

Letter to the Editor

The preceding issue of *Rapa Nui Journal* included a review of my book (Jakubowska, Zuzanna. *Odkryta przypadkiem, pojęta opacznie. Wyspa Wielkanocna w osiemnastowiecznych relacjach podróżników na tle rozważań o spotkaniu kultur* [Discovered by Chance, Interpreted Amiss: Easter Island in the 18th Century Travel Reports as Seen from Intercultural Encounters Perspective]). First of all, I would like to thank Dr. Rafał M. Wieczorek for such a positive commentary. However, I must rectify two things. First, Wieczorek writes that “[t]he Spanish translations are based on the seminal work of Francisco Mellén Blanco (1986). They are, however, compared with the original manuscripts. This reveals that the account of Aguera as presented by Mellén Blanco has small but abundant omissions compared to the manuscript stored at the Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia in Madrid” (Wieczorek 2013:73). That is not the case. Mellén Blanco includes in his book two different texts by Aguera (Mellén Blanco 1986:278-291, 295-336) and I, in my work, make a sort of ‘fusion’ of both of them: one is treated as basic and complemented with information from the other. It is a similar technique as that used by Beaglehole in his edition of Captain Cook’s journals (cf. Beaglehole 1961). Moreover, Wieczorek quotes Steven Roger Fischer in reference to the mention of the *rongorongo* “signatures” that

the islanders left on the Spanish annexation document in 1770 (Wieczorek 2013:76); nevertheless, those signs were already described and reproduced 11 years before, in the aforementioned book by Mellén Blanco (1986:194). I do mention them, too, but I deliberately do not focus in my work on non-textual relations, such as those “signatures” or drawings, as my principal interest lies in travelogues.

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References

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