

## WHAT'S NEW IN OCEANIA

### Dr. Steven Roger Fischer selected as a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand

Dr Steven Roger Fischer, Institute of Polynesian Languages, Auckland, has been selected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. The criteria for election to Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand are excellence in pure and/or applied scientific and technological research and the humanities; or research that leads to the advancement of knowledge and scholarship in New Zealand. Nominations are assessed using criteria which include intellect, scholarship, international reputation, sustained productivity, originality of thinking, peer recognition and impact of their research. The Academy has 368 Fellows, covering all disciplines in sciences, engineering/technology, social sciences and humanities. Our sincere congratulations to Dr Fischer, who has been a frequent contributor to the *Rapa Nui Journal* over many years.

### Passings

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Mau Piailug and Herb Kawainui Kane. Mau was a master navigator from the island of Satawal in the Caroline Islands. He guided *Hōkūle'a* on its maiden voyage in 1976, successfully navigating the Hawaiian sailing canoe to Tahiti. Mau played an integral role in the renaissance of voyaging in Hawai'i and elsewhere in the Pacific, sharing his knowledge and training new navigators across the region with the Polynesian Voyaging Society from the 1970s onwards. Mau passed away in July 2010.

The *Honolulu Star Advertiser* reported the passing of Herb Kawainui Kane on March 8, 2011, at the age of 82. Herb was a Hawaiian artist, historian, and a founder of the Polynesian Voyaging Society who is most well-known for his paintings of Hawaiian mythology and historical events. His artwork was featured on seven U.S. postal stamps as well as stamps in other Pacific Island nations. He was the author and illustrator of three books that explored Hawaiian mythology and history, including *Pele, Goddess of Hawaii's Volcanoes* (1987), *Voyagers* (1991) and *Ancient Hawaii August* (1998). In paying tribute to Herb Kane, Hawai'i senator Daniel Akaka said that "Herb Kane helped the world recognize the history and culture of the Native Hawaiian people through his art. He showed ancient Hawaiians as they were, explorers, seafarers, trailblazers in land and resource management. His beautiful portraits displayed on stamps, in National Parks, and in museums continue to inspire people around the world." (*Honolulu Star Advertiser*, published online on March 9, 2011).

## WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

### Open House at the UCLA Cotsen Institute to be held on May 14, 2011

The UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology will hold its 14th annual Open House on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The event features a lecture by Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg entitled *Divinity, Design, and Identity on Easter Island: Preliminary Observations on Recent Statue Excavations*. Information on the full schedule of events for the day may be found at [www.ioa.ucla.edu](http://www.ioa.ucla.edu) or by calling (310) 206-8934.

### Three exhibitions showcasing Rapa Nui art have opened in recent months

Pointe-à-Callière, the Montréal Museum of History and Archaeology, sponsored *Easter Island, An Epic Voyage*, from June-November 2010. The international exhibition, which was the largest exhibition to focus on Rapa Nui in recent years, displayed over 200 pieces from over 20 collections including the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), the British Museum (London), the Musée du Quai Branly and the Musée National de la Marine (Paris), the Museo Missionario Etnologico (Vatican City), the Museum für Völkerkunde (Vienna), the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, (Cambridge, MA), and the Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire (Brussels).

A beautiful 160-page exhibition catalogue (produced by Pointe-à-Callière) presents all the objects displayed in Montréal along with photographs of Rapa Nui and articles written by Easter Island scholars: Michel Orliac (archaeologist); Nicolas Cauwe (curator of the Prehistoric and Oceania collections at the Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Brussels); Georgia Lee (archaeologist and rock art expert); and Jo Anne Van Tilburg (Director of the Easter Island Statue Project at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA). The book is available in both English and French versions at the Museum's online gift shop. <<http://pacmusee.qc.ca/en/plan-your-visit/gift-shop>>

*Spirits and Headhunters: Art of the Pacific Islands* opened in February of 2010 at The Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, CA. Although the focus is New Guinea, the exhibit contains over 200 pieces from remote parts of the Pacific including Rapa Nui. The exhibit is curated by Chris Rainier, known for his striking black and white photographs of people from indigenous cultures. Rainier's photographs compliment the pieces in the exhibit and give additional meaning to them. Included in the exhibit are rare Rapa Nui objects from the collection of Mark and Carolyn Blackburn, Lapita ceramics from the Bishop Museum and one of the most complete collections of fire dance masks of the Baining culture. <[http://www.bowers.org/index.php/art/exhibitions\\_details/13](http://www.bowers.org/index.php/art/exhibitions_details/13)>

An exhibition entitled *Easter Island, Myths and Popular Culture* opened in November 2010 at the Canning House in Belgrave Square, London. The full exhibition is currently on display at the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, Marton Middlesborough from March 5 to September 4, 2011. The exhibition will then travel to the Kon-Tiki Museum, where it will be on display from October 6, 2011 until March 31, 2012. Finally, the exhibition will travel homeward and will be installed at the Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert on Rapa Nui from May 8 until September 30, 2012. The exhibition includes 7 replica *moai* that were made especially for this travelling exhibition, as well as an additional replica statue that was housed at the Chilean Embassy in London for the international symposium entitled *Easter Island: Cultural and Historical Perspectives*, which was held on November 19, 2010. Speakers at the symposium included Ian Conrich, University of Essex; Albert Davletshin, Russian State University for the Humanities; Maxi Haase, University of Heidelberg; Sue Hamilton, University College London; Martyn Harris, Birkbeck, University of London; Grant McCall, University of New South Wales; Hermann Mueckler, University of Vienna; Phil Philo, Captain Cook Birthplace Museum; Rafal Wieczorek, University of Rome III; Colin Richards, University of Manchester; Roy Smith, Nottingham Trent University and Ruth Whitehouse, University College London.

The exhibition is curated by Dr. Ian Conrich, who is a Fellow at the Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies at the University of Essex. Dr. Conrich was assisted by Dr. Roy Smith and Martyn Harris (co-curators) as well as Dr. Dan Bendrups, Dr. Grant McCall, and Frieder Wall in putting together the exhibition. It contains over 300 images, 150 objects, as well as a number of interactive components. The focus of the exhibition is on how the image of the *moai* has attracted worldwide attention and captured the imagination of people worldwide.

## EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

### EIF Office News

*The Complete Guide to Easter Island* is now officially out of print. A new guidebook, *Easter Island: The Essential Guide* will be published in 2011. This up-to-date guidebook, authored by EIF Vice-President Kay Kenady Sanger, will be similar in format to the classic long out-of-print book, *An Uncommon Guide to Easter Island* by Georgia Lee. It will focus on everything the first-time traveler needs to know about getting to Easter Island and includes information on places to visit, where to stay and eat, history, etc.

The EIF has received several interesting book donations including the beautiful book *Easter Island. An Epic Voyage* (the full color catalog from the recent 2010 exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History); *Religious*

and *Cosmic Beliefs of Central Polynesia* (a 2-volume set), and *The Social and Political Systems of Central Polynesia* (a 3-volume set), both by R.W. Williamson. Additional details are available on [islandheritage.org](http://islandheritage.org).

New original copies of the long out-of-print *Easter Island Bulletin #5, Easter Island Settlement Patterns in the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Periods* by Patrick McCoy are available for purchase. Other recently acquired titles include *The Eighth Land* (Thomas Barthel) \$30 (this might be of interest to those who read the articles about the German-Chilean Expedition to Easter Island by Steven Fischer in the last 2 issues of RNJ). For our Spanish readers, we have a new publication: *Rapa Nui. Un Mundo Perdido al Este de Polinesia. La Última Expedición de Thor Heyerdahl* by Francesc Amorós (2010). On our web site dozens more Easter Island titles are available in English, French, Spanish and German. Please take a look at [islandheritage.org](http://islandheritage.org) (click on Publications) for a detailed listing.

As always, we thank all of you who have renewed your EIF memberships in a timely fashion; we hope you don't mind getting a reminder by email occasionally. It helps to keep our costs down and is better for the environment.

Our website is still slowly growing; in 2011 we hope to have selected back issues of the *Rapa Nui Journal* available. This project will be made possible with the assistance of Dan Ingersoll, professor of Anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. We have recently created a new page with information on Easter Island accommodations and will be adding to it regularly. Other plans include the addition of educational information for students. We will also be adding updated information about the conference on Easter Island and the Pacific to be held in Santa Rosa, CA, in 2012.

As always, we thank our members for their support of the Easter Island Foundation and its projects!

## EIF Scholarship Recipients for 2011 Announced

Providing scholarships to students with Rapanui ancestry who wish to further their education is one of the mission objectives of the Easter Island Foundation. Since our program began in 2002, we have awarded 33 scholarships totalling \$70,750! Donations received in 2011 will be used for scholarships awarded in 2012. To make a donation to the scholarship program, please contact: [scholarships@islandheritage.org](mailto:scholarships@islandheritage.org). We are proud to be able to award five scholarships in 2011 and we thank everyone who contributed to the EIF's successful scholarship program.