


1997

## Film Review- Mars Attacks

Paul Bahn

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### Recommended Citation

Bahn, Paul (1997) "Film Review- Mars Attacks," *Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 2 , Article 13.  
Available at: <https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/rnj/vol11/iss2/13>

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## CONFERENCES

16th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA), Malaysia, tentatively scheduled for 4-10 January 1998. Expressions of interest should be sent to Dr. Peter Bellwood, Dept of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia. Fax: 61 6 249 2711; email: Peter.Bellwood@anu.edu.au

The IX Pacific Science Inter-Congress, "Sustainable Development in the Pacific: Conservation, Population, Resources, and Environment." December 1998, at Taipei, Taiwan. Information can be had by contacting Prof. Chang-Hung Chou, Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, 128 Sec.2; Yuan-Chiu Road, Taipei, Taiwan, China; email: chou@gate.sinica.edu.tw

XIX Pacific Science Congress, June 1999. University of New

South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Information can be had by contacting Dr William O'Sullivan, Dean, Faculty of Biological and Behavioural Science, The University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052, Australia. Email: W.O.Sullivan@unsw.edu.au

## FILM REVIEW

### Martians on Rapa Nui

Paul Bahn

THERE ARE NOT MANY POPULAR MOVIES which include a sequence featuring Rapa Nui, so RNJ readers should seize the chance to see Tim Burton's recent sci-fi black comedy "*Mars Attacks*". Once the Martians begin gleefully to destroy the monuments of the Earth--Big Ben, the Taj Mahal, etc--there is a brief sequence which shows the supposed inhabitants of Easter Island (a short clip of the Ariki and his followers from the Kevin Reynolds movie "*Rapa Nui*"!) gazing up in horror; this is then followed by the destruction of a row of *moai* in ingenious fashion by a Martian spaceship. I will not spoil your fun by revealing how they do the deed: go and see for yourselves!

## BOOK REVIEWS



*Micronesia Handbook* (4th edition),  
Neil M. Levy, 1996.

ISBN 1-56691-077-3. 315 pages, \$14.95.

Moon Publications, PO Box 3040,  
Chico CA 95927-3040; Email: travel@moon.com

Review by Georgia Lee

Micronesia ("little islands") is composed of 1,245 square miles of tropical islands stretching from Hawaii to the Philippines and encompassed by 4,500,000 square miles of ocean. As the author points out, if you don't like water, this not the destination for you. But it is a diver's paradise and an offbeat place to visit.

This comprehensive guide book is divided into sections, beginning with an *Introduction* that includes the land, flora and fauna, history, economy, the people, and arts and crafts. Several pages are devoted to the Pacific war. The next section *On the Road* covers the basics for travel in this part of the world, and notes that you can't always get there from here!

Then the various parts of this enormous area are described: Republic of the Marshall Islands (Ratak Chain and Ralik Chain); Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap); Republic of Palau (Koror, and other islands); Territory of Guam; Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (Saipan, and other islands), Republic of Nauru; and the Republic of Kiribati (Tarawa, Gilbert, Phoenix, and Line Islands). The American Possessions (Midway, Wake, Johnson, Kingman, Palmyra, Howland, Baker, and Jarvis) are included for their historical and geographical links to the rest of the region despite the fact that they cannot be visited by tourists.