

Polynesian Literary Competition 1995

Hawai'i

The annual Polynesian Literary Competition offers cash awards for Polynesian-language writers in order to promote and encourage literary creativity in a Polynesian language. The award area for 1995 is Hawai'i.

Adjudicators for the 1995 Polynesian Literary Competition are the celebrated scholar of Hawaiian literature Professor John Charlot, of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and the well-known Hawaiian poet Professor Larry Kimura, of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Permanent moderators for the Polynesian Literary Competition are: Dr H.G.A. Hughes, of Wales; and Dr Steven Roger Fischer, of New Zealand.

Entries are invited for:

A modern original poem or short story in the Hawaiian language, with a translation in English, both of which together are not to exceed 12 double-spaced typewritten pages.

A Certificate of Award and a cash prize of US \$250 will be presented to the winner.

Eligibility: Entrants must be native-born Hawaiian or of Hawaiian parentage. Residence in the Hawaiian Islands is not required. Open to all ages.

Please enclose with your double-spaced typewritten (or computer-printed) submission your full name, address, and age (Since submissions will not be returned, please retain a copy.) Post your submission by air mail, postmarked no later than 1 May 1995, to:

Dr Steven Roger Fischer
P.O. Box 6965, Wellesley Street P.O.
Auckland 1, New Zealand

The winner will be notified by 1 October 1995. The winning poem will be published in the second 1995 issue of the journal *Rongorongo Studies*, which is the patron agency of the annual Polynesian Literary Competition.

Correction

Computer problems, like the poor of the Bible, are always with us. In Robert Langdon's article "Further thoughts on the terms *hanau eepe* and *hanau momoko* . . ." in *RNJ* 8(3):75-8), a vagrant line got into the opening sentence and turned sense into nonsense. The opening statement should have read:

Emily Ross Mulloy's article on the meanings of the terms *hanau eepe* and *hanau momoko* (*RNJ* 7:71-2) may well have been greeted with murmurs of approval by those who already agreed with her.

Further down in the same column, the penultimate line of the third paragraph should have begun: "Epe (sic) did mean 'Long Ears'".

Tapati Rapa Nui--1995

This year's Tapati was the best ever. Strings of colored lights illuminated the main streets giving a festive air, and opening night was set for 10:30 p.m. At ten, everything blew out in the village and all was plunged into darkness. Around midnight the problem was located and the party went ahead--and on into the wee hours of the morning. But this was seemingly the only glitch in a well-programmed series of events and performances.

The *Haka pe'i* was held (a suicidal contest that has contestants sliding down a very steep mountain while lying on banana stems). It had been canceled last year due to numerous injuries. Unfortunately many missed the event as it started ON TIME. Surely a "first" for the island.



The Tapati performances aimed for more out-of-village locations, a welcome relief to being stuffed into a sweltering gym. One evening event was outside on the soccer field; one at Ovahe beach; one at Rano Raraku; and the final crowning of the queen was at Tahai.

The Rano Raraku event was held at the interior of the caldera and involved a sort of triathlon. Contestants in body paint and *hami* paddled across the lake in *titora* boats, then picked up bunches of bananas on each end of a stick and ran (barefoot) around the crater with them (see photo). Then up the wall of the crater to grab a bunch of reeds, and back into the lake where they swam across to the finish line. After that came contests to chip *mata'a* blades, make *mahute* (bark cloth) and a *kai-kai* (string-figure) contest. Spectators sat around the inside rim of the crater, cheering their favorites and partying far into the night.

"Carnival" night was fabulous. A stage was set up under a tarp that stretched across the street at the north end of Policarpo Toro street. Floats with the queen candidates and supporters came down the street and dead-ended at the stage. Chanting, dancing, music went on, *en place*. We had expected a parade, and comments were made to the effect that "Aha, the Rapanui have once more painted themselves into a corner". But each group, in turn, performed on the temporary stage. It was a great idea, but only those directly on the curb could see clearly. The floats were creative and colorful, islanders were decorated with body paint, flowers and feathers; some island lovelies were bare breasted (this is influence from the Costner movie).

The final performance--the crowning of Queen Ana Avaka Teao--was at Tahai. Ahu Vai Ure was illuminated from behind by spotlights, a spotlight was directly on Ahu Tahai and the crowning was by torchlight at Ahu Ko te Riku. Behind it all was a moon casting a silver light on the sea. Wow. Great stuff.