

Michael Graves; *Ritual and Domestic Architecture, Sacred Places, and Images: Archaeology in the Marquesas Archipelago, French Polynesia*, by Sidsel Millerstrom; and *The Archaeology of the Conical Clan in Micronesia*, by Paul Rainbird.

As can be seen, only three papers deal with Polynesia, and none address our favorite island in the center of the world – despite their use of a birdman figure from Easter Island as the logo for the book. New Zealand gets a short paragraph in the introduction, as does Samoa.

Conte discusses the importance of ethnographic analogy that becomes more and more urgent as elders die and life-ways change. Some technologies have been maintained with enough continuity to allow for this approach, with assistance of the Polynesian societies themselves.

Ladefoged and Graves describe Hawaiian political and community territories that were organized in complex ways, and attempt to explain patterns of spatial variation of complex Hawaiian chiefdoms. Such divisions may have occurred over centuries and may have been in response to productivity within divisions, or due to the rise of complex chiefdoms that altered boundaries for political purposes.

Millerstrom's paper on Marquesan archaeology concerns ritual architecture and art and how these were associated or how they varied. Her study includes separating ritual architecture from chiefly household units and studying variations and associations. Her survey indicates that, in the valleys of Taipivai, Hakapa'a, Hatiheu, and Anaho, ritual architectural complexes often were built on narrow ridges; most were extensive with multiple terraces, and some had petroglyphs in the shrine, as well as one or more statues.

I thought the papers somewhat uneven and the extensive coverage of Australia, while interesting, was overwhelming for a book supposedly about Oceania.

Easter Island and Its Mysteries

by Stéphen-Charles Chauvet

Originally published as *L'île de Pâques et ses Mystères*, "TEL":Paris, 1935, 86 p., 68 plates. English translation published online in 2005 at www.chauvet-translation.com

Review by Paul Horley

EVERYONE TRYING TO GATHER a bookshelf devoted to Easter Island is well familiar with the difficulties of this task, as numerous titles dedicated to the turbulent *Rapa Nui* history and its vast cultural heritage are out-of-print for years. Moreover, many are written in Spanish, French, German, etc., which poses an additional barrier for the Anglophone reader. This situation was significantly improved by the successful project of bringing us a book translated into English from French and compiling several valuable accounts of early Easter Island visitors, published by the Easter Island Foundation. Yet another great advance was made in the past year, resulting in a wonderful web-site dedicated to the classic French book about *Rapa Nui* written by Dr. Stéphen-Charles Chauvet, translated into English by Ann M. Altman, edited and de-

signed for web presentation by Shawn McLaughlin.

Originally published in the first half of 20th century, the book contained a large amount of data about Easter Islanders, their land, customs, religion and art. In addition, it featured 68 plates with 186 figures – a unique gallery where one could find early maps of the island (made by the expedition of González de Haedo in 1770 and by the officers of the corvette *O'Higgins* in 1870), old drawings and etchings (from the accounts of Cook, La Pérouse, Dupetit-Thouars, Kotzebue, Vi-aud, and Pinart), historic photos of the island sites (by Thomson, Delabaude, Bienvenido de Estella, and Shapiro), as well as an impressive photographic collection of Easter Island artifacts including wooden statuettes and large stone images, spear points, bone and stone fishhooks, skulls with engravings, ceremonial paddles, *rongorongo* tablets, and adornments.

Now, one can truly enjoy the on-line version of this book, superbly translated into English with correction of numerous Chauvet misspellings. It is even easier to read than the paper version, mainly due to searchable text and a single mouse click access to the figures referenced in the text. All the illustrations are scanned in high-resolution, featuring very good details, at the same time generally of medium file size that ensures a fast download. If necessary, the overall composition of the plates can be seen in low-resolution scans, accommodated with the detailed captions for every figure on the "Figure legends" page.

The site follows the subdivision of the original book into the chapters entitled "Easter Island," "The Easter Islanders," "Flora and fauna," "Monuments and megaliths," "Carved wooden objects," and "The talking tablets of Easter Island," each presented as an individual web-page. Comments appearing in each chapter are added with numerous translator/editor notes (given in italics), clarifying particular statements and supplying the reader with modern information and corresponding literature references regarding the topics discussed. The bibliography from the book is presented "as is" in the verbatim; a separate page entitled "Current sources and further reading" lists more than 170 modern references. In addition, the site also presents biographical information about Stéphen Chauvet himself, which increases the overall presentation integrity of this impressive new translation project.

PUBLICATIONS

- Allen, Tricia. 2006. *Tattoo Traditions of Hawai'i*. A near-complete compilation of all early ethnohistoric illustrations and references on Hawaiian tattoo, including a number of previously unpublished original Arago illustrations from 1819. 230 pages. \$17.95 Mutual Publishing, Honolulu. <http://www.tattoo-traditions.alohaworld.com>
- Angleviel, F. 2005. Des géants de pierre à l'homme-oiseau. Les manifestations de la religion ancienne de l'île de Pâques. *Religions and Histoire* (Paris) 4, Sept-Oct., 72-81.
- Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association*, Vol. 25. Indo-Pacific Prehistory: The Taipei Papers, Volume 3.