

PhotoNews Lanzarote



Cabildo Culture Councillor Ángeles García chaired the presentation of Cabildo publications issued during National Book Week. They included two works on volcanology. From right, Cabildo Culture Councillor Ángeles García, eminent volcanologist Professor Ramón Ortiz, Cabildo Councillor for Science and New Technologies Loli Luzardo, Arrecife Culture Councillor Florián Corujo and Director of the Casa de los Volcanes, Joaquín Naverran. Photos Liz

Cabildo Science and New Technologies Councillor Loli Luzardo with Professor Ramón Ortiz of the Superior Institute of Scientific Research and Joaquín Naverran, Director of the Casa de los Volcanes, holding the 18th International Volcanology and Geophysical Course poster. International volcanologists attend the seminar held annually at Casa de los Volcanes, considered among the best in Europe. During his highly interesting discourse Professor Ortiz told the audience: "The majority of the victims of the tsunami in S. E. Asia did not die due to a natural disaster. They died because of the lack of knowledge of the authorities on how to interpret nature's warnings of an impending disaster!"



Dr Horst Wilkens a biologist who lectures at Hamburg University and author of an

outstanding new book on the world of nature on Lanzarote

Professor Horst Wilkens of Hamburg University is the author of a very interesting new book about the island. Suitably entitled, *Lanzarote, Blind Crabs, Hoopoes and*

Volcanos, the highly readable work deals with nature in all its forms on Lanzarote and is a worthy addition to the bookshelf of all aficionados of the volcanic isle.

Dr Wilken's main field is the evolution of blind cave fish and why they lose their sight. He first came to Lanzarote in 1973 to conduct research into the eco system of the Atlantida Tunnel which starts at Monte Corona and enters the sea some 7.5 kms away via the lake at Jameos del Agua. The present Island Director of State Administration, Marcial Martín, manager of Jameos at the time, greeted Horst with the words of welcome, "Bienvenido a Lanzarote". Artist and designer Luis Ibañez is another long time friend of his.

Dr Wilkens also examined the crabs who make their home in the underwater lagoon. They are of the *Mundiopsis polymorpha*

species, are blind, have reduced eyes and lack dark body pigments.

Fauna, flora, the sands, the valleys, the volcanoes, the sea are all described in great detail with a constant reminder from Horst Wilkens of the urgent need to conserve the fragile environment of the island. His book is dedicated to César Manrique of whom he says, "Today's Lanzarote would be unthinkable without César Manrique...he has transformed an entire island into an all-inclusive piece of art."

The excellent illustrations, graphics and layout are by Ulrike Strecker, also a biologist who lectures at Hamburg University. The English, the German and the Spanish editions of the book are on sale at Lanzarote's Tourist Centres. Or contact: Ulrike.Strecker@tiscali.de Fax: +0049 40456263