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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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# ABSTRACTS FROM THESES AND DISSERTATIONS ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND 1997-1998

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Abstracts from two M.A. theses and five dissertations [formerly research essays] in archaeology completed during the period late 1997 to early 1998 are given below. Copies are held in the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, where they may be consulted in the Piddington Room. Xerox or microfiche copies may be made available through the General Library, Auckland University, at cost, plus GST and postage. These are subject to the usual restrictions applying to theses and dissertations, namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

## M.A. THESES

Peter D. HOLMES. M.A. thesis. 1998. **The Systems of Ceramic Production and Distribution in Southeastern China During the Tang and Song Periods.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (vii) 110 pp., 2 figures, map, table, 5 appendices.

In this thesis the systems of ceramic production and distribution are examined, and their correlation with significant socioeconomic transformations in southeastern China is considered. For this analysis, archaeological and historical data are used to develop a regional model using these two closely related but distinct sources of information within a broad social context.

The archaeological data from three ceramic sites distributed across the region, at Longquan, Shuiji and Dehua are employed to reconstruct the technological aspects of production which are common regionally. Emphasis is given to the analysis of many specialised features evident in these industrial processes, including reliable distribution networks that were critical to the

expansion of the industry across the region.

Evidence from the Shuiji site in particular, illustrates how the socioeconomic effects of this expansion lends support to Hartwell's theoretical framework, which sees a temporary character exhibited by the technology of industrial development where rapid increases in population are also seen to occur.

Finally, it is concluded that the organisation of technology within the ceramic industry ultimately led to the widespread distribution of kilns in the southeastern region. This was major factor in affecting the commercialisation of rural as well as certain core urban economies beginning in the late Tang period.

Jonathan J. WALL. M.A. thesis. 1997. **Maka Bay: A Middle Age Prehistoric Site on the Island of Rotuma.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (xiii) 266 pp., frontispiece, 43 figures, 31 plates (including 21 col.), 46 tables, 2 appendices.

Recent research in West Polynesia demonstrates that the region's culture history is complex. Island sequences often encompass multiple stops, starts, and connections. While both simple and more complex sequences have been constructed for most of West Polynesia, no archaeological work has been completed for the middle prehistoric period of Rotuma, Fiji. Recent excavations at Maka Bay on the island of Rotuma provide important contributions relevant to understanding the detailed and complex culture history of Rotuman prehistory.

This thesis presents the results of an analysis of a middle age prehistoric site at Maka Bay, Rotuma. This thesis focuses on using artefact and faunal collections to help address two objectives. First, the Rotuman artefacts were analysed with the aim of establishing how useful non-ceramic material is for comparative purposes. In this manner, the Rotuman artefacts were analysed to determine how similar, or different they are to those of other West Polynesian islands. The results of this analysis indicate that Rotuma follows more closely the Western Polynesian artefact types, as opposed to those of eastern Melanesia. Further indication of contact with West Polynesia is provided by temper analysis of excavated Maka Bay sherds which appear to indicate contact with Fiji ca. A.D. 500. Secondly, this thesis focuses on an analysis of the Maka Bay faunal remains, enabling a reconstruction of the prehistoric Rotuman subsistence strategy, particularly the fishing and

shellfish-gathering components. Concomitantly, this research also demonstrates that MNI and NISP provide disparate results, and indicates reasons why.

## DISSERTATIONS

David BROWN. M.A. Dissertation. 1997. **The Tiwi of Bathurst and Melville Islands: An Unknown Ancient History.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (i) 60 pp., 17 figures.

Bathurst (2070 km<sup>2</sup>) and Melville Island (5700 km<sup>2</sup>) are two islands located off the north coast of Australia. They are separated from each other by the Aspery Strait, but are considered to be one geological and cultural unit, home to the recently called Tiwi people. The islands themselves lie about 22 km from the Australian mainland. However, the island chain known as the Vernon Islands lie between them and the mainland, so the minimum sea distance to the mainland at any one time is about 13 km. As yet little archaeology has been carried out on these islands, so their history and that of the Tiwi is not known. Despite this, a model based on comparative ethnographic fieldwork has been developed by Mountford (1958) and Hart and Pilling (1960). This model argues that the Tiwi have remained isolated on their islands since the mid-Holocene. The dissertation evaluates this model and explores the possibilities for the origin of the Tiwi population.

Dianne C. HARLOW. M.A. Dissertation. 1997. **The Conservation of Archaeological Sites Through the Use of Vegetation.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (vii) 86 pp., 2 figures, 4 plates (col.), 2 appendices.

This dissertation concerns the management, protection and conservation of archaeological sites within the Auckland region through the use of vegetation. It has regard to the values and needs of the various stakeholders including Maori, territorial authorities, landscape architects, ecologists, planners, land managers and private landowners. A holistic approach to management is suggested. Plant trials and experimental work on mitigation and management carried out in New Zealand to date are discussed. Methods for vegetation management utilised overseas are considered in relation to Auckland's archaeological sites and management needs. It is suggested that management should be carried out within the framework of an ecosystem approach in which archaeological sites are viewed as an integral component of the

landscape and managed in unison with the environmental needs of ecology and landscape architecture.

Melissa A. MALTBY-WELLS. M.A. Dissertation. 1997. **Archaeology in the Desert. An Investigation into the Archaeology of the Rangipo Basin.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (xii) 65 pp., 10 figures, appendix.

This dissertation is intended as an investigation into the archaeology of the Rangipo Basin. The Rangipo Basin is situated in the central plateau of the North Island of New Zealand, and it is a unique alpine landscape. Only small amounts of archaeological research have been previously carried out in this region. This research focuses on discussing the empirical archaeological data that is currently available from the Rangipo Basin, as well as other forms of related data for this region.

Marian A. NEE. M.A. Dissertation. 1998. **Archaeological Perspectives on Gender and Weaving in Traditional Maori Society.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (vi), 79 pp., 10 figures (including 5 col. plates), glossary, 2 appendices.

The focus of this dissertation is to examine the evidence for weaving and feather working in the New Zealand archaeological record. These two activities have been chosen for this inquiry because they were viewed as two of the most valued activities of Maori women. Weaving and feather working were two ways in which women contributed to the creation and maintenance of high social status in the prehistoric past.

Ethnographic sources have been used to compile the production steps involved in these activities. Direct evidence for weaving and feather working have been recovered from a small number of archaeological sites in New Zealand. Due to the perishable nature of such remains, alternative ways of identifying these activities are needed. A number of material correlates have been recognised and examined in this study to identify these activities. More specifically, mussel shell scrapers, stone pounders (*patu muka*), and faunal remains of birds have been illustrated.

We have evidence for weaving and feather working from a number of sites in certain areas of the country. At present it is difficult to correlate these with specific changes in social and political organisation, but the high level of

ethnographic detail enables us to study textile production as an integral part of the way traditional Maori society operated.

Blaze V. O'CONNOR. M.A. Dissertation. 1998. **Spatial and Temporal Variation in Hawaiian Residential Architecture: A Seriation Study of Selected Coastal Settlements in Northern Hawai'i Island.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (ix), 111 pp., 28 figures (including 9 col. plates), 14 tables, 3 appendices.

Establishing chronologies plays a vital role in archaeological analysis and interpretation. The creation of relatively fine resolution chronologies through seriation is a cost effective approach which can be readily applied to new assemblages as they arise. This study applies the seriation method to dry-masonry residential foundations in the coastal Hawai'i Island settlements of Pāhinahina, Kahua 1 and Kahua 2, Makiloa and Kaloko.

The architectural data used in the study were collected during a Global Positioning System, based field survey in Pāhinahina and Makiloa, and by field checking plan map details from a previous survey in Kahua 1 and 2. In addition, data from Kaloko collected by other researchers are also included. Independent dating of structures in Kaloko and Kahua 2 through radiocarbon and excavation confirms that successful chronologies based on temporally sensitive architectural traits are established. The seriation results confirm aspects of prior models for shifts in architectural form based on archaeological inference.

The seriation demonstrates that residential architectural traits such as core filled walls measuring over one metre in height are indicative of historic period construction events. In contrast low-walled structures exhibiting curvilinear plans are associated with prehistoric construction. While such trends generally occur across all of the study areas, suggestive of inter-district interaction, some variation between individual settlements is exhibited. A range of possible explanations for these patterns are discussed.

The seriation results are indicative of the duration of occupation for individual *ahupua'a*, and therefore can be compared with models of population movement through the prehistoric and historic periods. The successful incorporation of data from a previous survey in the seriations suggests that the method can be applied to other Hawaiian settlements which have already been documented.