

[Free read ebook] Aku-Aku: The Secret of Easter Island

## Aku-Aku: The Secret of Easter Island

*Thor Heyerdahl*

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**Thor Heyerdahl : Aku-Aku: The Secret of Easter Island** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aku-Aku: The Secret of Easter Island:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Liberty FriendRead it in 1969 and enjoyed it again in 2015, in planning for a 2016 visit to Easter Island.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book has much information for the avid Easter Island ...By Cheryl P.This book has much information for the avid Easter Island fan, including pictures! However, it is an older book, but still interesting!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kindle CustomerA fun, fun book about serious archeology in a very odd land

Aku-Aku: The Secret of Easter Island384 pp. 8vo. Map illustrated endpapers. Includes 62 full-color photographs. "Aku-Aku, the Secret of Easter Island is a 1958 book by Thor Heyerdahl, describing his research at Rano Raraku and Anakena on the many giant stone statues or moai found of Easter Island. The book and a follow-up film of the same name made a major contribution to awareness, outside the anthropological and archaeological communities, of both the island and the statues. However much of his evidence has now been refuted by archaeologists, and his methods have been heavily criticised. For example: Paul Bahn wrote: 'he relied on the selective use of evidence, which resulted in a misleading conclusion'. Heyerdahl is most controversially associated with an attempt to revive the theory that the islanders stone carving technology came from South America. He argued that as well as being settled by Polynesians, Easter Island was settled by people from Peru in South America (an area he described as being 'more culturally

developed'). 'Aku-aku' can refer to moving a tall, flat bottomed object (such as a bookshelf) by swiveling it alternatively on its corners in a 'walking' fashion. Heyerdahl theorised that the Moai (statues) of Easter Island were moved in this fashion, and tested this on a small Moai, however the test was quickly abandoned after the Moai's base was damaged. In the book, Heyerdahl further asserts that, for the islanders, Aku Aku also means a personal spiritual guide. Near the end of the book, Heyerdahl elucidates on a conversation with his own aku-aku. Heyerdahl compared the highest quality stonework on the island to pre-Columbian Amerindian stonework such as at Tihuanaco. Seemingly unaware of Polynesian stoneworking traditions such as the Marae he said of Ahu Vinapu's retaining wall 'No Polynesian fisherman would have been capable of conceiving, much less building such a wall'. However Alfred Metraux had already pointed out that the ...