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Island Above the Sun (Poetry Corner)

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Antonio Fernando Muñoz Tuki (6th semester, University Pedro de Valdivia) was awarded the EIF Director's Award.

Each scholarship award winner received a check for US \$3,000. The judges of the competition were Maria Virginia Haoa Cardinali, Sofia Faundez Hey, and M. Carolina Hotu Hey, *Gobernadora Provincial*. We are very proud of our award winners and wish them well in the coming school year.

These scholarship awards are in addition to the two four-year Wiegand Scholarship awards, administered by the EIF and given this year to **Juana Luna Atamu** and **Ioan Soler Hotu**.

Some of our previous recipients have kept in touch, informing us of their graduation and awards, again thanking the Foundation for assistance, and expressing their desire to return to the island to help Rapa Nui and their fellow islanders. One of our award winners from last year has been able to study abroad, in Spain, and plans to study law.

FROM THE OFFICE

GREETINGS FROM BAYWOOD PARK! Things are changing around our little office as the hotel next door is adding a large park-like area and conference center. With new restaurants and lodgings, Baywood Park is becoming quite the spot for a weekend get-away.

Recently some generous EIF members donated items of interest to Rapanuiphiles. Are you still longing for a special wood statue from Rapa Nui? We have a few nicely carved wood *moai*, as well as a set of salad servers with carved bird handles. Prices vary and you can see these items on our website: www.islandheritage.org. We also have a set of Tapati Rapa Nui posters from various past years. Many contain the wonderful artwork by Cesar Aguilera, proprietor of Hotu Matua's Favorite Shoppe, and are difficult to come by. By press time we hope to have photos of the posters on our website.

Our most recent publication is Georgia Lee's memoir, *Rapa Nui. Island of Memory* (2006). We highly recommend it as a journey back in time to the way the island was twenty-five years ago. It is illustrated with black and white and color photographs as well as Georgia's original pen and ink drawings.

As always, we have copies of used and rare books about Easter Island and other Pacific Islands for sale. A few of our publications are nearly out of print and will not be republished. If you are thinking about adding to your book collection, now is the time! We have slightly damaged books for sale at a discount, so ask us for a list.

Please keep an eye on your *Rapa Nui Journal* address label for the expiration of your membership. If you have any questions about your membership, let us know!

POETRY CORNER

ISLAND ABOVE THE SUN

The wind here never dies
At this navel of the world.
It carries stony voices in the firelight
Calling for dances in an arena of seas.

Here are temples lost among worlds
Where Uoke broke his immense lever
Trying to annihilate Rapa Nui
And abandoned the isle, disgraced.

Ceremonies of savage awe and the law of the
cave
Are reflected in the living faces of the sentinels
Who await not a mystery solved but a return
To a past graced by ancient regalia.

Gazing northwest, standing where the lever
broke,
Between Hanga Ho'onu and Poike
(Some say Mataveri or Rano Raraku)
We ponder Uoke's failure...

...wrought from a desperate incantation
To impede his vengeful Nature,
Chanted rhythmic and fervent by the children
Of Hau Maka, Hotu Matu'a, Makemake.

Their descendants survived scathed but proud
An ancient cataclysm – *He 'ati nuinui tuai*
To re-invent themselves without war
From the restless dust of the fallen *moai*.

At the carved 'Orongo threshold
Carnivorous waters carried men to a promise
Of an egg that grants royal rejuvenation –
To peace before chaos, life before blood.

With eyes to the heavens – *Mata ki te Rangi*
A story is told of decadence and ascent,
Rapacious Tangata Hiva and renewal,
And still the fertile voices continue...

Alone amidst the ceaseless seas
And undying echoed winds
The Rapanui endure
On this island above the sun.

SHAWN MCLAUGHLIN