

French heritage architects. The cathedral, which can accommodate 2000 people, was commissioned to be built by the Catholic missionary Father Honore Laval, who brought Christianity to the islands in 1834. The cathedral's construction includes stones from the island's *marae* as well as additional coral slabs that were quarried by the islanders, and is a testament to Laval's 37-year stay on the island, when he banned traditional beliefs while also recording a great deal of information about indigenous customs and language.

20 ancestral Māori heads repatriated to New Zealand by France

(As reported by *The Telegraph*, published online 23 January 2012).

A total of 20 Māori heads (*mokomokai*) that were collected as cultural curiosities from the 19th century until as recently as 1999 were repatriated by France in January. Frederic Mitterrand, The French Culture Minister, and New Zealand's ambassador attended a ceremony at Quai Branly Museum in Paris before the return of the 20 *mokomokai*. These ancestral heads comprise the largest single repatriation and will ultimately be returned to local *iwi* groups or will be held at New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa, if their *iwi* affiliations cannot be determined.

Wa‘a Wayfinders still making waves around the Pacific

(As reported and updated periodically online at www.pacificvoyagers.org). The seven *vaka* have been back in the water since January 2012. After winterizing their canoes in San Diego, CA, they sailed down the west coast of the Americas, to the Galapagos Islands, then travelled on to the Tuamotus and Tahiti before arriving in the Cook Islands in May. They are on track to arrive to the Solomon Islands to attend the Festival of Pacific Arts in July after also stopping by Sāmoa and Fiji in June. More information is available at <http://www.pacificvoyagers.org>.

11th Festival of Pacific Arts to be held in the Solomon Islands, July 1-14, 2012

“*Culture in Harmony with Nature*” is the title of the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts, which will be held in the Solomon Islands on July 1-14, 2012. The festival brings together around 2500 artists, performers, and cultural practitioners from 27 territories and countries, including Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawai‘i, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New

Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Rapa Nui, Sāmoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. More information about the festival can be found at www.festivalofpacificarts.com.

Tattoo Honolulu Exhibition opening at the Honolulu Museum of Art

A new exhibition entitled “*Tattoo Honolulu*” will open on 14 June 2012 and will run through 13 January 2013 at the Honolulu Museum of Art (formerly known as the Honolulu Academy of Arts). The exhibition features the work of 10 tattoo masters and also explores the art of tattooing in both a contemporary and historical context. As the museum's website explains, “by linking the past – through works such as 19th-century prints by Jacques Arago depicting tattooed Hawaiians – with the present, the museum hopes to expand cultural awareness not only about the art of the tattoo, but also the rich cultural traditions it is based on.” Further information is available at www.honolulumuseum.org.

WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

Collectors' banknotes called “Rongo” printed

On 1 September 2011, a series of collectors' banknotes were printed by the British American Bank Note Co, Ltd. The notes have no monetary value, but feature famous imagery from the island and come in denominations of 500, 1000, and 2500 “Rongo”. These can be found on eBay and other online retailers, and more information can be found on www.banknotes.com.



Two documentaries about Oceania screened at the 30th San Francisco International Asian-American Film Festival

(As reported by George Heymont for *The Huffington Post*, published online 15 March 2012).

The 30th San Francisco International Asian-American Film Festival was held from 8-18 March 2012 and featured two documentaries that explored peoples' relationships with the Pacific Ocean. The first, entitled *Papa Mau: The Wayfinder*, directed by Na'alehu Anthony, documented the voyaging renaissance that began with the voyage of Hōkūle'a from Hawai'i to Tahiti in 1976. The life of the master navigator on that and subsequent voyages, Mau Piailug (from the Micronesian atoll of Satawal) is the focus of this documentary, which chronicles the first voyage as well as years of subsequent mentoring of Polynesian navigators by Mau up until his death in 2010. The second documentary, directed by Briar March and entitled *There Once Was an Island: Te Henua e Nnoho*, explores life on the small low-lying atoll of Takuu (Mortlock Island) off the coast of Papua New Guinea, which is home to approximately 400 inhabitants. The island experienced a major cyclone in 2006 and three days of high tides in 2008 that caused serious destruction. The documentary explores the science behind rising sea levels and the indigenous inhabitants' decision-making processes regarding how to cope with the first major impacts of climate change in the Pacific Islands. In her director's statement, March states, "Takuu's plight draws attention to the situation of other people in the Pacific and in coastal areas elsewhere who will soon face similar problems. In addition to being an important record for all Pacific peoples, this film will help preserve the way of life and cultural identity of a unique Polynesian culture. The Takuu community has stressed to us that they feel they do not have a voice. We hope that, through this film, we will be able to give them one."

Gauguin and Polynesia Exhibition held in Copenhagen and Seattle

An exhibition entitled "*Gauguin and Polynesia: An Elusive Paradise*" was held in Copenhagen from 24 September to 31 December 2011, and then opened at the Seattle Art Museum from 9 February to 29 April 2012. According to the Seattle Art Museum's official press release, the show highlighted the "complex relationship between Paul Gauguin's work and the art and culture of Polynesia" and featured nearly 60 of Gauguin's paintings, sculptures, and works, tracing the artist's journey from France to Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands during the 19th century. In the exhibition, his artworks were displayed alongside 60 major examples of Polynesian

sculpture in order to provide a "solid analysis of how this one artist enacted his own quest for the Polynesian past and reacted to the changes evident in Polynesia during his lifetime" (Seattle Art Museum press release). The Polynesian sculptures included items in wood, shell, and other materials from Tahiti, the Marquesas, and Rapa Nui. The exhibition was accompanied by a full-color 399-page catalogue including essays by art historians and curators that expand on the works of Gauguin and the history of Polynesian culture and art. Further information is available at www.seattleartmuseum.org/gauguin.

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

Antoinette Padgett and Marla Wold

The EIF Scholarship Committee is very pleased to announce the selection of three new scholars to receive EIF awards for 2012.

The Fraternal Order of Moai very generously donated a \$3000 scholarship, awarded to Laura Tarita Alarcon Rapu (pictured below). Tarita is in her 4th year of study in physical anthropology at the University of Chile and states that she will be the first Rapanui student to be a physical anthropologist. She hopes her research will contribute to better understanding of the island, for foreigners and especially at the community level. She has deep respect for the oral tradition and the wise knowledge of Rapanui and Polynesian people. She states "the new generations of young Rapanui have an obligation to act as a bridge between the past, which protects us, and the present, which accompanies us, and we cannot stop it, but we can understand it to serve the continuation of our people's cultural beliefs." She would like to work with the museum on the island. She also has a vocation as a singer and dancer and is in the group *Te Manu Rapa Nui*. She is grateful for the scholarship and thrilled to be able to help fulfill the objectives of the Easter Island Foundation: promoting the study and investigation of the island.

