

while the many footnotes focus heavily on French-language sources (notably Métraux, the Orliacs and the 1993 volume). The names of many researchers are mentioned in passing, but with no clue as to where their work can be found.

For example, when Chagnon tackles the question of the date of the first human arrival on the island (which he himself sees as having occurred around AD 1000), his footnote cites as sources “Ayers – Bahn – Cauwe et Huyge – Charola – Conte – Ferdon et Heyerdahl – Hunt et Lipo – Kirch – Lee – Orliac – Toullelan et Gille – Van Tilburg”, but what is the point of listing all these names without any indication of where their opinions are to be found?

The author has clearly read a great deal, but there are some striking limitations to his knowledge. For instance, the topic of birds on the main island receives a grand total of three lines of text (p. 28) – it is obvious that Chagnon has not heard of Steadman’s important work on the island’s original wealth of birdlife. He also appears completely unaware of the extensive work of Mieth and Bork, or indeed of Haoa and Stevenson, on the complex relationship between the islanders and their soil.

There are other problems too, Chagnon is no archaeologist, as can be seen by his description (p. 46) of Tiahuanaco as an important centre of the Inca Empire! Two maps (one of the Pacific, the other of the island, pp. 23-24) look amateurish since they have handwritten names and figures on them; and many of the illustrations are simple poor-quality photocopies of photos and diagrams taken from other sources – this is hard to understand in our age of scanners.

Overall, therefore, the book may perhaps be useful to someone who might want a kind of mnemonic for different claims and theories about the island’s past; but without the necessary bibliographic documentation, its potential value is greatly reduced.

Ciszewski, Andrzej, Zdzislaw Jan Ryn, and Mariusz Szelerewicz (eds.), *The Caves of Easter Island: Underground World of Rapa Nui / Las Cuevas de la Isla de Pascua: El Mundo Subterráneo de Rapa Nui*.



Kraków: Pracownia Kreatywna Bezliku, 2010. 400 pp., col. photos, 315 plans. ISBN: 978-8-393025-90-9. Ordering information: szelerewicz@ceti.pl

Review by Paul Horley, Yuri Fedkovych  
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The speleology of Rapa Nui is truly fascinating – the island has hundreds of caves, many of which have traces of human activity. These include masonry walls, earth ovens, rock art and burial sites. Caves were used as living

spaces, shelters during tribal wars, for safekeeping of artifacts and so on. Recently, several professional speleological teams have been studying the subterranean world of Easter Island. During 2001-2008, a Polish expedition (involving 29 people) spent four field seasons on the island. This research was featured in the 2009 National Geographic documentary *Rapa Nui Underworld* (see Bahn 2010 for a review). The expeditions surveyed 315 caves located in 16 quadrants, documenting the area of Roiho, the south coast and much of the Poike peninsula.

This volume presents a detailed report of this monumental undertaking. The book is richly illustrated with over a hundred color photographs showing entrances and interiors of caves, stone masonry, burials, petroglyphs, artifacts, images of surveying teams at work, as well as a number of photographs depicting island landscapes and archaeological sites.

The first chapter of the book is focused on the role of caves in Rapa Nui prehistory, including legends and ceremonies connected with caves, and summarizes results of previous studies. The second chapter gives a quick overview of Rapa Nui geology, mentioning the volcanic eruptions that created the island, explaining how the caves were formed and giving a classification scheme for volcanic rocks. The remaining chapters narrate the history of the Polish speleological expeditions, describing the survey procedures and the artifacts discovered – including a bone needle, a stone bowl, an adze, an obsidian scraper and nineteen spearheads (*mata'a*). Surprisingly, only three caves among the surveyed ones contain petroglyphs – a well-known *neru* whitening cave, Ana o Keke, and a cave with numerous *Makemake* faces that was previously documented by Lee (1992: Plate 7) under the name Ana Mahina. However, the reviewed book calls it the Toki-toki cave, which makes one wonder why the cave name may have changed. The third cave with rock art is located at Poike and features a single *Makemake* face; no images of this petroglyph are given (actually, no rock art drawings are included in the book, but there are photographs of people documenting the petroglyphs of Ana o Keke and Ana Mahina / Toki-toki).

The most important and impressive part of the book is the survey chapter (pp. 97-346), featuring the plans of 315 caves, carefully drawn with much attention to detail. The plans are given in the same scale, allowing easy comparison of cave dimensions. Thus, the plans for very large caves may occupy several pages; each of these has a handy small “locator map”. The plans give the altitude of the cave floor (relative to a reference point), soil type information, show the location of temporary or permanent water pools, masonry walls, fireplaces, burials and rock quarries; surprisingly, rock art locations are not marked. The transversal profiles of chambers / corridors are supplied for many caves. The plans are accompanied with detailed descriptions supplying in-depth information about each cave. The only issue which slightly complicates the study of these plans is the absence of cave names, so that the reader should find out by him/herself,

for example, that cave Q-25-001 is Ana o Keke and cave Q-15-074 is Ana te Pahu.

The book features English and Spanish text, which definitely makes it available to the wider audience. However, it seems that the English version was probably translated from the Spanish one, as it abundantly uses Spanish terms with immediate translation thereof in English. In some cases the Spanish text is slightly more accurate. For example, the legend to the cave maps includes helix-shaped signs, labeled in the English as “pottery fragments” (which would be key evidence for a South American connection hypothesis); the corresponding Spanish text uses a less sensational word: *conchas* (shells). The curious reader could easily find cave plans with aforementioned helix signs (e.g., Q15-016 and Q15-019 on pp.142-143), for which the cave descriptions indeed mention “small shells”. However, these translation inaccuracies are subtle, allowing easy reconstruction of the correct meaning from the context.

The general impression of the book is definitely positive. The sheer number of cave plans and photographs presented in the book makes this publication an outstanding contribution to the speleology of Easter Island.

## References

- Bahn, P.G. 2010. Easter Island on the air: British TV and Radio, *Rapa Nui Journal* 24(2):65-66.  
 Lee, G. 1992. *Rock art of Easter Island*. Los Angeles: UCLA Institute of Archaeology.

## Kaeppler, Adrienne L., *Polynesia. The Mark and Carolyn Blackburn Collection of Polynesian Art*.



Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2010. Photographs by Heini Schneebeli, Hal Lum and Masayo Suzuki, and designed by Barbara Pope Book Design. 448 pp., 695 items, glossary, bib., index of collections. ISBN: 978-1-883528-38-6. US\$100.00 (hardcover).

Review by Georgia Lee, Easter Island Foundation

Both the book design and the photographs are absolutely outstanding; photographed artifacts are interspersed with early sketches and paintings by explorers and others, and most are shown in color.

As Kaeppler points out, the Blackburn Collection is one of the greatest private collections of Polynesian art in the world, comprising both ceremonial and functional forms, in diverse media. The artifacts in the collection are from New Zealand, the Australs, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Futuna, the Gambiers,

Hawai‘i, Malden, the Marquesas, Niue, Nukuoro, Rapa Nui, Rennel Island, Sāmoa, Tahiti, Tokelau, Tonga, and the Tuamotu Islands. Each image, and its corresponding caption, is identified by a catalog number and is included in the complete catalog beginning on page 210. Captions contain provenance, history of exhibition, and notes regarding the artifact.

Introductory “Greetings” are by HRH Princess Salote Piloleuu Tuita. The “Preface” is by Kaeppler and it introduces the collection and its history of exhibition. Here, private collections vs. museum collections are discussed, and Kaeppler points out how comprehensive the Blackburn Collection is, in that it includes at least a few objects from every Polynesian island area except Tuvalu and encompasses a variety of artifact types, including utilitarian objects.

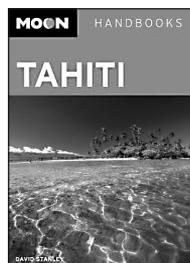
The “Introduction”, also by Kaeppler (29 pages plus illustrations), places the Blackburn Collection into the larger context of Polynesian cultural and artistic traditions. The Introduction also covers geology; the origins of the Polynesians; Polynesian Outliers and East Polynesia; culture and traditions; status; stratification; the “aesthetic of inequality” which gave each group its distinct character; and the impact of Western influence.

“Island Essays” begin with Fiji (Page 43) and individual essays progress throughout the book, focusing on each cultural group represented in the collection. Described are the art forms of Polynesia encompassing architecture, sculpture, textiles, body adornment, music, dance, and oral literature.

The final section is a catalog of each illustrated piece with dimensions and provenance, and is illustrated with drawings, paintings, photographs, and documents. The graphics add excellent context to the artifacts and the essays. Kaeppler’s essays are excellent, as always, and eloquently place the artifacts into their time and place. The book itself is drop-dead beautiful; the photographs of the artifacts, plus additional images of paintings and sketches by early visitors to Polynesia, are outstanding. Buy this book!

## Two new Pacific blockbuster travel books by David Stanley:

Stanley, David, *Tahiti. Moon Handbooks*.



Berkeley: Avalon Travel. 2011 (7th Edition). 359 pp., 24 col. plates, photos, 47 maps. ISBN: 978-1-598807-38-0. US\$19.85 (papercover printed on recycled paper).

Review by Georgia Lee, Easter Island Foundation

The front matter of this amazing and comprehensive guide to Tahiti includes a section titled “Planning your Trip”. Here