

News

Mara Mulrooney

WHAT'S NEW ON RAPA NUI

Cultural Council recognizes founder of Rapanui Language Academy as a “Living Human Treasure”

(As reported by www.soyvalparaiso.cl, published online 1 August 2012). The Consejo de la Cultura (Cultural Council) honored Maria Virginia Haoa (Vicky Haoa) as a Tesoro Humano Vivo (living human treasure) on the part of the Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y Las Artes de Chile (National Council of Culture and The Arts of Chile). She is one of the founders of the Academia de la Lengua Rapa Nui (Rapanui Language Academy) and is the sixth living human treasure to be appointed by the council. Haoa was distinguished in the *Ámbito del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial* (Framework of Intangible Cultural Heritage) due to her role in maintaining oral traditions and expressions through the development of Rapanui texts that explore stories, nature, history, and poetry.

Mata Ngarau area of ‘Orongo closed

(As reported by Lilian López Labbé, Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert). At the ceremonial center of ‘Orongo, CONAF has closed the area of Mata Ngarau to visitors due to concerns about the stability of this portion of the cliff. Visitors to ‘Orongo are no longer able to access this portion of the site and stand atop the reconstructed house to admire the large concentration of rock art in this area.

What’s new at the MAPSE

On the 27th of May, the museum celebrated the Día del Patrimonio (Day of Patrimony) with a special celebration that included historical photos on display, a screening of the film “Mana Rapa Nui”, an artistic presentation outside the museum, and guided tours of the “Sebastian Englert, misionero, científico, educador” (Sebastian Englert, missionary, scientist, educator) exhibition, which opened in April. In June, together with visiting astronomers from the Universidad de Chile, the museum offered an astronomy workshop shortly before the Transit of Venus, which could be seen from the island. From 7 to 22 July, Dr. Britton Shepardson visited the museum and directed an intensive 2-week archaeological outreach program for local high school

students. A report outlining their research is featured in the Reports and Commentaries section of this issue.

WHAT'S NEW IN OCEANIA

Waka Tapu en route to Rapa Nui

Two traditional Polynesian double-hulled sailing canoes are currently traversing the Pacific. The waka departed Auckland’s Viaduct Basin in New Zealand on 17 August and are traveling over 10,000 nautical miles en route to their final destination of Rapa Nui. Further information about the voyage can be found at www.wakatapu.com.

Rapa Nui thrills at Pacific Arts Festival

(As reported by Michelle Williams, University of Auckland). The Rapa Nui delegation was a favorite at the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts, held in Honiara July 1-14, 2012. They quickly made fans of both the local and visiting audience alike, and were met by enthusiastic crowds at all nine of their performances, having more stage time than any other ensemble. The dancers’ professionalism and experience performing for foreign audiences was obvious, and the group earned headlines in several issues of the local *Solomon Star News* during their stay. The festival was a grand affair with twenty-one visiting delegations as well as performing groups from each province of the Solomon Islands. Performances took place in the main festival village and several satellite locations, and included dance, vocal music, drama, film, and an art gallery and craft market. Audiences were greeted to an impressive fireworks display each night of the festivities. It was the largest international event to have taken place in the Solomons.

WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

New Kon-Tiki film released

On 24 August, a new action-adventure film entitled “Kon-Tiki” was released in Norway. As with the classic Academy Award-winning 1950 documentary, the film documents Thor Heyerdahl’s legendary expedition across the Pacific on a balsa raft in 1947. The film has since been screened at international film festivals, including the Toronto International Film Festival on 6

September and it will kick off the 54th Nordic Film Days festival on 31 October in Lubeck, Germany. Further information can be found at the film's official website: <http://www.kontikifilmen.com/>.

Unedited tapes with Rapanui songs uncovered from 1949 in Fonck Museum

(As reported by William Liller, Viña del Mar, Chile). A Telefunken playback machine (Model 203) and tapes containing rare Rapanui music were uncovered in a storage area in the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar, Chile last September. The tapes were recorded by an Austrian, Fritz Felbermayer, when he visited Rapa Nui in 1949. Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango, Librarian at the Biblioteca Rapanui at the Fonck Museum, has been working together with colleagues to transcribe the stories contained in the recorded songs, which have been digitized and re-mastered. Betty was able to identify some of the voices, and was planning to go back to the island in August to see if some of the elders there could identify more. The museum plans to make the recordings available on a CD for sale, and will be featured in a new display planned for the Fonck Museum. Further information can be found at <http://www.cultura.gob.cl/institucionales/ministro-de-cultura-revela-ineditos-audios-rapa-nui-encontrados-en-museo-fonck-de-vina-del-mar/>.

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

Antoinette Padgett

We are pleased to announce that the Easter Island and the Pacific Conference in Santa Rosa in July 2012 was a great success. The meeting was a forum for exchange of ideas, discussions (some heated) as well as a time for visiting with old friends and colleagues and meeting new ones. Several Rapanui islanders attended the conference and some gave presentations. It was an honor for the EIF to be able to have so many young people from the island participate and we thank our members who helped contribute to bringing these students to California. At the welcome banquet, we were treated to an entertaining (and educational) evening talk by Grant McCall along with an impromptu auction by EIF Scholarship Chair Marla Wold to benefit the EIF Scholarship Program. A group of Rapanui carvings, collected in the 1970s, had been donated to the EIF. Some of these carvings were auctioned off during the banquet. Between the auction of carvings, a hard bound copy of Grant McCall's thesis and other pledges collected, the auction netted over \$4000 for the EIF Scholarship Program. An award of \$2500 was pledged for Tiare de la Puente Bernacer, a Rapanui student who



Patrick Kirch being presented with a golden moai by EIF President David Rose. Photograph by Paul Horley.



Grant McCall. Photograph by Paul Horley.

is studying medicine at the Universidad del Desarrollo in Concepcion. Tiare is nearing the end of her program and after graduation, plans to work on Easter Island as a doctor. We thank everyone who contributed to the auction and everyone who made the effort to attend and support the conference. We especially thank Mary Dell Lucas and Heather Stoeckley of Far Horizons for all their organizational efforts and Brian Kiechel and Allison Barden, the kind and patient AV techs who made sure everything worked properly in the sessions. We are certain that everyone will be looking forward to the next Easter Island Conference in 2015, which will be organized by Burkhard Vogt and his colleagues and held in Berlin.

The EIF book sale was well-received and many conference attendees left with their bags somewhat heavier due to book purchases. We still have a selection of one-of-a-kind books for sale; some of the rare and more fragile books that we did not bring to Santa Rosa. These include *Eastern Pacific Tropical Reports* (Agassiz 1906); *Observaciones Meterológico en la Isla de Pascua* (Knoche 1912); *Reflats sur la Sombre Route* (Loti 1926);