

a bizarre non-translation of the Dutch word 'arts' which means general practitioner?) but in medicine.

3) Slauerhoff was indeed a "poète maudit", he was much too undisciplined and unconventional to become a doctor in a tidy Dutch village, so he applied for a job as a ship's doctor and in 1925 was accepted by a shipping company running a service between Java, China and Japan, that is along the Western shores of the Pacific. During stopovers in Shanghai and Macao he visited and got his inspiration in the seedy parts of the harbour front: opium dens and brothels. This ruined his health, so in 1927 he returned to Holland for recovery. In 1928 he became a ship's doctor again, this time for a company running a service between the Netherlands, the Caribbean and the Atlantic Coast of South America. One can be sure that these shipping companies running commercial services on a timetable basis never touched Easter Island. Therefore it is too romantic to say that Slauerhoff "traveled around the South Seas for most of his life." He was a ship's doctor on vessels running a regular service between big ports until he died in 1936 from malaria and pneumonia.

4) One can therefore only conclude that Slauerhoff must have got the data for his poem on Rapa Nui from publications by others and the author of the article must certainly be complimented that he found one with a date and Slauerhoff's signature on it that he had read when only 15 years old.

That Slauerhoff is still being read today and greatly admired comes from his restlessness, dissatisfaction with normal life, and passionate times which he showed by his identification with vagabonds, discoverers and pirates. One of his titles: "Foam and Ash" may be considered symbolic for his work.

*Herbert von Saher, Bloemendaal, The Netherlands*

## REVIEWS



*Rapa Nui. Histoire de L'île de Pâques.* Text by Georgia Lee, photographs by Toni Catany. Editions Olizane, 11, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers, CH-1205, Geneva, Switzerland. 1995. In French.

*Review by Paul G. Bahn.*

Books on Rapa Nui tend to be either overviews of the island's history and culture, or albums of photographs. This, as far as I am aware, is the first which is both at once, and it succeeds admirably in both categories. It is a large format book; its first part comprises a text by Georgia Lee, together with a series of drawings and black-and white photographs, mostly by Lee but with some by Marcia Opal, Bill Hyder and Mark Oliver, plus museums in Chile. Only one or two of the museum photographs are not quite up to scratch. The text, a rapid survey of every aspect of the island's culture, is both readable and accurate, as one would expect from the editor of this august journal. There are notes, a glossary of terms, and a succinct bibliography but not, alas, an index. I spotted only a couple of minor typos, and the French translation seems fine. The book exists in Italian, Spanish and French

editions, but not, as yet, in English. It is to be hoped that this omission will be rectified in the near future. The true glory of this book, however, comes from the second part, the collection of colour plates by Catalan photographer Toni Catany. Many of these are outstanding, and they include several fold-out plates, most notably a spectacular 4-page super-wide-angle shot of the almost-restored Ahu Tongariki. Whatever the merits and demerits of this particular restoration—and one hopes that full details will eventually emerge of this project so we can assess its accuracy and desirability—it makes an undeniably impressive sight, and the book is probably worth buying for this picture alone. □

## PUBLICATIONS

➤ Anon. 1995. Polynesian Cloud. *The Nation*, 2 October 1995:336. [A scathing editorial about the resumption of French nuclear testing and the recent protests in Tahiti].

➤ Dalton, Bill. 1995. *Indonesia Handbook*, 6th edition. Moon Publications, Box 3040 Chico, CA 95927. ISBN: 1-56691-062-5. Paper cover, 1330 pages plus index; 250 maps. Black and white photos and drawings, phrase book and glossary included. \$25.00

The island nation of Indonesia has 17,110 islands which may explain why this new edition of the *Indonesia Handbook* has 1330 pages and could serve as ballast. Every imaginable tidbit of information, be it in the form of tree-climbing fish or komodo dragons, mountain trekking or monuments, puppet plays or batik fabrics, can be found in this amazingly informative book. It even tells you how to deal with monkeys, should you be tempted to offer them a snack. The details, descriptions and general knowledge in the book reveal how well the author knows his subject; and the sections on censorship, civil liberties and corruption clearly reveal why the *Indonesia Handbook* has been banned in that country for two decades.

The *Indonesia Handbook* is a good read and detailed enough to be used as a reference to the area. It may, in fact, tell you far more than you ever cared to know. But if you are contemplating a trip to Indonesia, don't leave home without this excellent guide.

➤ Edwards, E. and S. Millerstrom. 1995. Peintures rupestres de la vallée de Eiaone à Hiva Oa. *Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Océaniques*, No. 267, Tome XXIII, No. 5: 5-17.

➤ Fischer, Steven Roger. 1995. Preliminary evidence for cosmogonic texts in Rapanui's *rongorongo* inscriptions. *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Vol. 104(3):303-321. This is an important paper, the closest we have come to a 'breakthrough' in understanding *rongorongo* script. Fischer provides significant evidence that the studied texts contain creation chants and he postulates that *rongorongo* was more than a mere mnemonic device. Although still not 'deciphered', this paper contains exciting new insights into

the long-studied texts of ancient Rapanui.

➤ *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 1995; Vol. 104(3). University of Auckland, New Zealand. This issue contains, among others, a paper on volcanic glass in Samoa by J.T. Clark and E. Wright; and one about myths and volcanic activity in Tonga by P.W. Taylor. See also reference for S.R. Fischer (above).

➤ *L'Echo de Rapa Nui*. 1995. No.32 for October. Brain L'Alleud, Belgique.

➤ *Le Pasefika: The Pacific Island Travel and Lifestyle Magazine*. 1995, Vol. 1(1) for Fall. This is the first issue of a new "... magazine for both the novice and Pacific enthusiast. *Le Pasefika's* objective is to provide background information for the history lover on tour, as well as current information, news articles and stories about the people and islands of the Pacific." David Stanley, well-known for his excellent travel guides, is a contributing editor. This maiden issue contains articles on the Matson Company, Hawaiian music, Maori, and a contribution by Bengt Danielsson on the French Nuclear Colonization in the Pacific. Coming issues include features about Rapa Nui, Hawaiian legends, and the Marquesas. Subscriptions are \$20 a year. For further information, contact Le Pasefika, 558 E. Double Street, Carson, CA 90745-2121. Phone: (310) 549-0920.

➤ McCall, Grant. 1995. French Images of Rapanui (Easter Island). *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Vol. 104(2):181-194.

➤ *Pacific News Bulletin*. 1995. Vol.10 (10). Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, PO Box 803, Glebe NSW 2037, Australia.

➤ The Pitcairn Islands: biogeography, ecology and prehistory; Proceedings of an International Discussion Meeting held at the Linnean Society, 5-6 May 1994. Edited by T.G. Benton and T. Spencer. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society: A Journal of Evolution*. 1995. Vol.56:1-2. Linnean Society of London, Academic Press. This massive volume (463 pages) is divided into four parts: 1) Structure, topography and vegetation: the significance of raised reef islands; 2) The birds of Henderson Island: ecological studies in a near pristine system; 3) Biogeographic processes at the limits of the Indo-West Pacific province; and 4) Man's impact on the Pitcairn Islands.

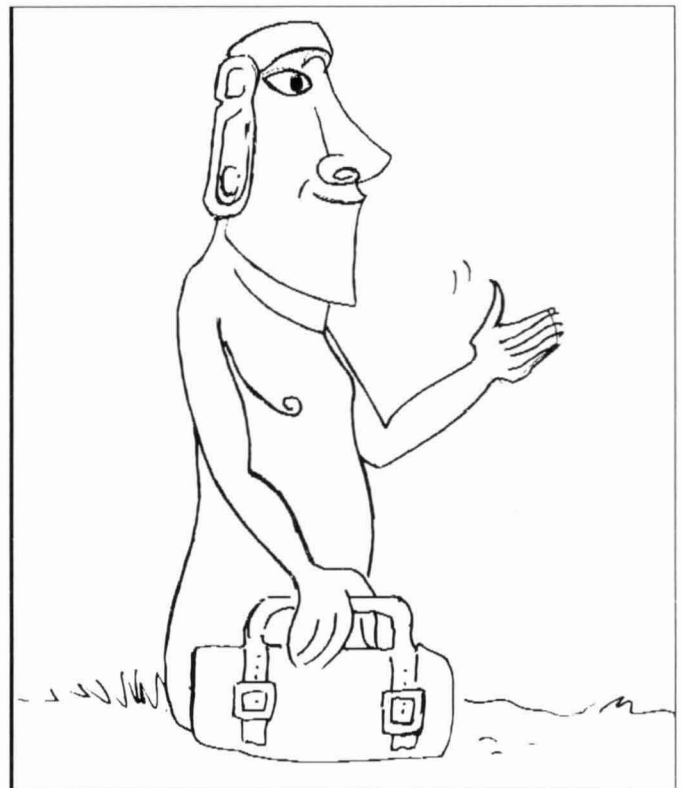
➤ *Pitcairn Miscellany*. Vol. 38, Nos. 7-9, 1995. The *Miscellany* is a monthly newspaper of Pitcairn Island with a circulation of 1500. Subscriptions are \$5 a year. Address: Pitcairn Miscellany, South Pacific Ocean, via New Zealand.

➤ Pollock, Nancy J., Compiler. 1994. *Nauru Bibliography: Revised Edition*. Available from Dr. Nancy Pollock, Dept. Of Anthropology, Victoria University, PO Box 600, Wellington, NZ.

➤ Rolett, Barry V. and Eric Conte. 1995. Renewed Investigation of the Ha'atuatua Dune (Nukuhiva, Marquesas Islands): A Key Site in Polynesian Prehistory. *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Vol. 104(2):195-228.

➤ *Rongorongo Studies*, Vol. 5(2) for 1995. Edited by Steven Roger Fischer. This issue contains the winning poem in the Literary Competition plus 'Tahitian Phonology: Missionary Perceptions 1801-1802' by J. H. Ward; and 'Inscriptions on the Rei Miro Pectorals from Easter Island' by I.K. Fedorova.

➤ Rjabchikov, S., ed. 1995. *Ostrov Paskhi: Peresechenie kul'tur*. [Easter Island: A Crossing Cultures.] Krasnodar: Ecoinvest. Text in Russian, Spanish, English.



**Moving on? Don't leave RNJ behind!**  
Remember to send us your new address.  
(Drawing after César Aguilera, with thanks)

➤ Sahlins, Marshall. *How "Natives" Think: about Captain Cook, for Example*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. \$24.95.

➤ Schroeder, Dirk G. 1995. *Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa, and Latin America*, 4th edition.. Moon Publications, Box 3040 Chico, CA 95927. ISBN: 1-56691-026-9. Paperback, 190 pages plus index; \$11.95. Line drawings, maps showing areas in the world where particular diseases are prevalent.

This small health guide for travelers, written by a public health specialist, is just the ticket for those indefatigable tourists who are heading off to 'iffy' spots in the world and

want to stay healthy long enough to enjoy (and/or survive) the trip. I wish I had had a copy of this on some early trips into Latin America; I might have been spared a few memorable attacks of Montezuma's Revenge. Highly recommended.

➤ *Tok Blong Pasifik*. 1995. A Quarterly of News and Views on the Pacific Islands. No.49(2). SPPF, 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria BC, Canada V8T 2Y6. The current issue contains articles about the resumption of nuclear testing in Moruroa, and the sovereignty issue in Hawai'i.

➤ *The University of the South Pacific Bulletin*, July 1995, notes that a major program is under discussion to develop the lower waterfront area of the Laucala Campus to house a Marine Studies Program. Funding is being provided through the Fiji Government. The project is slated to include a lecture theatre, research facilities, a floating dock, accommodations, a post-harvest fisheries processing facility, an aquarium room and marine public education center, library and audio-visual facilities, a reference collection, museum and four science teaching laboratories. Marine science got a further boost with a \$100,000 grant from the Trade Mission of the Republic of China to provide equipment for the Institute of Marine Resources, in the Solomon Islands.

➤ Wardwell, Allen. 1994. *Island Ancestors: Oceanic Art from the Masco Collection*. University of Washington Press. \$60.00.



## EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

Now available to our Rapanuiphile readers: *Adventures in Easter Island* by Dr. Juan Grau, published in Chile by Ediciones OIKOS Ltda. We have a few copies available in both English and Spanish (*Aventuras en Isla de Pascua*). Both are paperback, 307 pages, illustrated with black and white drawings and with a Prologue by Grant McCall who assures prospective readers that they "... are about to embark on a wild ride through both fact and fiction; human relations and the forces of nature." These books are part of a series, "Little Jose's Ecology" and described by the author as "a children's book for adults."

Dr. Grau is a medical doctor, columnist, and ecologist (General Secretary of the Ecological Institute of Chile); he was granted the Global 500 United Nations Award in 1987.

*Adventures in Easter Island* can be ordered through the EIF at 666 Dead Cat Alley, Woodland, CA 95695. Visa/Mastercard accepted. Please allow three weeks for delivery. Price is \$25 plus postage. Specify if you want the English or the Spanish version.

In our listing of upcoming publications by the EIF, *RNJ* 9 (3) we inadvertently left off an important pending book by A. Elena Charola, "Death of a Moai: Deterioration and conservation of Easter Island's statues".

Dr Charola's most recent book, *Easter Island: The Heritage and its Conservation* will soon be published in a Spanish language edition.

☞ Plans are progressing for an international meeting, "Easter Island in the Pacific Context". The conference will be sponsored by the Easter Island Foundation and hosted by the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, in mid-summer, 1997.

Our next issue of *RNJ* will contain a 'call for papers' and details of the conference, including dates and special events. Dr Christopher Stevenson is the Chairman of the Committee which includes Dr William Ayres, Dr George Gill, Dr Atholl Anderson, Dr Steven Fischer, Prof. Charles Love, and Dr Georgia Lee. The conference is being coordinated by Far Horizons Archaeological and Cultural Trips of Albuquerque, Dr Garth Bowden of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Barbara Hinton, President of the Foundation and Kay Kenady Sanger of the EIF.

Papers concerning Easter Island and the Pacific will be invited, with particular emphasis on Polynesian Social Organization, Prehistoric Adaptation, the Archaeology of Stone Architecture, the Environment, the Language and Traditions.

Albuquerque is famous for its old Southwest hospitality, exciting living Indian pueblos, and ancient ruins. Aside from exchanging ideas and conversation with colleagues, there will be opportunities to experience Polynesian dances, crafts, and other cultural events. Optional pre-and post-conference tours are being planned.

All of the attendees of the last conference which was held in Laramie, Wyoming in 1993, agreed upon the importance of regular conferences for exchange of information, networking and keeping in touch with others doing research in the field. You don't want to miss this meeting! Watch for our announcement in the next issue of *RNJ*.

Heading to South America? Check out the South American Explorers Club. Offices and clubhouses in Lima, Peru, and Quito, Ecuador. A fine (offbeat) source of information and research material. Their quarterly Journal, *South American Explorer*, is full of travel tips and great stories.

For information, contact South American Explorers Club, 126 Indian Creek Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Phone (607) 277-0488.