Letters
have been affected by hooves of cattle and horses which roam freely over them. The most seriously damaged are at La Pérrouse Bay. Many motifs also have been damaged by being scraped with stones, a local practice to make the designs stand out more clearly for tourists (Lee 1994).

Only two of the examined sites have suffered from graffiti. Unfortunately, it is two of the most significant panels that were targeted. One, at Hanga Piko (Figure 1), represents the only example of what appears to be a large tree engraved into a vertical panel. Vandalists have scraped new (obscene) designs onto its surface. The other (Figure 2), a truly fine panel in the caldera at Rano Kau, has been damaged by recently carved initials despite the fact that it is far from the tourist track and very difficult to reach. Already in 1981 someone had carved a name into this panel but it was otherwise undamaged. In addition to the graffiti, the top of the boulder is being impacted by people walking on the designs. The motifs here are the finest in Oceania thus the desecration is particularly tragic.

Other damage to certain sites is due to attempts to make latex or resin castings from the petroglyphs. Replication efforts have left a variety of residues on several excellent panels at Tongariki and Vai Tara Kai Ua.

A final report on the project is now in process which will include suggested recommendations for some of the problems identified and for preserving the cultural patrimony of the island.

It is hoped that professional engineering assistance can be obtained to deal with the severe erosion problems at Orongo.

References


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just wanted to drop you a note and tell you how much I enjoyed your article on petroglyphs in the last issue of RNJ.

Mark Blackburn, Hilo, Hawai’i

... an article on the rock art of Hawaii being like or unlike that of El would be OK by me, but an article on Hawaiian rock art per se wouldn’t.

Robert Langdon, Canberra, Australia

Thank you once again for producing a very informative and enjoyable journal.

Dr. Paul Geraghty, Institute of Fijian Language and Culture

REVIEWS


Review by William Liller, Viña del Mar, Chile

After reading the squib about Dr. Conte that appears on the inside back cover, one wonders to what good fortune we owe...