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EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

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IT HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL FEW months for the Foundation and I would like to highlight some of our achievements. The Easter Island Foundation, thanks to the generosity of Sonia Haoa, is now represented in a small shop located in downtown Hanga Roa. For those who have visited the island, it is located immediately adjacent to Hotel ‘Otai and across the street from the post office. The name of the shop is Vai A Heva; a quaint building

with a green front that is set back from the sidewalk. It is about 150 square feet in area and contains several display cabinets and shelves. Marcia Merino runs the store on a daily basis and is a terrific manager of the enterprise. Currently, the business sells those delicious cakes made by Carmen Cardinalli, a variety of candy and some ceramic moai made by the infamous Cacho who lives next to the Toroko disco. Sonia has agreed to sell our books, T-shirts and to display our Foundation information. If anyone can think of something that might sell like hotcakes to all those American tourists please let me know. We will then put you in charge of product development. The Easter Island Foundation is very appreciative of Sonia’s good will.

The Foundation has two new and energetic board members, Scott Nicolay from Shiprock, New Mexico, and Shawn McLaughlin from Flagstaff, Arizona. Scott’s keen interest in Rapa Nui began with the kohau rongorongo script and has expanded into all areas of Easter Island studies following his participation on the archaeological field school of Dr. Terry Hunt, University of Hawai‘i, which was held last year. His long-range goal is to conduct a speleological survey of the island’s caves. But prior to that, he will be working hard on fundraising for the Foundation. Shawn McLaughlin writes: “I’ve been fascinated by Easter Island for more than 30 years. Last year my wife and I made two trips to the island and are already planning our next trip. What drew me to the island was its mysteries but what has kept my interest is finding answers to age-old questions, learning more about the history of a people who have re-invented themselves numerous times in the face of extreme isolation and hardship (leaving a remarkable legacy in stone and wood) – and ultimately acknowledging how this tiny island and its culture may well represent a microcosm of the human race.”

We also welcome Sonia Haoa to our Board of Directors, as the Easter Island Foundation’s Rapanui representative. Sonia is well known for her archaeological achievements and has worked with us, unofficially, for many years. We are delighted to have her “on board”.

We have several new publications, including a outstanding new book by Thern Ladefoged and Michael Graves, called Pacific Landscapes. It has a variety of papers on Polynesian use and modification of island environments. The book is a “must have” for your Polynesian book collection.

The Foundation awarded its 2003 scholarship to Alberto Patricio Genskowsky (Terongo) Pinochet. He is a student at DUOC (Departamento Universitario de Obreros y Campesinos) in Viña del Mar, and is studying the tourism profession. Terongo will return to the island upon completion of his degree to work within this industry. Congratulations, Alberto! (See page 74). Next year the Foundation hopes to award two scholarships to Rapa Nui students. We are grateful that we have this opportunity to help and encourage the young people of Rapa Nui. We hope that many of our Rapanuiophile donors will keep our scholarship program in mind. We need your donations to continue this worthwhile project. Education has the power to open up new possibilities and to enable the young people of Rapa Nui to expand their horizons and create a better future for them and for the island’s society.

Lastly, we are all looking forward to the next conference on Pacific Island culture to be held in Viña del Mar, Chile: Rapa Nui and the Pacific: VI International Conference. It will
be co-hosted by the University of Valparaíso and the Easter Island Foundation. José Miguel Ramírez and I will co-chair the conference. It promises to be a well-attended one that will be held in a beautiful setting. A total of eleven symposia are planned, covering a wide range of topics (see the announcement below) and there will be many new faces along with the usual suspects. See you there!

– Christopher M. Stevenson

The William Mulloy Library, located next to the Sebastián Englert Museum, is now completed and open for research. The library's entrance is to the left.

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002, THE WILLIAM MULLOY LIBRARY (Biblioteca William Mulloy) was officially opened at the Father Sebastián Englert Museum of Anthropology (MAPSE) on Rapa Nui. A traditional umu tahu highlighted the ceremonies which formally inaugurated the first library specializing in Rapa Nui and Polynesian studies at the service of residents and visitors of Easter Island.

Emily Ross Mulloy, with Dr. Clara Budnik Sinay, Director of the Chilean National Administration of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (DiBAM) cut the ribbon to open the Library. Island authorities and nearly a hundred guests, including prominent elders of the Rapa Nui community and foreign visitors, attended the opening. Songs were presented by the traditional singer “Papa” Kiko (Luis Pate) and by the grandson of German Hotu, commemorating the work of his grandfather with William Mulloy in restoring Ahu Akivi. The dance group Kari Kari also performed and presented the umu tahu.

The new library, administered by the MAPSE and located in the museum compound at Tahai, bears the name of the late William Mulloy (1917-1978), who, following 23 years of research and restoration projects on Rapa Nui, left his personal collection of books, articles, journals, field notes, and photographs to form the nucleus of a scientific library on the island. The original gift has been augmented by the collections of MAPSE, of Father Sebastián Englert, and by private donations, and now includes more than 2000 items: books, unpublished field notes, photographs, slides and films, journals, articles, and maps. The complete catalogue of the collection (excluding photographic materials) is available online at: http://www.museorapanui.cl/sp/bwm/default.htm.

The William Mulloy Library project was generously supported by a founding grant from the Easter Island Foundation, a matching grant from the Fundación Andes and support from DiBAM. The long delay in reaching this finalization of William Mulloy’s plan has made possible a truly modern facility employing electronic media and state of the art conservation techniques that were undreamed of during his lifetime.

– Emily Ross Mulloy

Among those present at the opening of the library were: front row, Brigid Mulloy, Dr. Clara Budnik Sinay, Emily Ross Mulloy; back row, Ramon Edmunds, Lilian Lopez (BMW Librarian), Josie Nahoe, Francisco Torres (MAPSE Director) Fr. Francisco Nahoe, OFM Conv.

Dr Joan Seaver Kurze, one of the founding members of the Easter Island Foundation, presented a plaque to Francisco Torres of the Sebastian Englert Museum-Mulloy Library in October. The plaque lists those whose donations made the creation of the library possible.