

any subject within the book's covers. This reviewer hopes, however vainly, that it will *not* be used in a "broader" context or taken for an authoritative reference on "Native Art," because it certainly is not.

Letters to the Editor

✉ DEAR EDITOR,

I have a correction to Grant McCall's article in Vol. 14, No. 3, pg. 98. He stated "Albuquerque was the next venue, owing to its being Carlyle Smith's long term institution and the place where the ground breaking first two volumes of the Heyerdahl expedition reports were co-published." Carlyle Smith actually taught at the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, Kansas. The member of the Norwegian expedition who did have a New Mexico connection was Edwin Ferdon. His association was not with the University of New Mexico or the Maxwell Museum in Albuquerque, but rather with the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe, which published the reports as Vols. 1 and 2 of their Monograph 24, which Ferdon and Heyerdahl co-edited. By the time the volumes were published, Ferdon had relocated to the Arizona State Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

Sincerely,
Emily Ross Mulloy, Laramie

✉ DEAR EDITOR,

This is in response to your query about the most important issues facing Easter Island today. Certainly education is a vital issue. The level of education on the island is such that pupils sent to the mainland for further study are at least a year behind their coevals so they are treated as stupid, which they are not; it is the teaching which is woefully inadequate. In addition they are unaccustomed to modern urban life and are made fun of as 'country bumpkins'. There appears to be a total lack of pastoral care and no appreciation of the cultural shock that they suffer on leaving behind the supportive and close community which they are brought up in. As a result they seldom attain the qualifications that their intelligence should get them. On returning home, almost without exception they are left with no alternative but low level jobs. The recent news in *RNJ* 14(3) of the opening of a new school building in 2001 may hopefully be the beginning of serious efforts to raise the standard to that of the mainland.

I was on the island a year ago for the millennium celebration after an absence of 15 years. The transformation was unbelievable not only because of the thriving economy but with regard to the attitude of the islanders to their own language. Previously most parents had wanted only Spanish to be taught now they are proud of Rapanui. This means that bilingual facilities should be available. They are not. In comparison with the interesting array of primers, dictionaries, grammars and reading books in Tahitian for Tahitian children there is nothing on the Island.

Sincerely,
Veronica Du Feu, United Kingdom

✉ DEAR EDITOR,

My copy of José Miguel Ramírez' new book [*Easter Island: Land of Rocky Dreams*] arrived about noon on Christmas Eve. I was watching a football game on TV and planned to watch another one that afternoon.... But when I opened the package, I knew there would be no more football that day. Four and a one-half hours later, I had to put it down—but certainly didn't want to. What a beautiful, marvelous book! 'Way beyond any expectations I had. The photographs are so good as to almost seem unreal, especially the aerials and the underwater shots. I'm sure you appreciate them too, as you, like most of us, have always seen the island from ground level. Anyone who has ever been there, or wanted to go, should have a copy. His text is wonderful too, and his love of the island comes through. I wish I could tell the world.

Sincerely,
Avonne Bradshaw, Phoenix
[Editor's note: well, you just told some of the world, Avonne, and thanks.]

Easter Island Foundation

THE EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION GRANTS COMMITTEE has awarded a US\$1000 grant towards the Easter Island research of graduate student, Tandy Shepard-Toomey of British Columbia. Ms Shepard-Toomey is a student of Dr Douglas Porteous. Congratulations Tandy; we look forward to having a report in one of our future issues.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In December, the Easter Island Foundation sent out an appeal to potential donors to help us with our new efforts to support the people of Easter Island and to protect this outstanding World Heritage Site. Many of you responded very generously to our plea.

We outlined ways donors could help us provide better educational opportunities for the island's children by improving the island's school, which has no maps, globes or dictionaries and provides only one microscope for 900 students. Our Educational Supplies Committee has sent 10 laminated wall maps of the world and 10 colorful illustrated Spanish-English dictionaries and is pricing other teaching materials so we can buy and ship them to the island soon.

We asked for funding to provide a one-year scholarship for a Rapanui student to study on the continent. Each scholarship would provide \$2000 for a deserving student. Our Scholarship Committee now has outlined qualifications for selecting Rapanui students and our first scholarship will be awarded during the coming months.

We requested financial support of research grants for scientific projects on Easter Island and in Polynesia. Our Research Grant Committee has established guidelines for selecting deserving projects and we hope to award a grant later this year.

We are actively pursuing corporate sponsorship and are grateful to those who have made bequests to the Foundation. We deeply appreciate the donations from the following people who have given their support recently to help make these goals