

Featured EIF Publication

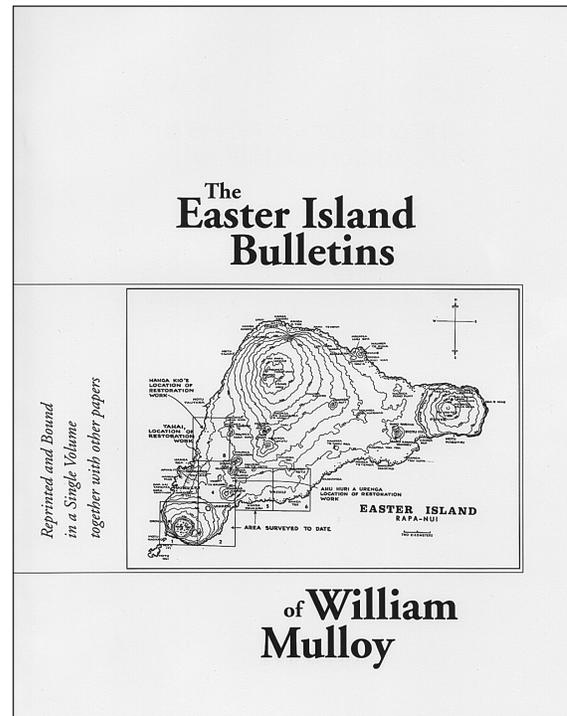
The Easter Island Bulletins of William Mulloy

The Easter Island Bulletins of William Mulloy contains four reports and two papers, and was published by the EIF in 1997. The reports were originally published by the World Monuments Fund as a series of stand-alone volumes, which have been out of print for many years. This compilation contains the four original bulletins with all the plates and illustrations, plus two other important papers. Included are *Bulletin 1 ~ Preliminary Report of Archaeological Field Work, February – July 1968*; *Bulletin 2 ~ Preliminary Report of the Restoration of Ahu Vai Uri*; *Bulletin 3 ~ Preliminary Report of the Restoration of Ahu Huri a Urenga and Two Unnamed Ahu at Hanga Kio'e*; and *Bulletin 4 ~ Preliminary Report of the Restoration of The Ceremonial Center of Orongo, Part 1*. Also included are: *Contemplate the Navel of the World*, originally published in *Américas* in 1974 and *Preliminary Culture-Historical Research Model for Easter Island* published posthumously in 1979 in *Las Islas Oceanicas de Chile*.

In the Foreword, Bonnie Burnham, President of World Monuments Fund at the time of publication of the compilation, noted the importance of these bulletins; conservation work and related research on Easter Island was WMF's longest continuous project at that time. She also noted the long-term benefits that the *moai* from Tongariki, on display in New York City and Washington DC in 1968 (described in detail by Brigid Mulloy in this issue), had for WMF. Although initial donations were slow in coming, eventually they were numerous and grand enough to fund Mulloy's archaeological restoration work for 6 years and also contributed to supporting other projects on Easter Island.

Emily Mulloy noted in the preface that had her husband lived a longer life, he would have no doubt edited and revised portions of the bulletins; nevertheless, they are a very important record of the restoration and survey work performed by Mulloy on the island. Additionally, she noted that *Contemplate the Navel of the World* expressed Mulloy's early views of Easter Island as a microcosm for Planet Earth, a topic many others have stated and elaborated upon since.

Pat McCoy added, in the Introduction, that some of the report titles can be misleading in that restorations were not just limited to *ahu*, but also to other nearby structures and sites. He notes that there is a bit of repetition in the bulletins, as they were literally end-of-season field reports and were originally geared for a very limited audience. He mentioned a letter in which



Mulloy stated that there would eventually be final reports that would include analyses and laboratory work, along with more details about the cultural and historical significance of sites. Unfortunately, due to Mulloy's untimely death, those final reports were not to be. As such, this volume provides not only a record of the work performed, but also a piece of history of the first restoration works undertaken on Easter Island. As for the paper *Preliminary Culture-Historical Research Model for Easter Island*, McCoy states that this is one of Mulloy's least-known but most important papers, as it elaborates on themes that are only briefly discussed in the four bulletins. These include theories of cultural origins, development of a distinctive Easter Island culture, the rise of cultural complexity, and the onset of cultural crisis. McCoy concurs with Emily that William Mulloy may have changed his mind about some of his earlier writing had he lived longer. But he adds the few people could disagree with how much Mulloy contributed to our understanding of Easter Island prehistory through his work.

The Easter Island Bulletins of William Mulloy is a must for every Rapa Nui bookshelf. As our *Featured EIF Publication*, we are offering the book to our readers at a special price of \$15.