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## Letters

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many autobiographical references, with lots of personal interventions, and even a chapter with Amorós' personal notes during this campaign is included. Antoni Pujador recedes to the background.

In the fourth and last part, the chapters are reduced to a few pages, where the last years of Pujador's life are described. The book ends with a poem in French, without a translation, which prevents those who do not know this language from understanding the final tribute.

In this biographical book, the author's presence is constant: in many pictures – some of them without the protagonist of the book – and in detailed descriptions of all the aspects related to the island. In addition, some personal letters sent by Pujador are included.

Thus, the first part describes climbing and aeronautics – Pujador's interests at his early life – and the third part seems to be more dedicated to the author. What is left of Antoni Pujador and his relationship with Rapa Nui? I ask myself if the exciting life of Pujador could have been expressed in half of the pages.

The book lacks some details, such as the translation of certain notes and letters in English and French (the reader who does not understand the latter can skip some pages). Also, some references are repeated. All these data, the result of a long and meticulous process of documentation, are mostly irrelevant.

In summary, throughout the book the admiration that Amorós felt toward the protagonist of the story is reflected in the superlative adjectives that he constantly uses when talking about Pujador's life. It is nostalgic, a personal tribute that seems more addressed to his close friends than to an anonymous reader, although, thanks to this book, we now know more about Antoni Pujador and his passion for Easter Island. I must confess that *El sueño imposible de Antoni Pujador* is more enthusiastic than exciting, but if you are interested in Pujador's or Amorós' life, this is your book.

*Dr Santa Coloma is an anthropologist living in Barcelona.*

## PUBLICATIONS

- Amorós, F. 2007. Isla de Pascua. *Viajes* (National Geographic) 90: 88-99.
- Le Bulletin du Cercle d'Etudes sur l'Ile de Paques et la Polynesie* (CEIPP). 2007. No. 92, juillet.
- Bulletin of the International String Figure Association*. Vol 12, 2005; Vol. 13, 2006. Contact: [www.isfa.org](http://www.isfa.org)
- Clava. 2007. Número 6, Revista de la Corporación Museo Fonck. Editor General: José Miguel Ramírez A. This issue contains six papers, three of them concerning Easter Island: "Una residencia agrícola en las tierras altas de Rapa Nui: La ocupación de un hare oka (18-473) en la region de Vaitea," by C. M. Stevenson, T. N. Ladefoged y Sonia Haoa; "Levantamiento de 300 estructuras en Rapa Nui: Registro y documentación," by A. Guerra T.; and "Se llevaron todo el mana, mito, memoria y medicina como reivindicación política en la

- Isla de Pascua contemporánea," by V. Fajreldin.
- Diamond, J. 2007. Easter Island revisited. *Science*, Vol. 317, No. 5845, Pp. 1692-94.
- Nunn, P., T. Ishimura, W.R. Dickinson, K. Katayama, F.R. Thomas, R. Kumar, S. Mataraba, J. Davidson and T. H. Worthy. 2007. The Lapita occupation at Naitabale, Moturiki Island, Central Fiji. *Asian Perspectives* 46 (1):96-132.
- Orliac, C. 2006. Two offering stands from Mangareva in the collections of the Peter-the-Great Museum of St Petersburg and the Musée de Quai Branly in Paris. *Journal of the Polynesian Society* 115(4) for December :353-364. New Zealand: Auckland.
- Stevenson, C. M., T. N. Ladefoged, and S. Haoa. 2007. An upland agricultural residence on Rapa Nui; Occupation of a hare oka (18-473G) in the Vaitea Region. *Archaeo. Oceania* 42:72-78.
- Storey, A. A., J. M. Ramírez, D. Quiroz, D. V. Burley, D. J. Addison, R. Walter, A. J. Anderson, T. L. Hunt, J. S. Athens, L. Huynen and E. A. Matisoo-Smith. 2007. Radiocarbon and DNA Evidence for a Pre-Columbian Introduction of Polynesian Chickens to Chile. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. [www.pnas.org](http://www.pnas.org)
- Tahiti Pacifique*. 2007. No. 193 for May. This issue contains a brief article about the Tapati festival on Easter Island (p. 40-41) plus a description of new hotels in Tahiti – and the one left on Huahine (three others on Huahine were either destroyed in hurricanes or closed due to a lack of clients) (pp. 14-20). This issue also has photographs of the new island that has appeared in the Pacific. Photographs (pp. 26-27) show miles of floating pumice, and steam rising from the new island.
- Tahiti Pacifique*. 2007. No. 194 for June. Contains a report on an expedition to the island of Eiao by J-L. Candelot. [www.tahiti-pacifique.com](http://www.tahiti-pacifique.com)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear RNJ, I received my copy of the *Journal* and was very interested to read John H Bryant's article about the Byrd Antarctic II Expedition's visits to Easter Island. Amazingly enough, I can supply further evidence of the *Bear of Oakland's* visit in 1935, on its way home.

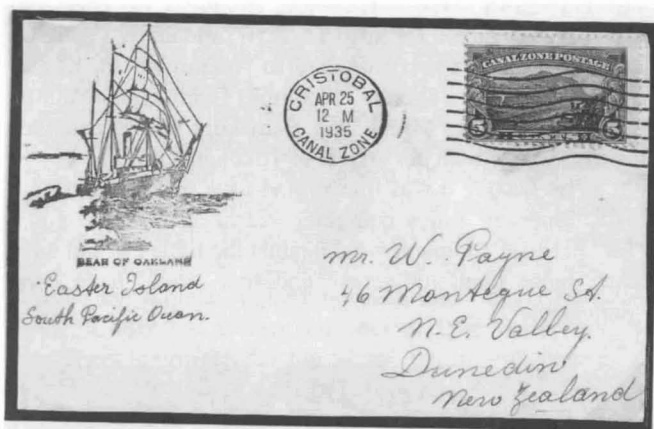
I enclose an image of an envelope cover with the *Bear of Oakland's* cachet and handwritten underneath is "Easter Island South Pacific Ocean". The cover is addressed to Dunedin, New Zealand and postmarked at Christobal, Canal Zone, April 25<sup>th</sup> 1935. When I purchased the cover I had hopes that it would be a good addition to my Postal History collection of the island but anyone could write "Easter Island South Pacific Ocean" on a cover, without it necessarily having been anywhere near the island. I realized that some research was needed.

I obtained a copy of Admiral Byrd's book about the expedition and found the brief mention that the *Bear of*

Oakland did call at the island on its way home. So, the conclusion is that someone who was on board wrote a to Mr Payne in Dunedin, probably while on the island. No postal services were then available on Rapa Nui (the Post Office didn't open until 1953), and so the writer posted his letter at the first available port of call: the Canal Zone.

I am most pleased to have John Bryant's further confirmation and information about the *Bear's* stay. We don't know the precise dates of the visit but the ship left the Antarctic on 7<sup>th</sup> February and, as we see, reached the Canal Zone by 25<sup>th</sup> April, so it was evidently some time in March 1935.

Best regards, David Maddock  
(david.maddock2@ntlworld.com)



## MOAI SIGHTINGS

### Moai in Holland

A PHOTO OF A *MOAI* IN HOLLAND was sent by Erwin van der Hoven of Rinjsburg. It was part of one of the most successful April Fools' jokes in the country. On April 1st, 1962, a *moai* - so it was said - washed ashore on the Dutch coast near Zandvoort. "By coincidence" it was found by a man walking along the beach who reported it to the Coast Guard. The story appeared on Dutch television and thus was brought to the attention of the nation. As it turned out, the *moai* was made by a Dutch artist, Edo van Tetterode, who was presented on TV as a "Scandinavian expert" on Easter Island. The national papers believed it and the *moai* became a big story in all the papers the next day. Too late they realized it was an April Fools' joke.



### Moai in Italy

EL MUSEO DEL TERRITORIO in Villanovafornu, Sardinia, features an exhibit titled "Arte e cultura precolombiana 10.000 anni di civiltà in America Latina." The exhibit will be up until 27 October. Amongst the 300 Aymara, Mapuche, and Terra del Fuego objects on display from Chile and Peru is a large (replica) *moai*, brought from the Italian mainland for the Sardinian show.

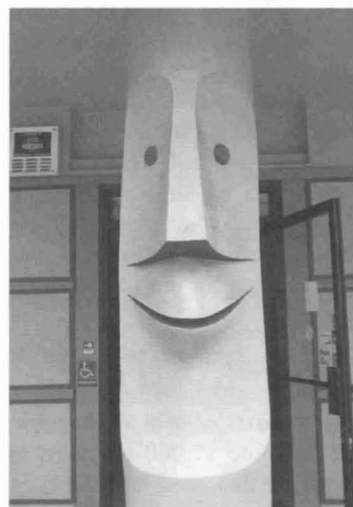
The *moai* in the exhibit was made in 1990 at Vitorchiano (north of Rome), by 15 Rapanui who went there expressly to carve it for the city's square. But, local authorities never "registered" the statue with the state bureau that protects works of art. So the "kidnapping" (as some residents of Vitorchiano say) of the statue for the exhibit was facilitated because no official record of it existed.

But when the statue was removed and sent to Sardinia for the exhibit, it caused an uproar in Vitorchiano, which is very proud of the exotic statue that stood in the village center. Local superstition claims that surely some catastrophe will occur as a result of its being removed, although museum authorities say it will be returned when the exhibit ends. However, it now seems that the local priest is tired of a non-Catholic "protector" taking up public space in the town square and the statue may end up elsewhere, out near the freeway to Rome.

[www.theamericanmag.com/article.php?how\\_article\\_id=716](http://www.theamericanmag.com/article.php?how_article_id=716)



The *moai* now in Sardinia. It is here shown in the Italian quarry where it was carved.



Mark Bright and Julie Harris were in San Francisco recently and there, at the intersection of Post and Taylor Street, they spotted a "sort of a *Moai*" adorning a House of Crepes.

The smiley-faced and beady-eyed *moai* may predate the current business at this location.