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ABSTRACTS FROM THESES AND RESEARCH ESSAYS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
1975 to 1977

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Abstracts from five theses and three research essays completed at the Department of Anthropology during the academic years 1975 to 1977 are given below. This is in line with NZAA policy to encourage their publication in the Newsletter. The essays are held in the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, where they may be consulted. Microfilm and xerox copies may be made available at cost on an individual basis, subject to the usual restriction applying to theses, on the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

1975

THESIS ABSTRACT

Tairua and offshore islands in early New Zealand prehistory

by Michael J. Rowland

Anthropology Department, Auckland University. One page abstract, 274 p. 13 figures, 8 appendices.

In this thesis midden material from the Archaic site of Tairua is analysed and it is concluded that Tairua was a short-term seasonal occupation camp. Following this, an attempt is made to fit the site into a wider annual exploitative territory. For the early settlement period, an 'Island-mainland' region of agricultural home bases on offshore islands and seasonal sites on the mainland, is then proposed. Preliminary archaeological investigations on Slipper Island are also reported and finally the implications of some general biogeographical concepts for the study of New Zealand archaeology, and particularly the role of small islands within such studies, is outlined.

RESEARCH ESSAY ABSTRACTS

Whakamoenga Cave, Taupo, N94/7: A report on the ecology, economy and stratigraphy by Anne Leahy.

This site was excavated by Trevor Hosking between 1961-63. It produced a large amount of cultural material from the eleven layers described by Hosking and three different 'occupations' have been assigned to these layers.

Occupation 1, with a sub-division into periods 1 and 2, has carbon 14 dates ranging from the 14-16th centuries A.D. (with one possible relic wood dating from the 11th century). Amongst the midden and artifactual material

were moa and bird bone, fresh water mussel shells, sea shells, plaited fibre, a bone bird spear, obsidian and worked pumice. Concentrations of haangi, midden material and an almost rock and midden-free 'vestibule' in discrete areas of Occupation 1, period 1, indicated that within the cave there occurred recognisable spatial organisation and patterning. This also continued in period 2 but with a slight change in distribution so that the patterning was quite so distinct.

Occupation 2 commenced some time after a large portion of the cave entrance overhang fell. This rockfall almost entirely covered the Occupation 1 layers in the front portion of the cave but allowed more light into the back unused area and it was here that renewed occupation took place. Carbon 14 dates suggested a 17-18th century time period for this. Obsidian continued to be important, possibly as prepared cores for 'export'; the number of bush birds decreased, probably due to the destruction of forest around the lake, and moa bone no longer occurred. The number of water birds however, remained fairly constant. Utilized sea shells were evident and pumice artifacts were still being manufactured. Study of human coprolites produced evidence for fern root consumption in this occupation, as well as in occupation 3.

Occupation 3, consisting of the top four layers, contained European material. Carbon 14 dating returned a 'modern' date for charcoal which can probably be assigned to this occupation although Hosking's original stratigraphic interpretation leaves this open to question. Bird bone remains almost cease but there is increased use of fresh water mussel. The presence of Perna canaliculus shells and the variety of botanical evidence suggests more emphasis on flax working and weaving. Remains of muskets indicate warfare and European influence, until the cave ceased to be occupied sometime after 1860. By this time the rockfall at the cave entrance had been filled in and covered over, leaving only a raised even sill.

Prehistoric and historic shell ornaments and decorative art in the Southeast Solomons by Mary Newman.

The analysis of artifacts from the Su'ena site on Uki had determined a time depth of at least 500 years for the Southeast Solomons art style. Forty-five decorative motifs have been identified, many of which demonstrate a strong continuity from the prehistoric through to the historic period. In addition there is a continuity of artifact types and concomitant upon this hypotheses are extended for a comparable time depth for certain social and religious aspects of art.

1976

THESIS ABSTRACT

The Ethnohistory of Arosi, San Cristobal'

by Shelley Sayes

Anthropology Department, Auckland University; One page abstract, 271 p.
12 plates, 2 maps, 2 appendices.

Sources, both written and archaeological, were used to write an ethnohistory of Arosi, with reference to the other districts in San Cristobal as well as the smaller islands of Uki, Santa Ana and Santa Catalina. The ethnohistory was written to show the types of contact by western civilisation and the resulting changes within the indigenous culture. It was concluded that by the time (after 1910) that a missionary anthropologist, C.E. Fox, was studying the Arosi people and their culture, the way of life had already changed markedly and that much information on the customs and beliefs would never be known.

RESEARCH ESSAY ABSTRACT

A preliminary investigation of the spatial distribution of prehistoric sites on Waiheke Island by E. Gael Atwell.

The spatial distribution of sites on east Waiheke Island required investigation of the sites with respect to resources available. General observations are made with regard to site location and three possible contributors - height above sea level, soil types and coastal resources are examined further using percentage point difference. These plus a number of other factors such as distance inland and distance to fresh water are considered using random/real distribution models but only the possible effects of soil types were considered fully. Variables are considered separately and results suggest that combinations of these could be significant. Finally it is suggested that further more detailed studies could contribute towards settlement pattern and site location studies.

1977

THESES ABSTRACTS

Fishing in Rarotonga

by Barry Baquie.

Anthropology Department, Auckland University. One page abstract, 163p.
37 plates, 6 figures, 2 tables, 4 maps, 8 appendices.

This thesis examines modern subsistence fishing in Rarotonga, with particular reference to the village of Titikaveka where the author resided

for some 10 months in 1976 and 1977. It seeks to outline the role of fishing in modern village life and to distinguish, and account for, differences in the technology and methodology of fishing between the present day and earlier times.

Part one is introductory to the study in that it briefly examines the terrestrial and marine environments, and includes a short review of relevant previous works relating to fishing activities in Rarotonga and Polynesia.

The second part is concerned with fishing activities within the reef and lagoon, while part three examines some of the fishing activities outside the reef.

The demography of small closed populations: A computer simulation.

by Stephen J. Black

Anthropology Department, Auckland University. One page abstract. 109 p. 6 figures, 10 tables, 1 appendix.

A computer program for the simulation of human populations is introduced. The program is used to examine the demographic effects of marriage systems in small closed populations. The fate of founding populations of 40 and 80 is examined over 200 years of simulated time. Marriages within the population are restricted by three levels of incest prohibition and clan exogamy. The growth of populations under differing conditions is examined using a variety of demographic indices. The results suggest that clan exogamy significantly alters achieved parity, age at marriage, numbers of unmarried persons, and population size. Incest prohibitions appear to be of little demographic significance. The analysis emphasizes the need for a multivariate approach to the demography of populations, and demonstrates that one measure of population structure at a single point in time may not give a realistic picture of the total system.

Hamllins Hill by Peter I. Pearce.

Anthropology Department, Auckland University. Two page abstract. 147 p. 11 plates, 27 figures, 26 tables, 1 appendix.

The initial excavations at the site of Hamllins Hill were conducted primarily for the purposes of rescue. The site was being destroyed by bulldozing. This uncovered evidence of settlement components. The promising results of archaeological research and more recent bulldozing led to further archaeological investigations of a substantial nature. These revealed a diverse range of prehistoric features, which provided evidence of past occupation. This thesis describes the archaeological fieldwork and as one of its major themes it attempts to identify the prehistoric function of the site of Hamllins Hill.

The first chapter describes archaeological research on Hamlins Hill prior to 1975. Chapter Two contains an analysis of the site's location in relation to its natural resources. Further, Hamlins Hill's association with other settlements was examined by use of certain statistical techniques. These showed how Hamlins Hill stood in relation to the environment and also how the revealed pattern of man-land relationships compared to those of other major sites in the Auckland Isthmus.

Chapter Three describes the 220 square metres excavated in 1975. It discusses the interrelationships of the site.

The next chapter describes an analysis of midden samples. This was restricted to sorting and comparing the remains from middens excavated in 1969 and 1974. The constituents are reviewed in the light of the results of the analysis described in Chapter Two. Artifacts were also examined.

Interpersonal behaviour patterns on the site were investigated in Chapter Five using the results obtained from area excavations. In particular, emphasis was on the spatial relationships between two probably contemporary houses separated by a fence. Interpretation of the pattern was aided by a model derived from a study of human spacing behaviour on A.R.A. buses conducted by the author. This study helped to identify social and spatial variables relating to the internal organisation of a settlement.

Finally the defensibility of the site was tested by an experiment conducted on both Hamlins Hill and One Tree Hill. The experiment simulated an attack on foot on both sites; time trials were carried out. These were used to assess the defensive capability of the steep side-slopes of the sites. The results have implications for their function in prehistory.

One conclusion of this thesis is that Hamlins Hill may have been the site of a more substantial settlement than had previously been thought following earlier studies.