PUBLICATIONS


Bulletin of the International String Figure Association, Vol. 10, 2003. PO Box 5134, Pasadena, CA 91117; webweaver@isfa.org


Orliac, C. and V. Willemin. 2005. The Little Tree of Rapa Nui Te tumo o Rapa Nui El arbolito de Rapa Nui. Easter Island Foundation. ISBN 1-880636-02-6. Text by C. Orliac and photographs by V. Willemin. This is a children’s book in four languages; it tells the story of two little Rapanui girls who go in search of a toromiro tree on their island. Along with the two girls we see also Don Enrique Pakarati, the governor, Viki Haoa, and others. Thanks to a grant from the Louise Leiris Gallery in Paris, copies of this book will be provided free of charge to Rapanui schoolchildren. For further information, contact rapanuibooks@att.net


Tahiti Pacifique. Mensuel d’information et d’information. No. 13, for the first time, we have a pre-lithic mulch garden. The implications of this are significant, suggesting that the rock garden innovation occurred after AD 1450 and therefore is a late development. All those rocks that were relocated were moved in less than 250 years. This was quite an accomplishment by the prehistoric Rapanui.

Christopher M. Stevenson, Ph.D. Virginia Department of Historic Resources christopher.stevenson@dhr.virginia.gov

Rapa Nui Journal 73 Vol. 19 (1) May 2005
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 Océaniennes (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 2 904-171-57-0).

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 Mo’ohi (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.