

which was undertaken in 1992 by Chilean archaeologists, international collaborators from Japan, as well as the Rapanui community. As Pérez explains, despite the reconstruction efforts, much information is still unknown regarding the ceremonial center and village at Tongariki. Her interviews with Ninoska Cuadros Hucke (the provincial director of CONAF) and Enrique Tucki (who was a member of the reconstruction team as a member of CONAF) highlight the fact that much information about the culture-historical evolution of the area is based on isolated information, and that there is an interest to return to this area to learn more about the dynamic history of this village.

300 tons of trash and vehicles to be sent to mainland Chile for disposal

(As reported by Danny Aulestia M., published on www.lun.com on 7 July 2011). An initiative known as “Limpiemos Rapa Nui” (Let’s clean up Rapa Nui) has initiated efforts to send approximately 300 tons of trash to mainland Chile with the help of the recycling firm Gerdau Aza, who provided a trash compactor to assist with the project. More than half of the trash consists of old vehicles, including cars, trucks, tractors and motorcycles. The recycling firm has plans to assist with the removal of plastics and electronic waste in the future.

What’s new at the MAPSE

The Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert hosted a number of exhibitions and events in recent months. In May, an exhibition entitled “*Pierre Loti: Etnografo de Ayer, Memoria Viva de Hoy*” (Pierre Loti: ethnographer of yesterday, living memory of today) was launched and explored the life and work of Pierre Loti, who was a French writer on board the ship *La Flore*, which anchored off Rapa Nui on 3 January 1872. The exhibition included writings and sketches from Loti’s visit to the island. Also in May, Veronique Gervais, a physical anthropologist from the ministry of exterior relations of France, gave a presentation entitled “*Modificaciones corporales antes de la cirugía estética*” (modifications to the body before plastic surgery). Over 200 people helped to put together a celebration for the “Semana del Patrimonio” (week of heritage) in May as well. The celebration included a number of events, including guided tours of the collections, exhibition visits, the projection of photographs and documentaries, and a presentation by the children’s cultural orchestra of Rapa Nui. In June, a documentary entitled “*122 años – 122 imagenes*” (122 years – 122 images) was screened. In July, a *kai kai* workshop was held and was well-attended by boys and girls. The launch of the new book entitled “*La Compañía Explotadora de Isla de Pascua*” was held at the museum in July as well. The museum also supported the Terevaka.net

Archaeological Outreach program and a presentation by its assistant director, Dale Simpson Jr., was given at the museum in July. It was entitled “*La Contribución del Capitán A.W.F. Fuller a la Colección Rapa Nui del Field Museum (Chicago, Illinois)*” (the contribution of Captain A.W.F. Fuller to the Rapa Nui collection at the Field Museum). In August, a new exhibition featuring the artwork of Melinka Cuadros Hucke, entitled “*Ma’ea Tapu: Petroglifos de Rapa Nui*” (Sacred Stone: Petroglyphs of Rapa Nui) was launched. The exhibition featured the documentation of petroglyphs from archaeological sites throughout the island and recorded oral traditions about them. It sought to rescue, care for and preserve the oral traditions of the ancestors as reflected through the figures comprising petroglyphs. Also in August, entomologist Jut Wynne presented the results of his team’s research that was carried out in the Roiho sector in 2009. A presentation on “*Aves de Rapa Nui*” (Birds of Rapa Nui) was presented by Nicolás Amaro from the Asociación de Observación de Flora y Fauna Silvestre de Chile (the association of observation of the wild flora and fauna of Chile). This month, the museum will launch an exhibition entitled “*El Universo de la Luz*” (The Universe of Light), which has been shown in 26 locations throughout South America and will have its final display on Rapa Nui.

WHAT’S NEW IN OCEANIA

Wa’a Wayfinders making waves around the Pacific

(As reported by Colin M. Stewart for the Hawaii Tribune-Herald and published online, 15 June 2011; also reported and updated periodically online at www.pacificvoyagers.org)

A group of Pacific Islanders from many nations have come together to sail across the Pacific in *vaka* or *wa’a* (traditional canoes). The seven canoes are guided by crew members from New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Hawai’i, and Vanuatu. The project began when ecologist Dieter Paulmann met with Nainoa Thompson and the late Master Navigator Mau Piailug in 2008 and decided to fund a project that would honor the ancestral navigators of Pacific Island cultures and the Pacific Ocean itself. Their mission is to educate people about the importance of the ocean to Pacific Island cultures. As Kalepa Baybayan, the navigator in residence and interim Associate Director at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, Hawai’i, has noted “Their purpose is driven by an environmental mission. They’re spreading the word and looking at the pollution of the ocean and how it is affecting all communities globally... Canoes have provided such a powerful background for telling stories about environmental change and how islanders have been successful in island environments. It’s a rediscovery and restoration of tradition through navigating and voyaging skills” (as interviewed by Stewart 2011). The canoes left

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, *rongorongo* 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!