

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

✉ After completing my paper on Austronesian Transport (*RNJ* 8,3:67-70), a book was brought to my attention by Tricia Allen at the Rapa Nui Rendezvous in Laramie, Wyoming. It concerns an item in Peter Buck's book *Arts and Crafts of Hawaii* (Bishop Museum Special Publication 45, 1957). In it, *holua*, the Hawaiian equivalent to the Rapa Nui *hakape'i*, is described. In Hawai'i, sliding down a hill was not done on banana stems but on a specially constructed, very narrow sled, called "*papa*". This sled is composed of two narrow runners from 7 to 18 feet long. The fore ends of the runners curve upwards in order to prevent them from digging into the runway during the slide down the mountain. The forward curve and the horizontal piece resemble the fore end of a canoe outrigger float, from which they undoubtedly were copied. The intriguing part of the description is quoted from Ellis (1839:299-300) that says, "At the foremost end there is a space of about two inches between the runners, but they widen gradually towards the hinder part, where they are distant from each other four to five inches." So here again we find the wedge-shape! It seems that only one of these sleds is still in existence at the Bishop Museum in Hawai'i. But Buck (1957:379-384) reports that traces of the old runways can still be seen throughout the Hawaiian islands.

Herbert von Saher, Netherlands

✉ In regard to the *moai* "sighting" in the June issue of *RNJ* (Vol.8,2:49) to which your reader in England, Paul Bahn, took exception, he should realize that *moai* continue to work in mysterious ways around the planet and that they may be evolving into a new, non-conventional design manifestation!

Calvin Malone, San Francisco.

✉ Canadian *Rapanuiphile*, David Foot, recently provided us with some articles regarding Easter Island stamps and postal markings that appeared in *Pacifica, The Journal of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain*. They provide a fascinating glimpse of history, ranging from the Canadian Medical Expedition of 1964 to the recent furor over stamps from French Polynesia that were perceived to be some sort of political plot. The articles are:

- Vol.26(104):48 for July 1988;
- Vol. 27(107):32 for April 1989;
- Vol. 28(113):132-4 for October, 1990, titled "Easter Island. 1951 Early Flights and Cachets", by Tony Dodd.
- Vol. 28(116):93-7 for July 1991, titled "Easter Island--Its Postmarks", by Derek Palmer.
- Vol. 29(117):138-9 for October 1991, titled "Easter Island Postal Markings, Additions to Original Article" by Rufus Barnes;
- Vol. 31(122):7-8 for January 1993 titled "Easter Island Notes" by Bill Newport; and
- Vol. 31(124):104-5, for July 1993 titled "Easter Island Update" by Bill Newport.

## PUBLICATIONS

• Anderson, Atholl; Helen Leach; Ian Smith; and Richard Walter. 1994. Reconsideration of the Marquesan sequence in East Polynesia prehistory with particular reference to Hane (MUH 1). *Archaeology in Oceania* 29(1):29-52.

• Becker, Nancy. 1994. Easter Island: The Archaeological Legacy of Rapa Nui. *Site Saver: The Newsletter of Sacred Sites International Foundation*. V(1):1,4,6. Berkeley, California.

• *Bulletin of String Figures Association*, No.19; 1993. P.O.Box 5134, Pasadena, CA 91117. Edited by Mark A. Sherman, Ph.D. This issue contains a paper by Dr. Sherman titled "Evolution of the Easter Island String Figure Repertoire", pp. 19-87.

• *Bulletin of the International String Figure Association*, Vol.1, XX-XX, 1994. This is the new series beginning this year; Vol.1 contains articles on Nauru Island figures and those from the Austral Islands.

The *Bulletin* of the International String Figure Association was founded in 1978 by Dr. Hiroshi Noguchi (Japan) and Philip Noble (Scotland). The function of the Association is to collect, preserve and study string figures and associated lore from around the world, as well as to share and distribute knowledge. The original *Bulletin* was issued in 19 volumes from 1978-1993. Annual dues are \$25. contact Mark Sherman, ed., ISFA, PO Box 5134, Pasadena CA 91117.

• Butinov, Nikolai A. 1994. Easter Island: Rongorongo Treating of Migration. *Rongorongo Studies* 4(2):57-63.

• *The Centre for South Pacific Studies Newsletter* 8(3) for October 1994.

• *L'Echo de Rapa Nui*, No. 28 for Octobre, 1994. Belgium.

• Finney, Ben. 1993. Rediscovering Polynesian Navigation through Experimental Voyaging. *The Journal of Navigation* (Royal Institute of Navigation, London). Vol. 46(3):295-394. [This paper won the Bronze Medal from the Royal Institute of Navigation for the best paper of the year in the Journal.]

• Finney, Ben. 1994. Polynesian Voyagers to the New World. *Man and Culture in Oceania* 10:1-13.

• Finney, Ben. 1944. The Other One-Third of the Globe. *Journal of World History* 5(2):273-297.

• Finney, Ben. 1994. *Voyage of Rediscovery: A Cultural Odyssey through Polynesia*. With Marlene Among, Chad Babayan, Tai Crouch, Paul Frost, Bernard Kilonsky, Richard Rhodes, Thomas Schroeder, Dixon Stroup, Nainoa Thompson, Robert Worthington, and Elisa Yadao. Berkeley, University of California Press. 400 pages, 84 figures, 34 drawings. Cloth cover, \$30.00.

- Hagelberg, Erika. 1993/4. Ancient DNA Studies, *Evolutionary Anthropology*, Vol. 2(6):199-207. [The bottom line: analysis of skeletal remains of 12 individuals from 2 sites on Easter Island revealed that all contained the Polynesian haplotype--characterized by base substitutions in the hypervariable portion of mtDNA--thus confirming their Polynesian ancestry.]
- Huppertz, Josefine. 1994. *Kulturtraditionen de Osterinsulaner und ihre Christianisierung*. Würzburg: Stürtz. ISBN 3-8003-0571-2. \$44 DM. for information on this book, contact the author at Iimenastr.9, 53757 Sankt Augustin, Würzburg.
- Irwin, Geoffrey. 1992. *The Prehistoric Exploration and Colonisation of the Pacific*. Cambridge University Press, 240 pages, illustrated, \$49.95 cloth. ISBN 0-521-40371-5.
- Ivory, Carol. 1994. Marquesan 'u'u: A stylistic and historical review. *Pacific Arts* 9&10: 53-63.
- Kirch, Patrick V. and Joanna Ellison. 1994. Palaeoenvironmental evidence for human colonization of remote Oceanic islands. *Antiquity* 68 (259):310-321.  
[This is an important paper; it serves as a rebuttal to the arguments of Spriggs and Anderson (1993) who argue that there is no evidence for human colonization in this area prior to AD 300-600. Kirch and Ellison provide excellent documentation for a Polynesian presence in the southern Cook Islands by c.2500 BP.]
- Krämer, Augustin. *The Samoa Islands*, Vol.1. Originally published as *Die Samoa Inseln*, this is translated by Theodore Verhaaren. Text is in English and Samoan. Volume II is expected out by early 1995. Contact: the Polynesian Bookshop, PO Box 68-446, Auckland 1, New Zealand.
- McNeill, J. R. 1994. Of Rats and Men: A synoptic environmental history of the island Pacific. In: *Journal of World History* 5(2):299-349.
- Mejía, Joaquín and Alvaro Barrios. 1994. Rapa Nui--Island of mysteries: Will Easter Island's rongorongo tablets ever yield their secrets? *The Rotarian*, September. Pp. 24-7.
- Pacific News Bulletin*. 1994. Vol.9, No. 9 for September, No. 10 for October. Published by the NFIP Movement, PO Box 489, Petersham, NSW 2049, Australia.
- The Pitcairn Miscellany*, 1994. Vol.37:7-9.
- Pouesi, Daniel. 1994. *An Illustrated History of Samoans in California*. KIN Publications, 558 E. Double St., Carson, California 90745; \$18.50 plus \$2 shipping; 86 pages, paperback, black and white photographs, maps.
- Powers, Michael. 1994. Kayaking the Navel of the World. *Sea Kayaker* 11(2):20-27.
- Rongorongo Studies: A Forum for Polynesian Philology*. 1994. Vol. 4 (2). This issue contains the winner of the Polynesian Literary competition (Samoa) as well as articles and reviews. Note: *Rongorongo Studies* has a new address: PO Box 6965, Wellesley Street PO, Auckland 1, New Zealand.
- Sacha, Bob. 1994. A Case of Shyness. *Islands Magazine*, Vol.14(5):48-51. (This short article concerns Sacha's photographic foray to the island during *Tapati Rapa Nui*.)
- Tok Blong Pasifik*. No. 47. May 1994. This issue contains a thought-provoking paper by David Robie, "Urban Nightmares" (p. 28-9), dealing with the problems of urban poverty, pollution, and problems of waste disposal; and "The Military and Land Alienation in Hawai'i" by Judy Lee Rohrer (p. 14-16). For a complimentary copy, write SPPF, 415-620 View St., Victoria BC, Canada V8W 1J6.
- University of the South Pacific Bulletin*, 1994. Vol. 27, Nos. 25-33 for August-October. Suva, Fiji.
- Van Tilburg, Jo Anne. 1994. *Easter Island: Archaeology, Ecology and Culture*. British Museum Press. London. ISBN 0-7141-2504-0.
- Wardwell, Allen. 1994. *Island Ancestors: Oceanic Art from the Masco Collection*. University of Washington Press and Detroit Institute of Arts. ISBN 0-295-97329-3, Hardcover 282 pages. Exhibition catalog.
- Weisler, Marshall I., Patrick V. Kirch and Julie M. Endicott. 1994. The Mata'are Basalt Source: Implications for Prehistoric Interaction Studies in the Cook Islands. *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Vol. 103(2):203-216.

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🌀 EXPEDITION TO EASTER ISLAND AND SALAS Y GOMEZ ISLAND, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1995

A multipurpose, multidisciplinary expedition to Salas y Gómez and Easter Island is now in the planning stages. The expedition will involve natural science, amateur radio, and computer and communications technology.

The expedition is being planned by Cordell Expeditions, a nonprofit oceanic research group based in California. A base camp will be established on Easter Island and then an advance team will move to Salas y Gómez. A total crew of 24 is planned and onsite arrangements will be facilitated by local groups in Chile and on Easter Island.

A major goal is to bring worldwide attention to the usefulness of using existing advanced technology to document and monitor the natural resources at remote sites and preserve and protect cultural heritage.

For more information about this project, contact Dr. Robert Schmieder, Director, Cordell Expeditions, 4295 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek CA 94596 USA. Fax: (510) 934-3735; email: cordell@ccnet.com.