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EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

The EIF has received a very generous gift from the estate of the late archaeologist, Dr Marie Wormington. Dr. Wormington was a close friend of Bill Mulloy’s as well as his family. Together they worked on a joint study of sites and collections in Alberta, Canada. Toward the end of the field season, Wormington received a letter from Thor Heyerdahl asking for a recommendation: he was looking for an American archaeologist who would participate in the Norwegian Archaeological Expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific. She recommended Mulloy. A few days later, a letter arrived saying that Carlyle Smith had been hired. Mulloy was disappointed, but happy for his friend, Carlyle. Shortly after, along came another letter from Heyerdahl saying that, due to her letter, he was going to include Mulloy as well. And the rest is history.

Vice President for the EIF in Chile, Rose Marie Wallace, is continuing to investigate the steps necessary to have the Foundation officially inscribed in Chile. As of the first of June, two firms specializing in such transactions have delivered costs and time estimates; efforts will be made to reduce both (3-6 months for the latter). Two interesting aspects of the procedure have been uncovered: the President of Chile must approve and sign the final document; and some other organization has already adopted the name Fundacion Rapa Nui. Also under consideration is the possibility of the EIF continuing operations in Chile on a private individual basis.

With the start of the new school year in early March, activity has increased greatly in the Biblioteca William Mulloy. Head Librarian, Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango has well underway the immense talk of cataloging, re-jacketing, and when necessary, re-printing the thousands of photographic prints and negatives taken by Dr. Mulloy and his associates. Besides being a capable computer operator, Ms. Haoa has also learned book-binding and has expertly bound a number of items including previously unbound manuscripts in the Mulloy collection and newspaper and magazine articles from recent years.

One unsolved problem is where to store the photographic materials; the meager space being rented from the archaeological Museo Sociedad Fonck is totally inadequate and no other room is currently available. A search continues for new quarters in other institutes, universities and cultural centers in the Viña del Mar area.

The Fonck Museum has recently hired a new curator-archaeologist, Señorita Gabriela Carmona. She, like her predecessors, will share the room occupied by the William Mulloy Library.

In April, a television crew from Imago Comunicaciones in Santiago filmed the Mulloy Library, much of the Rapanui collection of the Fonck Museum, and Dr. Liller and Srt. Haoa as part of a program scheduled for showing this July on Chile’s most popular television channel, TV Nacional. It will be included in their prime-time science and education series, “Laser”.

Both Mrs. Wallace and Dr. Liller attended the ceremony “Retorno del Toromiro” marking the arrival of 170 toromiro plants from Goteborg and Bonn and destined for Rapa Nui.

For further details see ‘What’s New” elsewhere in this issue. The host was Dr. Juan Grau, Secretary General of the Chilean Ecological Institute.