

# From the Editors

This issue of the *Rapa Nui Journal* debuts a new look with several substantive changes. We are pleased to welcome Hamish Macdonald as our new production manager. Most articles in the journal are now peer-reviewed. The timeline and review process for each manuscript is detailed on the last page of each article. The journal publishes articles on Pacific anthropology, and related topics such as history, linguistics, and environmental sciences. The journal is ranked by such agencies as the Australian Research Council, and consistently publishes in a timely manner twice a year. We welcome contributions from academics and scholars, and particularly encourage students to submit manuscripts on their PhD and MA research. Guidelines for authors can be found on our website (<http://www.islandheritage.org>).

In this issue, three scholarly articles focus on a range of topics that explore the more recent past on Rapa Nui. César N. Caviedes and Peter R. Waylen, both from the University of Florida, present the results of their analysis of climatic records from the second half of the 20th century to explore the ecological effects of climatic shifts and seasonality associated with short-term climatic changes in the form of regional El Niño or La Niña events. Their conclusions provide insights into the possible effects of climatic shifts during the pre-European contact period on Rapa Nui.

An article by David Maddock provides a fascinating biography of Roberto Parragué Singer and his quest to bring air travel to Rapa Nui during the early 1950s. This account describes the maiden voyage of *Manutara*, the first plane to land at Mataverí, which was piloted by Parragué on its first trip to the island in 1951. This paved the way for further air travel to and from the island, which Maddock documents using cancelled postage marks on air mail being carried to and from the island during the early years. Various developments along the way are discussed, including LAN Chile's interest in adding the island to its travel routes beginning in 1963. The publication of this article is timely, as earlier this year LAN Chile increased the number of weekly flights to Rapa Nui to 14, including two flights per week arriving directly from Lima, Peru. In addition, Parragué's family members who currently reside on Rapa Nui celebrated the 60th anniversary of his first trip to the island on January 20 (*El Correo del Moai* February 2011).

Paul Horley presents a detailed analysis of the palaeography of the Santiago Staff. This is the largest surviving *rongorongo* artifact in a museum collection and it contains a fascinating arrangement of carvings. Horley challenges previous readings of the staff and examines the layout of glyphs to propose new insights. His analysis also enables the identification of the wood type of this very special artifact.

This issue also contains two invited commentaries by Brigid Mulloy, who was on Rapa Nui in October 2010 to participate in the 50th anniversary celebration of the restoration of Ahu Akivi, which was restored by her father Bill Mulloy and his colleagues. In her commentary, she shares a summary of the celebration as well as a number of previously unpublished photographs from the restoration efforts in 1960. One of these is featured on the cover of this issue. Her second invited paper entitled "Letters from the Island" shares first-hand accounts in the form of hand-written letters by her mother Emily during their family's year-long stay on the island in 1960-61. These letters provide a fascinating glimpse into what life was like on the island back then.

Our new Chief Editor, Thegn Ladefoged is the subject of this issue's *Getting to Know You*. Thegn has recently published results of his ongoing research on human ecodynamics in Kohala, Hawai'i in a volume entitled *Roots of Conflict: Soils, Agriculture, and Sociopolitical Complexity in Ancient Hawai'i*, edited by Patrick V. Kirch (SAR Press, 2011). His ongoing collaborative research project on Rapa Nui was featured in the Fall 2010 issue of the *Rapa Nui Journal* as well.

Sadly, we have lost two prominent Pacific scholars in recent months. Roger Neich, Curator of Ethnology at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, passed away in September 2010. We thank Harry Allen for the obituary. Irina Fedorova, a *rongorongo* specialist, passed away in December 2010. Thanks to her daughter, Olga Fedorova, for the obituary.

In other news, we are excited to inform you that the *Rapa Nui Journal* has established a new partnership with the local monthly newspaper on Rapa Nui, *El Correo del Moai*. The newspaper is published each month by Paula Rossetti (Editor) and Leonardo Pakarati (Director) in Spanish, and includes news, current events, and interviews about local issues. Annual international subscriptions cost 45,000 pesos (approximately US\$95) and subscription requests can be emailed to [elcorreodelmoai@gmail.com](mailto:elcorreodelmoai@gmail.com). *El Correo del Moai* is the first independent newspaper on the island and they have been in operation since November 2009. We look forward to working with them in the future to bring you the latest news directly from the island.

We are also thrilled to announce the publication of the conference proceedings volume from the 2007 Easter Island Conference, which was held in Gotland, Sweden. The volume is edited by Paul Wallin and Helene Martinsson-Wallin and contains a large number of papers that are relevant to Rapa Nui archaeology, anthropology and history, as well as extensive sections on Western Pacific archaeology and anthropology as well as Eastern Pacific archaeology and

contacts with the Americas. To order, please email Books on demand at: [order@books-on-demand.com](mailto:order@books-on-demand.com); state the book title, number of copies desired and the shipping address. The book(s) will be sent with an invoice.

This issue of *Rapa Nui Journal* also includes the second announcement of the 2012 International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific, to be held in Santa Rosa, California, from the 8th to the 13th of July, 2012. More information about the conference can be found on our website: [www.islandheritage.org](http://www.islandheritage.org).

Mara Mulrooney (Assistant Editor)  
Thegn Ladefoged (Chief Editor)

## Errata

In the article entitled “The Rano Kau 2 Pollen Diagram: Palaeoecology Revealed” by K.R. Butler and J.R. Flenley (Volume 24, Number 1 (May 2010), page 5), it should be noted that the Rano Kau core 1 was collected in 1971 and the Rano Kau core 2 was collected in 1977.

In the article entitled “Fiji Revisited: A Field Report of the Rock Art Survey Project 2009” by S. Millerstrom and M. Cruz Berrocal (Volume 24, Number 2 (October 2010), page 33, line 12 under the heading “Painted Figures”), the sentence “While handprints are found in New Zealand, they are more common in Near Oceania” should read: “While handprints are found in Fiji, they are more common in Near Oceania.”

## 2011 Subscriptions for

# EL CORREO DEL **moai** PERIÓDICO INDEPENDIENTE



Annual subscription:

Rapa Nui: \$ 12.000 Chilean Pesos  
Chile: \$ 30.000 Chilean Pesos  
International: \$ 45.000 Chilean Pesos (approx. \$95 USD)

Email: [elcorreodelmoai@gmail.com](mailto:elcorreodelmoai@gmail.com)

## Out Now

To order, please email Books on demand at: [order@books-on-demand.com](mailto:order@books-on-demand.com); state the book title, number of copies desired and the shipping address. The book(s) will be sent with an invoice.

