

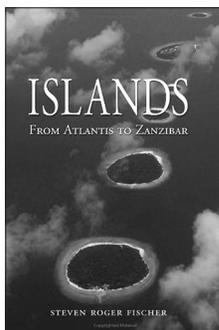
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Chapters 6 and 7, “...of Moons and Sixpence” and “...of Palettes and Pipes” turn to literary and art sources that range from Shakespeare to Homer; the Phaistos Disk to Durrell; island art to music to tattoo. There is much food for thought here as is also in Chapter 8, “... of the Mind” where we explore the fact that, after the 18th century, the perception of an island changed: it could be for personal advancement, adventure, and fun... a psychological space, an Arcadia (p. 254). The realities of course were different – from the murder of Cook to cannibal feasts.

In Chapter 9, “The Last Isle”, we have a thoughtful summing up of the problems, the hopes, and perhaps the hopelessness of islands, as our Earth itself becomes the last isle.

This book is highly recommended.

Fischer, Steven Roger. *Islands: From Atlantis to Zanzibar*



London: Reaktion Books, 2012. 336 pp., Black and white illustrations. ISBN 978-1780230320. US\$35 (hardcover).

Review by Georgia Lee, Easter Island Foundation

Following his excellent and well-researched book, *Island at the End of the World: The Turbulent History of Easter Island*, Steven Roger Fischer has scored another winner in his most recent effort, *Islands: From Atlantis to Zanzibar*. I thought I knew a lot about islands, but every chapter revealed something new; I had a hard time putting it down. Fischer includes geology, botany, early humans, populations and the effects of war upon them, as well as deforestation, natural disasters, and tourism.

Fischer describes the formation of islands, continents, oceans and seas: “An island can be a bit of an ancient continent, an accretion of ocean sandbank, the first cooled tip of an erupting volcano, and so much more” (p. 11). Nearly all Oceanic islands are volcanic and all land masses had their origin in volcanism. Amongst the information about the formations of islands, we hear of land bridges that have now disappeared, how coral reefs are born, and how they die. While some islands “calve”, others collide, and some fuse with larger islands or continents.