

Introduction to the Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Easter Island Research: Rapa Nui Rendezvous 1993

George W. Gill
University of Wyoming

The third international conference on Easter Island research, the Rapa Nui Rendezvous, was held in Laramie, Wyoming, August 3-6, 1993. It was sponsored by the University of Wyoming, and was the first of the Easter Island conferences to be hosted in the United States. Sixty papers were presented by researchers from 18 countries. Over 250 participants attended the conference which was held in recognition of the contributions to Easter Island research made by the late William T. Mulloy, Wyoming anthropologist, and his colleagues of the 1955-56 Norwegian Expedition. The honored members of the expedition team were: Thor Heyerdahl, Ph.D., expedition leader, Kon-Tiki Museum, Oslo, Norway; Edwin Ferdon, Ph.D., University of Arizona; Gonzalo Figueroa G.-H., San Bernardo, Chile; William T. Mulloy, Ph.D. (deceased), University of Wyoming; Arne Skjølsvold, Ph.D., Kon-Tiki Museum, Oslo; and Carlyle S. Smith, Ph.D., University of Kansas.

Thor Heyerdahl and three of the other members of the team (Ferdon, Skjølsvold, Smith) were in attendance. William Mulloy, the only deceased member of the team, was represented by his widow, Emily Ross Mulloy. Since the conference, Carlyle S. Smith has likewise passed away (Dec. 13, 1993). Heyerdahl, Skjølsvold and Smith all presented papers.

The conference was made possible by generous funding from the University of Wyoming Research Office and was strongly supported in numerous ways by members of the Easter Island Foundation, University of Wyoming Department of Anthropology, University of Wyoming College of Arts and Sciences, and University of Wyoming Office of Conferences and Institutes. Members of the Rapa Nui Rendezvous Committee were: George W. Gill, Ph.D., Committee Chairman; Georgia Lee, Ph.D., Editor *Rapa Nui Journal*, Los Osos, California; Charles Love, Western Wyoming College; Emily Ross Mulloy, Easter Island Foundation; Douglas W. Owsley, Ph.D. Smithsonian Institution; and Wilhelm G. Solheim II, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus, University of Hawai'i.

Honored guests, in addition to those from the Norwegian Expedition team, were: Jacobo Hey P., Governor of Easter

Island and Alberto Hotus C., Mayor of Hanga Roa, Easter Island. Eighteen additional native people of Easter Island were in attendance. Governor Hey and Mayor Hotus both presented papers, and Sonia Haoa co-authored a paper and assisted with the conduct of the meetings.

A true Wyoming rendezvous spirit prevailed at the meeting with a wind-up ceremony and festivities at a ranch west of Laramie. Arapahoe and Shoshoni dancers performed, as well as Wyoming's leading cowboy band, and two traditional Easter Island dancers (Yenicet Araki and Nancy Manutomatoma).

The scientific papers were also quite exciting. According to Bahn (1993) who wrote up the 1993 Rapa Nui Rendezvous for the *Rapa Nui Journal*, the physical anthropology papers were the most important, and provided a highlight with a new theory on the island's colonization. Certainly other exciting new concepts were put forth as well. Two papers, for instance, dealt with recent experiments in *moai* transport, and two papers provided important information on avian extinction relating to environmental degradation on Rapa Nui and other Pacific Islands.

Thirty-one of the 60 papers were submitted for publication; two have been previously published in *Rapa Nui Journal*. These are by Pavel Pavel, "Reconstruction of the transport of the *moai* statues and *pukao* hats" (*RNJ* 9(3): 67-72); and Juan Grau, "*Jubaea*, the Palm of Chile and Easter Island" (*RNJ* 10(2): 37-43). The other editors and I have grouped the remaining papers into categories. These are indicated below along with the full list of titles of each submitted report.

The first group of papers covering various archaeological topics are contained within the pages of this issue of *Rapa Nui Journal*. The next group will appear in the next issue of the *Journal*, and the final papers will be presented in the following issue of *Rapa Nui Journal*.

For the reader's benefit the full list of published papers is provided below by author and title.

Reference cited:

Bahn, Paul G. 1993. Rapa Nui Rendezvous: A Personal View. *Rapa Nui Journal*, Vol. 7(3):45-48.

Proceedings of the Rapa Nui Rendezvous: Third International Conference on Easter Island Research

George W. Gill, Georgia Lee, Wilhelm Solheim II, Editors

Introduction

Gill, George W. Introduction to the Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Easter Island Research: Rapa Nui Rendezvous

Chapman, Patrick and George W. Gill. Easter Island origins: non-metric cranial trait comparison between Easter Island and Peru

Archaeology: Artifacts

Beardsley, Felicia Rounds. Bone tool technology on Easter Island

Gill, George W., Sonia Haoa C., and Douglas W. Owsley. Easter Island origins: Implications of osteological findings

Church, Flora and J. Grace Ellis. A Use-Wear Analysis of obsidian tools from an *Ana Kionga*

Long, Sharon A. and George W. Gill. Facial features of the ancient Rapa Nui

Kaeppler, Adrienne L. The great adze in the Smithsonian Institution: History and Provenance

Orefici, Guiseppe and Andrea G. Drusi. Analysis of the context of burials in the plaza of Ahu Tongariki

Martinsson-Wallin, Helene. Variation and meaning of Easter Island *ahu*

Wallin, Paul. A unique find on Easter Island

Natural History: Geology and Botanical Relations

Boven, A., M. de Dapper, P. de Paepe, R. Langohr and P. Pasteels. Evolution of the southwestern edge of the Poike volcano, Easter Island

Archaeology: General

Shaw, Leslie C. The use of caves as burial chambers on Easter Island

Gurley, Robert E. and William Liller. Palm trees, *mana*, and the moving of the *moai*

Skjølsvold, Arne. Age of Easter Island settlement, *ahu* and monolithic sculpture

Paepe, P. De and I. Vergauwen. New petrological and geochemical data on Easter Island

Van Tilburg, Jo Anne. Mechanics, logistics and economics of transporting Easter Island (Rapa Nui) statues

Linguistics

Cain, Horst and Annette Bierbach. The term *mo'ai* as a key to the idea behind the phenomenon

Polynesian Connections

Lee, Georgia. Petroglyph motif distribution in East Polynesia

Rapa Nui Ethnohistory and History

Fischer, Steven Roger. Preliminary evidence of multiple reanalysis and replacement in Rapa Nui settlement traditions

Liller, William. Astronomical alignments and pointing devices in ancient Polynesia

McCall, Grant. Rio, Rapu and Rapanui: Refoundations in Easter Island colonial history

Rapa Nui Origins

Heyerdahl, Thor. A reappraisal of Alfred Métraux' search for extra-island parallels to Easter Island culture elements

Bahn, Paul G. Easter Island or (Man-) eaters Island?

Johansen, Øystein Kock. A *modus vivendi* within Polynesian archaeology in relation to the connection Easter Island-Peru

Walter, Christian G. Points of view and view-points: Roggeveen's visit revised

Langdon, Robert. Evidence for three prehistoric migrations to Easter Island

Rapa Nui Heritage

Charola, A. Elena. The preservation of the monumental heritage of Easter Island

Solheim, Wilhelm G., II. Polynesian ancestry and the Nusan-tao maritime network

Kurze, Joan T. and Kay Sanger. The rocky road to the Mulloy Research Library

Ramírez, José Miguel. Rapa Nui National Park: Proposal for an International Scientific Advisory Board

Physical Anthropology: Origins and Biology

Baker, Scott J. and George W. Gill. A modification of results of the osteological analysis of the Norwegian Expedition to Easter Island