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On his first visit to Easter Island, men’s winner Erwin Valdebenito from Chile kissed the saturated ground after crossing the finishing line in 2:59:17. Running solo for most of the way, it was a dream come true for Valdebenito to finally visit Rapa Nui. Anthony Russo from the US came home third. Kristine Hupp from Minnesota was first woman home, finishing the course impressively in 3:51:10.

Both Megan Princeton and Cliff Jennings plan to return in 2006. They may have caught the Rapa Nui bug but ultimately, whether triathlons, mountain bikes, running, or a combination of all three are your passion, could you survive a trip to Easter Island? The fourth annual Easter Island Marathon, half-marathon and 10K, is scheduled for June 11, 2006. In addition, there will be a Sprint Triathlon June 9 and a Mountain bike race on June 10. For further information see: http://www.olinacl/sitio/RAPANIFOR.htm http://www.marathontours.com/easterisland/index.shtml

Easter Island Scam
Some Rapanui Islanders who live on the Chilean mainland are providing certificates assuring authenticity of artifacts being sold on eBay. Carvings come with an official-looking “Certificao de Authenticidad.” Without exception, they are modern and some are obviously not even from Easter Island. Fakes are sold everywhere but the anonymity and reach of the Internet makes it easy. And eBay is the center of a new universe of counterfeit items with virtually no policing. EBay argues that it has no obligation to investigate counterfeiting claims unless the complaint comes from a “rights owner,” a party holding a trademark or copyright. A buyer who believes he purchased a fake has almost no recourse.

Progress

by

J. Douglas Porteous

All great events ... in world history reappear
...the first time as tragedy, the second as farce.
 Karl Marx (1852)

I

Rapa Nui Tragedy

Hard to be Rapanui
Wondering why
Grandfathers felled the final tree
To move the far-from-last moai

II

Cosmic Farce

The earth is dying by degrees—
Ecocatastrophe—
As patiently we search the skies
For a facsimile.

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