

easiest book to find, it presents important ideas and provides a welcome alternative to the current crop of popular pseudo-scientific writers who fantasize lost maritime races bringing high culture to the world, and accuse scientists, especially archaeologists, of ignoring diffusionist arguments. Sadly, sweet potatoes don't earn shelf space at the local Barnes & Noble, which is why commercial writers ignore the true smoking gun for prehistoric trans-Pacific contact. The ancient Polynesians, as skilled in agriculture as in navigation, found their gold not in Inca treasuries but in the farms and gardens of Ecuador. They returned with a crop that revolutionized the social structure on many islands and may have lead directly to the great era of *moai* construction on Rapa Nui. The research in this excellent volume proves that though sweet potatoes may not be as romantic and fashionable as imaginary sea kings, they are better "to think with."

PUBLICATIONS

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- Barbour, J. T. 2006. *Blue Planet and Beyond: Earth and the Future of Humanity*. Golden Phoenix Publications, Olympia, Washington. 330 pages, hard cover.
- Le Bulletin du Centre d'Études sur l'île de Pâques et la Polynésie* (CEIPP), No 84 for May 2006. Délégation de la Polynésie française à Paris, 28 boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris.
- Lee, Georgia. 2006. Easter Island remembered. *South American Explorer*, 81 (Spring): 12-17.
- Lee, Georgia. 2006. *Rapa Nui, Island of Memory*. Easter Island Foundation, Los Osos.
- Guerra, A. 2006. Las estructuras domesticas de Rapa Nui (1): Las olvidadas de la arqueologia. *Revista de Arqueologia* 300:34-39.
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- Hooper, S. 2006. *Pacific Encounters: Art and Divinity in Polynesia 1760-1860*. London: British Museum Press. ISBN:0-7141-2575-X288. 340 illustrations.
- Jones, A. Ironman island. *Islands*. March 2006. :74-83. *Tahiti-Pacifique Magazine*, No. 183 for July 2006. This issue contains an article on the inauguration of the new Musée du Quai Branly in France and its exhibit of Polynesian artifacts; an article on the Polynesian fruit, 'noni' which now appears to be an aphrodisiac for Orientals (!); an article by Jean-Louis Candelot about the idea of ancient Chinese explorers in Polynesia; and the story of Captain Benson's shipwreck on Easter Island, translated into French.
- USP Beat magazine*. The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. Email: admin@starprintery.net.fj

MOAI SIGHTINGS

THE MOST ASTONISHING *moai* sighting in years comes from the Outdoor Education Garden, a new feature at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Romsey, England. The twenty-foot *moai* – constructed of woven hazel branches – stands at the top of the outdoor garden (see below). While a tad out of proportion, there is no mistaking it's inspiration. The wicker *moai* has inlaid eyes of woven willow hazel with silver birch bark for the whites, providing a somewhat sinister effect. Along with the story of Easter Island, students learn about the importance of respecting the environment. Our thanks to David Maddock for providing news of this apparition, illustrated in *Hampshire Now*, #19, 2006.



Another *moai* sighting comes from Mesa, Arizona, (below) where Shawn McLaughlin spotted a handsome fella, overlooking a swimming pool.

