

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### UNITED STATES

A scientific expedition is planned for late August, 1997, by the Science Museum of Long Island, New York. It will be led by Dr. John Loret, who sailed with the Norwegian Archaeological Expedition of 1955-56 and who is a past president of the Explorers Club. Field work includes obtaining deep sediment cores from the island's craters and drilling cores from sea coral in order to determine if past episodes of El Niño affected fish resources. One team will survey the varied land and marine habitats. Information on how to join this expedition can be had by contacting the Science Museum of Long Island, 1526 N. Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York 11030. Fax: 515-365-8927.

### WHAT'S NEW IN POLYNESIA

#### SUVA, FIJI

NASA is studying the troposphere—the lowest layer of the atmosphere that is in direct contact with land and sea. The troposphere shapes the weather, receives pollutants and controls the air we breathe. The project, Pacific Exploratory Mission in the Pacific (PEM-Tropics), will survey relatively unexplored areas of the troposphere via specially equipped aircraft. The southern tropical Pacific region, including Fiji, is experiencing increasing burdens of pollutants coming from long distances: South America, Southeast Asia, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

In a public lecture at the University of the South Pacific, Dr Patrick Nunn warned of the effects of global warming on the Pacific islands. Deforestation, the "greenhouse effect" and sea-level rise are effecting the area. The latter will make some atolls uninhabitable. Changes in the weather also are linked to an increase in tropical cyclone frequency.

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#### SAMOA

The Samoa Voyaging Society "Aiga Tautai o Samoa" is building an operational replica of an ocean voyaging canoe similar to those used in Samoa prior to 1850. The community based Voyaging Society was created to restore and preserve ancient knowledge and skills of voyaging canoe construction, crewmanship and navigation. The Society is actively seeking members. For information, contact Mr Sven Ordquist, Friends of the Samoa Voyaging Society, Jean P. Haydon Museum, American Samoa Government, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

The 7th Pacific Festival of Arts was held in Apia, Samoa from 8-23 of September. The Arts festivals showcase traditional arts and crafts, dancing and singing, film festivals, costumes, and various cultural demonstrations. Attendees of the 1996 Festival report that the dance groups from Rapa Nui were highlights of the festival and were enthusiastically applauded. A 3 meter high wood statue was carved on the spot by Bene Tuki and presented to the Ministry of Culture. The next festival will be in the year 2000.



Bene Tuki at the Pacific Festival of Arts displaying his ceremonial paddle. Photo by Bud Henry

#### NEW ZEALAND

The Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literatures and the journal *Rongorongo Studies* are pleased to announce that the winner of the Polynesian Literary Competition for 1996, whose theme area was the Cook Islands, is: Elizabeth Arait Ponga of Avarua, Rarotonga, the Cook Islands, with her short story, "Te Reo o te Ipukarea." Elizabeth Arait Ponga, who is a native Cook Islands writer, has been awarded a Certificate of Award and a cash prize of US \$250. The winning story, with accompanying English translation, will be published in the forthcoming issue of the journal, *Rongorongo Studies*.

The adjudicators for the 1996 Competition were the Cook Island educator Rangitukua Moeka'a of the University of Auckland and the Cook Islands anthropologist and cultural advisor Kauraka Kauraka of the Ministry of Cultural Development, Rarotonga. Permanent moderators were Dr H.G.A. Hughes of Clwyd, Wales, and Dr Steven Roger Fischer of Auckland, New Zealand.

#### PITCAIRN

Want a souvenir from Pitcairn Island? Looking for a gift for that difficult uncle? Available are postcards, posters, tee-shirts, wood carvings and baskets. A list of items with prices and shipping information can be had by writing to the Pitcairn Miscellany, Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Ocean, via New Zealand.