

 Martinsson-Wallin, Helene. 1994. *Ahu -- The Ceremonial Stone Structures of Easter Island: Analyses of Variation and Interpretation of Meanings*. Aun 19. Societas Archaeologica Upsaliensis. Uppsala. 188 pages, 163 illustrations and photographs, and a bibliography. Soft cover, ISBN 91-506-1043-0.

*Review by William Liller, Chile*

In many ways this doctoral thesis resembles the work "Ceremonial Stone Structures...in the Society Islands, French Polynesia" by Paul Wallin which I reviewed in the last issue of *RNJ*. And well it should since the two authors are married, were doctoral candidates in the same Department of Archaeology, and had the same adviser, Dr. Bo Gräslund. Therefore, much of what was said in the review of Dr. Wallin's thesis applies here.

Two striking differences between these dissertations are, first, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin does not fully share Dr. Wallin's firmly stated conclusion that the physical appearance of the *marae/ahu* came from South America. She leaves the door somewhat ajar. Specifically, she states, "...it is not my intention to draw parallels between the Inca architecture and the Easter Island *ahu*", and "if contact did occur...there are several possibilities of how contact may have occurred between the two places".

Second, instead of showing schematic diagrams of *ahu* as was favored by Kenneth Emory and reproduced in Wallin's work, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin includes 69 black-and-white photographs of 56 *ahu*. Investigators interested in construction techniques will appreciate this small mine of information gathered together in one volume.

Some 313 *ahu* are included in this study, and from her analysis, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin puts on a firm quantitative basis many of the relationships that have long been known or suspected -- or unknown. For example, she pays close attention to where worked stones occur and how their presence relates to *ahu* size, location and type, and she finds evidence that "structures with worked stones in the rear wall are earlier than structures that are entirely made up of unworked stones".

In the chapter on spatial studies, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin shows us 28 individual maps of the entire island indicating where various *ahu* types and features occur. These show clearly, for instance, where those image *ahu* that had *moai* with *pukao* are found. On another map one can see at a glance that over sixty per cent of the *ahu avanga* are located along the short strip of coast from Akahanga to the start of the Poike peninsula. Until Señor C. Cristino and collaborators publish the long-promised catalogue to accompany their 1981 *Atlas Arqueológico*, such facts would be hard to come by.

In 1965 Bill Mulloy surveyed and described nearly 300 coastal *ahu*; his field notes have been available on computer diskette ever since 1988. Either Dr. Martinsson-Wallin was unaware of this immensely valuable study, or else she chose to stick with more traditional publications. I very much hope

that in a future edition of this otherwise excellent and important study, she will include these data. As I said about her husband's thesis, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin's dissertation should be read, studied and digested by every serious student of Pacific prehistory.



## *Nomads of the Wind*

*Film Review: Georgia Lee*

In our last issue [*RNJ* 8 (2):52] we reviewed Peter Crawford's *Nomads of the Wind*, the BBC book that accompanies the TV series of the same name. We now hear that the TV series will be shown in the United States on PBS, beginning in November.

Episode 1 ("The Faraway Heaven") airs on Sunday, 20 November; Episodes 2 and 3 ("Crossroads of the Pacific" and "Burning their Boats") are on Monday, 21 November, and Episodes 4 and 5 ("Distant Horizons" and "The Pierced Sky") are scheduled on Tuesday, 22 November. Episode 3, "Burning their Boats", is the film that features Easter Island. Check your local paper for details and times.

For the filming, executive producer Peter Crawford and his team spent two years on and off the islands of the Pacific, arriving to Easter Island just prior to the start of filming for the Hollywood epic, *Rapa-Nui*.

Crawford and his team ran up against rumors of large sums of money that were going to be paid to islanders to appear in the Hollywood film. Thus the locals who were portraying 'warriors' for the climatic scene in the BBC film balked at additional close-ups, demanding more money than the budget could bear. Crawford's entreaties fell on deaf ears, and with resignation and finality he shut off the generator, plunging the landscape into darkness. At that moment, by pre-arrangement, a four-wheel drive vehicle with a portable stove arrived--bringing a feast of barbecued pork. Negotiations were swift, the warriors performed with vigor, and the final shots were in the can.

*Nomads of the Wind* is an excellent series, beautifully filmed, and highly recommended. Don't miss it. The book itself is being distributed in the United States by Parkwest Publishing, 451 Communipaw Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07304. Phone (201) 432-3257.



*The Evolution and Organization of Prehistoric Society in Polynesia*. Edited by Michael W. Graves and Roger C. Green. New Zealand Archaeological Association Monograph 19, 1993.

125 pages, black and white photos, line drawings, maps, charts. Soft cover. This volume can be ordered from Sales Manager, New Zealand Archaeological Assn., % Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, New Zealand. Price is NZ \$25 + post/packaging. Orders will be invoiced.

*Review by William D. Hyder,  
University of California, Santa Cruz*