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EIF News

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John Flenley and Paul Bahn’s Enigmas of Easter Island has been published in Korea (2005) by Ahchimyisul Publishing, Seoul. We’d give the title in Korean, but can’t read it.


Also: William J. Thomon’s 1889 classic report, Te Pito te Henua or Easter Island, is available from LongRead Classics in Great Britain, edited by Robert Murray Smith. It is a print-on-demand book available at $9.00, $18.00, & $27.00, depending on the type of binding. 170 pages.

EIF NEWS

EIF’S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WIEGAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER, IOAN HAUMOANA SOLER HOTU, who is attending college in the United States with the help of his scholarship award, sent us a brief update on his progress.

Ioan wrote: “I moved to America from Rapa Nui in March of 2001 and I have been attending school for the last four years. I originally came with the simple intention of learning English, an important skill to apply on the island. And then I planned to return to the island once my language proficiency had reached a high level. It was during those two years that I realized that I could pursue a career at college level despite the tremendous economic expenses. I enrolled at El Camino College (Torrance, CA) which has one of the best transfer rates to four-year universities in the greater city of Los Angeles as well as in the States. I began taking classes in different fields such as Anthropology, Geology, and Political Science, among others, helping me to enlarge my knowledge and gain a broader view of the world we live in. I also have been taking a number of classes in the field of Computers, specifically for an A.S. Degree in Computer Information Systems.

Living in California is like a rollercoaster in comparison to the quiet and slow pace of life on Rapa Nui. Despite this, I believe that I have made a successful transition. During these years I have been joined by three more students coming from Rapa Nui in pursuit of their dreams and ambitions. I live with one of them, a cousin of mine; we have known each other since childhood. His name is Ito Pakarati, an up-and-coming recording artist whose music has become very popular on the island, with a CD released just a couple of years ago. He is studying music and has a scholarship at Brigham Young University, Oahu, starting this fall. The other two young Rapanui are Tongariki Teave, a film major, and Martin Hereveri, an architecture mayor.

Eventually I hope to transfer to a four-year college and finish my education. I hope to begin classes next spring at either at California State University at Long Beach or Dominguez Hills. Both have transfers with my school and are within a 15-mile drive. The drawback is the high tuition and expenses (around $20,000 yearly, which is the rate set for international students). As an alternative, I might consider a transfer to Brigham Young University, but it is not my priority at this time.

Hopefully, after school is finished, I will take a year or so to work in the field and gain some experience and improve my résumé. The next is to make the transition back to my island home: I want to give back to my culture what I have
learned in the United States, so that my overseas experiences may help to make Rapa Nui a better place."

Sincerely, Ioan Haumoana Soler Hotu

OUR OTHER WIEGAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER, Juana Luna Atamu, is studying medicine in Argentina. She writes that: “My college is five years of study and the last year is as an intern in a hospital. With this last year, one gets the title of “Dr.” After that are two years of residency, and then the specialization. I am very grateful for the Scholarship and I want to give you all thanks for the assistance that you have awarded me, through the Easter Island Foundation. It is something very good to help the people who want to study and develop, and become good professionals in the future. I say goodbye affectionately, and hope for a quick reply.”

Sincerely, Juana Luna Atamu

THE EIF IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE an excellent new film about Easter Island and specifically about Jon Arzt' work with the livestock problems on the island. The film, Caballo Loco on Easter Island, by Laura J. Boyd, is slated to be on Montana PBS in November, in a program called Terra; it was shown at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival in September and won Laura a Michael Brinkman Fellowship. Laura is sending the film to various festivals across the country and a story about the film will be on the Science Channel. The EIF provided a grant to Laura to assist with the making of the film. Anyone wishing a copy (CD) may contact Laura directly, by email. She estimates that $12 will cover the cost of printing and shipping. Contact Laurajeanboyd@yahoo.com

We have featured several articles by Jon Arzt in RNJ (15 (1):27-30; 17(2):131-135). These articles and Laura’s film forcefully bring home the seemingly hopeless problems of too large herds, not enough feed and water, and the introduction of a lupin plant by the National Parks of Chile, to control erosion. The toxic plant, called "cho-cho" is a disaster. It has spread all over the island, and, when eaten, kills horses slowly and painfully. Cattle are less affected by cho-cho but the toxins build up within the animals and can be passed along to humans who eat the meat.

Arzt provides free veterinarian services on the island, vaccinates animals, and provides contraceptive injections for mares as well as dogs and cats. Trying to convince the Rapanui that a few healthy animals are preferable to large herds of sick animals has been a challenge. Many Rapanui allow their livestock to roam freely; there is little decent fodder for them and so the animals eat cho-cho, and they die.

FROM THE PREZ

THE EIF IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BOARD MEMBERS. Time and circumstances inevitably take their toll amongst our ranks and we are looking for a few energetic souls to fill the positions that are now vacant. We are a friendly crowd, involved in the serious business of academic publications, student scholarships, and hosting international conferences. So what constitutes the ideal board member? We are looking for creative thinkers who can express ideas in writing, persons with an ability to conduct fundraising and connect with persons who meet our foundation mission, and individuals with a desire to formulate new programs and the means of achieving those goals. If this sounds interesting to you please send a statement of interest and a resume to the EIF.

Chris Stevenson, President.

GREETINGS FROM BAYWOOD PARK!

WE HAVE A NEW PUBLICATION IN THE WORKS, a book edited by C. M. Stevenson, J. M. Ramírez, F. J. Morin, and N. Barabaci. This is The Reñaca Papers. VI International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific/VI Congreso Internacional sobre Rapa Nui y el Pacífico (ISBN 1-880636-08-5). At 10 chapters, a keynote address by Atholl Anderson, and 52 papers (approximately 535 pages), it should make for some interesting reading. We expect to have this book ready to ship before the end of the year.

Due to popular demand, we now have a 3rd (and final) printing of Spirit of Place, Petroglyphs of Hawai`i by Georgina Lee and Edward Stasack, and also in press is a revised edition of Ra'ivavae by Edmundo Edwards.

We still have a few copies of the following books, none of which will be reprinted. If you don't have a copy, now is the time to order: Easter Island, A Land of Rocky Dreams (Ramírez and Huber), Ancient Solar Observatories (Liller), and Maunga Tari (Stevenson). Please remember that we often have slightly damaged copies of our publications that we can sell at a discount. Contact us at: rapanuibooks@att.net for more information.

We have sets of pen/ink petroglyph postcards from all your favorite island sites, beautifully drawn by Paul Horley. They sell for $12 for eight different images. Christmas is coming and The Little Tree of Rapa Nui would make a great gift for that youngster in your life. Only $12.00!

A hearty thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership recently! If the date on your mailing label has passed, you are overdue. You can help save us time by sending in your check or credit card details and remember; 2-year renewals are only $70 for US/Canada and $90 for all other countries.

Thanks so much for your support!!