

Book Reviews



Arredondo, Ana María. *Un moai para Japón*

Hanga Roa: Editorial Aukara, 2013. 103 pages, illustrations by Te Pou Huke. Glossary. To order, email aukarapanui@gmail.com

Review by Georgia Lee, Easter Island Foundation

A new children's book, written by Ana María Arredondo, is titled *Un moai para Japón*. It is hardcover and is 8 1/8 inches square and 103 pages, plus glossary. Text is in Spanish and Japanese, and nicely illustrated with black & white pictures by Te Pou Huke. This book was published 2013 by Editorial Aukara, Rapa Nui.

The book tells the story of Tongariki and its destruction by a tsunami, the reconstruction of the site with the help of a Tadano crane from Japan, and various adventures by a small boy called Te Pou, including stories about why the statues were carved, the seasons, the kinds of fishes caught around the island, and how the families sit around a fire at night to talk about the island's history. Then the subject changes to an earthquake and tsunami in Japan and how a group of Chileans offer to finance and transport a moai to Japan as a goodwill gesture.

The story continues about the Rapanui grandfather of Te Pou, who searches for stone from which to carve a moai for Japan. After it is completed, we then learn about the various ceremonies, feasts, and blessings that must be conducted before the statue leaves the island. Finally, the statue is loaded onto an airplane, headed for Japan.



Richards, Rhys. *Foreign Visitors to the Cook Islands: 1773 to 1840 (Nga Papa'a mua ki teia pa enua)*

Wellington: Paremata Press, 2014. 100 pages, 22 illustrations. ISBN 978-0958201391. NZ\$25.00 (within New Zealand), US\$36.00 (outside New Zealand). To order, contact Rhys Richards: rhys@paradise.net.nz

Review by Alex E. Morrison,
International Archaeological Research
Institute and University of Auckland

Foreign Visitors to the Cook Islands: 1773 to 1840 (Nga Papa'a mua ki teia pa enua), by Rhys Richards is a brief but extensive encyclopedic work that documents in great detail foreign travels through the Cook Islands between 1773 and 1840. Richards' book will be of interest to archaeologists, historians, and ethnographers researching a critical time period when interaction with people from new parts of the world was rapidly influencing the traditions and material culture of the inhabitants of some of Polynesia's smallest islands.

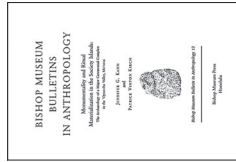
The volume is organized into two broad categories. First, Richards provides a chronological description of foreign visits to the various Cook Islands. This part is subdivided into four main sections: The Foreign Discoveries 1773 to 1835, 2) The Traders 1808 to 1840, 3) Missionary Visitors Before 1825, and 4) Whaleships and Whalers 1823 to 1840. Although organized chronologically, these various chapters provide the reader with a review of the major economic activities that attracted foreigners to the Cook Islands and the unique ways that the indigenous inhabitants adjusted to these newcomers. The majority of the book can be found in the three annexes which provide over half of the pages of the volume. The annexes consist of the most extensive lists and descriptions to date of foreign vessels that visited the Cook Islands during the first half of the 19th century. In contrast to the first section of the book, the annexes are organized according to three themes: Early trading visits from Port Jackson 1808 to 1840, American trading vessels 1824 to 1840, and Whaleships 1823 to 1840.

As Richards notes in the forward, this small book is "primarily a list of ship visits." I will not attempt to try and summarize the extensive detail provided by Richards (instead I suggest the interested reader purchase the book). However, I would like to highlight several reasons why these specific ship records and the documentation of early historic visits in general are of great importance, even when the interpretative discussion provided by the author is limited. Archaeologists and anthropologists are primarily concerned with understanding variation in cultural traits through time and/or space. Understanding why some aspects of culture change requires reference to a set of processes or to a body of theory. Broadly speaking, two processes that influence the speed and the pathway of cultural variation are *interaction* (homologous similarity) and *independent convergence* (analogous similarity). For archaeologists in particular, determining what processes led to specific changes in material culture is often difficult. For example, do

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similarities in fishhook attributes from archaeological sites in the Hawaiian Islands and California's Channel Islands indicate *interaction* and sharing of cultural information between these two island groups or *convergence* on a parallel solution to a problem within similar ecological parameters (how to effectively catch and retain a fish)? The extensive details regarding the origins and timing of these sailing vessels to the Cook Islands provides important clues to the processes by which islanders incorporated new material types into their cultural repertoire and at varying rates. Clearly this type of information has great value outside of the Cook Islands and Polynesia in general.

On a minor note, readers should be prepared that *Foreign Visitors to the Cook Islands: 1773 to 1840 (Nga Papa'a mua ki teia pa enua)* probably will not interest those who are expecting a book they can read cover to cover in a few sittings. Instead, this important work will reach its highest value as a source of reference to those who are interested in the increasing amount of interaction that occurred during one of the most important and thought-provoking periods in Cook Island history.



Kahn, Jennifer G. and Kirch, Patrick Vinton. *Monumentality and Ritual Materialization in the Society Islands: The Archaeology of a Major Ceremonial Complex in the Opunohu Valley, Mo'orea*

Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press, 2014.
267 pages, 71 figures, 11 tables. ISBN 978-1-58178-126-7. US\$50.00 (softcover). To order, visit <http://store.bishopmuseum.org>

Review by Paul Wallin, Uppsala University

This is a nicely-produced volume on recent excavations of ceremonial stone structures (*marae*) and associated features, conducted at a well-known key site located in the Opunohu Valley on the island of Mo'orea in the Society Islands. The book is dedicated to the memory of Roger C. Green who first surveyed the site about 50 years ago. The book follows the high standards of *marae* and settlement archaeology carried out in the Society Islands and combines the traditions beginning with Kenneth P. Emory (1933) and Green et al. (1967). This work also follows up on ethnohistorical perspectives

in a good way by combining archaeological facts with such notes seen in, for example, T. Henry's classical Bishop Museum Bulletin entitled *Ancient Tahiti* (1928).

The book contains six chapters that I will comment on in some detail below. In general, chapters 1, 2, and 6 have a wide approach towards the research of monumental structures in the Society Islands as well as across the region as a Polynesian phenomenon. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 give us a detailed field report from the recent excavations of the Opunohu ScMo-124/-125 site, which functions as a case study dealing with the problematics of agglomerated *marae* structures as well as connected terraces and platforms of different sizes. I will start the review by focusing on the case study chapters, which are the main bulk of the book's content, and then turn over to the general themes of the book.

The main part of the book (pp. 65-198) is a detailed report of the excavations at the above-mentioned site carried out between the years 2002 and 2008. Chapter 3 includes detailed surveys, mapping, and descriptions of the sites. Chapter 4 deals with the excavations, and chapter 5 discusses the dating and chronology of settlement activities and the *marae* structures.

Chapter 3 carefully brings the reader into the ScMo-124/-125 site, beginning with an overall orientation of the site, building materials, and the different construction types including *marae*, terraces, platforms, pavements, shrines, *paepae*, house outlines, referent structures (large boulders), and *iti'i* (stone images). It is all displayed in the informative overall map (Figure 3.2), which, however, lacks a scale. The chapter continues with individual detailed maps and site descriptions, and for the interested reader, it is a pity that some of these very nice and detailed maps are disturbed in the middle when published over the centerfold of the book (See Figures 3.2, 3.3, 3.14, 3.24).

Chapter 4 describes the excavations at the ScMo-124/-125 site. The purpose of the excavations was to get a good sample in the variation of the different stone structures, making it possible to compare site functions and their chronology. The excavations are easy to follow and are covered by photos and detailed plans, as well as stratigraphic profile drawings. The written documentation of each excavation follows the same outline, including: *Descriptions of Excavation Units and Stratigraphy*, *Cultural Content and Sub-surface Features*, and a *Summary*. The summary also gives an interpretation of the individual excavated unit. The interpretations are quite well-founded, and are practice-based reflections that concern specific activities that the individual excavated features might have been tied to.

Chapter 5 deals with the chronology of the site complex based on ¹⁴C analyses on identified charcoal samples and U/Th dating on coral from relevant defined contexts. As a control method, the authors