


2000

EASTER ISLAND. RAPA NUI, A LAND OF ROCKY DREAMS (Review)

Georgia Lee

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

Lee, Georgia (2000) "EASTER ISLAND. RAPA NUI, A LAND OF ROCKY DREAMS (Review)," *Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation*: Vol. 14 : Iss. 3 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/rnj/vol14/iss3/10>

This Book or Media Review 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 daniel20@hawaii.edu.

equates it with Make Make; where fewer specialists would follow him. However, it is his belief that the *moai* were built in honour of the birdmen, who were buried beneath them in the platforms, and that the long fingers of the *moai* should also be equated with the birdman. It seems more likely that the birdman cult followed the *moai*-building period, and while the two probably had some links, they may not have been as strong as Attenborough believes. That quibble aside, however, this documentary can be recommended extremely warmly as a model of the genre, with meticulous research presented soberly but with the enthusiasm and verve that have become deservedly associated with this great popularizer of science.

REFERENCE

Attenborough, D. 1990. The first figures to be collected from Easter Island, pp. 41-50 in "State and Perspectives of Scientific Research in Easter Island Culture" (H. Esen-Baur, ed.). Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg 125, Frankfurt.

Editor's Note: Rapanuiphiles who have seen this documentary may be interested to know that the EIF has a replica of this wood carving for sale. Closely resembling the original carving so lovingly researched by Attenborough, it is beautifully carved from miro tahiti wood by Bene Aukara Tuki, one of Easter Island's most renowned carvers. It can be yours for \$400. The figure is 39 inches long and has eyes of shark vertebrae with obsidian pupils. This carving was exhibited at the Maxwell Museum of Art at the University of New Mexico and is illustrated and described in "Ingrained Images: Wood Carvings from Easter Island" by Joan Seaver Kurze. For further information, contact us at PO Box 6774, Los Osos, CA 93412, or by email: rapanui@compuserve.com

EASTER ISLAND. RAPA NUI, A LAND OF ROCKY DREAMS

By José Miguel Ramírez and Carlos Huber
Alvimpress Impresores, Chile, 2000

Review by Georgia Lee

THIS IS A GLORIOUS OVERSIZE, hard cover, high quality book that will enhance anyone's coffee table, but more than that, it is well written, with a wealth of information included in the text by José Miguel Ramírez. The photographs by Carl Huber are, simply, stunning. All photos are in full color. Excellent black/white line drawings are by Rapanui islander Te Pou Huke. The book includes 190 pages, including a glossary and bibliography.

This elegant new book contains some of the best and most dramatic photographs that we have seen of our beloved island. Many are taken from the air, showing unusual vistas that are not normally visible to earthlings—from the cliffs at Orongo to the quarry at Rano Raraku to the eroding peninsula at Poike. There are beautiful vahines and Tapati festival shots, illuminated night shots, and sunsets to die for. The chapter on the Ocean and Fishing has underwater photographs by Michel Garcia, showing us the undersea world of Rapa Nui.

The contents include: Introduction; The Setting; The Origins; Organization of the Ancient Society; Crisis and Adaptation; Megalithic Culture; Archaeoastronomy; Ideology; Wood

and Rock Carvings; Rongo Rongo; Rock Art; The Ocean and Fishing; Tattooing, Body Painting and Mutilation; The Living Culture; and Final Words.

Our Final Word: buy this book.

Jose Miguel Ramirez can be contacted at mataverio-tai@entelchile.net for information about purchasing a copy.

The EIF hopes to be handling the US sales of this book in the near future.

THE KON-TIKI MUSEUM OCCASIONAL PAPERS, VOL. 5 ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF ARNE SKJØLSVOLD, 75 YEARS

Edited by Paul Wallin and Helene Martinsson-Wallin.
The Kon-Tiki Museum, 2000

Review by Georgia Lee

THIS VOLUME IS DIVIDED into sections including Preface (by Paul Wallin and Helene Martinsson-Wallin); The Galapagos Islands; Easter Island; Polynesia/Melanesia; Peru; and the Maldivian Islands. At the back is a Bibliography of Arne Skjølsvold. The book is paper cover, 177 pages long, with black and white photos, maps and charts.

The section of most interest to readers of *RNJ* is the one on Easter Island. Included are: The Osteological Evidences for Rapa Nui Origins Reexamined, by Patrick Chapman; Stone Chicken Coops on Easter Island, by Edwin Ferdon; "No Stone Unturned"...A Reflection on the Recycling of Worked Stones on Rapa Nui, by Helene Martinsson-Wallin; and Prehistoric Basalt Mining in the La Pérouse Area of Easter Island, by Christopher Stevenson, Sonia Haoa and Michael Glascock.

Chapman's paper is particularly interesting, and Ferdon's 'take' on the *hare moa* is the first sensible thing this editor has ever read about those so-called chicken coops (See page 77-79 of this issue).

In the Polynesia/Melanesia section are papers by Atholl Anderson, Roger Green, Paul Wallin and Matthew Spriggs.

The volume is available from the Kon-Tiki Museum, Bygdoynesveien 36, 0286 Oslo, Norway. (Price not given).



Easter Island Foundation News/Pacific 2000

THE PACIFIC 2000 CONFERENCE, held this August on Hawai'i Island, was a great success. The venue for the conference was Hawaii Preparatory Academy (HPA), at Kamuela. The lovely campus in the cool highlands was host to more than 150 people from all over the world. From Norway to Spain, Chile to Canada, Japan to Australia and New Zealand, attendees gathered to hear and present papers during the five-day period. Special events included tours to local archaeological sites, a benefit party at the Parker Ranch estate, and a final beach-side luau.

We appreciate the behind-the-scenes work of so many people who made the conference so successful. From the HPA, we want to thank in particular: John Colson, Headmaster; Bernard Noguès, Director of Development; Rick Davis, Director of