

FROM THE EDITORS

IN THIS ISSUE, we welcome our new Chief Editor, Dr Thegn Ladefoged, Associate Professor of Archaeology, University of Auckland, New Zealand. Ladefoged has worked on Rapa Nui since 1999, most recently investigating agricultural development on the island. A brief summary of that work is presented in this issue of the journal. He is also a member of an interdisciplinary project in Kohala, Hawai'i, investigating the ecodynamics of the leeward Kohala field system. Another of his research interests concerns the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, where he is a member of a team investigating the development of territoriality.

We also welcome, as Assistant Editor, Mara Mulrooney, who is about to earn her Ph.D. from the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland. Mara's doctoral research focuses on settlement in the Hanga Ho'onu (La Pérouse Bay) area of the island. She has also carried out research in Hawai'i, New Zealand, and Guam.

This issue, our second for 2010, features a paper by Bridget Mosley and Mark McCoy on the sourcing of lithics in New Zealand; and Chris Stevenson, Thegn Ladefoged, Sonia Haoa and others contribute a short paper on an on-going project on Rapa Nui that is studying environmental factors and resources that may have contributed to collapse.

Burkhard Vogt and Johannes Moser describe and discuss their excavations on Rapa Nui, at the site of the newly discovered water management system at Ava Ranga Uka A Toroke Hau. This was a ritual place with water, pavement, and *ahu* and is a unique "find". However, there is still much that we don't understand about it. The site was first spotted by Rapanui archaeologist, Sonia Haoa, during her survey of the area.

Sidsel Millerstrom and María Cruz Berrocal describe their recent field project in Fiji, and, as for historic events on Rapa Nui, Professor Rolf Foerster of the University of Chile contributes a paper concerning the murky episode of the late king of Rapa Nui, Riroroko, and his "princes," and what happened to them; the unsolved murder of a Company employee; and how leprosy likely was the unexpected means of putting an end to the deportations of Rapanui to mainland Chile. A great detective story!

Continuing with historic material, we present the second half of a two-part paper concerning the German-Chilean Expedition to Rapa Nui in 1957-58, by Steven Roger Fischer. This was the famous Barthel expedition, the story of which has (amazingly enough) never before been published! Barthel's somewhat controversial opus, *The Eighth Land*, was a result

of this Easter Island expedition and Barthel was one of the first to open the door leading to the modern evaluation of Rapanui ethnic history and the re-interpretation of modern myths. It was a benchmark for measuring the genesis of Modern Rapanui language, historiography, and ethnic studies, and it was a milestone when it appeared in the early 1970s. Contrary to Barthel's claim, however, the manuscript upon which it is based does not document actual Rapanui "history" (in the Western sense) but it does convey what 19th century Rapanui believed to have been their settlement history. It is all about myth, the making of Rapanui myth. Herein lies its literary charm and its academic value.

This issue of *Rapa Nui Journal* also includes the First Call for Papers for the 2012 International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific, to be held at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek hotel, in Santa Rosa, California, from the 8th to the 13th of July, 2012, and in collaboration with Far Horizons Archaeological and Cultural Trips. Santa Rosa is in the heart of the Sonoma valley wine country, north of San Francisco. Dr Patrick Kirch, University of California at Berkeley, will be the keynote speaker. We will be posting details and more information on our website: www.islandheritage.org as well as with the Second Call for Papers, early 2011. We thank Dr Paul Horley for his excellent design and layout of the conference brochure.

We hear a great deal in Chilean newspapers about what is happening in Hangaroa but, as we go to press, there are few facts available. Rumors abound — and so we hear of sit-in occupations of government buildings, including the museum; and we hear of threats and counter-threats. A new governor, Petero Edmunds, was appointed—but he resigned shortly thereafter. Another Rapanui, Carmen Cardinali, was then appointed. But strikes and sit-ins and threats continue. A national celebration on the island was cancelled. We hate to leave our readers in the dark, but what the outcome of all this may be is anybody's guess. The main issue is that the Rapanui want their land returned to them and they want to control the immigration of Chileans from the mainland. Stay tuned! We hope to have further updates in our Spring issue.

For the last twenty years most of the issues of the *Journal* and fifteen books published by the EIF have been put together by Frank Morin on his computer. Frank will be ninety three this month and is a bit tired of this job. Georgia Lee is feeling the pressure also. Any volunteer who is competent to do this work would be welcomed with open arms.

Thegn Ladefoged, Georgia Lee, Frank Morin, and Mara Mulrooney, editors, with a special thanks to Steven Roger Fischer for his comments.