council; but now they seem united. The Navy and some of the continentals living on the island are most upset. It seems that there is a separatist intention . . . . Also, they want to remodel the Plaza named for Policarpo Toro, trying to cover up the memory of his beneficiary action in favor of the Rapanui . . . . It is known that foreign organizations manipulate and finance small groups of natives to emancipate themselves from the nation . . . for political reasons. . . and activists to cause disorder.

I believe that the Island directors should open their eyes and realize that they are being used by outsiders. The majority should take action and intervene in order to find formulas of accord and not of separation.

It is easy to understand what the situation of the Rapanui people would be without the protection, intervention and help of all kinds that they receive from the government of Chile and from the Navy in particular.”

[*The Capitán's letter does not give the street's new name. A picture of the monument to Policarpo Toro in the small plaza can be seen on page 121 of this issue. The reference to “foreign organizations” as causing disorder remains obscure. Ed.*]

#### ART SHOW

A TRAVELLING EXHIBIT of Easter Island art, developed by a group called ProChile V Region (in conjunction with the Association of Artisans of Easter Island) has recently returned to Chile after visiting Germany, Belgium, and France. The emphasis of the show was on pieces considered works of art, and of great ethnic value. The four artisans that went with the show made a *moai* three meters tall and presented it to the city of Tarascon Sur Ariege in France. Another piece was donated to the Volkerkunde Museum in Hamburg, Germany where, in November 1999, there will be an exhibition of Easter Island artifacts.

*El Mercurio de Valparaíso 20 August 1998*

## Closing the Triangle

### OBITUARY: JUAN NAHOE

JUAN NAHOE DIED Sunday, October 11, 1998 on Rapa Nui. He was about 82 or 83 years old; he didn't know precisely because he was not entered into the civil registry at the time of his birth. He drowned when he and one of his grandsons, Juanito Zamora Nahoe, were struck by a wave and swept into the bay while fishing during a family picnic at Vaihu. Apparently he hit his head on the rocks and was dragged unconscious into the surf. Although fifteen-year-old Juanito is himself a surfer and a good swimmer, he was unable to pull his grandfather out of the strong current. After climbing out of the water to call for help, Juanito, together with Miguel Nahoe, Felipe Nahoe, and Luis Pate went back into the bay to help, but Juan's lungs were already filled with water. Brigid Mulloy, a Nahoe in-law, administered CPR; according to her testimony, once they arrived at the hospital, he breathed twice and then died, surrounded by many of his children and grandchildren. Family members were devastated by Juan's untimely death.

Since there are no facilities on Rapa Nui for preserving human remains, he was buried immediately. The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Padre Joë Navarrete Hauri, C. Pp.S. and Juan was interred at Tahai on Monday afternoon, October 12. Everyone on the island was there.

Though not the oldest on the island, Juan Nahoe was among the senior persons in the Rapa Nui community. He was a member of the Rapa Nui Council of Elders. More importantly, he was sacristan on the island for more than fifty years. He was reared in the home of Timo Pakarati Rangitaki, the eldest son of the catechist, Nicolas Pakarati Ure Potahi, from whom Juan grandfather received his early catechesis. Among others, he habitually served mass for Padre Sebastian Englert, OFM Cap., Padre David Reddy, OFM, Padre Ludwig Riedl, OFM Cap. and more recently, for Padre Ramiro Estevez Tascón and Padre Joë Navarrete Hauri, C.Pp.S., the current priest on the island. In 1994, Juan, Felipe Pakarati Tuki, and Father Francisco Nahoe produced a catechist's service in the Rapa Nui language for him to use in leading the Sunday congregation when no priest was present on the island. Many people reported that they were moved to hear him lead the Sunday prayers for the community in the Rapa Nui language.

Juan Nahoe, eldest son of María Ma'akava Nahoe and Alejo Rapu Kaingahiva, is survived by his wife, (Josefina Avaka Pakomio), three younger sisters (Elena Nahoe, Maria Rapu Pua, and Ursula Rapu Pua), a brother (Elias Rapu Araki), one younger brother, ten of his twelve children, thirty-five of his thirty-seven grandchildren (the youngest of whom was born last week), and twenty-three great-grandchildren.

*Fr. Francisco Nahoe Mulloy, OFM.*

### MAPPING PROJECT ON THE ISLAND

A PROFESSOR from Saddleback College in California, Tony Huntley, has a project scheduled for November of this year to record artifacts on Easter Island with the use of a GPS (Global Positioning System). They say it is the first archaeological use of satellite surveying equipment on the island. The GPS will identify precise locations of statues, garden walls, and other cultural remains.

### THE VOYAGE OF THE HOKULE'A

NEXT YEAR will see the harshest test of Polynesian navigation and seamanship when the famed voyaging canoe *Hokule'a* leaves Hawai'i and sails for Easter Island. According to Ben Finney of the University of Hawaii, one of the problems is that Rapa Nui is far to windward from any place in Polynesia. This means that one must sail into the trade winds.

Finding the tiny island will be difficult for the navigator, Nainoa Thompson. In ancient times, Easter Island was home to thousands of sea birds and these would have been seen from a sailing canoe while still far at sea. But today the birds are gone, and the *Hokule'a* crew will have to rely on sighting the island itself.

The *Hokule'a* will sail in the winter (Hawai'i's summer) when the wind shifts to "kōna" and blows south and west instead of the usual direction, northeast. In the Southern hemisphere, the winds blow in the opposite direction but the idea is the same. They must "play" the wind shifts, says Finney.

Based on this strategy, the maximum effective route would be by way of Mangareva; then Pitcairn, and Henderson.

If the *kōna* winds do not come, the alternate plan would be to sail south to around 30 degrees latitude and then turn east with the wind, sail 1,450 miles until the canoe is south of Easter Island, and then turn north. The stars will indicate the latitude but, without instruments, Thompson can only guess how far he has sailed to the east.

Finney explained that the Polynesian Voyaging Society has been to the other distant points in Polynesia and this challenging voyage will close the triangle. Finney added: "We know the Polynesians reached Easter Island. We want to know how they did it."

*The Honolulu Advertiser, 25 September 1998*

## Chile

### VIÑA DEL MAR, CHILE

THE *MOAI* THAT STANDS in front of the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar is deteriorating and requires both chemical protection and a safer location. The statue was moved to the museum in 1988 from the Marina (in Viña del Mar) where traffic whizzed passed, just missing it by centimeters. In that location, there were problems of exhaust fumes and vibration—and even two vehicular accidents (fortunately they missed the statue). Now standing in front of the Fonck, it is, in some ways, worse off due to human action. Small pieces of the surface have been broken off for souvenirs, chewing gum has been stuck onto it, paint has been sprayed on it—and all despite the sign saying "Don't Touch." It is important that the statue be chemically treated and moved indoors.

The Viña *moai* is the only authentic Easter Island statue in the 5th region. Adolfo Fernandez, Vice President of the Corporacion Museo Fonck, considers that the future of both the statue and the museum is the same: both are deteriorating and the only viable solution lies with the future municipal building planned by the Centro Cultural.

Because the municipality support only provides the mu-