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**ABSTRACTS FROM THESES AND RESEARCH ESSAYS
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
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Abstracts from four M.A. theses and three M.A. research essays in archaeology completed during the period late 1992 to early 1993 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 research essays, namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

THESES

Wayne J. ENGLAND. **The Settlement Pattern and Pa of Waiheke.** M.A. thesis. 1993. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (xii) 212 pp., 14 plates, 72 figures, 17 tables, 3 appendices.

The surface features in the archaeological landscape of Waiheke Island were examined. Intra-site and inter-site analysis was conducted, focusing on the relationships between site location, the environment and the internal site structure of *pa* and undefended sites. The morphology and function of sites was correlated to differential site location in the environment. An intra-site study of *pa* and undefended sites was conducted using the same analytical methodology which focused on the differential proportion of site area devoted to pits and flat area. This allowed comparisons to be made between undefended sites and *pa* in terms of site function and morphology, from which social implications were drawn.

Victoria J. GROUDEN. **Ko te Hokianga o te Tai Tokerau: A Regional Case Study of Cultural Contact.** M.A. thesis. 1992. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (ix) 124 pp., 38 figures [illustrations], 8 appendices.

This work discusses the effects of cultural contact on the nineteenth century Maori communities of the Hokianga as a regional example of cultural change. It includes descriptions of Maori society both before and after the time

ABSTRACTS FROM THESES AND RESEARCH ESSAYS

of European contact for the periods 1770, 1820s-1830s, and 1850s-1870s. These periods are characterised in terms of cultural values, social organisation, settlement structure, economy and material culture to show how Maori society has changed over time.

An example of European industry and a nineteenth century archaeological site are also discussed in detail, to examine the broader implications of European contact in an economic sense, and to demonstrate the materials aspects of cultural change.

Different theoretical models relating to cultural change and cultural contact are assessed in relation to the evidence from the Hokianga, and conclusions are drawn about the general appropriateness of applying such models to a regional study.

Beverley H. PARSLAW. **Precontact Polynesian Fishing: A Gender Perspective.** M.A. thesis. 1993. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (x) 132 pp., 11 figures, 6 tables.

Fishing in Polynesia has received much attention in recent years. Despite this, many of the analytical approaches have been concerned with the identification of strategies and relate specifically to fishing by men. The activity of shellfishing, which is predominantly undertaken by women, is afforded little attention.

In the present study, fishing and its material remains are examined within a theoretical framework of gender. Fishing activity in the Marquesas and Tikopia are examined in ethnographic, ethnohistoric and archaeological detail. Tokelau, Napuka and islands in Melanesia and Micronesia are more cursorily examined in order to provide a cross-cultural perspective on fishing activity and the division of labour. Alternative scenarios for the analysis and interpretation of shellfishing are offered in a case study of shell midden dumps on Tongatapu, Tonga. Finally, a model for Polynesian fishing activity, incorporating themes from the ethnographic and archaeological data is presented.

This study shows that the division of labour in Polynesian fishing activity varies. Archaeological interpretations of fishing activity must therefore take these factors into consideration when they seek to address the basis of production, economy and social organisation because particular activities are not necessarily exclusive to one gender or another.

Katherine R. URRY. **Te Hakari: Feasting in Maori Society and its Archaeological Implications.** M.A. thesis. 1993. Anthropology Department,

DOROTHY BROWN

University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (viii) 103 pp., 2 maps, 11 figures, 5 appendices.

Many of the journals, letters and books written by Europeans who visited or lived in New Zealand in the nineteenth century contain descriptions of large Maori feasts or *hakari*. Most European observers seemed impressed, if not a little overawed, by the huge amounts of food displayed at these feasts, and by the large numbers of Maori gathered together on such occasions. Although the main source of information on these feasts is ethnohistoric, a number of Maori oral narratives also describe grand feasts or *hakari* suggesting that feasting was also important in precontact Maori society.

While the display of food at *hakari* can be linked to the pursuit of *mana*, or prestige and status, in Maori society, such social aspects of food production and consumption have been overlooked by the majority of archaeologists interpreting food remains and site components relating to food production.

This thesis focuses upon the wider social contexts of feasts and feasting and in doing so explores the central role played by food in Maori society and considers the implications of this for future archaeological studies.

RESEARCH ESSAYS

Carlene WILSON. **Dating Dilemmas: A Critical Review of the New Zealand Sequence.** M.A. research essay. 1993. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. Abstract, (ii) 47 pp.

This paper examines what we know about the New Zealand prehistoric sequence, with special reference to the issues of time. It asserts that the dimension of time is as complex as that of space and requires equal theoretical and methodological rigor on the part of the archaeologist. The history of the construction of a sequence for New Zealand prehistory is examined, and some of the problems and difficulties are highlighted. Some suggestions are made as to how these difficulties arose, and how best to deal with them.

Amanda YOUNG. **The Excavation of an Undefended Settlement at S11/108, Clevedon.** M.A. research essay. 1993. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. Abstract, (iii) 65 pp., 10 plates, 11 figures, 3 appendices.

An excavation of an undefended settlement (S11/108, Clevedon) was completed in August 1992. This limited investigation was initiated by development work at the site. An examination of the stratigraphic, structural and

ABSTRACTS FROM THESES AND RESEARCH ESSAYS

economic evidence leads to the conclusion that there was a habitation site at this locality dating from the seventeenth century.

Jeffrey M. YOUNG. **A Study of Prehistoric Maori Food.** M.A. research essay, 1992. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. (ii) 76 pp., 2 appendices.

This essay is divided into sections. The first describes what foods were available, together with some remarks on their actual, apparent, or potential intensity of production. The second section discusses what a population needs in types of food and the quantity required. Third, an attempt is made to draw the two together, to answer if possible the questions that may appear; for example, was there any nutritional necessity in short supply? What steps were taken to obtain adequate supplies? Did they succeed or fail?

The final section draws on such conclusions as are possible and indicates the most promising lines for further research. Also, it is hoped that the summing up will present a more coherent and integrated description of food problems and solutions than may be easily obtained from the rather scattered various writings available at present.

The following M.A. research essays are available for consultation in the Piddington Room only. There is no provision for copying.

Heather J. ADAMS. **Connecting Islands in a Sea of Data: ARC/INFO, Ponui Island and Archaeology.** M.A. research essay, 1992. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. Abstract, (vi) 43 pp., 15 maps, 5 figures.

This project was conceived as a kind of feasibility/capability study to assess the value and uses of ARC/INFO within a specific archaeological context. The idea was to use ARC/INFO as the means to an end in problem solving.

A GIS system is specifically designed "...for the collection, storage, and analysis of objects and phenomena where geographic location is an important characteristic or critical to the analysis" (Arnoff 1989:1). It provides a vehicle for the organisation of data about pre-determined problems. GIS are particularly useful in two areas - for analysis and for predictive modelling. Methodology, problems and sources of error are discussed.

An island case study was chosen because the presence of sea resources is a factor which is largely ignored or not appropriate for the majority of GIS case studies that have been undertaken. Both land-based and sea-based

resources were considered. Two variables looked at specifically were possible snapper and shellfish location.

Problems in the construction of the database and its potential uses are discussed.

Kelvin BROCKELBANK. **Water-craft and Technology for the Colonisation of the Pacific: Emphasis on the Final Phase.** M.A. research essay. 1992. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 29 (x) pp.

The aim of this essay is to take the central and eastern Polynesian water-craft known to have existed at the time of first European documentation, compare and contrast their various morphologies and with that compilation endeavour to assess the form of water-craft capable of achieving settlement of the Pacific Ocean by the ancestors of the Polynesians.

Simon HOLROYD. **Obsidian Resources of the North Island: Location and Identifying Characteristics.** M.A. research essay. 1992. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. Abstract, (iii) 44 pp. (viii), 2 figures, appendix.

This essay deals with the sources of obsidian in the North Island of New Zealand and the characteristics which identify them. The introduction briefly explains the sources of the obsidians recovered from archaeological sites, and introduces the PIXE facility which has been used in conjunction with this paper to identify the elemental characteristics of individual samples. This is followed by a summary of previous experiments employed to characterise obsidians and then the Proton Induced X-ray Emission (PIXE) used in the characterisations included in this paper is described. The main text involves descriptions of all known obsidian sources in the study area including the name, location, type of deposit and distribution, physical characteristics and PIXE analysis results for each where applicable. A summary of the identifying characteristics between the sources from the PIXE results is also included. The conclusion evaluates the use of the PIXE facility for this project and discusses the potential of future developments.

Many people will remember Gaetano Cofini, who was a student in the Department of Anthropology for over a year. Gaetano completed his M.A. degree on returning to Rome. He has very kindly sent us a copy of his thesis, which is Italian. It may be consulted in the Piddington Room. The following is an English version of his thesis abstract.

Gaetano COFINI. **Processi di Intensificazione Agricola nella Preistoria della Nuova Zelanda.** Diploma thesis in Paleoethnology. 1991. Post-Graduate Specialisation School in Archaeology, University of Roma "La Sapienza". 1 page abstract, 260 pp., 7 plates, 18 figures, 10 tables, 3 appendices.

This thesis examines the effects of intensive gardening in the prehistoric stone fields of Wiri, South Auckland.

Initially the study reviews the archaeological evidence of the diffusion of agriculture in Polynesian and New Zealand prehistory.

Using a contour map of the Wiri Oil Terminal Site, stone structures such as mounds, enclosures and walls were correlated with the slope of the ground. This analysis confirmed the results of surveys showing the homogeneous exploitation of the fields with intensification of activities in favourable flat or sheltered microareas.

The distribution of archaeological structures at the Wiri Railway Site were analysed, suggesting a division of the area into major and minor divisions. The major stone walls delimiting the wider sections of this site were probably built to mark out social boundaries whereas minor stone walls distinguished more restricted areas used for different activities (living sites, types of cultivations).

The population density of the Wiri sites were estimated by calculating carrying capacity, and further extended to cover the Auckland region. The suggested figures were close to those obtained among agriculturalists using intensive patterns of cultivation.