



TANGAROA / ANNE ELY THORENFELDT

Almost home. Tangaroa is lifted back on land at Larvik, Norway—seven months after it launched from the shores of Peru. The original raft that Thor Heyerdahl took to the Polynesian Islands in 1947 can be seen in the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo. Hopefully, it won't be too long before the Tangaroa which took the same route 60 years later will be on display in Larvik.

every continent in the world, proving that we are, indeed, part of the heritage of Thor Heyerdahl—something that we, indeed, are very proud of.

I've now signed a contract for a book that will be published in four Scandinavian languages: Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and Finnish. There's talk about it being printed in English and Spanish editions as well. The first edition of the book is scheduled for October 2007.

Of all the expeditions that I'm aware of, with the exception, perhaps, of governmental projects in aerospace such as the Apollo, I'm convinced that the balsa raft expedition is the one that requires the broadest scope of research in order to accomplish it successfully. Maybe it's a bit arrogant on my part to say so, but consider that a mountaineer needs to know his mountain and his gear. A polar skier needs to understand the nature of ice and his sled.

But the person who dares to undertake a voyage by raft across a vast ocean needs to know the prehistory of

continents, the archaeology of the region, modern history, biology and botany of forests, rivers, and oceans, the oceanography and geography of islands and atolls. In addition in this case, we had to persuade four national navies (two recently at war with each other—Ecuador and Peru) and a thousand helpers to join the team. That's why Tangaroa was four years in the making. Fortunately, despite all the burdens and hassles to accomplish this expedition, I can honestly say that I'm not tired of it. Tangaroa's voyage across the Pacific is finished, but I'm convinced our real journey has just begun.

When I was a seven-year-old child, I built my first raft. I'd like to encourage the seven-year-olds of today to do the same thing. Let them go out and take a good look at this big wondrous world around them. Let them probe deeply into nature—not just to find the right answers, but more importantly, to learn to ask the right questions. ■

Read More

About the Tangaroa

Tangaroa Blog in English

TANGAROA.nettblogg.no/english.html

Heyerdahl Institute

HEYERDAHL-INSTITUTE.no/pages/norsk/nyhet_tangaroa.html

Sailing.about.com

Search: Tangaroa

Then click "Tangaroa" in first sentence of their description. This takes you to English version of the main Web site for TANGAROA.no

The Kon-Tiki Museum

KON-TIKI.no