

place in this activity. A true intellectual searcher of the human cultural past must be open to look at and reflect on what he has seen in many directions. A laser-eyed, egocentric sees only what is desired to be seen, and buries all else in the guano of meaningless turkey talk.

*Edwin N. Ferdon, Tucson, Arizona*

*Response from Bahn:*

If my review of the South Seas Symposium caused any offense, I can only apologize. However, Ferdon's angry ornithological ramblings not only miss the fact that the review was somewhat tongue in beak, but also that the crucial point is not whether Heyerdahl's hypotheses correspond with those of others—in fact this is quite irrelevant. Instead, it is his treatment—or rather his ignoring—of the opinions of others which is the crux of the matter. I will give two pertinent examples here. With regard to the Laramie congress of 1993, Heyerdahl's view is that (*The Times*, 11 July 1995) “. . . gradually, most [scholars] have come round to his views. There were more than 100 participants at a recent conference on Easter Island, and none quarreled with Heyerdahl's detective work.” And concerning the Albuquerque meeting, here is what he had to say about those who disagree with him, in a recent Dutch TV show, screened on January 4th this year: “I go from one congress to the other now, and the people who say this and that, they are not the people who show up on the congresses. I've been just this year, I've been with the 150 [*sic*] International Congress on Easter Island in United States in New Mexico, and I was the only one who gave a full evening speech. There was not one who got their finger up to bring up a contrary argument, and my conclusion was direct contact Peru-Polynesia. If they had any argument, why do they always come up to newspapers and things, but never when I'm present, and I go from one congress to the other.”

I will leave it to those present at both conferences, as well as to the judgment of RNJ readers, to decide whose version of events is the more accurate!

*Paul G. Bahn*

Dear Editor:

Professor Fedorova (*RNJ* 11:4:152) reads *Kohau rongorongo* sign #000 as 'ta (PPN *taa*, PMP *tak* (?) “. . . with possible translation in ancient Rapanui 'to cut' . . .”

PMP (= Proto-Malayo-Polynesian) \**tak* (?) is however already history: cf. Proto-Austronesian \**ke* (t, C) *ats* 'cut something with a knife'—related to Proto-*Tai* \**tat* 'cut off, sever' and Japanese *tat-i* 'sever, cut off, cut in two' (Paul K. Benedict, *Austro-Tai*, (1990:178-179).

*W. Wilfried Schuhmacher, Gadstrup, Denmark*

Thorophobia: Or, Some comments on a  
sailor's blast into cyberspace  
by Grant McCall

This little note is not hagiographic, even ethnographic, but it does contain material that may be offensive to some: the frequent mention of Thor Heyerdahl's name!

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you submitted “Kon-Tiki” to a web search engine?

At the end of January 1998, you get a disappointing,

although numerologically suspicious 777, being a thrice over digit plus on the sign of the “Great Beast”! Now, for those of you who do not know or care what a web or a search engine is, you need read no further, but if you do (and don't mind recurring references to Thor Heyerdahl), then read on!

At the very stimulating Albuquerque conference, so well summarized by Paul Bahn in the last RNJ, Heyerdahl remarked that he had found “Kon-Tiki” associated with all sorts of organizations and businesses. Almost to prove the point, two people sported Reyn (Hawai'i) colorful shirts with Rapanui and raft designs, called “Kon-Tiki”. Prominent amongst the 777 in my New Year list is a caravan park at St Tropez (France) and a multiple entry, multi-lingual series of notices for a Diving School in Phuket (Thailand). I did not pursue the rest, for I was looking for the Kon-Tiki Museum (Norway) web site, which I found at <[http://www.media.uio.no/kon-tiki\\_index.html](http://www.media.uio.no/kon-tiki_index.html)>

The site itself is attractive enough with a personal greeting by Thor Heyerdahl in a “Quick Time” movie, references to publications, a shop, expeditions, a CD-ROM and credits for all that design work. Unfortunately, I could get only the welcome movie, publications and credits to work, but you might have better luck.

CD-ROM? I reported in these pages last year a French product centered on Rapanui itself, but this 1995 CD-ROM (how did we miss it?) focuses directly on Thor Heyerdahl himself as the title explains: “Kon-Tiki Interactive. The life and work of explorer Thor Heyerdahl”.

As I could not get a preview at the Museum site, I contacted one of my favorite CD-ROM dealers, CD-ROM Access, who kindly sold me a copy at US\$25, with another US\$9.95 for delivery to my home in Sydney in just over a week! Kon-Tiki Interactive is by the Voyager company, who have produced a number of fine titles. For a visit to them, go to <<http://www.voyagerco.com>> The opening screen is almost identical to that of the Kon-Tiki Museum, being designed by the same team. Unlike the website, though, the CD-ROM functions perfectly and covers Heyerdahl's life work in text, pictures, movie clips and clever animation being very handsomely produced and at a good price. As with the better companies, Kon-Tiki Interactive is a 'hybrid', working equally well on the Macintosh, Windows 3.11 (That's what it says), Windows 95 and MS-DOS 6.0.

There are a few bits of Scandinavian wit as well throughout. All but Thorophobes will be amused that when you select the “Help” function, Heyerdahl himself strolls in from screen left, admits he knows nothing about computers, but tells us to follow the simple directions, behind him! When he finishes his calming message, he lightly clears his throat and returns from whence he came.

The story both at the Kon-Tiki website and on the CD-ROM takes us to his work at the Pyramids of Tucume, in Peru. Wherever there are pyramids, Thor Heyerdahl can't be far behind! His latest discovery is the “Ethnography Park Pyramids of Güímar” on Tenerife, Grand Canaries.

If people think of the Canary Islands at all, it is Europeans contemplating a cheap, sunny holiday in these Spanish possessions off the coast of North Africa. These islands were the recipient of the first European colonial push away from

their little peninsula on the western end of the Asian continent. From the 13th century, Genoese, Portuguese and the eventual conquerors, the Spanish, occasionally raided sheep and goats, sometimes people, the latter whom they sold as slaves. The conquest of the Canaries began in earnest in 1402, led by the Spanish. Conquest? Alone amongst the temperate Atlantic Islands north of the equator (Madeira and the Azores were uninhabited), the Canaries were inhabited by a people we remember as the Guanche, light skinned, perhaps of Berber stock, who had abandoned sailing craft of any size. We know little of these people as, along with the fierce battles of resistance, disease and enslavement cleared the island of its native inhabitants by the end of the 16th century. Even when the first account of the Guanche was published by Fray Alonso de Espinosa at Seville in 1594, the Guanche already were fading. By the time anybody took any real interest, the Guanche were no more, obliterated completely. Perfect territory for the enterprising Heyerdahl!

You may visit the Pyramids of Güímar, discovered by Heyerdahl, virtually and in English, by going to <<http://www.fredolsen.es/>>. Their e-mail address is: [ferco@fredolsen.es](mailto:ferco@fredolsen.es). That's right: the pyramids and Heyerdahl's latest museum hang off the website for the Fred Olsen Lines, a well-known Norwegian shipping company. Those without Internet access could try contacting the Museum at: Pirámides de Güímar, S.A.; Edificación Fred Olsen, Polígono Industrial Añaza, S/N; 38109 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain.

The site declares that visits to the Park commenced at the end of 1997 and that the site comprises the restored pyramids, the Casa Chacona Museum, a cinema auditorium, cafeteria and gift shop. "A portion of the revenues from the Park will be contributed to F.E.R.C.O., Foundation for Exploration and Research on Cultural Origins, Thor Heyerdahl, President, with headquarters in the Casa Chacona Museum". Anyone fearful of hearing the Heyerdahl name should probably not consider a visit though since the Museum likely will mention his name a number of times.

However, dear reader, a Heyerdahl is better than a Barbie Doll!

Grant McCall, School of Sociology, The University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW 2052 Australia; e-mail: <[g.mccall@unsw.edu.au](mailto:g.mccall@unsw.edu.au)>

• The Kon-Tiki porn item that appeared in the December issue with accompanying limerick has brought out the beast in some of our readers. The limericks are coming in, as for example, the following submitted by Paul Bahn:

Two porn stars while visiting Norway  
Decided to try it one more way  
So they managed a quickie  
on board the Kontiki  
Which certainly isn't the Thor way!

**Correction:** those who have had a problem reaching the email address for the CD on Easter Island (see Review by Grant McCall in RNJ 11(4):166): <<http://www.lvi-press.com>>, the CD can be ordered directly from the publisher, or from an excellent source for anything French, recommended by McCall: M. David Bancroft; Centre Parisien D'Etudes et de Documentation pour L'Enseignement et le Rayonnement

du Français; 10 Ave. Félix-Faure; 75015 Paris, France; e-mail: <[106275.3245@compuserve.com](mailto:106275.3245@compuserve.com)>

**Correction:** Dan Gartner of Australia, an alert reader (and the world needs more lerts), noted an error in our Vol. 11 (3). In the article by José Miguel Ramírez, the text states that the Rapa Nui National Park covers 42% of the total area of the island; however, that number translates into 67 km<sup>2</sup>, not 6.7 hectares as the article stated. Sorry about that.

## Reviews

*THE EDGE OF PARADISE. AMERICA IN MICRONESIA.*

by P. F. Kluge

A Kolowalu Book

University of Hawaii Press 1991 \$15.95 (Paperback)

*Review by Grant McCall*

Let me say at the onset that this is not as its title suggests, a scholarly study of what the USA has done to and with its American colonies north of the equator. It is not someone's revamped Ph.D. thesis, with a better selling title. The focus of the book is on the experiences of the author who went to those outposts of the American empire in 1967 as a Peace Corps volunteer.

If you were a Peace Corps volunteer, you likely will find this book interesting. If you did your service in Micronesia, your interest will mount. I suspect that if you were a male volunteer in the late 1960s who is now a respectable professor of English literature, this is the book for you! These are not cheap shots. The author recognizes that he is a ". . . Micronesia head part of a tiny freemasonry that could indulge itself, pig out on talk about places hardly anyone else knew" (p. 40). And, let me be clear also at the beginning, this is very well written, evocative and almost novelesque story, all positive qualities to recommend "Edge" as a relaxed read.

Kluge tells a very personal story of callous Yankee youth in charge of experienced Micronesian underlings and his reflections twenty years later on what he did. In particular, he is following up the life of Palau's Lazarus Salii, who died, perhaps a suicide, and who Kluge, I think, feels was a kind of protégé of his. Similar tales might be told of brash Australians meddling as Patrol and District Officers in Papua New Guinea during the colonial era. PNG's attraction was its exotic strangeness and, even, threatening quality. Micronesia, with not so much as a painted native or poisonous animal to threaten, offers no such threat. Kluge tells us of the many bars he visited, the women that he loved and the people he administered. He confesses that his Peace Corps time was an easy one, stationed at the Territorial Governor's office as a journalist and general writer, traveling widely on an expense account.

In some of his reflections, there is a kind of Mitcheneresque "Rascals in Paradise" quality about Kluge with which association he no doubt would be proud. He looks up a few of his fellow freemasons who "stayed on". "Just as the Japanese left stragglers behind, soldiers who hid out and lived off the land for years after the war ended, so the Peace Corps deposited volunteers, dozens of them through Micronesia" (p.