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What's New in Polynesia

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NEWS AND NOTES

What's New in Polynesia

• Hawai'i. The Archaeological Research Facility (ARF), University of California, Berkeley, is joining with Hawai'i State Parks, Kaua'i Community College, the Koke'e Natural History Museum and Kaua'i West Main Street Organization to investigate the Russian Fort Elisabeth on the island of Kaua'i. Under the direction of Kent G. Lightfoot and Patrick V. Kirch, the field school ran for five weeks in June and July. The fieldwork is planned to continue in summer of this year.

Fort Elisabeth is now a state historical park. The surface remains are impressive: stone walls of the fort, built in 1816, are clearly visible. Last year's efforts were focused on the exterior parts of the fort and an underwater survey. The second stage of fieldwork will focus on the fort's interior. The Russian-American company was at the fort for only two years but after that, Hawaiians used the fort for nearly fifty years. The majority of the cultural material is expected to reflect how the site was used after the Russian-American Company left.

• Rarotonga. A cultural exchange program between the Maori people of the Cook Islands and Aotearoa took place in November 1993. A workshop, the continuation of similar program held in New Zealand in 1991, traced and recorded the historical voyages of the ancient canoes that departed from Avarua Harbor (Rarotonga) some 700 years ago. A special ceremony was held at the canoe departure site, with the unveiling of seven stones with plaques; each stone represents a legendary canoe. [*Pacific News Bulletin* 8(11)].

• Pitcairn. *The Pitcairn Miscellany* (Vol.36, No. 10 for October) reports a spectacular hail storm which lasted for ten minutes, covering the ground with hailstones up to 15 cm deep. The hailstones came in assorted sizes from blocks to star-shapes, to the usual round balls--some measuring six centimeters in size. The hail was accompanied by tremendous thunder, lighting and then followed by a downpour. All this prompted islanders to discover a new use for crash helmets. Rumor has it that some hail fell back in 1938 and a few small hailstones were reported in 1991.

POLYNESIAN LITERARY COMPETITION, 1994 SAMOA

The annual Polynesian Literary Competition offers cash awards for Polynesian-language writers in order to promote and encourage literary study and creativity in a Polynesian language. The award area for 1994 is Samoa (Western Samoa, American Samoa, emigré).

Adjudicators for the 1994 Competition are: Professor Albert Wendt, of the University of Auckland, the well-known Samoan author and educator; Professor Even Hovdhaugen, of the University of Oslo, Norway; and Dr Ulrike Mosel, of the Australian National University.

Permanent moderators for the Polynesian Literary Competition are: Dr H.G.A. Hughes, of Wales; and Dr Steven Roger Fischer, of Germany.

Entries are invited in either or both of the sections:

1) traditional song or poem in the Samoan language, with translation in English and explanatory notes, not to exceed 6 double-spaced typewritten pages;

2) modern original poem or short story in the Samoan language, with translation in English, not to exceed 12 double-spaced typewritten pages.

A certificate of award and a cash prize of US \$250 will be given to the winner of each section.

Eligibility: Entrants must be native-born Samoan or of Samoan parentage. Residence in either Western Samoa or American Samoa is not required. Open to all ages.

Enclose with your double-spaced typewritten submission your full name, address, and age. (Since submissions will not be returned, please keep a copy). Post your submission by air mail, postmarked no later than 1 May 1994 to:

Dr Steven Roger Fischer
Droste-Hülshoff-Weg 1
88709 Meersburg, Germany

What's New in Hangaraoa

• In our last issue, *RNJ* 7(4):90, we reported that a supply ship was headed for the island with livestock--including 250 goats. When the ship and its cargo arrived to the island, officials of SAG and SASIPA were staggered--for no one had bothered to tell them that goats were included in the cargo. They put them in quarantine while they decided what to do. And then decided to slaughter them, "...principally for sanitary motifs and secondarily for the necessity of conservation of the soil and the island ecosystem." According to *El Mercurio de Valparaiso* (for December 24), goats are responsible for considerable damage to the ecology of the Juan Fernandez Islands and they wish to avoid the same sort of depredations on Rapa Nui.

But this story has another angle: the goats were purchased by an islander with funding from a government self-help program, in order to upgrade a herd already on the island; the same program funded travel to the continent to study methods of raising and caring for goat herds. The prohibition was issued after the goats were already en route to the island.

The last word is that islanders won't eat the goat meat as they are unused to the taste.