

Auckland, New Zealand in April and have stopped in the Marquesas, the Hawaiian Islands, San Francisco and various points along the California coast. They are currently in San Diego, California until January 2012, when they will continue their journey to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, to Costa Rica's Coco Islands, on to the Galapagos, then to the Marquesas and Tahiti before returning to their home islands. More information is available at <http://www.pacificvoyagers.org>.

WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

Upcoming conference: College Art Association Annual Conference

The College Art Association (CAA) Annual Conference will be held in Los Angeles, February 22-25, 2012. The conference will include a panel entitled "The Body Politic: The Role of Body Art and Anthropomorphic Depictions in Oceanic Societies." This panel is sponsored by the Pacific Arts Association. For more information, visit their webpage at www.pacificarts.org.

New doctoral dissertation published on palaeoecology of Rapa Nui

A dissertation by Candace Gossen that presents the 15,000 year ecological history of the island has been published. The dissertation uses radiocarbon dating and oxygen isotope analysis of pollen cores from Rano Kao to explore the sequence of deforestation and ecological change on the island. This research challenges the previously accepted theory that humans deforested the island for the sole purpose of moving *moai*, and focuses rather on uncovering the role of climate change that may have altered the ecosystem. For paperback, hardback, microfiche or pdf copies, please visit ProQuest online at <http://www.proquest.com/en-US/>.

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

Things are finally settling down in Bawwood Park after two separate incidents that caused flooding in the building where the EIF office is located. EIF treasurer Mike Chamberlain is heartily thanked for his assistance with moving books and furniture. We've had enough excitement for the time being, and hope that we'll be dry for the remainder of 2011.

Easter Island: The Essential Guide will be published in October 2011. This guidebook, by EIF Vice-President Kay Kenady Sanger, contains 169 pages of excellent information for anyone planning a trip to Rapa Nui and is illustrated with maps and drawings as well as color and black and white images. The price of the guidebook is \$20; please contact the EIF office to purchase a copy.

Sadly, one of our long time members, Kathy Cleghorn, passed away on 3 August 2011. Kathy loved Rapa Nui very much and was keenly interested in learning about other cultures; many of our members had the pleasure of interacting with her during various trips and conferences. Kathy kindly remembered the EIF and donated her collection of Rapa Nui books to us, including inscribed copies of some rare and out of print items. We plan to post these to our website soon.

The EIF has received a donation of woodcarvings collected on Rapa Nui in the late 1970s from the estate of Brian Scorthorne. This interesting collection contains *moai* of various sizes, *rongo rongo* boards and a large *moai kava kava*. We will be posting these to our website soon. Proceeds from the sale of these carvings will be earmarked for the EIF scholarship program.

We received a letter from one of our partners, the *Fraternal Order of Moai*, letting us know about the success of their annual fundraising event, the *Ohana Luau at the Lake* held at Lake George, NY in June. EIF board members who attended the event had a great time. During their silent auction, which benefits the EIF, the group raised even more money than in previous years. We commend the *Fraternal Order of Moai* for their generosity to the EIF.

For those of you planning to attend the conference on Easter Island and the Pacific, *Living in Changing Island Environments*, to be held in Santa Rosa, CA, from 8-13 July 2012, you may wish to bring your check book and an extra bag along! Conference participants will receive a substantial discount on the purchase of most EIF publications and t-shirts. We will also bring some of our rare, used and out-of-print books and some Easter Island carvings.

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. We also thank our members for their support of the Easter Island Foundation and its projects!