

Illustrative of this, my wife and I have been living in our current house in Phoenix since December of 2005 but looking at adjacent properties via Google Earth shows in one case a dirt lot where a grocery store complex is already in operation when we moved in and, in another spot, Google Earth shows only construction of another shopping center that is now in full operation also. While I might not necessarily expect Google to update Easter Island imagery that often given its remoteness, I am surprised to find that parts of the 5th largest city in the United States (Phoenix) haven't been incorporated into Google Earth yet. Again, I don't know how relevant this is — except to point out that the utility of Google Earth is less a function of its current nature or accuracy and more a function of the ability to view areas heretofore invisible for scholastic or other purposes. This is not a reflection on the merits or conclusions of the Hunt & Lipo article, merely pointing out an aspect of Google Earth that might not be common knowledge.

One final note that others may find useful: The satellite image of the island (Fig. 2, p. 7) is listed as “copyright 2007” by NASA when in fact it's not only the same picture used in Georgia Lee's *Uncommon Guide* and therefore dated to the late 1980s (as her book was published in 1990) but also, in so far as NASA is a United States government agency, all of the aforementioned images attributed to NASA instead in the public domain.

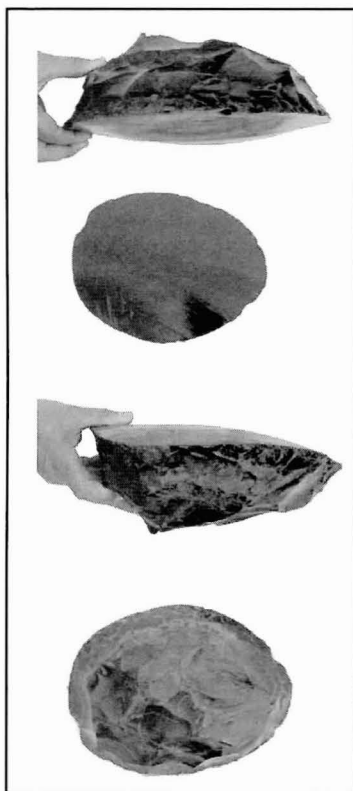
— Shawn McLaughlin

* <<http://local.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=22040&topic=10778>> accessed June 28, 2008

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *continue on page 157*

MOAI SIGHTINGS

A *MOAI* EYE SIGHTING: The EIF has become privy to some interesting news about the apparent discovery of a large obsidian *moai* eye* that has many of us excited. On July 29th we were told the eye had been found at Tongariki “in the last week or so” and that Sonia Haoa was in possession of the artefact originally described as a semi-spherical chunk of obsidian 6 to 8 inches in diameter. Sonia was subsequently in touch with Chris “Obsidian Hydration Man” Stevenson who acknowledged that the only way to analyze it would be to remove a piece. Stevenson reiterated that the eye was “found near Tongariki” by a local islander, “in the water or near it”, so the report goes. Charlie Love, who was on the island at the time, reported that there may be some question about the age of discovery of the item, where it was found, and by whom. He described the eye as having “dirt on the lower two-thirds of it” and went on to say that it may have been found *last December*. Or, based on what some folks on the island have told him, he said it may have been found as many as *five or six years ago* and was possibly taken out of



someone's truck! Given the diameter of the eye, he estimated that, if it accompanied a coral sclera, then the face of the *moai* would have “had to be at least 2.5 meters across since the dang thing is a foot long & weighs 15 pounds. If instead, you want it to fit into an “older” *moai* head without the big sockets, then the head would be about a meter across”. He wondered if it was found during the excavation of Ahu Tongariki, and was then spirited away to sell later. Charlie provided the accompanying composite photograph (on the left).

A few weeks later Sonia provided exact measurements for the artefact: 26.6 cm (10.5") × 20 cm (7.9") in diameter × 18 cm (7.1") deep and we have learned that Chris will attempt to date the artefact starting in September, 2008. So far Chris reports that it looks genuine and has a hydration layer on it.

* In fact, it is not so much the “eye” as the pupil. The *moai* eyes, as we know, are made of coral for the *sclera* (the white part) and either obsidian or red scoria for the pupil.

...

A CARVED WOOD *MOAI* adjacent to the door of the Museum of Samoa in Apia.



Thanks to Mimi Forsyth for bringing this to our attention and for sending the photo!

(More on the Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa on page 158.)



WHAT'S NEW ON EASTER ISLAND

TWO ISLANDERS WERE DETAINED in early April after they were discovered excavating a shallow well at an archaeological site and subsequently causing “incalculable damage” adjacent to the *ahu* at Akahanga on the southeast coast, according to an article in *El Mercurio de Valparaíso*. The islanders, both 30 years old and identified only by the initials “L.P.T.” and “E.E.P.”, said they were digging the 3-meter (10-foot) deep well to get underground water for their animals. Sonia Haoa, a representative of the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales de Rapa Nui, was dispatched to the site to certify its antiquity, which was partly verified by the fact that the islanders had unearthed tools from the island’s prehistoric period. The island’s mayor, Petero Edmunds, asserted that the two islanders did nothing wrong and were being treated too harshly — an ironic assessment given the recent vandalism of the ear lobe of a *moai* at Ahu Nau Nau by a Finnish tourist in which the mayor said the tourist’s ear should be cut off in keeping with the concept of “an eye for an eye”. Edmunds went on to say too much of the island is under CONAF’s jurisdiction, leaving insufficient land for the islanders and that Chile should limit the number of tourists to only the more affluent because, presumably, they are more responsible.

Source: *The Editors*. With thanks to Bill Liller.

EFFORTS TO ERADICATE MOSQUITOES — and the risk of Dengue Fever they bring — has been manifested in T-shirts showing a group of admittedly continental-looking folks beating the hell out of a mosquito. The slogan translates to: “To Get Rid of Mosquitoes ... It’s Your Health!” (Thanks to Steven Fischer for providing the translation.)

Source: *Laura Boyd*; photo by Shawn McLaughlin.



A ECONOMIST FROM ROMANIA was robbed of his passport, cell phone, camera, medication, credit cards, and \$7,000 in cash (plus even some Romanian currency) when his room at the Hotel Iorana was broken into. Tracking misuse of the credit cards, carabinieri apprehended two waitresses who confessed to the crime and returned the goods, and they implicated a man who was caught exchanging the currency. Subsequent investigation, and a search by authorities, uncovered several cameras that may have been stolen as well as “100 doses” of “island marijuana”.

Source: *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* (May 14, 2008)

AS PART OF THE NEW TRAIL SYSTEM at Rano Raraku, one of the pathways that previously accommodated eventual access to the summit reveals a new sign prohibiting the use of the path. However, access to the interior of Rano Raraku (and the sum-

mit) is still possible by other means that are not prohibited, but authorities are trying to discourage people nevertheless from climbing to the summit after a recent accident involving a tourist.



Source: *Laura Boyd*. With thanks to Nikko Haoa and Conny Martin. Photos by Laura Boyd.

JUST WHAT THE ISLAND NEEDS ... NOT! A Weblog from *AMNewYork* reports that Philippe Petit (the man who on August 7, 1974, strung a tight-rope between the World Trade Center towers and walked back and forth across the wire eight times in 45 minutes) has said that his next performance “will be a high-wire walk on Easter Island”. Perhaps we can convince him to string the tightrope between ‘Orongo and Motu Kao Kao. With a little luck he might make a tasty lunch for a shark or two....

Source: *AMNY.com* (May 6, 2008)



HERE’S SOME INTERESTING NEWS ABOUT EASTER ISLAND that doesn’t involve vandalism or destruction of sensitive archaeological sites: A German archaeological expedition directed by Burkhard Vogt has excavated a new site discovered by Sonia Haoa during her survey of Maunga Terevaka. The previously unknown site includes an *ahu* (Nua Nua Mea) at Ava Ranga Uka (south of Rano Aroi towards Akahanga, between Vaitea and Maunga Pui (the latter being the hill where the “haka pei”, or banana trunk sliding competition, is held during Tapati). According to a report from José Miguel Ramírez, who visited the site, there is a crude platform and a *moai* about 2 meters (6.5 feet) in length but with no eye sockets. Most interesting of all is the *puna* — a large, rectangular pool (sort of like a *taheta* on steroids). The *puna* is about 3 by 5 meters (9.8 by 16 feet) in area and built with beautifully dressed vertical *paenga* stones. José Miguel says the stones were leveled on top,



but the lower parts follow the natural bedrock or were leveled with some rocks, forming a pavement. This clearly follows in the footsteps of Sonia's research on agricultural resource utilization on Easter Island, especially with regard to water retention.

Source: *The Editors*. With thanks to José Miguel Ramírez. Photo by José Miguel Ramírez.

HERE'S THE SCOOP ON AN *EL MERCURIO* ARTICLE about a *moai* being temporarily loaned to the Louvre: Over the course of a month in 2009 a *moai* will be transported (via a Russian Antonov aircraft, chosen especially for this type of load) to Paris where it will be placed for some undisclosed number of months "in front of the Museum". The idea, apparently five years in the making and under the initiative of Petero Edmunds (who had to convince many a Rapanui that this was both advantageous for the island and not disadvantageous for the *moai*, especially in light of the damage done by a Finnish tourist recently to the *moai* at Ahu Nau Nau), is to have the *moai* act as a kind of "ambassador" in Europe to garner attention and, presumably, funds to support the cultural patrimony of Easter Island. With the approval on Wednesday the 25th of the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales, the *moai* loan will be partly funded by the Louis Vuitton Foundation, geologists from the Italian Mare Nostrum Foundation, the Ralph Lauren Foundation, and Dolce & Gabbana.

Source: José Miguel Ramírez (June 16, 2008)

GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR EASTER ISLAND

An article by Eva Medalla appearing on the *Business News Americas* Web site and quoting the Chilean public works ministry (MOP) relates that a water network and infrastructure development plan is to be implemented on Easter Island and to function until the year 2020. The project is being discussed with the Region V* government and MOP's port, airport, road and planning authorities, which will provide technical and administrative assistance during the plan's development. A

study will be conducted to determine underground hydrological resources available, rainwater drainage conditions, and the development of potable water and sanitation systems in the island's rural areas. Authorities have yet to determine the initiative's cost, which is likely to be financed through public funding. Included in the plan are initiatives to possibly expand the island's airport terminal, the construction of new roads, and the paving and maintenance of the existing roads. The final plan is expected to be approved by mid-September.

Source: www.bnamericas.com (June 26, 2008)

* Note: As a result of a constitutional reform effective in 2007 Easter Island is no longer a part of Region V; it, and the Juan Fernández archipelago, are now referred to as "Special Territories" and answer not to Region V but directly to administrative bodies in the Interior Ministry.

DURING HIS JULY VISIT TO THE ISLAND Charlie Love reports an astonishing building boom, including, apparently, plans for two more 5-star hotels (in addition to the Explora group). With the price of oil being what it is, and subsequent airfares skyrocketing (no pun intended), one is hard-pressed to avoid concern that island tourism will lose the budget (and perhaps even the moderate) traveler given a shift in emphasis towards accommodations catering to the extremely wealthy. Prices on the island, Charlie reports, have doubled since last year.

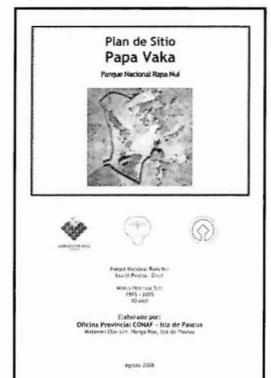
CHILE'S DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE AERONÁUTICA CIVIL (the Directorate of Civil Aeronautics) has installed Webcams on Easter Island with image captures every 10 minutes. Point your Web browser to these URLs to see westerly, northwesterly, and easterly views (respectively). You can click on the "Empezar" button to run an animation cycle of the previously captured images or "Avanzar" to move forward and "Atrás" to move backward individually, etc. The page updates automatically or you can refresh your browser manually (e.g., pressing F5 in Internet Explorer). Our thanks to Paul Horley for bringing the Webcams to our attention.

<http://www.aipchile.cl/camara/detail.php?cameraID=32>

<http://www.aipchile.cl/camara/detail.php?cameraID=33>

<http://www.aipchile.cl/camara/detail.php?cameraID=34>

IN A COLLABORATION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE EIF (e.g., Georgia Lee and Don & Elaine Dvorak) and Enrique Tucki of CONAF, a new, comprehensive, 60-page, Spanish-language site plan for Papa Vaka is in the making, featuring photos, drawings, and information on history, archaeology, art, conservation, and public access. A final version may available as soon as the end of the year.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE PACIFIC

HAWAIIAN STATE SENATORS killed a measure that would have de-regulated the tattoo industry in Hawai'i and would have repealed licensing procedures and safety requirements, allowing competition for unlicensed tattoo artists. Another measure pending in the legislature would exempt native Hawaiian tattooing experts from tattoo licensing laws. The state tattoo industry also opposes that measure because they want it to include requirements to ensure the tools are sanitary.

Source: *RGJ.com* (April 8, 2008).

KARI KARI BALLET CULTURAL performed in Seoul in celebration of Chilean Week in Korea. Hosted by ProChile, the Chilean trade commission, the performance in April was well received and was also introduced by Sergio Rapu!

Source: *JoongAng Daily* (April 16, 2008).

CONDE NAST TRAVELER unveiled its annual "hot list" — the magazine's guide to the hottest new hotels, restaurants, spas, and clubs around the world — and among three new additions to the list (together with Romania and Rwanda) is our favorite navel of the world!

Source: *Hospitality.net* (April 22, 2008).

AUCKLAND MUSEUM'S TRAVELING EXHIBITION, "Vaka Moana - Voyages of the Ancestors", is currently at Taiwan's National Museum of Prehistory and the National Museum of Natural Science. The exhibition is displaying 200 objects from New Zealand museum collections, including Polynesian carvings, multi-media displays, and a variety of interactive kiosks drawing on a broad range of scientific specialties.

Source: *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* (April 25, 2008).

ACCORDING TO A STUDY published in the April *Lancet Oncology*, people who are natives of Hawai'i or New Zealand have higher mortality rates for many types of cancer than do European people who live there. This situation could be improved by educational programs related to screening, diet, and smoking and also reflects the fact that lower income and socio-economic status is linked to higher cancer mortality — conditions observed among Maori and Pacific peoples generally.

Source: *Medical News Today* (April 28, 2008).

RECENTLY STUDIED POTTERY SHERDS place the first Polynesian settlement in Tonga, rather than Samoa, which was once thought to be the birthplace of the culture. The finds at the site or Nukuleka suggest the Lapita people first arrived almost 3,000 years ago from Fiji. The culture developed and had spread to Samoa before colonizing French Polynesia and other eastern island chains 1,500 years later.

Source: *Archaeology* (May/June 2008)

NATIVE HAWAIIANS temporarily chained shut the gates of the historic Iolani Palace in May to protest what they call the

United States' occupation of the islands. Prohibited from entering the locked palace itself, and doing no damage to the building or grounds, the protestors, who asserted that the building was the seat of government, surrendered the palace after six hours. The protest was only partly relevant, according to the executive director of the Iolani Palace (now a museum and tourist attraction), who observed that the building was originally used as the royal residence of the monarchy, not as a seat of government.

Source: *Yahoo! News* (May 1, 2008).

EL NIÑO MAY HAVE HELPED MAGELLAN cross the Pacific, according anthropologists Scott M. Fitzpatrick of North Carolina State University and Richard Callaghan of the University of Calgary, Canada, and summarized in the journal *Science*. Dendrochronology data indicate that the El Niño phenomena was occurring between 1519 and 1520 and may have resulted in fair weather when Magellan crossed from South America to what is now part of Indonesia. Because many of Magellan's crew had died or were sick with scurvy, he may have chosen to sail with the prevailing winds and currents, thereby reducing the number of crew needed to operate his ships. And while this research doesn't address other trans-Pacific migrations apropos of colonization of Easter Island, it does provide further evidence for the utility of the El Niño / Southern Oscillation phenomenon when it comes to Pacific voyaging.

Source: *Yahoo! News* (May 16, 2008)

A VOLCANO ON THE LARGEST OF THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS began erupting at the end of May, with rangers and tour guides reporting lava flowing down the northeastern flank of the Cerro Azul volcano on the island of Isabela. Four lava flows were said to "have consumed a lot of vegetation" but did not threaten the famed Galápagos tortoises. Nor did the eruption endanger people on the island.

Source: *Yahoo! News* (May 31, 2008)

THE JUNE 2008 *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC* features an interesting geographic depiction of world territories still under colonial rule, despite the passage of half a century since the United Nations declared that this should end. In 2002 East Timor won full independence from Indonesia but the UN lists 16 territories, and 1.2 million persons, still under foreign rule. Neither the U.S. nor the U.K. will cooperate with the UN in this regard, however, though France will allow New Caledonia to vote in the next decade on its future. Tokelau, despite urging from New Zealand to choose equal partnership, failed to achieve its 2007 referendum in this regard.

Source: *National Geographic*.

A STUDY PUBLISHED IN JUNE in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and based on radiocarbon dating of rat bones and rat-gnawed seeds reinforces a theory that human settlers did not arrive in New Zealand until 1300 BCE, about a thousand years later than some scientists believe. Janet Wilmshurst led an international team of researchers in

the four-year study, which contradicts research by Richard Holdaway and others that was published in *Nature* in 1996. Although Travor Worthy, a member of the Wilmshurst team, was adamant the new carbon dating results proved the *Nature* claim wrong, Holdaway stands by his findings.

Source: Ray Lilley, AP; *Yahoo! News* (June 4, 2008)

SELF-PROCLAIMED MONARCH OF HAWAII HOLDS COURT DAILY

Honolulu - Surrounded by royal guards and the occasional tourist, Her Majesty Mahealani Kahau and her government ministers hold court every day under a tent outside the palace of Hawaii's last monarch, passing laws and discussing how to secure reparations for the Native Hawaiian people. Kahau and her followers are members of the self-proclaimed Hawaiian Kingdom Government, which is devoted to restoring the Hawaiian monarchy overthrown in 1893.

Source: *Arizona Republic* (June 20, 2008)

A MAORI WIN

An indigenous group received the largest settlement in New Zealand's history on June 25, when the government signed over land and cash worth some \$300 million to seven Maori tribes on the North Island. The tribes' more than 100,000 members will share rental income from 435,000 acres of forest used by lumber companies, compensation rooted in an 1840 land treaty with British colonists.

Source: *Time* magazine (July 7, 2008)

HAWAII LOOKS TO SEND AWAY TRASH

With 900,000 residents and nearly five times as many tourists each year, Oahu is running out of landfill space, so, in an ambitious municipal disposal plan, the Honolulu City council (which governs all of Oahu), wants to hire a company to haul some of its trash away. One bidder is proposing to take the trash 2,600 miles across the Pacific to the West Coast of the U.S., sail it up the Columbia River, and deliver it to the biggest landfill in Washington state. Honolulu officials say that if the barge were to sink, it would pose little danger to the environment because the garbage would be compacted, baled, and wrapped in four air-tight layers of plastic.

Source: *Arizona Republic* (July 15, 2008)

A NEW STUDY from the University of Adelaide's Australian Centre for Ancient DNA (ACAD) of ancient and modern chickens has shed more light on the discussion and controversy surrounding the extent to which pre-historic Polynesians had contact with the Americas. The study, published in July in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, questions recent claims that chickens were first introduced into South America by Polynesians, before the arrival of Spanish chickens in the 15th century following Christopher Columbus. In addressing the debate, ACAD Director Alan Cooper notes that "Polynesians are known to have spread chickens across the Pacific at least as far as Easter Island, but were not thought to have introduced them to South America". A recent study

claimed to have found the first direct evidence of a genetic link between ancient Polynesian and apparently pre-Columbian chickens from archaeological sites in Chile, supporting the idea that there was extensive contact between Polynesia and South America.

The current work challenges this conclusion by analyzing DNA data from 41 native Chilean chicken specimens and comparing these with over a thousand modern domestic chickens from around the world as well as the previously published DNA from Polynesian and Chilean chicken bones. "The results", says Cooper, "showed that the ancient Polynesian and Chilean chickens possessed a genetic sequence that is the most common in the world today, the so-called 'KFC' gene". [Does Colonel Sanders know about this? — Ed.] "This sequence", Cooper goes on to say, "would undoubtedly have been common in the early Spanish chickens, and therefore provides no evidence of Polynesian contact. So while we can say the KFC chicken was popular amongst early Polynesian voyagers, we certainly can't use it as evidence for trade with South America".

The researchers did find a highly unusual DNA sequence in the ancient Easter Island chickens, which originate from Indonesia or the Philippines, but this apparently did not get passed on to South America. "This is important because Easter Island is commonly thought of as a major jumping off point for Polynesian contact with South America," says team member and ACAD PhD student Nicolas Rawlence. According to Jaime Gongora, project leader, many people in South America like to believe they are descendants of Polynesians. "This study does not disprove this idea", he said, "but we have found no evidence to support pre-historic contact".

Source: *Newswise* (www.newswise.com) - July 29 from a press release by the University of Adelaide.

NEW ZEALAND AND CHILE have entered into an education arrangement, according to a press release from the New Zealand government. As many as 300 tertiary students a year from Chile may study in New Zealand under the new agreement, which is part of Chile's US\$6 billion Bicentennial Fund for Human Capital Development. New Zealand is among the first five countries to be included in the arrangement, together with Australia, Canada, Great Britain, and the U.S. The purpose of the arrangement is to provide the framework to strengthen human capital development and improve the scope and quality for education through access for scholarship students to vocational and technical training, graduate, doctoral and post doctoral education, language courses and teacher education studies. Says Minister for Education Chris Carter, "Chile is the strongest education relationship New Zealand has in Latin America. The links between our two countries go back to the 19th Century and include trade and a shared Polynesian heritage with Maori and the people of Rapa Nui (Easter Island). The agreement ... demonstrates the strength of our education and research ties and sets the platform to take our relationship into the 21st Century".

Source: *Scoop Independent News* (August 1, 2008)

ANOTHER PALACE TAKEOVER

On August 17 a group of Native Hawaiians claiming to be the state's legitimate rulers occupied the grounds of an historic palace for two hours before being arrested by state officers in the second recent takeover attempt of its kind.

A staff member of the Iolani Palace was allegedly assaulted during the takeover and when she called for help from a Honolulu police officer she was told palace grounds were not under city police jurisdiction. Hawai'i's governor, Linda Lingle, said there would be an investigation into the police response. She also said the people who invaded the palace "have to be shown it's not going to be acceptable".

A group of men wearing red shirts stenciled with "security" in yellow on the back took over the grounds of the palace by chaining the gates and posting signs that read "Property of the Kingdom of Hawaiian Trust".

The executive director of the Friends of Iolani Palace and other staff members were locked down in the palace and an administration building during the takeover.

State law officers climbed over the fence a few hours after the takeover began and made 20 arrests. The palace, normally open to tours, remained closed the rest of the weekend to assess any damage and to ensure its security.

Laura Theilen, director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which oversees the palace, condemned the takeover. "We intend to charge them to the fullest extent of the law", she said.

The pro-sovereignty group identified its leader as King Akahi Nui, who was among those arrested. An "occupation public information bulletin" distributed by a member of the group said in part, "Majesty Akahi Nui, the King of Hawaii, has now reoccupied the throne of Hawaii. The Kingdom of Hawaii is now re-enacted". Akahi Nui claims to have been crowned in 1998.

Several Native Hawaiian organizations have rival claims to sovereignty over the islands. Another group calling itself the Hawaiian Kingdom Government occupied the palace grounds on April 30 and has been getting permits to set up on the grounds each week since then. That group claims to be operating a functioning government from the palace grounds.

The ornate palace is operated as a museum of Hawaiian royalty. King Kalakaua built it, and it also served as the residence for his sister and successor, Queen Liliuokalani, the islands' last ruling monarch. She was imprisoned in the palace after the 1893 U.S.-supported overthrow of the monarchy. After falling into disrepair, the palace was restored in the 1970s as a National Historic Landmark.

Source: *Arizona Republic* (August 17, 2008).

THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, a UNESCO World heritage site, were under a botanical alert on August 19 after a destructive Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) was detected on the archipelago, the Agricultural Health Service reported. Medflies (*Ceratitis capitata* Wiedemann), one of the most invasive insects that can wreak havoc to a wide range of fruit crops, were found on San Cristobal and Santa Cruz islands and pose

a "high risk to the preservation of native plants ... and several crops in the farming sectors of the islands". Measures to contain the infestation include restricting the transportation of plants from the mainland and between the islands and stricter controls at airports and port facilities.

Source: *Yahoo! News* (August 19, 2008)

THREE MONTHS AFTER DEPARTING LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, a raft literally made of junk landed August 28th at Ala Wai Harbor in Honolulu. Two men — Marcus Eriksen and Joel Paschal — crossed 2,600 miles of open Pacific on a 30-foot vessel made of salvaged sailboat masts, pontoons filled with 15,000 plastic bottles, and cabin made from the fuselage of a Cessna airplane. Tanned, dirty, and hungry but greeted by a crowd of about two dozen who provided leis, fresh food, and beer, the two men said they "got used to eating fish and peanut butter". They also had no shortage of problems, from difficulty leaving the Long Beach area (because the raft could only sail down wind), damage due to a storm, and running low on supplies because, while at sea, they realized they were traveling only half a mile per hour and it would take them much longer to reach Hawai'i than the previously anticipated six weeks. But they were able to contact a solo rowboater who happened to be in the same area (who was low on water) and they were able to meet and exchange resources. The goal of the trip was to creatively raise awareness about plastic debris and pollution in the ocean. Single-use plastics, the adventurers said, should be banned because they are wasteful and usually end up in the ocean. The team, which posted online videos and reports of their trip (www.junkraft.com), hopes to visit schools around Oahu to share their experience, is working on a documentary film about the voyage to raise public awareness of the danger of plastics.

Source: *Yahoo! News* (August 28, 2008)

OF THE 29,004 FOREIGN-EXCHANGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS in the world studying for a semester or two between 2007 and 2008, 189 of those in the U.S. were from Oceania (134 from Australia) whereas 76 American students visited Oceania (41 in Australia).

Source: *National Geographic* (September 2008)

WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY ONE CITY ONE STORY EVENT

Earlier this year, the Easter Island Foundation was contacted by the Pasadena Public Library and invited to partner with them for their One City One Story Program. This is an event held every April and is designed to broaden and deepen reading and literature within the Pasadena community. The book chosen for 2008 was Jennifer Vanderbes's novel, *Easter Island*. Book groups read and discussed the selection and there were a variety of events to compliment the program. The EIF loaned various movies to the library for their Easter Island film and documentary series (including two animated children's



films) and helped with programming by connecting the library staff with EIF members who gave presentations as part of the Easter Island lecture series. EIF member Joan Seaver Kurze gave a lecture entitled “Maria, Madre de Rapa Nui, Saints Carved by Islanders”. Joan also provided several items from her collection of wood carvings for display at the main Pasadena Library. Photographs and several rare books about Easter Island and current

EIF publications contributed to the display. EIF member Mark Sherman, of the International String Figure Association, gave a presentation entitled “Kai-Kai, Easter Island String Figures”. Other events included a presentation by Nancy Luterkhaus, from the USC Department of Anthropology, and book discussions at all of the Pasadena branch libraries. There was an “Evening with the Author” in which Jennifer Vanderbes and Kitty Connolly (Botanical Education Manager at the Huntington Gardens) discussed *Easter Island* and members of the audience were able to ask Ms. Vanderbes questions. Afterwards there was a book signing. The program was a great success and the EIF was pleased to be able to partner with the library and help deepen public knowledge about Easter Island. It was gratifying that some of our members were able to participate in and attend the programs. If you have not yet read the novel *Easter Island*, we highly recommend it. It is a wonderful book that chronicles the lives of two women conducting research on the island at different periods in time. It was a real delight to meet Ms. Vanderbes in person and hear her speak about how her ideas for the book came to fruition.

L.A. COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART GETS OCEANIC COLLECTION

According to a *Yahoo! News* report via the Associated Press, last week the Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced the acquisition of a vast collection of sculptures and artefacts from Polynesia, Melanesia, and other Oceania cultures. The 46-piece collection includes an 18th century Hawaiian drum collected by Captain James Cook in 1778 as well as a dance paddle (*rapa*) and a *moai kavakava* from Easter Island (c. 1800). The collection was acquired from Masco Corp., a cabinetry company based in Taylor, Michigan. LACMA plans to begin exhibiting the collection in early 2009.

NEWEST DWARF PLANET NAMED “MAKEMAKE”

According to a *Universe Today* news report, the newest dwarf planet (actually discovered three years ago and until recently known only as “2005 FY9”, and also as “136472”)

has been officially named “Makemake”, after the supreme Easter Island deity. The dwarf planet (or “plutoid”, as it is referred to by some) is estimated to be 1500 km (932 mi.) across, which is about half the size of our Moon and two-thirds the diameter of Pluto. The article, including a photograph of the dwarf planet (which is also posted to the Easter Island Yahqo! Group photos section) can be viewed if you point your Web browser to: <http://www.universetoday.com/2008/07/14/newest-dwarf-planet-and-plutoid-makemake/>

Note: We would have featured a photo of the dwarf planet but it looks like a slightly dull ball-bearing with even fewer interesting surface details. Maybe next time the Hubble Space Telescope is pointed in that direction...?

NATIVE TREES IN DANGER

Judging from a news report brought to us by Bill Liller, it appears that indiscriminate pruning of a dozen Toromiro trees on the grounds of a condominium in Concon in Chile has jeopardized their survival. The July 15 article from *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* states that the seeds from which these trees were grown came from botanical efforts in England but, because they were planted in a private area, there is apparently little that local environmental authorities can do about it.

FROM ONE ISLAND TO ANOTHER...

Not exactly a *moai* sighting, but there's an eco-outfitters clothing company on the Isle of Wight known as “Rapanui”. Founded by two surfer dudes, Rapanui creates what the owners call a 100% sustainable brand of clothing — made of ethical and eco-friendly fabrics. Altogether they sell t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and even “ethical underwear”. They use renewable energy to power their manufacturing system (32 wind turbines and a solar array). According to their Web site, “triple-certified fair-trade organic cotton is transported to the factory by camel and then the finished garment is stocked in a paper-free, carbon-neutral office”. After shipping to customers, they donate 5% of their profits to environmental charities. “Rapanui wants to inspire all to consider sustainable alternatives. The unique power of fashion can be used to create positive change, so Rapanui offers just that; the opportunity to extend green values into the clothes we wear and the products we buy”.

Source: *Isle of Wight County Press* - (http://www.iwcp.co.uk/News/Nikkis_winning_ways_with_design_1.aspx)

A FRENCH EXHIBITION: Le Mystère Lapérouse

March 19 - October 20, 2008

Musée National de la Marine, Palais de Chaillot, Paris
www.musee-marine.fr

“An incredible investigation through the centuries, to revive maritime forwarding ‘Lapérouse’ (1785-1788) ordered by Louis XVI, the preparations, its unfolding and its stopovers, then his tragic disappearance in the middle of the southern Pacific a long time remained mysterious and finally the successive excavations with their batches of discoveries. As many enthralling subjects for more many people”.

A BELGIAN EXHIBITION: Île de Pâques 1934-1935

10/30/08 - 11/30/08

Musée du Cinquantenaire, Parc du Cinquantenaire 10,
1000 Bruxelles (Les Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire)

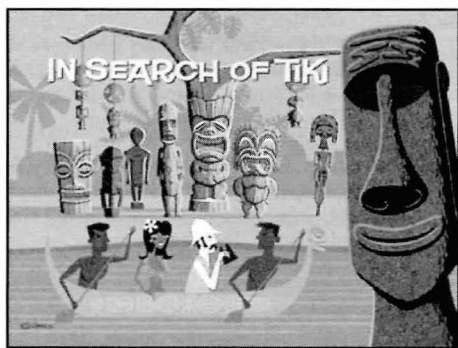
www.kmkg-mrah.be/newfr/index.asp?id=1941

"Following in the footsteps of the exhibition at the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt, ... approximately 120 objects have been brought from some 50 museums and special collections.... Magnificent wooden and impressive stone sculptures..."

THE FOREST LAWN MUSEUM in Glendale, California, is hosting an exhibition, "In Search of Tiki", featuring a fascinating contrast between the traditional Oceanic art made by the native peoples of the Pacific Islands and the entire gamut of second-generation Pan-Polynesian artefacts that embellished restaurants and bars after World War II. The exhibit will also include inventive interpretations by a new group of artists who are stretching the genre, thus embodying the Forest Lawn Museum's goal to enrich, inspire, and educate the community.

Serving as guest curators for the exhibition are authors Douglas Nason and Jeff Fox. "In Search of Tiki" will run through January 4, 2009. Hours: 10:00 am - 5:00

pm. For more information, call 1-800-204-3131 or check out Forest Lawn's Web site (<http://forestlawn.com/>).



HUDSON ENTERTAINMENT ANNOUNCES ITS LINEUP

Hudson Entertainment, the North American publishing arm for Hudson Soft (www.hudsonsoft.net), announced their lineup for the Penny Arcade Expo 2008 scheduled in Seattle for the last week in August and it includes Fishing Master World Tour for Wii where players can catch fish in their native waters around the world in the first ever global fishing game on Wii. The game offers more than forty different locations, including the Amazon River, under the Golden Gate Bridge, and Easter Island. Anglers use the Wii Remote and Nunchuk to catch fish just like in real life. Pull the Wii Remote left and right as the fish fights from the end of the line and adjust the drag to avoid breaking the line. Once players have their skills down, they can compete with friends with four-person multiplayer modes, catch rare fish with exclusive boss battle controls or jump online in Wi-Fi leaderboards tracking the best players in the U.S.

Source: Hudson Soft Official Press Release (August 27).

NEW PACIFIC PUBLICATIONS

The following list was compiled from *Pacific News from Mānoa*, an electronic newsletter from the University of Hawai'i's Center for Pacific Island Studies. If you are interested in receiving the e-mail newsletter, please send a request to Letitia Hickson, Outreach Coordinator <cpis@hawaii.edu>

Books

- American Aloha: Cultural Tourism and the Negotiation of Tradition*, by Heather A Diamond, focuses on the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The 1989 festival, in Washington, DC, celebrated Hawai'i's multicultural heritage through its traditional arts. The program was re-staged a year later in Honolulu. Diamond used archival research and extensive interviews with festival organizers and participants to uncover the behind-the-scenes story of the festival. 2008; 280 pages; ISBN 978-0-8248-3171-4; cloth.
- Art d'Océanie / Art of Oceania*, by Alain Brianchon, in French with English translations by Roy Benyon, contains more than 150 unpublished photos of objects from Melanesia and Western Polynesia held in private collections. Published by Footprint Pacifique. 2007; 189 pages; ISBN 2-908186-26-4.
- Bridging Our Sea of Islands: French Polynesian Literature within an Oceanic Context*, by Kareva Mateata-Allain, situates Ma'ohi literature within Oceanic frameworks and includes excerpts of her translations of Ma'ohi works. Published by VDM Verlag Dr Mueller e K, in Germany. 2008; 228 pages; ISBN 978-3-836-48699-6; paper.
- Capturing Wealth from Tuna: Case Studies from the Pacific*, by Kate Barclay with Ian Cartwright, looks at fisheries management in an extensive study of six Pacific Island states. Asia Pacific Press. 2007; 268 pages; ISBN 978-0-731-53816-4, paper.
- Changes in the Matai System / O Suiga i le Faamatai*, edited by Asofou So'o, is a collection of articles by leading indigenous Samoan scholars. It is published by the Centre for Samoan Studies at the National University of Samoa (NUS). 2007; 270 pages; ISBN 978-9-829-00329-4; paper.
- Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All: A New Zealand Story*, by Christina Thompson, editor of *Harvard Review*, is the story of the cultural collision between Westerners and the Maori of Aotearoa / New Zealand. It is told partly as a history of the complex and bloody period of contact in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and partly as a love story (Thompson's marriage to a Maori man). Published by Bloomsbury, USA. 2008; 256 pages; ISBN 978-1-596-91126-0; cloth.
- Island of Shattered Dreams*, by Chantal T Spitz, newly translated by Jean Anderson, is the first novel published by an indigenous Tahitian writer. The book combines a family saga and a doomed love story, set against the background of French Polynesia in the period leading up to the first nuclear tests. It was first published, in Tahitian, in 1991. 2007; 172 pages; ISBN 978-1-869-69299-5; paper.
- Making Sense of AIDS: Culture, Sexuality, and Power in Melanesia*, edited by Leslie Butt and Richard Eves, is a collection of accounts of how people make sense of the AIDS epidemic in Melanesia. The first book on HIV and AIDS in the Pacific, it addresses substantive issues concerning AIDS and contemporary sexuality, relations of power, and moralities. Butt is on the faculty of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada, and Eves is at the Australian National University. 2008; 344 pages; ISBN 978-0-824-83249-0; paper / ISBN 978-0-824-83193-6; cloth.
- Maraea and the Albatrosses*, a children's book by well-known author Patricia Grace, is about Maraea, an elderly Maori woman who lives by the sea. The story explores her special relationship with the local albatrosses, as she begins her last journey in life. Published by Penguin. 2008; pages; ISBN 978-0-143-50266-1; cloth.
- Murder Casts a Shadow* is the first mystery novel by playwright and writer Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl. The mystery, set in the 1930s, begins with the theft of King Kalakaua's portrait from the Bishop Museum. A series of brutal murders follows, and an unlikely pair (newspaper reporter