

# Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation

---

Volume 11  
Issue 1 *March* 1997


Article 11

---

1997

## Letters

Follow this and additional works at: <https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/rnj>

 Part of the [History of the Pacific Islands Commons](#), and the [Pacific Islands Languages and Societies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(1997) "Letters," *Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.  
Available at: <https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/rnj/vol11/iss1/11>

This Commentary or Dialogue is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Hawai`i Press at Kahualike. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation by an authorized editor of Kahualike. For more information, please contact [sheila.yeh@hawaii.edu](mailto:sheila.yeh@hawaii.edu).



The sacred center of 'Orongo with its carved boulders

machine, core drillers, cooling water reservoir, etc.) is currently underway and has taken longer than anticipated. Furthermore, the selected equipment will have to be transported from mainland Chile to the island and alternative transportation systems have to be investigated to keep the budget of this interim mission within a reasonable amount. It is hoped that this second mission will take place before mid-year 1997.

#### References

- (1) A.E.Charola. 1995. "WMF Sponsors French Mission to Help in the Preservation of Orongo" RNJ 9(4): 123-124
- (2) A.E.Charola. 1996. "WMF continues support to help in the preservation of Orongo" RNJ 10(3): 68

A.E.Charola  
Consultant WMF Easter Island Program  
Great Neck, NY, December 9th, 1996

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Please allow me to correct a couple of minor matters in Jo Anne Van Tilburg's article on the transporting of statues, *Rapa Nui Journal*, Vol. 10(4), footnote 3.

Although it is no doubt that the Fijian *drua* (double canoe) was the largest and finest traditional vessel in the Pacific, and possibly the fastest too, it is not correct to refer to it as a Polynesian vessel, since Fijians are not normally classified as Polynesians.

Regarding the canoe named Rusaivanua ("perished inland"), it is not true to say that it was "too large to move," since it was successfully launched. It was given that name in triumph by its builders to taunt their critics who had claimed that it was too ambitious and would rot where it was being carved.

For the record, the Reverend Thomas Williams, who was stationed in Lakeba at the time, measured the Rusaivanua as follows: length 118 feet, deck 50 x 24 feet, height from keel to deck 6 feet, height of deck-house 6 feet, length of mast 68 feet, length of yards 90 feet. It was built in Vulaga and sailed to Lakeba on 19th November 1832 by its owner Roko Taliai, the Tui Nayau, paramount chief of Lau.

Dr Paul Geraghty, Director,  
Institute of Fijian Language and Culture.

## BOOK REVIEWS

☞ Moon Travel Handbooks have just issued four new blockbusters that deal with the Pacific or Southeast Asia: *New Zealand Handbook* (Fourth Edition); *Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos Handbook* (First Edition); *Micronesian Handbook* (Fourth Edition), and the *Thailand Handbook* (Second Edition). We hope to have in-depth reviews on *The Micronesian Handbook* the *Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos Handbook* and the *Thailand Handbook* in our next issue.

☞ *New Zealand Handbook* (Fourth Edition) by Jane King. Moon Travel Handbooks, PO Box 3040, Chico, CA 95927 US \$19.95. Soft cover. *New Zealand Handbook* has 82 maps, including maps of cities, towns, and national parks. Black/white photographs and line drawings are augmented by 8 pages of color photos. There is a book list and index.

The book is divided into North Island and South Island, and includes information on outdoor recreation, national parks and reserves, museums, ideas for traveling with children, and many "off the beaten path" destinations. The author focuses on outdoor activities with stress on conservation, tramping, mountaineering, river rafting, cycling, skiing, river rafting and bungy jumping, to name but a few.

The general tourist information is well covered. Under accommodations, the author stresses budget travel including home stay, hostels, inns, and camping places. This guide is aimed toward the younger traveler with back-pack and an interest in sports. A few "higher end" hotels are mentioned but first-class hotels are not listed individually; instead the reader is referred to visitor centers for this information.

The entire prehistory of the Maori is contained in less than one page of text and there is no mention of the rock carving and painting sites found in New Zealand. If this omission is due to objections by the present-day Maori, it is not mentioned. The reading list does not reference the classic book on the prehistoric rock art of New Zealand by Trotter and McCulloch.

## PUBLICATIONS

Bellwood, Peter (editor). 1966. *Indo-Pacific Prehistory: The Chiang Mai Papers*, Volume 1. Proceedings of the 15th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 5-12 January 1964. Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association 14. Canberra, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia. Softcover, 249 pages, contains 25 papers presented at the 15th Congress. Future volumes are to follow.

Bierbach, Annette and Horst Cain. 1996. *Tangaroa: Another Final Demystification*. *Rongorongo Studies*, Vol. 6(2):67-76. (Part 1; to be continued in next volume).

*Bulletin of the International String Figure Association*, Vol.3, 1996. ISFA Press, PO Box 5134, Pasadena CA. This issue contains 3 papers concerning Polynesia: see Maude, Shishido, and Rjabchikov.

*Le Bulletin du Cercle d'Etudes sur l'île de Pâques et la Polynésie*. No. 10, October 1996. Délégation de la Polynésie Française à Paris, 28, boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris. The yearly subscription for this bulletin amounts to French Francs 250.00 or US \$60 for six issues and specialized papers. They can now be reached via email: hlb@ppm.u-psud.fr

Buckley, Michael. 1996. *Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos Handbook*, First Edition. Moon Travel Handbooks, Chico, CA. \$18.95,