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ABSTRACTS FROM THESES,DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, 1981

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Abstracts from one Ph.D. thesis, and two M.A. theses completed during the 1981 academic year are given below. This is in line with Association policy to encourage their publication in the Newsletter. The theses are held in the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, where they may be consulted.

Xerox copies may be made available at cost (10¢ per page) plus postage, on an individual basis. These are subject to the usual restrictions applying to theses; namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

Ph.D. thesis

Nigel Prickett, The archaeology of a military frontier: Taranaki, New Zealand 1860-1881. Anthropology Department, Auckland University. 2 volumes. 1 page abstract, xxv, 599 pp. (xxxvii), 93 plates, 77 figures, 21 tables, 4 appendices.

This thesis describes the archaeology of the European military frontier in the province of Taranaki, New Zealand, in the years 1860-1881. In this period a series of four campaigns resulted in the expansion of European settlement at the expense of the indigenous Maori people.

The First Taranaki War (1860-61) did not resolve the fundamental conflict over land and the imposition of British law. The passage of the New Zealand Settlements Act in late 1863 brought European military strategy into line with political reality. Henceforth the land of 'rebel' tribes was to be confiscated, the military frontier providing a bulwark for an expanding European farming frontier. The Second Taranaki War (1863-66), the White Cliffs Scare (1869) and the Parihaka Campaign (1880-81) resulted in successive areas of Maori land in Taranaki being brought under European control.

The present work is divided into two parts. In the first (Volume 1), the geography and archaeology of the European military effort in Taranaki is described; the fortifications and frontier organisation are compared with those of earlier periods of imperial expansion elsewhere in the world, and the techniques employed in New Zealand are shown to be by no means unusual. The second part

(Volume 2) reports the results of excavations at two European fortifications of the period. These serve to describe further the archaeology of the Taranaki frontier and also, through the recovered material culture, to demonstrate the dependent relation of the military frontier in New Zealand to the economies of the northern hemisphere.

M.A. theses

Louise Furey, Field recording and the Coromandel region: a discussion of site survey methodology and data analysis. Anthropology Department, Auckland University. 2 page abstract, ix, 185 pp. (xiii), 10 figures, 11 tables, 11 maps, 3 appendices.

Site surveying, or the recording of occupational evidence on the landscape is attracting more attention as archaeological studies focus increasingly on how prehistoric people interacted with the physical landscape. While site surveying in New Zealand and elsewhere has, in the past, primarily been associated with public archaeology and cultural resource management, the potential for using data collected during site surveys is being realised. There have been some research-oriented surveys conducted but the majority are carried out for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Excavations will always be the higher level of archaeology but the number of sites in the cultural landscape which can be investigated in this way is minimal. Therefore site survey data will provide the bulk of the information for archaeologists to work with. This necessitates collection of detailed and accurate records, or the extent to which the data can be utilised is minimal.

In order to demonstrate how survey material could contribute to archaeological research, a practical example was necessary. I selected the site data from the Coromandel region for this purpose as a number of site surveys have been carried out in recent years. In addition, the data from a series of excavations in the 1950s and 1960s provided a valuable adjunct to an examination of the site survey data. Analysis of the field survey data necessitated looking at the information on a general level comparing 24 of the 27 intensive surveys with regard to site type frequencies. Several patterns in distribution were apparent at this level. The second level of analysis was more specific, where seven surveys were chosen for various reasons to be examined in more detail. The survey data from these seven areas was placed in the context of the landscape and each area compared in terms of site and environmental relationships.

Variations in the cultural landscape are present in the Coromandel region. Frequencies of basic site types such as middens, pits and terraces differ from east coast to west coast. In addition, sizes of sites and features within sites vary from area to area. While some differences can be attributed to observational and recording biases, others are quite real. The level of analysis varied with the quality on the information available on sites, but patterns are apparent which could be investigated further by excavation, or a higher level of site recording.

Vo Ngoc Minh Parker, Vessel forms of the Reef Island SE-RF-2 site and their relationship to vessel forms in other western Lapita sites of the Reef/Santa Cruz and island Melanesia area. Anthropology Department, Auckland University. 1 page abstract, viii, 159 pp. (xiii), 9 plates, 31 figures, 43 tables, 1 appendix.

The study of aspects of the Lapita culture complex has an important place in the development of prehistory of the Pacific area. It is important because it appears to be the culture of groups involved in widespread voyaging and exchange. It also appears likely that it was the culture of the ancestors of later Polynesian people. In suggesting this it is not necessary to be completely in agreement with Groube's "strandlooper" theory. However, further west it is certain that the Lapita groups show clear evidence of being involved in an important exchange network and give us some opportunity to define and examine these.

This thesis examines aspects of the Lapita culture complex, more especially recent evidence from the Reef/Santa Cruz group, with a view to preparing for a consideration of these factors. It seeks to generate an overview of pottery forms which occurred in the Reef/Santa Cruz sites and to examine the external and internal relations of these with a view to determining their position and the significance of the evidence from this group in relation to the larger problems of contact, exchange and migration in the Western Pacific area.