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News and Notes

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A self-professed high school drop-out, Ferren MacIntyre has a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from MIT. He taught at Scripps, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Melbourne, and the Graduate School of Oceanography, Rhode Island. He is now retired at the National University of Ireland, Galway, where he is working on 3-4 books and numerous papers, mainly on green theology, human ecology, and environmental philosophy.

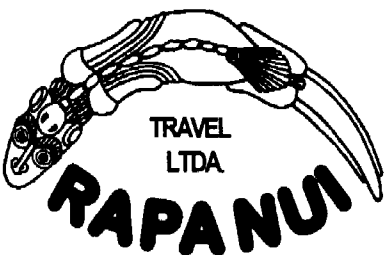
He notes: "My first Rapa Nui paper (given at Albuquerque) was oceanographic, where I have some cachet; the 2nd was a demographic model where I at least have much unpublished experience. The others are more speculative, and I apologize for writing about a place I've never seen—not that this has stopped anyone else—but I'm working on that, and in the meantime I thought I had some ideas to throw in the pot."

MacIntyre can be reached via email at <ferren.macintyre@nuigalway.ie>

Moai Sightings

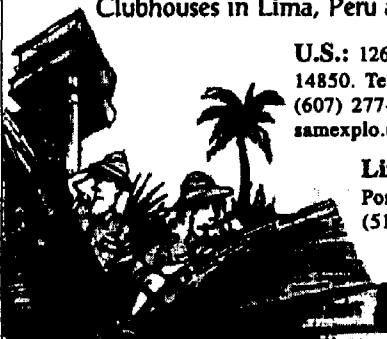
Eagle-eyed Rapanuiphile Barbara Nickless spotted some little *moai* carved from shiny white polished stone at Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis, of all places.

And then she found a large *moai* hanging on a wall above a pair of pianos in the Rum Bay nightspot in Colorado Springs. The five foot tall statue was surrounded by waterfalls and mai tai cocktails.



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Two *moai* (one can be seen on the upper level, just left of center) were spotted in The Sandwich Island Restaurant in Shiphool Airport, Amsterdam, by Dr Eva Weiler of Sweden. They gaze down on the crowded waiting room and, at this time, were joined by merry Santas and other Christmas decorations.

What's New in Polynesia

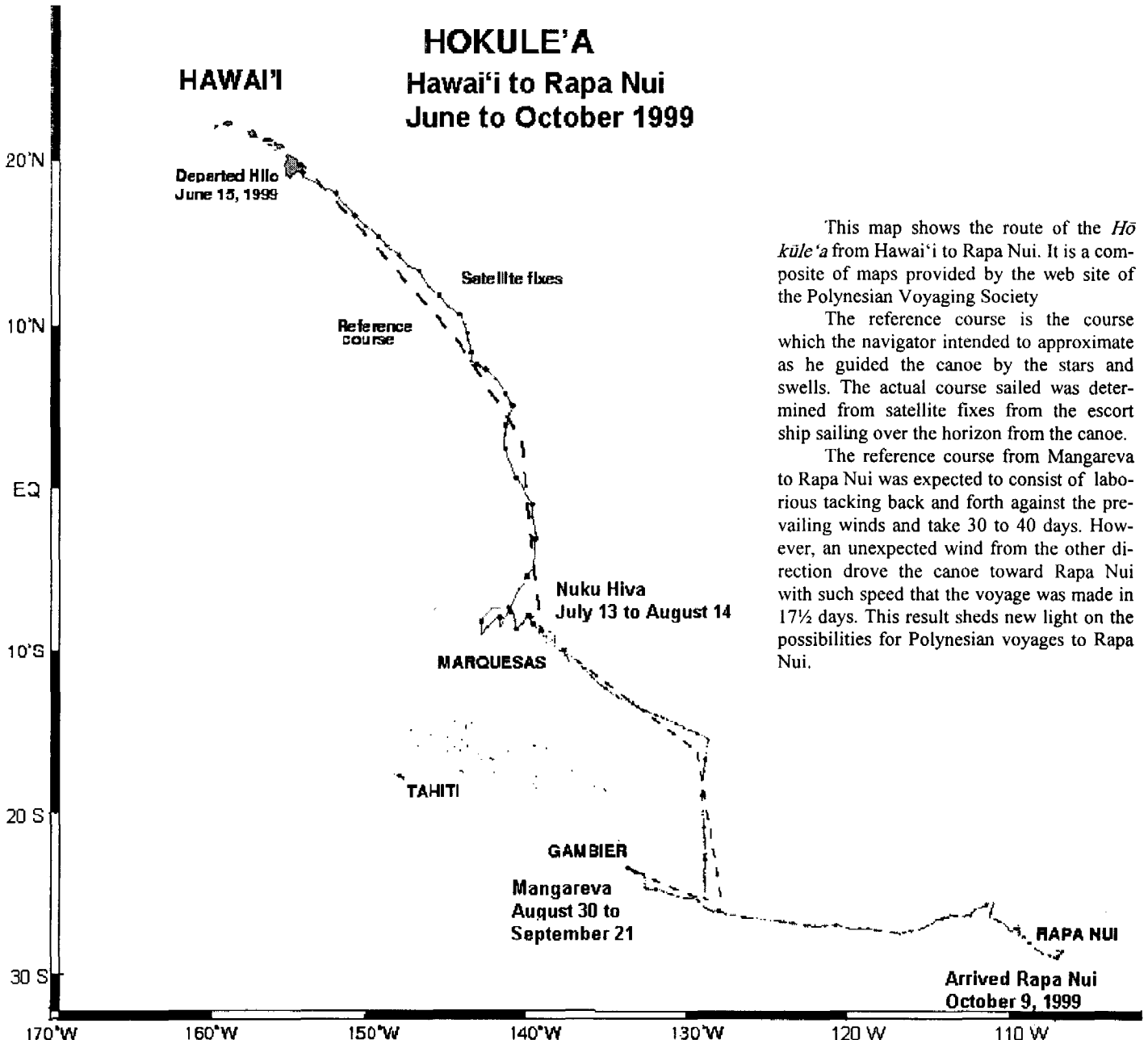
HĪ KĪ LE'A SAILS FROM HAWAI'I TO RAPA NUI

On Saturday, October 9, 1999 at 2:30 p.m. (Rapa Nui time), the *Hōkūle'a* completed its historic voyage from Hawai'i to Rapa Nui. It had sailed nearly 6000 nautical miles to cover a distance of about 4200 nm. The following describes the sighting of Rapa Nui.

From Sam Low's Report, on the morning of Oct. 8, 1999: Yesterday at sunrise we set our course SSE, beginning the first real leg of our zigzag search pattern. Nainoa (*the navigator*) intended to tack back N at sunset but the wind shifted to NE making that impossible. So instead of tacking, he decided to follow the wind around and steer ESE. This was a risky strategy. Although the navigator's dead reckoning placed us

well W of Rapa Nui, what if he were wrong and we were S of it or even to the E? We would sail by the island in the night. To make matters worse, we had not seen the stars for two nights and our latitude was therefore based on dead reckoning from star sights that were 48 hours old. And without either sun or stars to steer by, the navigator had been relying on an unexpected blessing—a steady swell from the SW. But had the swell changed direction? "This wind is a gift to us to go E," Nainoa explained to us last night. "So I say let's go. It's scary, but it's exciting. If our dead reckoning is good, and I think it is, we should take the chance."

Last night and on into the morning the winds continued to blow strong from the NE and *Hōkūle'a* responded by speeding ESE—6 to 7 knots at times—slicing through the waves, producing long tendrils of spray from her bow.



This map shows the route of the *Hōkūle'a* from Hawai'i to Rapa Nui. It is a composite of maps provided by the web site of the Polynesian Voyaging Society

The reference course is the course which the navigator intended to approximate as he guided the canoe by the stars and swells. The actual course sailed was determined from satellite fixes from the escort ship sailing over the horizon from the canoe.

The reference course from Mangareva to Rapa Nui was expected to consist of laborious tacking back and forth against the prevailing winds and take 30 to 40 days. However, an unexpected wind from the other direction drove the canoe toward Rapa Nui with such speed that the voyage was made in 17½ days. This result sheds new light on the possibilities for Polynesian voyages to Rapa Nui.

Near dawn, Max Yarawamai spotted two holes in the clouds ahead low on the horizon. Born and raised on the low Micronesian atoll of Ulipi, Max's ability to see islands at great distance is almost legend aboard *Hökūle'a*. "I looked carefully at the two holes on the horizon," Max explained later, "Checking first the one on the starboard side. I saw nothing there so I switched to the puka on the port. I saw a hard flat surface there and I watched it carefully. Was it an island? The shape didn't change! It was an island alright. We had found the dot on the ocean."

The *Hökūle'a* will sail for Tahiti in November and to Hawai'i in December-January to be home for the 25th anniversary of its launching March 8, 1975. Upon reaching Rapa Nui, the *Hökūle'a* has visited all of the major outposts of the Polynesians.

HAWAII

At the 17th Session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, held in Geneva, the Hawaiian delegation reported to the UN that "The foremost human and civil rights denied to Hawaiians by the United States is that of self-determination". They are seeking UN support for the sovereignty movement, and wish to develop a separate system of self-government that incorporates Hawaiian values and traditions.

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 14(8), for August

FIJI

LAPITA FIND IN FIJI! A decorated rim shard from a large pot was discovered at Tiotio, on the west coast of Vanua Balavu in the eastern group of islands of Fiji. The research team was led by Patrick Nunn, Geography Department, University of the South Pacific, Suva. The offshore islands of Avea, Cikobia-Lau, Munia, Manalata and Susui were also visited and pottery was collected from all of them. On Susui a dentate-stamped piece of Lapita pottery was found. The site was probably established around 2800 years ago, the same as on nearby Mago Island.

USP Bulletin, Vol. 32 (23), July 1999

THE PROBLEM OF PLASTIC LITTER vs the environment is a continuing one in many island societies. In Fiji, plastic constitutes 5-8% of the waste that ends up in the dump. A study by the Fiji Department of Environment has triggered a debate between the private sector, government, and non-government organizations about putting convenience ahead of the environment.

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 14(8), 1999

What's New in Hangaroa

RESTORING LAND ON EASTER ISLAND. Local authorities are planning to give more land to the islanders, but they are taking it from the National Park...not from Vaitea. Filling a promise made 9 years ago by former president Aylwin, 1,500 hectares of land were restored to the Rapanui community on August 16, by means of a lottery headed by governor Jacobo Hey Paoa.

The Polynesian settlers divided the 16 thousand 600 hectares of the Island, among the 18 tribes of the legendary king Hotu Matu'a, 1500 years ago. They demarcated the territories with landmarks (*pipihoreko*), that remain standing today, but

without their past authority.

Today, tribal organizations do not exist, and the only important industry of the Island, tourism, advises that we maintain important sectors of the island as uninhabited, especially those that are part of the Rapa Nui National Park, where are concentrated most of the famous monumental archaeology that UNESCO declared as a World Heritage site in 1996.

However, there remains a great yearning of the islanders to be proprietors of lands that in 1933 became state property when an English company leased cattle rights in the Island. A, great part of land was usurped from the islanders by a French colonist in the last century, before incorporation of the Island into Chilean Sovereignty.

The Provincial Governor, Jacobo Hey, announced at Hanga Roa's gym, *Koro Paina Kori*, a long awaited act: the restitution of 1.500 hectares of land to the Rapanui. That is 5 hectare-sized farms to be distributed among some 280 previously-selected islanders. The historical act of distribution was carried out by means of a lottery (bingo), countersigned by the notary of the Island.

It was a sober act, because it was expected that there would be a protest from dissident groups that were recently defeated in an election carried out in the Rapa Nui Elder's Council, because they reject any interference of the state of Chile in land issues. But dissidents didn't go to the gym. A youth who tried to interrupt the governor's speech was silenced by the applause the governor received from the almost 350 islanders who were there.

This way, the habit of former governments of giving lands to the marriages was brought back. This time, however, the decision of restoring lands was taken by the government together with the Rapanui people, through the so-called Commission of Development of Easter Island, created by the Indigenous peoples' law of Chile.

This Commission, a kind of Assembly of the Island, is meant to institutionalize the participation of the islanders for making important decisions for the island. It is composed of the provincial governor, the mayor, six representatives of state organisms, and the six elected representatives of the people.

In the near future, it's hoped there will be further restoration of more hectares to satisfy the demand for land. The last available land corresponds to the large Vaitea farm, administered by Sasipa Ltda, and those of the Rapa Nui National Park. The law forbids the selling of land to foreigners, including continental Chileans. Even the Rapa Nui Elders' Council is demanding a way to prevent the newly restored lands to be sold between islanders themselves.

Juan Soler Hotus

TELEMEDICINE NEEDED FOR THE ISLAND. Following the death of a medical patient who was transferred from Easter Island to the continent, the local head of the health department, German Dazzarola, brought up the subject of having a telemedicine system connecting the hospital at Hanga Roa with more specialized medical centers. He has been in contact with a Chilean health professional living in Spain who has talked with the company that developed this system. "The project is financed by the EC

in a cooperative venture. I hope that we can implement it this year because Easter Island really needs telemedicine," said Dazzarola. It will permit a doctor at the Hanga Roa hospital to make audiovisual contact with specialists when there are complicated cases to be resolved and diagnostics are needed.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso 23 August 1999

THE TAPATI FESTIVAL CASE. The Court of Appeals of Valparaíso will pronounce on a verdict handed down by the First Crime Justice María Angelica Rios for fraud against the Government by 6 ex-members of the regional government, headed by ex-Intendente Hardy Knittel in the Rapa Nui Tapati Fiesta case. The investigation began in 1997 over irregularities in the payment of 23 million pesos (US\$44,000) for the construction of movable scenery for the Tapati fiesta. Other irregularities are 11.7 million pesos (US\$22,500) for travel expenses to Mendoza, Argentina, for a performance. The decision was appealed.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso 2 September 1999

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROMISES AID TO THE ISLAND. One of the two major candidates for president in Chile [elections on December 12th this year] is center-rightist Joaquin Lavin, the smiling ex-mayor of Las Condes. Lavin promised to help overcome the isolation and bureaucracy that the inhabitants of Easter Island suffer in many of their basic services. During his visit to the island, Lavin, inspected the school and the hospital where he said the transferring patients to the continent should be eliminated. Locals said that often a patient urgently sent to Santiago ends up in Valparaíso because of the administrative dependency of the island. Lavin said his trip was not to help his campaign since, with only 3000 inhabitants, it would not affect the outcome. The Mayor of Easter Island stated that "I cannot vote for Lavin because I am a person of my word and I am staying with the *Concertacion* [the party that is supporting Ricardo Lagos]." But he thanked Lavin for the support he is offering and wishes him luck: "Lavin is a good friend of Rapa Nui." The other main candidate is Ricardo Lagos, the leftist and former Minister of Public Works, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Duke University. The latest poll shows them in a dead heat.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso 4 September 1999

THE SHIPPING SCRAMBLE FOR THE SUBSIDY. Island impresario Orlando Paoa recently bought the ship *Prams Kunti*, rebaptized it *Orlando II* and asked for government subsidies to use both of his freighters to send supplies to the island. The shipping companies are vying for the 107 million pesos (US \$202,000) of government subsidy. At this moment, Paoa's other ship *Hotu Matua* is under repair after striking rocks on the north shore of Easter Island. But another company, Transportes Maritimos Miramar, asked for the subsidy although their ship, the *Saint Jeremy* (formerly called *Araki*) is being kept in port because of unpaid debts. The ship returned from Easter Island bringing 16 crew members who had been stuck on the island owing to unpaid salaries for the past 4 to 6 months, according to their families in Valparaíso. The third company is Yelcho with the *Patriarche*

Legal action was taken against the regional secretary by

Yelcho and Miramar who claimed prejudiced. As for the *Saint Jeremy*, its company still has debts to pay (10 million pesos or US\$19,000) and was eliminated from consideration. The *Patriarche* was allowed to sail with a temporary permit until the process of inscription was completed. The representative of Yelcho, Alejandro Oliva, said that the *Orlando II* lacks the requisites for giving supply service to the island. Also he said that the proposal dealt with a "non-existent ship" since the *Prams Kunti* could not be legally renamed the *Orlando II* until after the ship was certified.

Despite all the infighting, it seems that *Patriarche* will be the supply ship. While waiting for the regional secretary of the Ministry of Transport to announce a new hearing, the company Mar Express (with *Patriarche*) announced that it will make voyages every month and a half starting on the 10th of October. It will take some 900 tons of merchandise. Meanwhile, the other two companies are unable to make voyages

El Mercurio de Valparaíso 20 September -6 October 1999

HAMBURG EXHIBIT

ISLANDERS WILL CARVE A MOAI IN HAMBURG MUSEUM. Four giant pieces of volcanic stone from Easter Island were shipped to Hamburg, Germany, where they will be carved in the Volkerkunde Museum by five island artists, specialists in that kind of work. This artisan exhibit will be part of the activities put on by ProChile V Region to promote the products of the businesses of the region. The regional director of ProChile commented that this activity is being developed via the program "El Mercado de los Pueblos" in which different ethnic groups of all countries participate, with the goal of advertising cultural and economic themes, especially those relating to art and tourism.

The *moai* will be three meters tall and will be donated to the museum. ProChile has been working with Easter Island impresarios since 1997.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso 18 September 1999

Short Notes from our Readers

About Rapa Nui Sculptures*

*Professor João Vicente Ganzarolli de Oliveira, Ph.D.
Fine Arts School, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro*

CONSIDERING ART AS A UNIVERSAL, thus necessary, form of expression for men, it is interesting to notice how rare it is to find a society with a homogeneous development in all of its branches. Indeed, Italy, located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea and principal heir of the great civilizations of Antiquity, represents an almost unique phenomenon-since art requires not only specialized skills and proper material, but also, in most cases, cultural interchange. Comparing this privileged situation bestowed by geography and history to the birthplace of Dante, Leonardo and Vivaldi, we find an opposite example in the little portion of land of Rapa Nui: the most remote human haven on Earth, ignored by the western world until its discovering by the Dutch Admiral Jacob Roggeveen and his crew on