Heritage and the Community in Rapa Nui.

The six and half page article presents an excellent analysis of the current situation on the island. Ramirez has the gift of depicting a complex situation in a few bold strokes. The following paragraph has been translated, freely, to illustrate the point: "The revitalization of the Rapa Nui culture and society over the past years constitutes an example of adaptation and survival of a community that was on the brink of extinction towards the end of the last century. Its cultural heritage had suffered progressive deterioration. But external stimuli, such as the restoration of the monuments and the increased interest of the outside world as generated by tourism, awakened the sleeping pride of islanders, prompting new cultural expressions. These began with a newly created "market" as the island opened up to the rest of the world at the end of the sixties."

Several important points are mentioned in the article. To begin with, the fact that the present Rapa Nui community has widely divergent knowledge of its own oral traditions which, in some instances, can be contradictory—even for those acting as tour guides. But the younger generation is keen on learning, and is thus "recovering" whatever traditional aspects of the culture were documented by foreign anthropologists. Tourism also has served to improve craftsmanship as well as dancing, albeit to Tahitian rhythms. The revival can be said to have culminated with the creation of the Tapati Rapa Nui festival. Over the past fifteen years this festival, managed by the Municipality, has helped to improve the quality of traditional dancing and such things as body painting and the "kaikai" string figures. But the negative effect that the 1966 Ley Pascua had on the Rapanui language is also mentioned, since it resulted in a preferential use of Spanish by islanders in order to take advantage of the educational system in mainland Chile.

One of the most important points made in the article, and which is usually not perceived in its entire complexity, is the issue of the land use by the Rapanui, and the conservation of the archaeological and natural heritage of the island. A very brief history of the National Park and its several modifications over the past sixty years is presented, ending with its inclusion in the Cultural Heritage List by UNESCO in 1995. The Park covers 43% of the island, while 33% (5,557 hectares) is held by the Fundo Vaitetia, administered by Sasipa (Sociedad Agrícola y de Servicios de Isla de Pascua). Only 10% of the island (some 1,688 hectares) corresponds to privately-owned rural sectors. The Government planned to give out an additional 1,500 more hectares to the islanders, and the transfer of Sasipa to the local community through the Municipality was approved by the Chilean Senate in 1994. These transfers, however, have yet to take place.

As a consequence of this unresolved issue, hundreds of head of cattle owned by the islanders graze within the Park's lands, progressively deteriorating both monuments and the land itself. And the high demand of sand and gravel for construction, both for private and entrepreneurial construction, poses yet another threat to the archaeological heritage. Meanwhile, public works such as the paving of the south coast road to Anakena constitute a risk that has yet to be evaluated.

Ramirez emphasizes the need for an overall plan, the Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial, that should bring together the policies outlined in the laws on National Monuments (Ley de Monumentos Nacionales), Environmental Framework (Ley Marco del Medio Ambiente), Native Populations (Ley Indígena), as well as the Management Plan for the Park, the UNESCO Conventions and the 1994 Barbados Declaration on sustainable development in small islands. Such a Plan, giving clear and concise regulations with regard to the use of the land and the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of the island, would facilitate any productive activities of the islanders within a framework of sustainable development.

He concludes his argument pointing out that, while tourism is at the core of the development of the island, it requires regulation as a function of the conservation needs of the archaeological heritage. And so do the public and private works that, although perceived as progress, may really affect the quality of both the environment and the cultural heritage. For this purpose, he stresses, general policies have to be developed that should be based on a wide agreement between authorities and organisms as well as with the participation of an informed and cognizant community.

Reviews of Veronica Du Feu, 1996, RAPANUI, Descriptive Grammars, London and New York: Routledge, have appeared in Rapa Nui Journal 10.2 (by Steven Roger Fischer) and in Oceanic Linguistics 36.1 (by Ulrike Mosel). For yet another review requested of Bob and Nancy Weber on Easter Island, see the Spring 1999 issue of Anthropological Linguistics

Easter Island Foundation News

PROGRESS CONTINUES TOWARD the opening of the William Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui during the next year. We have established a liaison with Dr. Mario Castro, Sub-director of museums for the Dirección de Bibliotecas Archivos y Museos (DIBAM), in Chile, who is helping to facilitate our plans. While the opening date announced last year has been moved back to the year 2000 due to logistic problems, plans are moving forward for the completion of necessary building repairs, installation of shelving, shipment of books, and the purchase of other necessary materials. Original books, photos and manuscripts from the Mulloy collection will be sent to the library on the island.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the next EIF-sponsored conference, Pacific 2000, which will be held on the Big Island of Hawai'i, August 7–12, 2000. Dr. Peter Bellwood will be the keynote speaker, joining an outstanding group of scholars who will chair the various sessions (see listing on page 34). A brochure regarding the conference is now in preparation.

THE EIF BOARD VOTED IN MAY to support the upcoming voyage of the Polynesian sailing canoe, Hōkūle'a, which is expected to arrive on Easter Island in November. A check for $2000 was presented to Nainoa Thompson and Pinkie Thompson by Brigid Mulloy and Fr. Francisco Nahoe, representing the Easter Island Foundation. EIF contributors can watch media coverage of the canoe’s progress during the coming months and know they have contributed to the success of this historic
journey. Two other grants were approved: one to help conserve and repair the moai that stands in front of the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar. The project of conservation and repair will be undertaken by Mónica Bahamondéz of the Centro Nacional de Conservación y Restauración, Santiago. The other is a grant to photographer Owen Jones for documentation of the Rapanui people, a project sponsored by Sonia Haoa, Fundación Rapa Nui, Easter Island and Dr Christopher Stevenson.

The Foundation appreciates your continued support of these and other worthwhile projects of the Foundation.

Index to Rapa Nui Journal 1997-1998

Karen Hovde

As readers of Rapa Nui Journal know well, the journal has served since 1988 as a dedicated forum for scholarly articles pertaining to Easter Island and East Polynesia. Rapa Nui Journal is not currently represented in standard indexing sources, although many of the subjects presented in its pages have wider disciplinary appeal and theoretical impact than the primary focus on Oceanic studies might suggest. The journal’s contents are of potential interest to researchers in areas such as genetics, palaeogeology, sociocultural change, archaeology, and folklore.

To partially remedy the indexing exposure, I prepared abstracts and indices for the issues from 1988-1996, a project that appeared in Behavioral and Social Sciences Librarian, vol. 16 (2) 1988:27-53. ("Index to Rapa Nui Journal 1988-1996," Karen Hovde). Each scholarly article was abstracted, and assigned a number, in order of occurrence, which became the reference number for author and subject indices at the end. Currently in press, Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian vol.18 (1) will include a continuation of the index, picking up the years 1997 and 1998 (Index to Rapa Nui Journal 1997-1998). B&SSL is indexed in a variety of sources for the social and information sciences, and it is my hope that these avenues will provide a new access point for Rapa Nui Journal.

Karen Hovde is Reference Librarian at Northern Illinois University. She holds an MA in Anthropology in addition to her MLS.

Publications

Bulletin of the International String Figure Association, PO Box 5134, Pasadena, CA 91117.
Rongorongo Studies. The Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literature. PO Box 6965, Wellesley Street, Auckland NZ.
Tok Bong Pasifik. South Pacific Peoples Foundation. 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria BC, V8T 2Y6, Canada.
Papers include: Remote Delivery of Archaeological Discovery Results to a Classroom context, by Matthew Spriggs: Ancient Mitochondrial DNA, is it Reproducibly Detectable? A Comment to Current Methodology, by Hans Preus; Material Culture and Communication. An Example of Archaeological Research on Ceremonial Sites in Polynesia, by Helene Martinsson-Wallin; Oral Traditions and Archaeology: Modeling Village Settlement in Palau, by Stephen Wicker; Language and Communication in Tokelau, by Ingjerd Hoêm.

Conferences

CHICAGO: FIELD MUSEUM
A Festschrift to honor Dr Philip J.C. Dark is being organized by the Pacific Arts Association. The dates are 20-24 Octo-