Rapa Nui, exactly fits the description by Captain Bouman of the Thienhoven (the second ship in the fleet of Jacob Roggeveen) who wrote in his journal on 7 April 1722, while they were circling Easter Island in search of a safe anchorage. This was the first known European encounter with Rapa Nui. The Dutch took the islander on board, dressed him in a pair of old pants, showed him their ship, gave him Dutch gin to drink, and watched as he danced to the music of a violin.

When he left the ship in a rising sea, Captain Bouman was worried, for he noted that the islander spent half his time bailing the canoe and therefore had only half his time left for rowing. Bouman described the canoe as follows: “His canoe had been made of small planks that were held together by some sort of rope; it had two blocks of wood on the inside. It was so light that one man alone could easily carry it. For us it was surprising that one man alone had the courage to venture out so far in the ocean with nothing else at his disposal but one paddle, because when he approached us, we were about three miles from the coast. The wind was variable with rain, which compelled us to turn away from the coast. Therefore we had to take leave of our company to which he felt very little inclined. So in order to get rid of him, we had him brought to his canoe, but he remained with our ship until he noticed that we were sailing away from the coast, only then did he return to the shore. The sea was already hollow so that I was afraid whether he would return all right”.

The extreme ingenuity of the construction of such a canoe is clearly shown in the photograph of a detail. The people of Rapa Nui also mastered this technique. This canoe of sown planks is certainly the only one still in existence and due to its size, it has practically never been on display in the British Museum.

Also new to me were certain primitive drawings of British sailors exchanging objects with Tahitians during Cook’s second voyage; these have only very recently (1998) been identified as having been made by Tupaia, the great navigator from Ra’iatea taken on board by Captain Cook in Tahiti in order to present him to the court in London. Unfortunately Tupaia died from malaria on the way. Two of his drawings are on show at the exposition. All in all, this exposition is certainly worth a visit.

Herbert von Saher, November 2006

1 Those who wish to read the complete report of this remarkable encounter can find it in RNJ Volume 8 (4) 1994 in which the text of Captain Cornelis Bouman’s journal during the days around Easter Island was translated into English for the first time, by von Saher.

WHAT’S NEW IN HANGARDA

A wind-driven fire burned over 163 hectares in a two-day fire that began in the Vai Atare section of the island, on the east side of Rano Kau, probably started from a discarded cigarette. Driven by strong winds, it swept through a eucalyptus grove and across grassland before being contained by local firefighters.

MOAI DAMAGE. There is growing indignation on Easter Island regarding “probable damage” to a moai that was struck by a tourist at Rano Raraku. The case is particularly serious because the person charged is Enrique Schmidt Meier, age 76, the father of the current Ministra de Bienes Nacionales, Ms. Romy Schmidt. He was detained on the island after a tour guide observed him strike a moai with a stone. Rumor has it that the damage was evaluated at two to three million pesos (US$3,809 to US$5,714). Mr Schmidt claims that he never meant to strike the moai: he was only showing his friends how the natives carved them, and he is very sorry. Authorities stated that no one is above the law.

La Tercera, November 2006

TRADE BEAD FOUND ON RAPA NUI! Last year’s Earthwatch field season, under the direction of Chris Stevenson and Sonia Haoa, discovered a rare glass trade bead at Hanga Hahave (Site 5-111, Test Unit 1, Level 1). The test unit was placed on a rake-out mound of an umu pae which in turn was associated with a poro house pavement and a basalt activity platform. All were located near the coastal road where the stone quarry is currently operating. The artifact was made from “drawn molten glass” that was passed through a six-sided shape to give it a hexagonal cross-section. It is about 0.5 cm in length and about 0.5 cm in diameter. Similar beads in a variety of colors first appeared in North America in the 19th century and they were most likely made in Bohemia.

The earliest word we have about trade beads comes from the Dutch who reached the island in 1722:

“While their ships were still keeping well off the island, the Dutchmen were visited by the first Easter Islander, a nude and friendly native, whom they brought on board. He was later started off again towards the shore, presented with two strings of blue beads around his neck and some other trifles.” (Heyerdahl and Ferdon 1961:45 citing Behrens 1732:132-133).

Carlyle Smith found beads at the Maunga Auhapa house site: “Five glass beads were found. Four of the beads are faceted blue opaque glass in the form of octagonal tubes, 5 mm in diameter and from 5 to 6 mm in length. The shortest bead is light blue; the other three are dark blue. All four beads came from near the surface in the house and stone enclosure. The fifth bead is quite different from the first four. It is elliptical in longitudinal section, and is composed of light blue, milky glass. It measures 8 mm. in diameter and 1.1 cm. in length. This specimen was found at a depth of between 60 and 70 cm. near the bottom of the refuse deposit at the northern end of the excavation.” And, “The beads were submitted to Kenneth M. Kidd of the Royal Ontario Museum for identification. Kidd recognizes the faceted beads as similar to those found in archaeological sites in the Plains Area of North America dating from the
middle of the 19th century. The beads were found in a house and a stone enclosure, near the bottom of a refuse deposit. None of the beads is definitely attributable to a specific manufacturing center in Europe.

The earlier cited fact that blue beads formed part of the first trade goods received from Roggeveen suggests the intriguing possibility that the elliptical bead from deep in the refuse might date from this time or one of the other 18th century visits. The other beads and miscellaneous trade goods appear to date from within the 19th century.” (Carlyle S. Smith, 1961. The Maunga Auhepa House Site. Report 6. Archaeology of Easter Island, Reports of the Norwegian Archaeological Expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific, Volume I. T. Heyerdahl and E. N. Jr. Ferdon, eds. 24(1):282-283. Monographs of the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico).

A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE will be seen on Easter Island on July 11th, 2010. This event likely will be a popular one; we hear reservations are already being taken by some hotels.

WHAT’S NEW AT MAPSE. IN OCTOBER 2006, the Museo Antropológico P. Sebastián Englert celebrated it’s 33rd anniversary. Events included a children’s painting competition called “Sonando Rapa Nui” (Dreaming Rapa Nui). Another event was held in remembrance of Father Sebastián Englert and honored the employees of the Museo and a new program for museum volunteers that began officially in 2006. There was also a ceremony to honor families of Rapa Nui who participated in the carving of a sculpture that adorns the principal access to the museum, the “Placa Recordatoria”. Director Francisco Torres described the sculpture carved by Petero Huki Atan in 1988 to remember the 100 years of incorporation of Rapa Nui with Chile. It represents the union of both cultures. Others who collaborated on this work included members of the Huki Atan, Tuki Tepihe and Hito families.

In late November, artist Te Pou Huke launched his first comic book, “Vaero Roa” and in January a book signing was held at the Museo. The Museo often opens in the evening for such events so that people who work during the day will be able to attend with their families and view both the museum collection and the Biblioteca William Mulloy. Other events in 2006 included photographic exhibits of Chileans Nicolas Aguayo called “Rapa Nui, Mana y Misterio” and Francisco Bermejo Justiniano entitled “La Tirana”; a launching of a facsimile of the first edition of Father Sebastian’s “La Tierra de Hotu Matua” and a presentation about Antarctica by Cristian Rodrigo, an oceanographer from the Instituto Antártica Chileno.

In May 2006, in honor of the “month of the ocean”, the Museo held an event to launch the documentary “Te Mau Vaikava o Rapa Nui/El Mundo Submarino de Isla de Pascua” (The Submarine World of Easter Island), produced by commercial diver, Michel Garcia. The film shows the diverse species of local marine fauna. 

NEWS FROM THE DEEP

A NEW SPECIES OF HAGFISH has been found just south of Easter Island at a depth of more than 7,200 feet. Last March, scientists from the Monterey Bay Aquarium captured the snake-like hagfish. An article by Jones and Moller of the Zoological Museum of the University of Co-

A recent view of the island’s new high school, north of the village. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.

‘Anakena has snappy new bathrooms, located at the parking area. It costs to use them but, in exchange, they are kept clean and tidy. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.

Kite aerial view of ‘Anakena looking inland and showing the incursion of beach sand. Ahu Nau Nau can be seen in the top left. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.
The sea wall at Ahu Nau Nau is nearly covered with sand, hiding the wall and many petroglyphs. Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.

Front view of Ahu Nau Nau. Sand covers the ramp leading up to the ahu. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.

View of Anakena and Ahu Nau Nau in 1986. Then, sand was only in the immediate areas of the beach. Now sand covers grass, petroglyphs, reaches to the base of the ahu platform, and encroaches on the grassy areas and palm trees. Photo: Georgia Lee.

penhagen, published in the science journal *Biological Bulletin*, called the new species *Eptatretus strickrotti*, honoring the captain of the ALVIN submersible who collected it. Hagfish resemble eels only with a ring of tentacles around their mouths and large slime glands along their bodies that emit a thick slime that sticks to everything. They live on muddy sea floors in groups and, as scavengers, they burrow into dead or dying animals and eat them from the inside (we are not making this up). In Korea, nearly 5 million pounds of hagfish are eaten annually.

_A. Gouveia, Cape Cod Times, 17 February 2007_

**CHILE**

CHILE’S PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY (MOP) announced projects aimed at attracting more tourists to Easter Island as well as to Robinson Crusoe Island, two of Chile’s most popular tourist destinations. US$2.4 million will be spent on road improvements so that tourists can travel from Hangaroa village to the various island sites. Once completed, the island’s roads will have a 46 kilometer tourist circuit.

_La Tercera, 12 November 2006._

**OBITUARY**

EASTER ISLAND HAS LOST A FRIEND. Francesco di Castri, 74, ecologist, former deputy director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and former president of the World Science Institute, died July 6, 2005. He was the founding director of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Program and was considered one of UNESCO’s principal contributors in promoting international cooperation on environmental issues. He was the director of the French CNRS Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology, worked as a university professor in Chile, and was an expert on Easter Island. Dr. di Castri authored more than 20 books and 350 articles, his work addressing such matters as soil biology, the convergence of Mediterranean ecosystems and the structure of animal communities from the tropics to Antarctica. He contributed several articles for *Rapa Nui Journal*, including “The Dynamic Future of Rapa Nui” (RNJ 17(1), May 2003:44-48; and “A Moai in Michelangelo Marble” (RNJ 19(1), May 2005:51-52.

Over the years we were privileged to carry on a lively conversation with Francesco, via email. His letters expressed his love for Easter Island, but also dismay over its seemingly unsolvable problems. In early 2003, he wrote that he had just spent two weeks on the island, reviewing economic and social developments and talking with local authorities and entrepreneurs, operators of tourism, and those with very diverse aspirations. He visited sites for new hotels, new plantations of fruit and flowers, reviewed coastal erosion projects, and gave advice on the enormous erosion at Poike, as well as problems of livestock. He wrote that, “I now understand much better the diverse psychologies and aspirations of islanders. The most impressive change is the land distribution (from Vaihu up to the northern coast) of some 1.900 hectares, which will be followed

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