

that a wireless message, apparently from a ship, has been picked up there saying that Easter Island has disappeared. Something ought to be done about Easter Island. It is doing some very strange things. On an average of at least once a year it is reported missing. Then somebody goes out to find the spot where it used to be, and lo, there it is, right on its old site, with its great stone images.... Now, whether this is a sport of Easter Island or a sport of the newsmongers of the Pacific is not precisely certain. But it is surely confusing the geographers to have these unaccountable "disappearances" coming over the wires from time to time. If Easter Island has a secret means of vanishing for a space there is matter that interests others than the mapmakers. On the other hand, if the "disappearance of Easter Island" is merely a joke...it should be known as a standard jest, so that it need not be taken seriously.

Islands do disappear, but not to bob up again soon after.... Surely Easter is no "floating island" that shifts its base and travels around in the currents of the South seas."

Publications

- Bulletin de la Societe des Etudes Oceaniennes*. 1999. No. 281/282. BP 110, Papeete, Tahiti. This issue is all about Easter Island, in French. It contains papers by Edmundo Edwards and Claudio Cristino, C. Raybaud, C. Orliac, S. Fischer, and others.
- Le Bulletin du Cercle d'Etudes sur l'Ile de Pâques et la Polynésie*. 2000. Number 34, March.
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- Indo-Pacific Prehistory: The Melaka Papers*, Vol. 2, 1999. Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, Canberra: Australian National University. This volume contains twenty papers from the 16th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, held in Melaka, Malaysia, in 1998. Editorial Team: Peter Bellwood, Doreen Bowdery, David Bulbeck, Magnus Fiskesjo, Roger Green, Ian Lilley and Barnard Maloney.
- Inia, Elizabeth K., Sofie Arntsen, Hans Schmidt, Jan Rensel, and Alan Howard. 1998. *A New Rotuman Dictionary. An English-Rotuman Wordlist and C. Maxwell Churchward's Rotuman-English Dictionary of 1940*. Suva: Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific. ISBN 892-02-0128-4.
- Journal of the Polynesian Society*. 1999. Volume 108(4) for December. This issue contains Marae and Implications for a Modern Māori Psychology, by Mason Durie; Sociopolitical Rank and Conical Clanship in the Caroline Islands, by Glenn Peterson; and three shorter communications by Jeffrey Dhyne, Serge Tcherkézoff and Michael Burtenshaw.
- MacLellan, Nic and Jean Chesneaux. 1998. *After Moruroa: France in the South Pacific*. Published by Ocean Press. 300 pages, maps, index. ISBN 1-876175-05-2 paper Aust. \$29.95
After Moruroa looks at the history of French colonialism in the Pacific - from the French Revolution to the Matignon Accords in New Caledonia and the end of nuclear testing at Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls. This book outlines the history of French colonialism in the South Pacific and shows how Pacific peoples are seeking to determine their own future, in freedom and dignity.
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- Pata'uta'u Re'o Ra'a. Poesias voz del Sol*. 1999. Hare Hapi ko Lorenzo Baeza Vega'e, He hare tere Rapa Nui. Ediciones Altazor, Chile. This slim book of poetry (76 pages), in Spanish and Rapanui, is the end result of a course organized by Hilaria Tuki Pakarati, Ana Maria Arredondo, and Alicia Salinas.
- Pauly, Stephanie and Karlo Huke Atan. *Kultur Philosophie Geschichte der Osterinsel; and Mündliche Überlieferungen der Osterinsel*. 1999. Both are available from Claus Steinhart, Zasiusstr. 58, 79102 Freiburg, Germany. DM40 for both, plus postage.
- Redman, Charles L 1999. *Human Impact on Ancient Environments*. \$22.95. Papercover. University of Arizona Press. This book has a good bit of material dealing with Easter Island and its environmental problems.
- Rongorongo Studies, A Forum for Polynesian Philology*. 1999. Volume 9, Number 2. PO Box 6965, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1, New Zealand. This issue contains "The conceptual Content of Tongan Directionals: Mental Representation of Space in Tongan" by G. Bennardo; and the conclusion of "Weird Papalagi and a Fake Samoan Chief" by G. Senft.
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- Stories from a Heated Earth—Our Geothermal Heritage*. 1999. Edited by Raffaele Cataldi, Susan Hodgson and John Lund. Geothermal Resources Council, PO Box 1350, Davis CA 91617. This historical guide to our geothermal world, the book travels the world, starting and ending on Easter Island. *Stories from a Heated Earth* offers a fascinating journey through time, focused on the cultural influences of geothermal phenomena on the peoples of the world and covering more than 25 countries. Paperback; 588 pages, 215 photographs and illustrations,. Price \$70, plus postage. Email: <grc@geothermal.org>

Surfer Alert! Magazine Review

By Mark Blackburn

As an avid and serious surfer, it was with great delight that I opened the latest issue of *The Surfer's Journal* (Vol. 9:1, 2000), to find two remarkable and well-written articles about surfing on Rapa Nui. One, by Sam George, is titled "Rapa Nui: Her Island" and it is a romantic sojourn into a Pierre Loti-like story of 'Surfing and Finding Love' on Rapa Nui. After reading this article with its superb photography, I immediately wanted to fly back to Easter Island and head for the island's various 'breaks'. In the accompanying article by Max Mills, a more historical approach is provided, including a general history of the island and its people. He puts emphasis on some interesting notes about surfing, such as the fact that a young Chilean surfer, Carlos Lara, is credited with bringing modern surfing to the island in 1987. The first surfing contest was in 1990; the first champion was Pichi Pakariti. Mills also relates how Laird Hamilton and Brock Little were the first truly famous North Shore surfers to put in time and money to explore the rumors about the big waves in the "Hawai'i of the Southern Hemisphere". After