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Easter Island, Map #308 (Review)

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even withdraw cash from my bank account in the USA, cable TV (41 channels!), and an American-style supermarket with a reliable supply of flour, fresh fruit, meat and vegetables, cooking oil and, of course, excellent wine and that special Chilean brandy called *pisco*. And yes, there is an international airport just ten minutes from our home in neighboring Concon. But we do have to pay an 18% 'value-added tax' (IVA), and we do have to pay a hefty duty on items (even technical books!) imported from abroad.

Finally, I should report that last year I asked Governor Jacobo Hey what he believed to be the Island's biggest problem, and without hesitation he answered "Unemployment of the young people". And we discussed the related problem, the mediocre education provided Rapanui children. The mediocrity results mainly from the pittance of funds received from the government. (Governor Hey, it should be noted, holds a law degree from the University of Chile).

Maybe there is a happy note to end on: President Frei recently announced a whopping increase in cigarette and gasoline taxes with the income, we are told, to be put into improving education (and increasing old-age pensions). Let's hope that the Island will receive more than a trickle-down of these funds.

William Liller, Reñaca, Chile

REVIEWS

 *Easter Island, Map #308*. Published by ITMB Publishing and World Wide Books and Maps. ISBN 0 921463 30 8. First Edition 1993-1995. \$6.95. Cartography by David Sami, Suzanne Bald and Chandra Ali.

Review by Georgia Lee

A new map of Easter Island has been published and, being an *aficionado* of maps of my favorite island, I rushed to order it. What a disappointment. This latest effort relies heavily on a map published in Spain and Chile in 1985, under the direction of the late *rapanuiophile*, Antony Pujador. However, in relying on the earlier map, they simply repeated errors and then added some zingers of their own: by trying to translate everything, we see on the map such placenames as "Iti Island" and "Nui Island" for the *motus*. Petroglyphs are indicated for Motu Iti but not Motu Nui. Even the well-known petroglyph site at Orongo is off in left field, far from its actual location. Akahanga is described as having four *moai*! The inscrutable notation from the earlier map "Strong Magnetic Disturbances Here", placed on the side of Terevaka, is repeated. Anyone who ever held a compass on ANY part of Rapa Nui knows that 'magnetic disturbances' are everywhere on the island.

This map is not worth an indepth critique but I must add one more complaint. Floating around the map are little 'blurbs' telling various things about island life and history. Here we learn that Heyerdahl stopped off on Rapa Nui on his raft voyage to Polynesia (!) and the kneeling statue at Rano Raraku is described as looking like "a Nubian or Yemeni in meditation." *Please*.

CONAF (Corporación Nacional Forestal) and the World Monuments Fund published a map in 1992. It costs more than this most recent effort but is worth it: (for one thing, the paper is coated so that it won't disintegrate in the rain). It is handsome enough to hang on a wall, with well-done illustrations. It is printed in both English and Spanish. In February of this year the map was for sale at the CONAF office on the island.

 Catherine et Michel Orliac. *Bois Sculptés de L'île de Pâques*. Collection Arts Témoins. Editions Parentheses/ Editions Louise Leiris. 1995. 72, cours Julien, 13006 Marseille, France. In French. Soft cover, 92 pages. Size 6½ x 9½. Maps, drawings, and 59 color photos. ISSN 11240-098X; ISBN 2-86364-505-6.

Review by Joan T. Seaver Kurze

Excellent photographic reproductions and a well-documented text make this work a fine introduction to early wooden sculptures of Easter Island/Rapa Nui. By illustrating the symbolic importance of carving to Polynesians, the Orliacs have produced a book that helps shake a 'second-best status' usually awarded to Rapa Nui wooden sculptures in comparison to the island's renowned stone behemoths.

Titles in bold type divided the book's text and neatly introduce each section. For example, we move quickly from Jacob Roggeveen's entrance on Easter Sunday, 1722, through exploratory visits by González (1770), Cook (1774), Pérouse (1786) and Dupetit-Thouars (1838) to the appearance of Brother Eugène Eyraud in 1864 and the arrival of the missionaries Père Hyppolyte Roussel, Père Gaspard Zumbohm and Brother Théodule Escolan in 1886. Thus the first 144 years of Rapa Nui contact with Europeans is condensed into two pages entitled "Sailors, Pirates and Missionaries to Ile de Paques."

In the next section, "Lost Island in the Large Ocean", the authors choose the Gambier archipelago instead of the Marquesan Islands as the closest Polynesian connection to tiny Rapa Nui. This, of course, supports a fellow French researcher, Alfred Métraux, who earlier claimed that Polynesian colonists were likely to have sailed from Mangareva or Mangaia to Rapa Nui. Once again we find the island's size disputed: 166 square km according to the Orliacs, 171 square km according to Paul Bahn's figures in a recent *Rapa Nui Journal* book review.

Because a forest of large trees greeted the first Rapa Nui arrivals, such industries as architecture (wooden houses) and monumental statuary (moving the stone torsos from quarry to *ahu*) developed on the island. John Flenley's pollen analysis from the island's volcanic craters supports the Orliac's claim that *Sophora toromiro* was the only indigenous tree left to the islanders, so that eventually, Rapa Nui carvers 'lusted' after it.

In 1934, Métraux recorded that islanders translated *toromiro* as 'wood of blood' due to the color of the aged wood.