

On an Easter Island rock drawing

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As has been shown earlier, an integrated analysis of the petroglyphs and hieroglyphs offers a clearer view of the mysterious culture of Easter Island (Rjabchikov 1994, 1995a, 1995b). Let us consider an additional example. A panel in the Anakena area has some signs (Lee 1992:176, figure 6.12) which reads as 6-7 Hatu (an epithet of the god Tiki, or Hotu, the first part of Hotu Matu'a's name; the signs represent a person [6=*ha*] and a star [7=*tuu*], 7=*tuu* and 19=*ki* according to my personal decipherment of the Rapanui script (Rjabchikov 1987:362-3). The latter petroglyph is a drawing of a rat (cf. my interpretation of the glyph 19 as the 'rat's' symbol (ibid. 1993:135, Appendix 1).

Rapanui legends tell of the landing of the first king, Hotu Matu'a, at Anakena Beach (Métraux 1940). On the other hand, it is known that Hotu Matu'a's soul was incarnated as a rat (Englert 1948:74). I conclude that the reading "*tuu*" apparently signifies 'the tribal union Tu'u which includes the tribe Miru--the tribe of the paramount chiefs.

So some petroglyphs inform the legendary history of the island.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

According to *Popular Science* (May 1995) which cites the *Guinness Book of Records*, Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited island in the world, not Rapa Nui. Tristan da Cunha lies 1510 miles (2416 km) southwest of St. Helena, its nearest neighbor. They place Rapa Nui 1260 miles (2016 km) from Pitcairn, its nearest inhabited island; however, the distance is actually 1320 (2112 km). Easter Island is west of

South America at 2300 miles (3680 km) whereas Tristan da Cunha is 1950 miles (3120 km) west of Africa. [But, when you are out there in that big ocean, what's a few hundred miles more or less?]

Spain

An exhibition titled *Los moai de la isla de Pascua, Arte y culturas de los Mares del Sur* was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 26 September to 26 November. The exhibit drew wide attention because of an unfortunate accident that damaged a *moai* borrowed from La Serena, Chile (see *RNJ* 9:4).

The Barcelona exhibition drew fifty thousand visitors to the Centro Cultural de la Fundación. A catalog accompanied the exhibit: *Els Moai de l'illa de Pasqua. Art I Cultures Als Mars Del Sud*, Edicion Bilingue Catalan/Español, 270 pages; ISBN 84-7664-527-9. Editado por Fundacio La Caixa, Barcelona. The catalog, containing 7 articles, sold some 3,000 copies. Papers included are: "La Isla de Pascua y la Polinesia" by G. Orefici; "Arte y cultura de los mares del sur" by C. Huera; "La navegacion en el Pacifico" by M. Biscione; "Vegetacion y civilizacion en la Isla de Pascua" by J. R. Flenley; "La escultura en madera de la Isla de Pascua" by C. and M. Orliac; "El arte de Rapa Nui. El culto al hombre pajaro", by G. Lee; and "Piezas excepcionales del Pacifico" by G. Ortiz.

Assisting at the inauguration of the exhibit were Rapanui governor, Jacobo Hey; the Ambasssador of Chile, Alvaro Briones; the president of the Museo Fonck de Viña del Mar, Norma Sanguinetti; the Directors of the exposition, Guiseppe Orefici and Carmen Huera; and the Director of the organization, Lluís Monreal.

The damaged *moai* was repaired by Eduard Porta of the Museo Arqueologico de Catalunya in Barcelona.

The exhibit, which was a smash hit in Milan, Italy, is now headed for Bordeaux, France, where it will open in March 1996 and run through the end of summer.

United States

More *moai* sightings: Ancient Artsyles (PO Box 524, Huntington, WV 25710) is advertising ceramic "Mysterious Moais" [*sic*], either full figure or head only and in colors: Antique Clay, Antique White, Pure White, or Satin Black. The beetle-browed scowling figures are 9¼" high and sell for \$49. A real Rapanui hand-carved pumice figure can be purchased for much less on the island but, of course, you have to GO there to get one.

Chile

- As reported in *RNJ*, very well-attended exhibitions of Rapanui artifacts, including an authentic full-sized *moai*, were mounted last year first in Milan, Italy, and then in Barcelona, Spain. The show is due to open soon in Bordeaux, France. Among the pieces on display are several dozen treasures from the Fonck Archaeological Museum in Viña del Mar where the Mulloy Library is situated.

However, it has been reported to the editors of this journal that the financial obligations of the museum in Milan have not been met: after nearly a year, the Italians still owe more

than US \$3,000 to the Fonck Museum. We hope that this is nothing more than a bureaucratic glitch and that a check will be in the mail within a very short time.

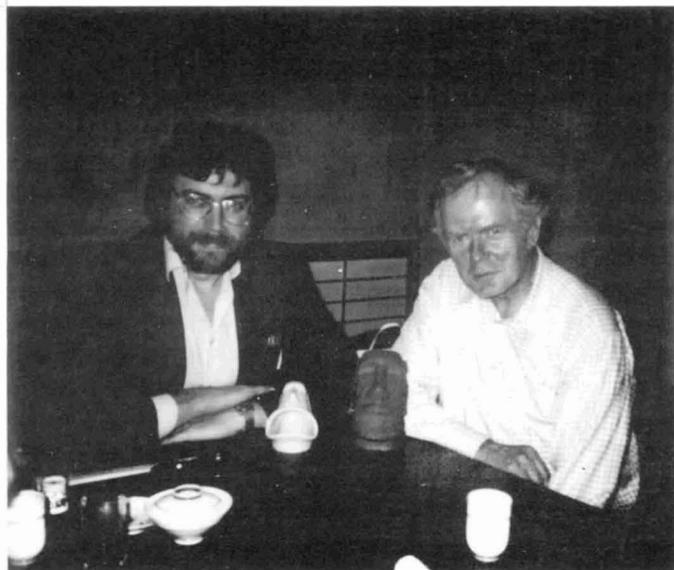
- Roberto Parraguez Singer, the first pilot to fly to Easter Island (in a Catalina 405 seaplane) has died. Parraguez pioneered the air route from Chile to Easter Island in 1951.
- The Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar, Chile, is exhibiting a series of color photographs by Wally McGalliard of Los Angeles in their Rapa Nui exhibit hall. McGalliard's photographs are on loan to the Fonck from the Easter Island Foundation.

Moai in Japan

Paul G. Bahn and John R. Flenley

We were privileged recently to be invited to an international symposium, "Wa no Kuni" (Forests, Myths & Civilizations), held in Nara and Kyoto, Japan, in December 1995, where we presented a total of three talks about the rise and fall of Easter Island's culture.

In Kyoto we were able to purchase two of the tasteful items in the "Easter Island" range of goods produced by the Iwaya Company of Tokyo—a large brown plastic moai-head money-



1) Bahn and Flenley in Kyoto, showing off their newly purchased Rapa Nui souvenirs. Bahn-Flenley photo.

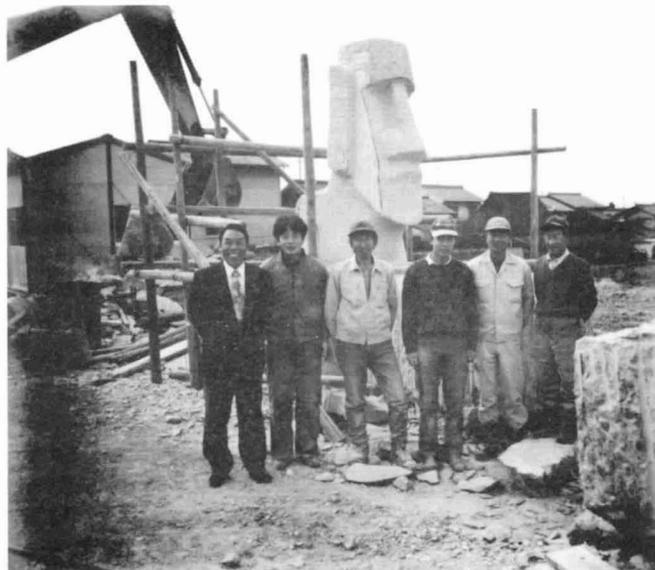
box, and a smaller, grey-green pottery moai-head ashtray with gaping mouth and a hole in the head for smoke to escape (fig. 1).

Forewarned by the information in *Rapa Nui Journal*, Vol. 9(3):87, that a Mr Sano of Nara was planning to construct a replica of ahu Akivi in Nara, we made contact with him during our stay there. We were able to have a long, fruitful

and enjoyable discussion with this Rapanuiphile, especially about his past, present and future projects on Easter Island.

Katsuji Sano is President of the Asuka Construction Company (motto "We prepare future"). His passion is stonemasonry, and for years he has traveled the world, looking at megalithic monuments, from Stonehenge and Brittany, from Egypt to Borobodur, studying and measuring the great stone structures and carvings, many of which he has subsequently reproduced back home. After the Tadano crane company pulled out of the Tongariki reconstruction (a project it had initiated), after only 18 months, it was Mr Sano who stepped into the breach and saw the restoration through to completion. His numerous visits to the island have produced a keen desire to do more to help the island both culturally and economically.

His current project is indeed a replica of ahu Akivi but it will not, as reported in the *RNJ*, be located in Nara itself. Instead, it will be set up on the coast at Miyazuki, in Kyushu—the nearest point of Japan to Easter Island. Mr Sano and his team (fig.2) have measured and photographed the Akivi moai in great detail, and are endeavoring to produce very similar versions. These are being carved in blocks of a volcanic tuff from a site near Tokyo. Since blocks of the required size are rare, some figures will have to be made of two pieces. Mr Sano has a team of five men working on the statues in a yard near his house; they are using modern



2) Mr Sano (far left) with his team of stone workers. Bahn-Flenley photo.

machinery and tools for the project, and he reckons it will take 3 men a month to complete each figure. The platform is expected to be finished and in place by April 1996; nearby will be three heads, based on some of the "heads" on the Raraku slopes, which will give the impression of being buried up to their necks.