

PS: during our experiment in Denver, a team of 26 levermen handily moved themselves, a 13 ton rock, a 1 ton sled and four 500 pound ladder sections 30 meters steeply up a ramp less than five meters wide, in about an hour. On the level, only eight levermen were needed and could easily have covered 500+ meters a day. Dragging the sled over the ladders (as Van Tilburg effectively did) would take seven times as many people, but would be even faster.

A RESPONSE TO VINCE LEE

Dear Editor:

As Vince Lee says, moving *moai* overland is very different from moving them on paper, and I look forward to an opportunity to try my ideas out with larger rocks. With small models, 'walking' over scale roughness needed no particular road-bed preparation, and left the roadway smoother than it found it. With respect to wide roads, I can only suggest that *moai* construction and transport appears to have begun around AD 1000. My population model (RNJ 13:2, Fig. 1) would have it that by this time, deforestation was already noticeable, and the first trees to go would have been the most accessible.

If I were to write the paper this month, I would change the first paragraph of Oral Tradition by altering "Mesopotamian flood" to "Noah's Flood" (the year-long filling of the Black Sea Depression after the breaking of the Bosphorus dam ca. 5600 BC), adding a reference to Wm. Ryan and W. Pitman (1998) *Noah's Flood: The New Scientific Discoveries about the Event that changed History* (Simon & Schuster, NY).

My serious comment on Lee's letter is in regard to 'falsification'. I did not mean to sound pejorative, but merely Popperian. Verification of a hypothesis encourages its survival, but is not the critical test. Science proceeds by constantly discarding hypotheses by finding instances in which they fail.

The early drafts of my paper devoted both graphs and paragraphs to suggesting problems with the rolling transport proposed by Grau and, in considerable detail, by Van Tilburg in her book. The UCLA field experiment quashed the rolling hypothesis and let me remove all my theoretical objections. As Vince Lee says, this is the normal learning process of science—but it is useful to keep in mind during the current plague of postmodern constructionism that the possibility and practice of falsification is what distinguishes science as our only self-correcting enterprise.

Ferren MacIntyre, National University of Ireland

Dear Editor:

Two observations on Ferren MacIntyre's article on walking *moai*. Firstly, the idea that sweet potato lubrication would consume an excessive two cubic metres of food per *moai*/kilometre. Aside from the possibility that lubrication may not have been needed on all parts of the route, from a chicken's point of view the process might be better described as food preparation than food destruction. Secondly, if the *moai* did walk to their *ahu*, the roads should have been littered with tons of tiny scrapings of tuff—an easy thing to test for.

Jonathan Cardy, UK

Dear Editor:

A little more "Marquesan barking" (*Rapa Nui Journal* 13:87). Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff, a German naturalist participating in the first Russian expedition around the world, 1803-1807, stayed at "Nukahiva" (Nuka Hiva) from 6 to 16 May 1804, meeting there the Englishman "Roberts" (Edward Robarts, having deserted from the whaler *Euphrades* in 1798) who "had two dogs, which the inhabitants called pigs, probably because they had hardly ever seen another animal" (Langsdorff 1993, I:114). In his Marquesan (NW dialect) dictionary "dog" is rendered as *bauka nuuohē* (p.121) where the first word is Marquesan *puaka/pu'aka* "animal, pig" and where *nuu-* must be a reflex of Proto-Polynesian **nguu* "hum, groan, grunt", defining dog as a "barking animal/pig" (cp., e.g., our guinea-pig).

W. W. Schuhmacher, Denmark

Langsdorff, G. H. von. 1993 (1812). *A Voyage Around the World, 1803-1807*. 2 vols. Translated and annotated by Victoria Joan Mossner. Limestone Press, Kingston, Ontario.

Easter Island Foundation News

AFTER MORE THAN TEN YEARS of dedicated work and fund raising by the Easter Island Foundation board and its world-wide members, the opening of the William Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui is about to become a reality. The EIF signed a *convenio* (contract) with the Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos (DiBAM) in Chile that legalizes the Foundation in Chile. As a result, funds now are being sent by the EIF to DiBAM to facilitate transportation of the books and to complete final arrangements on the island in anticipation of the opening of the Mulloy Library after the New Year. This is a tremendous feat, considering the board, which is made up of members from around the globe, has been working with agencies in Santiago, Viña del Mar, and Easter Island from its base in California. This hardy group of volunteers has done its best to satisfy the needs and desires of a variety of interested parties.

We believe that the opening of the William Mulloy library is a fantastic cause for celebration as this new millennium begins and we hope all RNJ readers will celebrate with us on January 1. We also hope you will keep the continued work of the Easter Island Foundation in your minds as you plan your giving for the new year.

Kay Kenady Sanger, President.

PLANS FOR *PACIFIC 2000* are moving along, and the response has been overwhelming. Many abstracts have been submitted already and some sessions are at capacity. A session on Pacific Osteology has been added, to be chaired by Vincent Stefan and George Gill. If you have not yet received a conference brochure, let us know and one will be in the mail to you right away. This is shaping up to be a terrific conference; don't miss it!

EIF PUBLICATIONS is pleased to announce that Caroline Katherine Klarr's popular book, *Hawaiian Hula and Body Ornamentation 1778-1858* has been reprinted. Out of print for a time, we

have reissued this interesting book. See RNJ publications on the inside back cover of the Journal.

Now in press in Chile is Grant McCall's book, *Rapanui, Tradition and Survival on Easter Island* in a Spanish language version, translated by Ana Betty Haoa and Louise Noel. In a larger format, the book has many new illustrations.

Publications

- Blackburn, Mark. 1999. *Tattoos from Paradise. Traditional Polynesian Patterns*. Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA. Hardcover, 203 pages, lavishly illustrated. ISBN 0-7643-0941-2.
- Le Bulletin du Cercle d'Etudes sur l'Île de Pâques et la Polynésie*. No. 28, Avril 1999. Délégation de la Polynésie française à Paris, 28, boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris France.
- Centre for South Pacific Studies Newsletter*. Vol. 13(1), February 1999. University of New South Wales. Kensington NSW 2052, Australia.
- Green, Roger. 1998. Rapanui Origins Prior to European Contact. The View from Eastern Polynesia. *Easter Island and East Polynesian Prehistory*. Pg. 87-110. Edited by Patricia Vargas Casanova. Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo, Instituto de Estudios Isla de Pasqua. (proceedings of The Second International Congress on Easter Island and East Polynesian Archaeology)
- Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 1999. University of Auckland, New Zealand.
- Journal of Pacific Studies*. School of Social and Economic Development, University of the South Pacific, PO Box 1168, Suva, Fiji.
- Kirk, Niele A. and Paul J. Sidwell, eds. 1999. *From Neanderthal to Easter Island. A tribute to, and a celebration of, the work of W. Wilfried Schuhmacher*. AHL Studies in the Science & History of Language, 2. Melbourne. US\$25.
- Pacific Arts; The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association*, Nos. 17 & 18, July 1998.
- Pacific News Bulletin*, Vol. 14(3) for March 1999. Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, 83 Amy Street Toorak, Suva, Fiji.
- Rongorongo Studies. A Forum for Polynesian Philology*. 1999. Vol. 9(1). The Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literatures. PO Box 6965, Wellesley Street, Auckland NZ.
- Tok Blong Pasifik*. South Pacific Peoples Foundation. 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria BX V8T 2Y6, Canada.
- South Pacific Phrasebook. Speak the Languages of Paradise*. 1999. Lonely Planet Publications. Paper cover, 306 pages. This small guide to languages of Polynesia contains chapters on the languages of Fiji, Hawaii, Kanak languages, Maori, Niuean, Rapanui, Rarotongan Maori, Samoan, Tahitian, Tongan, and "Other Languages" such as Fijian Hindi, Pacific French, Spanish, and Pacific Englishes (this includes New Zealand, Norfolk, and Pitcairn). The Rapanui chapter is based upon *Speak Rapanui! Hable Rapanui!* By Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango and William Liller, with an assist from Steven Fischer. US price: \$6.95.

Web Sites

The Yahoo! Easter Island Club

<<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/easterisland>>

Polynesian Voyaging Society

Follow the historic voyage of the *Hfkkule 'a*.

<<http://leahi.kcc.hawaii.edu/org/pvs>>

The Easter Island Web Site

<<http://www.netaxs.com/~trance/rapanui.html>>

Easter Island Foundation book site: <<http://www.fortunecity.com/victorian/stanmer/326/eifpublications.html>>

Cook Islands News

<<http://www.cinews.co.ck/pageone.htm>>

"Te Rapa Nui", a quarterly newsletter published on Easter Island. Directed by Juan Soler

<<http://www.rapanui.co.cl>> Or via email:

<rapanui@entelchile.net>

Pacific Islands Report

<<http://pidp.ewe.hawaii.edu/pireport/>>

Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, School of Pacific and Asian Studies at ANU

<pambu@coombs.anu.edu.au>

Rongorongo Home Page

<<http://www.openweb.ru/windows/rongoro/index.htm>>

South Pacific Peoples Foundation

<sppf@sppf.org>

Rongorongo Web Site

<www.rongorongo.org>

The Kon-Tiki Museum's "No Barriers Grant"

of US\$15,000 for the year 2000 is now open for applicants working with archaeology, anthropology, cultural history, etc. in the Pacific. Application forms and information can be found on the Kon-Tiki Museum web site <http://www.kon-tiki.no>

or may be ordered from Dr. Paul Wallin, The Kon-Tiki Museum, Bygdøynesveien 36, 0286 Oslo, Norway.

The application form with description of research project, economic plan and a CV (all in duplicate) must be submitted to the Kon-Tiki Museum before January 31, 2000.

The recipient is also invited to receive the grant at the Kon-Tiki Museum on April 28, 2000.