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EIF News

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Japanese Prince Hitachi and his wife stayed three days on the island as part of their tour to Chile. The Japanese government has donated US\$2 million to conserve the patrimony of Rapa Nui.

El Mercurio de Santiago, 29 September 1997

- ACCORDING TO *EL MERCURIO DE VALPARAISO*, 18 October 1997, the City Council of Hanga Roa has petitioned for the removal of Mayor Pedro Edmunds Paoa "for notable abandonment of responsibilities" and "multiple irregularities and arbitrary administration of the municipality". The petition was presented before the Electoral Tribunal at Valparaiso by Antonio Oneto, attorney representing Alberto Hotus, Marcelo Pont, Claudio Cristino, Enrique Pakarati, and Rodrigo Norambuena.

- A RECENT COMMUNICATION from the island expressed anxiety over the problem of mixing alcohol and driving. Young islanders are increasingly involved in nasty accidents that are drinking-related. One such casualty recently resulted in the amputation of a leg. Those who are caught up in drinking episodes are generally young, out of school, and unemployed. Older residents complain of brawls and other transgressions, and voice concern that tourists will be offended or antagonized.

- A FIRE THAT RECENTLY BURNED OVER 50 HECTARES at Rano Kau volcano and blazed for three days is said to have started from the slash-and-burn practice of islanders who periodically set fire to the grassland. It has been suggested by CONAF that grazing areas on the island be limited in order to avoid damage to the cultural patrimony of the island. At least three distinct places separated by 500 to 1000 meters show indications of intentional fires set to burn off dry grass and thus promote new vegetation for grazing animals. The fire entered the crater at three sectors. Last July, 500 saplings of *mako'i* were planted there, thanks to a grant from PNUD, a UN program of development. The news report was not clear as to whether or not these small trees survived.

CONAF chief, J.M. Ramirez, said that a strong wind, scarcity of water, and limited personnel hampered efforts. He noted that because islanders do not have access to other land for grazing their animals, they use National Park land. Governor Hey said that blame for the fire cannot be placed as yet, but that everyone should protect the environment and the ecology.

El Mercurio de Santiago, 14 September 1997

- SPECIAL WALKING TOURS OF EASTER ISLAND are being plugged on the Chilean mainland; advertisements suggest hiking as a way to see the island. Getting around on bicycle is also being touted. The Chilean press (*El Mercurio de Valparaiso*) points out that one can get to know Isla de Pascua by auto in a couple of days but, on a bike, the adventure "can be metaphysical". In case you can't guess, the news items gives ten reasons why one should bike on Easter Island: (1) the road is "the destiny" and time unimportant; (2) the road acquires a significance of its own; (3) there is satisfaction in arriving at one's destiny; (4) one can talk with locals; (5) the bumpiness connects one to the land; (6) one can reach places a car cannot; (7) at day's

end one feels well; (8) biking removes stress; (9) a broken bike can be repaired but not a broken car; and (10) it implies a life that is "chaste and pure."

[Bikes are a recent phenomena on the island, seen only in the past few years; the ruts that formerly served for roads were hardly the stuff for bicycles. But now roads are improved and bikes are becoming more common. However, that track around the north coast has to be an acid test.]

- LIGHTS ARE BEING INSTALLED AT THE SOCCER FIELD. Floodlights, placed on 60 foot towers, will light up the entire area, presumably for night games.

- AN EARTHWATCH TEAM, under the direction of Dr Christopher Stevenson, has discovered a large number of sites inland from Ahu Heki'i (La Perouse Bay). Among these are a number of basalt quarries and reduction areas where *toki* were being manufactured. They also identified large repositories of raw material for the making of *toki* but are not sure at this time where these boulders came from. We hope to have a full report in our next issue of RNJ.

NEWS FROM THE EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION

- The Biblioteca Mulloy in Viña del Mar now can be reached via email: BiMulloy@intelchile.net

- Mr. Enrique Klein, son of the late Otto Klein (1901-1986), who in 1947 founded the highly regarded School of Decoration at the Santa Maria University of Valparaiso, has generously donated nearly a hundred books and articles from Prof. Klein's personal library to the Biblioteca Mulloy in Viña del Mar, Chile. Several of the books, long out-of-print, were not in the Mulloy Library and are an extremely valuable addition to the collection. There are also original drawings and photographs made by Prof. Klein in the preparation of his classic book, "*La Iconografía de la Isla de Pascua*". Mr. Klein kindly donated other valuable books as well as artifacts, both from the continent and from Rapa Nui, to the Fonck Museo de Arqueología.

The Foundation is extremely grateful and thanks Mr. Klein profusely for his generosity.

- The EIF welcomes two new members of the Board of Directors: Brigid Mulloy and Mark Blackburn, both of Hawai'i.

REPORT ON THE SOUTH SEAS SYMPOSIUM

THE OPENING RECEPTION of the South Seas Symposium was held at the Hilton Hotel in Albuquerque where participants and guests were greeted by Barbara Hinton, President of the Easter Island Foundation, and Governor Jacobo Hey Paoa, of Easter Island. Rapa Nui wood carvings were presented with thanks to Mary Dell Lucas and her staff at Far Horizons who were in charge of logistics for the conference.

Guests at the opening ceremonies were enchanted by talented Mahani Teave (Chavez) who entertained with several selections on the piano. A gifted Rapanui, 14-year old Mahani