

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 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>