RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN FRENCH

We received two new publications in French at the office of the Easter Island Foundation. The Society for Oceanic Studies sent their latest bulletin on Eastern Polynesia (Bulletin de la Société des Études Océanienennes (Polynésie Orientale) no. 301; P.O. Box 110, 98713 Pape’ete, Tahiti, French Polynesia; seo@archives.gov.pf) and the Haere Po Press sent us The Poetic Message by Henri Hiro (Pehepehe i tau nungaa – Message poétique; Haere Po Press, Tahiti; ISBN 2 904-17157-0).

The Bulletin is entitled “Island Utopias” (“Utopies insulaires”) and includes eight articles about the way islands have been associated in the literature with perfect and unblemished societies. The titles of the articles, translated from the French, include “A utopia in spite of everything; an essential aspect of the representation, in twentieth century French literature, of islands in the Pacific” by Sylvie André; “The ambiguous products of the imagination of islands in the utopian literary tradition” by Vita Fortunati; “Islands and hermaphroditism in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries – utopia and anti-utopia: aesthetic, ethical and intellectual ambivalence” by Adriano Marchetti; “Imaginary cartography” by Odile Gannier; and “Failed utopias” by Pierre Vérin. Those who read French and are interested in the historical and philosophical connections between islands and ideas about utopias in the literature will be sure to find something of interest in this charmingly illustrated volume.

Hiro was a Tahitian poet who died in 1990 at the age of 46. The preface to The Poetic Message, a new book of his poems, includes the following: “There are sheets of paper and there are pages of books but, most important of all, there is the voice itself. It is the voice of Henri Hiro that has been recorded, so faithfully, meticulously and respectfully in this new transcription and, in some cases, new translation of his poetry.”

The first section of the book is entitled “In love with His Land” and poems with titles such as “If only…”, “Your future is in your hands,” “What fishing?”, “The Nighttime Fisherman,” and “My house, myself,” are included both in the original Tahitian and in French. Some poems in this and other sections have, unfortunately, not been translated into French so are accessible only to those who understand Hiro’s native language. The next section is “Faithful to His Ideas” and, in addition to poems, it includes speeches in favor of independence for Hau Maohi (French Polynesia). The section “Devoted to His Brothers” continues with poems about youth, visions of Tahiti, nostalgia, and Hiro’s fears for the future after his death:

What will become of my love?
What will become of my traditions?
What will become of my Gods
What will become of those who are born tomorrow?

The final section of Hiro’s work is entitled “Theater” and includes four scenes from a short play called “Give me...” In addition to his passion-filled poems and speeches, there is an interview with Hiro that first appeared in 1990, as well as numerous photographs and a list of words in Hiro’s Tahitian vocabulary for which synonyms in Tahitian – but no explanations in French – are provided. This book is a long-delayed but fitting tribute to a luminous Tahitian visionary, who loved his homeland and his native language and who tried, through language, to nurture the independence of one and a fuller appreciation of the other. It is to be hoped that, at some point, some of Hiro’s work will also be published in an English translation so that a larger audience can appreciate his gifts.

Ann M. Altman, Ph.D.

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the winners for the EIF scholarships for this year: Juana Luna Atan, who is studying medicine in Argentina, received the four-year Wiegand Foundation Scholarship; and Tahira Edmunds who is studying Environmental Chemical Engineering at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, received the Nicholas Haoa Sr. Memorial Award. Tahira is her final year of study. In addition, Ioan Solar Hotu, last year’s Wiegand Foundation winner for the four-year scholarship, is doing well at his studies and is again receiving his scholarship for this year. The Foundation is extremely grateful to the Wiegand Foundation and to our Easter Island Foundation donors for making these awards possible. Riva Riva Rapanui!

Don Enrique Pakarati Ika, governor of Easter Island, was presented with a copy of Early Visitors to Easter Island. From the Left: Scholarship chairman, Marla Wold, Don Enrique, Ann M. Altman (who translated the book), and Georgia Lee.

THE PREZ SEZ

AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR the long, noteworthy and meritorious career of Georgia Lee took a turn in a new direction. After more than twenty years as editor of the Rapa Nui Journal (RNJ), Georgia will relinquish the baton to new and capable hands. Slightly over two decades ago Georgia developed a newsletter called Rapa Nui Notes that was the precursor to the scientific professional publication that we all know as the Rapa Nui Journal. Georgia had just completed her Ph.D. on Rapa Nui’s rock art and was routinely visiting the island with teams of volunteers to conduct fieldwork and she thought it prudent to keep everyone informed about her progress and the news and events on the island. As a result, the newsletter was born.
Within a few issues, the impetus towards a more comprehensive and inclusive publication was already underway. These included the acceptance of professional reports and eventually full-length papers on Easter Island and Pacific Island research. Since that time the caliber and scope of the journal has continued to increase to the point where it is a widely read international publication. The papers from RNJ are routinely cited in scientific papers appearing in other journals—a true indication of quality.

The emergence and evolution of the RNJ is a significant achievement from which we have all received a great deal of benefit. Under Georgia’s management, we have been kept informed about Pacific Island research, current events, and given a venue for the distribution of our research results. RNJ has become an indispensable part of the current academic scene and we all thank Georgia for her years of dedication, creativity, and attention to high-caliber scholarship.

The Foundation’s small store on the island, next to the Hotel Otai; profits go toward the EIF’s scholarship program.

FROM THE OFFICE

GREETINGS FROM BAYWOOD PARK! We have, so far, survived one of our wettest winters ever, and our office has remained dry despite our close proximity to the bay. Please do stop in and see us if you are ever on the central coast of California.

We have several new items available. As mentioned in our last issue, we now have copies of the Complete Guide to Easter Island by Shawn McLaughlin and it has been selling briskly. This guidebook takes up where Georgia Lee’s Uncommon Guide to Easter Island left off. The Complete Guide includes not only all the information you’ll need to plan a trip to Easter Island but chapters on all aspects of island history, culture, and language with maps, photographs and illustrations. We’ve had many positive comments from readers about the usefulness of this book. The book sells for $25.

Our newest book, The Little Tree of Easter Island, by Catherine Orliac, has arrived. The book is about two little Rapanui girls, Hierangi and Vaiahani, who are searching for a toromiro tree on Easter Island. They have many adventures while visiting the famous sites of the island. The charming photographs are by Veronique Willeman of Paris. The text is in four languages: Rapanui, Spanish, French, and English. Thanks to a grant from the Gallerie Louise Leiris, Paris, we are able to supply many of these books to the children of the island. At $12, you can’t afford not to have a copy in your Easter Island book collection! This book, which is spiral bound, also would make a nice gift for children.

For you cartophiles, we have a gorgeous new 2004 full color geologic map (scale 1:30,000) from IMG in Chile. The map costs $32 (they are sold for that price in Chile also). In addition to the geology of Rapa Nui, there is information on plate tectonics, an oblique view of the island showing the volcanoes, and other information on the geology. Text is in Spanish with place names in Rapanui. It comes in a nice color folder with a great image of an eruption with one of our favorite Rano Raraku moai in the foreground. Oscar Gonzales-Ferran was involved in the creation this map and was instrumental in getting copies for us. We thank Joan Wozniak for telling us about the map.

Another new publication we have acquired is a great little book by Andreas Mieth and Hans-Rudolf Bork called Easter Island - Rapa Nui, Scientific Pathways to Secrets of the Past (see review in this issue). It’s fully illustrated with color photographs, drawings and charts. Those of you who attended the post-conference trip to Rapa Nui will remember the incredible field excursion with Andreas and Hans-Rudolf to see their famous site at Poike. The price for this book is $20.

One of the illustrations from The Little Tree of Rapa Nui showing the two little girls whose adventures are described. They are Hierangi Tuki Roe and Vaiahani Riroroko Calderón, shown here with Viki Haoa, who did the Rapanui translation. Photography by Veronique Willeman of Paris.
We have a few copies of *Easter Island. A Land of Rocky Dreams*, by Carlos Huber and José Miguel Ramírez. Carlos has informed us that supplies are getting low and that the book may be out of print by the end of this year (and it will not be reprinted). If you do not yet have a copy of this beautiful book, do consider purchasing one. It is definitely one of the most comprehensive coffee table books on Easter Island and every Rapanuiphile should have one.

The long-awaited postcards of petroglyphs drawn in pen and ink by Paul Horley (mentioned in the last RNJ) are finally here! They are outstanding images and a set of eight different cards sells for $12. Images include: Vai a Hiva, 'Orongo, La Pérouse and Papa Vaka.

Please keep your membership renewal up to date. If the date on your mailing label has passed, it is now time to renew or be removed! We offer discounts for multi-year renewals. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are due to renew (or if you aren’t sure). If you have access to email and would like to receive our interim newsletter, *Reo Rapa Nui*, please make sure we have your current email address. RRN comes out in between each RNJ and keeps our readers current on “things Rapa Nui”. If you don’t have email access, we’d be happy to send you a copy via snail mail – just let us know!

As always we have some slightly damaged copies of some of our books, so if there’s something you want but can’t afford to pay the full price, let us know! Call us at 805-528-8558 or send an email to: rapanuibooks@att.net

For those who missed the VI International Conference, we have a limited number of posters from the meeting.

**CONFERENCES**

**VIII PACIFIC ARTS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**, July 19-23, 2005, will be held at the Peabody Essex Museum, in Salem, MA. Title of the conference is Pacific Diasporas: People, Art, and Ideas on the Move.

The conference venue, the Peabody Essex Museum, has been transformed and now features 250,000 square feet of new and renovated galleries and public spaces. Its first acquisitions were in 1799, and were augmented by early 19th century contributions by the East India Marine Society. (paasymposium@wsu.edu)

**INDO-PACIFIC PREHISTORY ASSOCIATION, 18th CONGRESS**, University of the Philippines, Manila 20-26, March 2006.

The meeting will be hosted by Archaeological Studies Program at the University of the Philippines, by the Archaeology Division, National Museum of the Philippines, and by the W. G. Solheim II Foundation.

For further information, contact ippa@anu.edu.au

**Archaeological Field School on Easter Island.**

This summer (2005) we will again offer a University of Hawai'i field school to Easter Island. There will be one session from 4 July to 3 August 2005. The field school is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Students will participate in survey, mapping, excavation, geophysical survey, museum/laboratory analyses, and training Rapanui high school students on the island. Please visit our up updated pages (link below) for information.


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