

Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation

Volume 22
Issue 1 May

Article 15

2008

Book Review: Rapa Nui, Aku Aku from Afar

Georgia Lee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/rnj>



Part of the [History of the Pacific Islands Commons](#), and the [Pacific Islands Languages and Societies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lee, Georgia (2008) "Book Review: Rapa Nui, Aku Aku from Afar," *Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 1 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/rnj/vol22/iss1/15>

This Book or Media Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Hawai'i Press at Kahualike. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation by an authorized editor of Kahualike. For more information, please contact daniel20@hawaii.edu.

1978 and today he is still "on the road," researching one of his favorite parts of the world. His knowledge about the various islands and island groups is astonishing, and these, his latest guides, are remarkable for their coverage of such complex areas. As one who once wrote a guide book (for tiny Rapa Nui), I find the concept of covering thousands of tiny islands to be an daunting project (for the Fiji group, some 322 islands are large enough for human habitation but only 106 of them are actually inhabited. That's a LOT of islands! And, the Tahiti book covers the Australs, Gambier, Marquesas, Society and Tuamotu archipelagos of French Polynesia – an immense area).

I'll begin with *Moon Fiji*. This book has separate sections for Nadi and the Mamanucas; Southern Viti Levu; Suva and Vicinity; Northern Viti Levu; The Yasawa Islands; the Lomaiviti Group; Vanua Levu; Taveuni; and the Lau Group and Rotuma. Right up front (a "blue section") are 12 pages of color with excellent maps and pictures to whet the appetite of any traveler. One of the 65 maps has a very user-friendly feature: a map that is color-coded by area/group, with a key to relevant page numbers, and discussions of each.

Stanley suggests a two-week visit as a minimum required to see a cross-section of Fiji (but a month would be better). With that in mind, he breaks trips down by those desiring a beach vacation, or one focusing on scuba or surfing, or hiking and biking. One is called the Best of Fiji; another is the Island-hopper Special.

In following sections, Stanley discuss specific parts of Fiji, with details about how and where to arrive, island highlights, detail maps, sites to see, places to stay and food to eat. Each section has margin tabs to help the reader sort his/her way through the various islands in this complex area. The last section, "Background" contains general information, climate, natural history, government coups, and economy, and ethnic groups. Under "Essentials" one finds information about getting there, tours, and getting around the islands, followed by Arts and Entertainment; Accommodations; "Tips for Travelers" and, finally, "Resources" which includes a Glossary, Phrasebook, Suggested Reading, Electronic contacts, and Index

Moon Tahiti is a 6th Edition. In 1989, the chapter on French Polynesia was spun off from Stanley's *South Pacific Handbook* (first published in 1979). Today the guide has been expanded and revamped and also has a "blue section" up front, as does *Moon Fiji*, with color photographs and essays. Moon Tahiti isn't just about Tahiti; it encompasses a vast area, from the Society Islands to the Marquesas; the Gambiers to the Australs and the Tuamotus. There is up-to-date information on economics, politics, food, transportation, hiking, scuba, and camping. Accommodations are described and priced and internet and email addresses are embedded in the text for ease of reference. From the best snorkeling sites to the best hamburger joints in the outer islands, it is all here. There are essays on history, famous persons, French nuclear testing, black pearls, you-name-it. Everything anyone needs to know, presented with clarity and

staggering detail. Highly recommended. For anyone headed to the Fiji Islands or anywhere in French Polynesia, a word of advice: Don't leave home without these books!!

Rapa Nui. Aku Aku from Afar

by Helene Martinsson-Wallin.
Rapanui Press, Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert, and the Kon-Tiki Museum, 2007, US\$25
236 pages, soft cover, illustrated

Review by Georgia Lee

THIS SMALL BOOK, 6x6 inches, is lavishly illustrated with black and white photos plus some color. The photographs are mainly of the first Heyerdahl expedition to the island, include many images of excavations and Rapanui islanders, several of whom worked with the project, plus artifacts that were collected. The publication was inspired by the 50-year jubilee exhibition at MAPSE, pictures of which are shown toward the end section of the book, and in collaboration with Olaug Andreassen. There are some great old photographs in this book, many previously unpublished. Some errors are evident: the photo caption of a picture of Gonzalo Figueroa identifies him as Claudio Cristino (p. 188), and editing by a native English speaker would have eliminated many grammatical errors. Nonetheless, this is a great little stroll down memory lane.

PUBLICATIONS

- Bologna, M. and J. C. Flores. "A simple mathematical model of society collapse applied to Easter Island." *EPL*, 81 (2008) 48006. Copyright 2008 PhysOrg.com.
- Bowermaster, J. After the Fall. *Adventure*, February 2008:68-76.
- Scanning Easter Island's Moai. *Technology & More* 2007-3: pp. 42-44. Dayton: Trimble Engineering & Construction.
- Le Bulletin du Cercle d'Études sur l'Île de Pâques et la Polynésie*. No. 97, février 2008. CEIPP % A.P.M.C. 14, Square de l'Alboni, 75016 Paris, France.
- Krutak, Lars. 2007. *The Tattooing Arts of Tribal Women*. London: Bennett & Bloom/Desert Hearts. Paperback, 6x9 inches, 282 pages, profusely illustrated.
- Kirch, Patrick V. & Jean-Louis Rallu, eds. 2007. *The Growth and Collapse of Pacific Island Societies. Archaeological and Demographic Perspectives*. University of Hawaii Press, ISBN-978-0824831486.
- Parker, Philip M. 2005. *Webster's English to Rapa Nui Crossword Puzzles: Level 1*. San Diego, CA: Icon Publishing. Paperback, 8.5"x11" and is 115 pages long, with 100 puzzles, 11 pages of solutions, and a preface by the Webster's editor. Price \$14.95. By enjoying crossword puzzles, the reader can enrich his vocabulary in anticipation of an examination in either Rapa Nui or English.