

MOAI SIGHTINGS

THE *MOAI* IMAGE NOW can be seen on toothbrush handles! Colgate's "Lilo and Stitch" toothbrushes show one model with a brown *moai* face being held aloft by a blue creature with big teeth, apparently something called Stitch. Made in China, natch. Thanks to Tom Christopher who seems to shop in all the right places.



A GLUM CONCRETE *MOAI*, approximately 48" high, was spotted in another garden in Trenton, Ontario (obviously a hotbed of *moai* replications). Thanks to Marilyn Garrett Stearns for this one.

A VERY WHITE (PAINTED) *MOAI* standing in front of the airport at Arica, Chile, was snapped by Avonne Bradshaw. Arica is about as far as one can get from Rapa Nui and still be in Chile.



CALVIN MALONE REPORTED to "Moai Headquarters" about a "moai circle" in southern Oregon. He noted that, "There is a degree of uncertainty whether the circle has extra-terrestrial implications..." The *moai* are plastic heads, in varying colors, hanging around a gazebo.



LOST ISLAND ADVENTURE PARK IN WATERLOO, Iowa, is adding an "adventure golf" course, laced with "island" themes including a walk-through waterfall, Easter Island *moai* heads, a skull pit, a thatched hut, and "tribal totem poles". The owners expect 75,000 visitors this year and hope to add an island-style steel drum band or maybe an animal display.

AND FOR THE "GRANDDADDY" of all *moai* sightings, we hear about "...the only Terra Easter Island Land Art Face in North America. It's in the heartland of Mid-America. The area in question is 2 miles wide." We have been asked to help de-code this Satellite Image. *Duh*. Check out Satellite Discoveries, <http://missourimysterymound.tripod.com/regmound.jpg>

A *MOAI* SIGHTING ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT is causing a controversy. A sculptor, Clare Taylor, was commissioned to make a life-size replica of an Easter Island *moai* for the botanical gardens at Ventnor, Isle of Wight. She welded a massive 20-foot figure out of scrapped cars and had it erected on a cliff top, looking out to sea. She stated that the point of making it from old cars is that the Easter Islanders ruined the ecology of their island by chopping down all the trees, while we are destroying our environment with the motor car. Some locals however thought the statue an eyesore and a blot on the landscape. The well-rusted statue was taken down and placed in a compost heap while the controversy continued. Ms Taylor wants the statue returned to her, but it is now property of the Isle of Wight council. Ms Taylor, it is said, will be nominated for the 2003 Turner Prize for creating the statue, which may be re-erected elsewhere on the island. Stay tuned. (Thanks to W. D. Sherman for this item).

EBAY STRIKES AGAIN. Tom Christopher discovered a "Tissue Case" for sale on Ebay; it is in the shape of a *moai* head. One pulls a tissue from the *moai's* nose. Yuck. The advertisement states: "Laughter guaranteed! *Moai* tissue case is designed after the famous stone statues of Easter Island...and is a nice home accent. To use, simply place a tissue box to the case and pull the tissue out of *Moai's* nose. It is definitely a fun and one of a kind gift. In green or red." [Thanks but no, thanks.]

FROM AUSTRALIA COMES NEWS of a large wood *moai* carved by Rapanui islanders and presented to the Australian people as part of the 1998 multicultural celebrations. The *moai* was carved at the Chilean Ambassador's residence and then given to the Assembly where it was placed inside. The arts committee decided it should be outside, "like the Easter Island statues" [which are, however, of stone!]. The statue was refurbished and treated by an Australian artist so it can withstand exposure to the weather. The Chilean Ambassador, Cristobal Valdes, said he was proud to launch such a distinctive and important remembrance of his country's culture. Sr Valdes stated that "For some of you who may not have been on the island, some of these *moai* reach enormous proportions and the biggest of them weighs more than 82 tonnes." The event was celebrated with a ceremony featuring *Chilean* dancing. Thanks to Dan Gartner for contributing this item.

The Canberra Times, Oct 18, 2002