

tude is contagious and anyone who has had the pleasure to meet some of the scholars Roger influenced early in his career can clearly see how that enthusiasm was embraced and has passed down through the academic generations.

While I will miss Roger and his phone calls immensely, I also know that in a way he is still present. There are many lessons he taught me that I haven't fully realized yet and that I will only acknowledge when I paraphrase Roger when making comments to students. Advice such as, 'Your thesis is not your life's work' or, 'You are *learning*; no one expects you to be perfect or all-knowing, but to make the effort to learn more about the topic every day' or my favourite, 'It is a *draft* of a paper; there are still infinite opportunities to improve it.' Roger showed me that the student – teacher relationship is fluid, with both parties having expertise and opinions to contribute but also something to learn. Roger will be there every time I get excited about a new piece of the puzzle – whether it is directly related to my own research or that of a colleague or student. His legacy will live on because he was a mentor, and for those of us to whom he freely gave his time and his tuition it is now ours to pass it on. That is what he cleverly taught us to do when we thought we were learning something else.

Roger Curtis Green: A Tribute and
Celebration. A Special Memorial at the
Fale Pasifika of the University of Auckland
30th October 2009

Steve Fischer

It was a cool, breezy, sunny Friday afternoon as Valerie Green, in pensive gratitude, watched as over one hundred friends, colleagues, disciples from throughout New Zealand and the world gathered inside the University of Auckland's vast *Fale Pasifika*—the high circular Samoan-style meeting house just below the office from which, over the course of more than fifty years, her late husband Roger Green transformed Pacific archaeology and linguistics. Upon entering the cavernous structure, all of us, mental pallbearers each, succumbed doubly to the occasion's solemnity as the School of Music's Post-Graduate String Quartet pined into an emotional rendition of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. Soon, a formal Maori *karanga* (welcome) rang out, whereupon Simon Holdaway of the Department of Anthropology greeted all those assembled. Peter Sheppard then delivered the first tribute of the day and began introducing each of the many speakers whose eulogies sanctified the next three hours. Linguist Andrew Pawley, a colleague since 1958, delivered the rich paean of the senior scholar, followed by Dame Anne Salmond and the Samoan artist Fatu Feu'u, who then introduced a West Samoan choir whose village of Poutasi, district of Falealili, Western Samoa, had recently been devastated by a tsunami; the poignancy of their song and own suffering touched all. Further tributes followed, all

of them moving, at times even tearful, yet punctuated, too, with anecdotal humor: from Geoff Irwin, Géraldine Sand, Janet Davidson, Lisa Matisso-Smith, Marshall Weisler, Melinda Allen, Robin Torrence, and Roger Green's young nephew Ryan Lang. Tributes from abroad were read out: from Jack Golson (who had welcomed Roger Green at the University of Auckland in 1958), Jane Kelley, Peter Bellwood, Lawrence Foana'ota, Pat Kirch, Matthew Spriggs, and Richard Walter. Audience tributes then followed, with closing music. Afterwards, many lingered over light refreshments, chatting in muffled tones, recollecting our own special moments with the Pacific's leading archaeologist, consoling with Valerie Green while expressing lifetimes of gratitude. Seldom come such days as this. Roger Green was himself an island of a man, one who dedicated his entire professional life to the Pacific he loved so well. And as we wandered silently away from the *Fale Pasifika*, back to Waiheke, to Christchurch and Dunedin, to Canberra, to Hawai'i and France, we knew Roger Green will never truly be gone. For each of us was carrying inside us that living legacy only the great can bestow.

Knut M. Haugland

Thor Heyerdahl Jr.
Chairman of the Board, The Kon-Tiki Museum

Reidar Solsvik
Curator, The Kon-Tiki Museum

Fair winds and following seas, Knut!

Knut M. Haugland has lowered his final sail. As the last of the Kon-Tiki crew he reached his final shore on Christmas Day, 92 years old, and with him the Kon-Tiki Expedition becomes part of history. Knut, who in the service of king, country and friends had challenged fate more often than most, was finally permitted by those same whims of fate to sign off after a full life. It is therefore with wistfulness and not grief that these lines are written. Knut knew how to take full advantage of his generously allotted time; not a moment went to waste. It is with gratitude and respect that we here at the Kon-Tiki Museum remember him.

It is with sober recognition that we note that two chapters of Norwegian history have now finally come to a close. His exploits during the Second World War belong to the first. These are described in vivid detail in the biography of his life, *Operatøren* ("The Operator"), which was published last year. These exploits earned him the position as one of the most decorated soldiers of all times in Norway. Knut was an essential part of the heavy water raid in Vemork, which stopped Hitler from getting the atom bomb. This is not just part of Norwegian history, it is part of world history, and is depicted in a series of books and films. But it was his Morse code contact with London from his hiding place above the Women's Clinic in Oslo, which ended with Knut shooting his



The Kon Tiki crew, from left to right: Knut M. Haugland, Herman Watzinger, Torstein Raaby, Erik Hesselberg, Bengt Danielsson, and Thor Heyerdahl.

way through the enemy's ring of steel that he personally considered his most crucial moment. Not because of his own danger, but because he had put others in danger. This was masterfully reconstructed in Arne Skouen's film *Omringet* ("Surrounded").

It was at this precise moment when the world was down for the count, and our civilisation was licking its wounds, struggling with the trauma left by war, that a breath of fresh air chose to brighten those bleak days. Six brave chaps, with Knut as one of them, sailed across the world's largest ocean on a raft right into a South Sea paradise. The Kon-Tiki expedition became the realisation of a war weary world's dream, an escape from the ruins and painful memories. The book and documentary about the expedition held the entire world spellbound. A sea-borne expedition has probably never before, or since, fascinated quite as many people. Thus it is probably no exaggeration to claim that Knut again left his mark in history with the Kon-Tiki expedition.

The late Thor Heyerdahl would also expect to Knut to be remembered as his closest friend and colleague. While Thor saw no point in preserving the Kon-Tiki raft, Knut was aware that it could act as a source of inspiration and adventure for all those who could not embark upon such an adventurous expedition themselves. And if there were enough of these and the income from tickets was sufficient, one could build a museum and raise funds to continue research into the Pacific region, and thus strengthen the scientific grounds for the Kon-Tiki expedition. Knut thus built up the Kon-Tiki Museum to become one of Norway best visited museums, which attracts up to a quarter of a million visitors every year. The museum that Knut Haugland organized became for many years the centre of Thor Heyerdahl's scientific expeditions, the most known is the expeditions to Rapa Nui in 1955-56 and 1986-88 and the excavations in Tucume, Peru from

1988-1992. The museum also became an independent, foundation with its own research department which has provided grants to researchers from many countries within the fields of anthropology and maritime experimental archaeology. Knut also persuaded Thor to donate his private library and document- and picture-archives to be the core of an excellent library, archives and collections at the museum. Today, the Kon-Tiki Museum continues to play an important role in Pacific Ocean research, on the other side of the globe!

The fact that Knut simultaneously managed to establish the Norwegian Resistance Museum in Akershus Fortress in Oslo is alone worthy of an entire chapter. Our war history was thus documented for prosperity in the hope that those who would follow would learn from what happened and thus avoid it happening again. Once confronted with the question why a professional soldier would spend most of his life organizing two museums, Knut turned silent for a moment, before he answered: "It was my way of contributing to peace and understanding". This statement holds the highest standards and aspirations for what role a museum can play in society.

More does not need to be said in a short eulogy such as this to justify Knut Haugland's honourable place in history. However, you can be just as certain that much more will be said.

REVIEWS

Questioning Collapse: Human resilience, ecological vulnerability and the aftermath of empire

Edited by P. A. McAnany and N. Yoffee
New York, Cambridge University Press, 2010; 374 pp.

Reviewed by John Flenley and Paul Bahn

We like the title. Questioning is a good idea. That is the way that understanding and knowledge and science progress. One has to have debate. It has been said that the good debater is one who can improve his opponent's own argument, but still defeat it. Unfortunately in the present book not all measure up to this standard. The volume is a collection of articles by specialists on the various examples of collapse claimed by Jared Diamond (2005) in his book *Collapse – how human societies choose to fail or succeed*. Diamond says that 'collapse' involves reduction of population and/or political/economic/social complexity over a considerable area for an extended time. By choosing, Diamond means that societies may or may not respond constructively to external factors such as climatic change or to self-induced factors such as ecological degradation.

The editors, in an introductory chapter, make their own position clear: humans will always behave rationally and thus will exhibit resilience, bouncing back from disaster. Therefore, they argue, collapse does not exist, and Diamond is merely a geographical determinist, a position long regarded