Valparaíso and one of its activities is to construct and operate a subsidized high school ("colegio") on the island. The newspapers stated that Rapanui residents enthusiastically endorsed the plan. Duarte declared that the school would be open to all on the island and he hoped also for some government support. Construction is expected to begin in September with an opening date of March 2004.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 7 July 2002

THE NEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL will start with junior high (7, 8 and 9th grades) and will be constructed near the church, on Simon Paoa (the road that runs past the church and toward the hospital). It has been agreed that the school's name should be in Rapanui, as suggested by Fr. Francisco Nahoe, who hopes to call it Hare Hapi Katorika o Rapa Nui.

We were informed that meetings are being held with the island's priest so that parents can give their opinions, what values to teach, etc. It has been announced that children of unmarried parents would be accepted, and they would keep pupils who become pregnant. Catechism will be part of the curriculum. Unclear is the matter of tuition. Many islanders say they cannot afford the anticipated cost.

Not everyone is thrilled by the prospect of a Catholic colegio. The mayor, Petero Edmunds, is against it because he fears the school will create some kind of "elite" and a gap between social classes will result.

However, a private grammar school already has sprung up in the village and many islanders are sending their children there because it is less crowded and they claim the instruction is better. But that school costs around $100 per month, beyond the means of many who live on the island.

A COMPANY CALLED AMBAR recently completed a study on Easter Island dealing with the question of how many people the island can support, how many tourists the island can handle per year, and what to do about the proliferation of animals, and lack of fresh water, etc. The study was financed by the Corporación Forestal (CORFO) and the Corporación Nacional para el Desarrollo Indígena (CONADI). It appears, however, that AMBAR was working with some erroneous numbers and they are now conferring with islanders associated with the Association of Guides who are providing more realistic numbers.

A ROTARY PEACE SCHOLARSHIP has been awarded to Sergio Rapu Haoa, former governor of Rapa Nui. Sponsored by a Rotary District in Chile, Rapu will spend two years, beginning in September, at the Rotary Center for International Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, focusing on a comprehensive plan for the development of Easter Island. The Rotary Scholarship program provides promising leaders with experiences and tools to help prevent conflicts. In his scholarship application, Rapu pointed out that ethnic minority groups around the world are facing similar problems, and all too often these erupt into conflicts. Rapu wrote, "I hope to spend the rest of my career helping to foster the mission of the Rotary Foundation by promoting world peace between indigenous groups and the nations which encompass them." Congratulations to Sergio!

RotaryWorld, July 2002

A NEW HOSPITAL COMMITTEE is being formed for the island. It is called Consejo para el Hospital and its function is "to ensure a real access to the [Chilean] system of health and to establish policies related to the community." The committee will include the local assistant Secretary of Health plus hospital staff and the mayor, the governor, the Consejo de Ancianos, and a representative of CONADI, the Nacional Corporation for Indigenous Development. One can only hope the level of health care on the island will improve.

RUMORS ON THE ISLAND indicate that plans for a five-star hotel with golf course to be built at Vaito (in the center of the island) have been reactivated. A consortium from Canada appears to be behind this ill-advised scheme. Islanders who have hotels and businesses in the village of Hangaroa are outraged by the plans because not only would such a hotel take customers away from the village hotels, but a golf course would suck all the water from the island's aquifer. Several islands have contacted us, asking for help. Those who are willing to write in protest can send email to Sr. Ricardo Lagos, Presidente de Chile (www.presidencia.cl) with copy to Sr. Raúl Allard, Intendente de la V Región (intvalparaiso@interior.gov.cl).

REVIEWS

The South Pacific
University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

Review by Frank Morin


AS STATED IN THE PREFACE, this book outlines main trends in the past and present of societies in the Pacific. It starts out with a chronology, a word about spelling, and notes on the geography of the region. Then the author moves into Part 1, Parameters. This section includes Chapters 1-3 on Place (Environment Deterioration and Enhancement); People (Moving and Mixing); and Health.

Part 2 is titled Patterns, and includes Chapters 4-6 on Language, Society, and Culture. Part 3, Perceptions, includes Chapters 7-10, on Creativity, Belief, Education, and Information. In Part 4, Property, Chapters 12-14, Crocombe discusses Tenures, Production, Trade, and Restructuring.


Part 6, Prospects, is Chapter 24 and it describes Futures: the choices facing the people of the Pacific today.

Finally, Part 7, Further Information, includes three appendices, Facts; Pacific Organizations and Services, and Journals. The book is an updated and rewritten version of Crocombe's earlier books: The New South Pacific (1973), and three editions of The South Pacific: An Introduction (1983, 1987, 1989). For anyone interested in current problems on the islands of the Pacific, what the future holds for them, or what options they may have, this book contains a staggering amount of information.
However, although the format suits the scope of the subject, it requires some digging on the part of one who wishes to learn about a single population. For example, according to the index, references to Easter Island appear on 46 pages scattered throughout the book.

Splendid Isolation. Art of Easter Island

Eric Kjellgren
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
ISBN 0-300-09078-1
Review by Paul G. Bahn

The SMALL EXHIBITION at New York’s Metropolitan Museum (see review by Norman Hurst, RNJ 16:60-62) has given rise to a slim but beautifully produced catalogue, which is certainly worth buying for the photographs of so many fine and rare objects. Its text, on the other hand, leaves much to be desired.

There are three short essays, the first a general introduction by Eric Kjellgren, the second an account of the moai by Jo Anne Van Tilburg, and the third an overview of the island’s art by Adrienne Kaeppler. They are followed by the annotated catalogue of the exhibition’s fifty objects.

It is particularly shameful and baffling that the catalogue of an exhibition on Easter Island art, published by one of the world’s leading art museums, should pointlessly ignore the basic texts on its subject – such as Heyerdahl’s monumental The Art of Easter Island (1976), or the two leading works on the island’s wooden carvings: Joan Seaver Kurze’s Ingrained Images (1997) and Catherine and Michel Orliac’s Bois Sculptés de l’île de Pâques (1995).

Surely, anyone interested enough in the exhibition to buy this catalogue may well wish to delve more deeply into the subject of the island’s art, but the book provides them with little help, by omitting numerous major works from the references. Instead, the bibliography seems to have a different purpose – it comprises 56 entries, no less than 14 of which (25%) have been written by Van Tilburg and Kaeppler. To be fair, it is titled a “Selected Bibliography”, and it is pretty obvious who did the selecting...

Kjellgren has clearly relied on Van Tilburg’s 1994 book, and on little else, for his general background information on Easter Island, and this inevitably has some unfortunate consequences. Readers of the RNJ may recall (1995, 9:32-34) the wide variety of unreliable facts in that book, and some of its innumerable errors have found their way into this one: for example, the totora reed is called Scirpus instead of Scirpus (p. 60); and Kjellgren’s claim (p. 13) that the island is 1000 miles from eastern Polynesia and 1400 miles from Chile is clearly derived from the figures in Van Tilburg’s book (p. 46), where she has the correct numbers (1400 and 2300), but mistakenly says they are kilometres rather than miles. Hence Kjellgren has turned her kilometre figures into miles, and thus compounded the original error!

One is also somewhat startled to find that for “palaeobotanical evidence for the island’s forests” (p. 13), the reader is not referred to the seminal work of John Flenley, but instead to a page of Van Tilburg’s book. And similarly, for the rongorongo phenomenon (p. 77), the reader is not referred to Fischer’s exhaustive tome on the subject (although, by some miracle, it is listed in the bibliography), but once again to a page in Van Tilburg’s book. There is clearly a definite pattern here.

The catalogue has a number of errors and typos – for example, Kjellgren says (p. 13) that the palm forests were made up of Jubea chilensis, whereas the island’s palm was merely a similar species, Paschalococos dispera; he describes the birdman petroglyphs (p. 18) as having tails; Mata Ngarau is misspelled as ngara throughout the book; Georgia Lee appears once as Grant Lee in the references; Stéphén-Chauvet’s Christian name is mistakenly given as Charles throughout; the long discredited story of islanders being carried off to guano mines appears several times; two pictures of Tepano are incorrectly described here as Juan Tepano (p. 38 – Kaeppler has explained the origin of this error in her apologetic letter to the RNJ (2002) 16:62). In addition, a number of Rapa Nui words are misspelled, as is totora (as totara) on p. 60.

 Doubtless the vast majority of visitors to the exhibition who buy this catalogue will not notice these errors, but it is a pity that so many different problems have crept into what is a very brief volume, and that an event and a book which could have been used to encourage numerous people to become interested in the island and its artistic heritage have been somewhat diverted from this course by other agendas, which have led to a highly partisan and unscholarly presentation that is characteristically ungenerous towards other specialists.


Review by Dave Tuggle

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EASTER ISLAND was held at Kamuela, Hawai’i in August 2000. The Pacific 2000 Proceedings volume has appeared less than two years later. This is remarkable in its own right, but doubly so when considering that this duplicates the publication feat of the Fourth Conference (held in 1997, Proceedings printed in 1998). The editors and the Easter Island Foundation deserve some sort of reward for this record-breaking effort. As reviewer, I have no hesitation in suggesting that RNJ readers who have not already purchased the volume can reward the Foundation and themselves by sending in their order for this wonderful collection that consists of 56 papers by 75 authors (including the keynote Address by Peter Bellwood), and 29 abstracts of papers that were not submitted for publication. (The Easter Island Foundation should also consider making this, and their other publications, available on CD-ROM.)

It is of some interest to see that Easter Island researchers have been expanding the boundaries of their comparative universe in great leaps. The first three International Conferences focused exclusively on Easter Island. The Fourth was “Easter