

## NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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## A PENDANT FOUND IN HUAHINE, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Y. H. Sinoto, Bishop Museum.

While my local assistant, Mr Tihoti Russell, and I were restoring Marae Anini at Tiva Point, Parea, Huahine Iti Island in the Society Group in 1967, we prospected in the adjacent area whenever time permitted. Among our surface collection of stone adzes, stone pounders, and pearl shell hooks, one shell object is of special interest, particularly for New Zealand students. The object is a conus-shell pendant (Fig. 1a). Although thinner, its shape is similar to those of the Archaic New Zealand culture (Duff 1956, Fig. 25, G). It is 52 mm long, 20 mm in maximum width, and 5.5 mm in maximum thickness. One end is sharply pointed with an out-curved tip. Only the interior surface, which is the back side of the pendant, was unworked; all the rest shows evidence of having been ground.

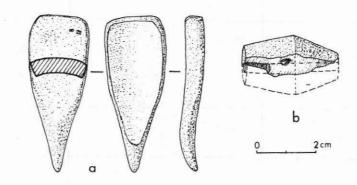


Figure 1. Ornaments from Parea, Huahine Iti, Society Islands.
a, conus-shell pendant (TH-123);
b, stalactite reel (ScH-145).

Although it does not have perforations for suspension, there is no doubt about its identity as a pendant. We suspect there should be holes or grooves for suspension and, if so, it would be an unfinished pendant, but there is a possibility that a line could be attached without any further modification of the artefact. As far as I know, there is no record in ethnological or archaeological collections of a similar artefact from the Society Islands.

A reel (Fig. 1b) made from stalactite found in the same vicinity (Sinoto, 1968) indicates the possibility of a site which may be contemporary with or may partially fill the gap in the Society Islands between early Maupiti burial assemblage and that immediately prior to European contact (Emory and Sinoto, 1964; Green et al., 1968).

## REFERENCES

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