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ABSTRACTS FROM THESES,
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Dorothy Brown
Department of Anthropology,
University of Auckland

Abstracts from four M.A. theses in archaeology completed during the period late 1989 to early 1990 are given below. Copies are held in the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, where they may be consulted in the Piddington Room. Xerox copies may be made available through the Main Library, Auckland University, at cost, plus GST and postage. These are subject to the usual restrictions applying to theses, namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

Cathryn E. Barr, An Ecological Approach to the Management of Wet Archaeological Sites in New Zealand. 1989. Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (iv) 74 pp., 4 plates, 4 figures.

This work examines changes in public attitudes towards the preservation of cultural resources in New Zealand, and how these changes are reflected in the development of Historic Places legislation. Inadequacies in current Historic Places legislation are examined, in relation to their failure to provide long-term management for archaeological sites. To aid the preservation of sites, it is suggested that an ecological approach be adopted. Such an approach will allow archaeological sites to be examined in terms of the environment surrounding them, and changes in the environment can be assessed as to their effects on the preservation of the site.

In order that such an approach is possible, it is necessary that information is obtained regarding the types of sites which are located in particular ecological areas. In this work those sites located in wetland are examined, and a classification of the type of wet-sites in New Zealand is provided. Having done this, a study was carried out in Waipa, examining the problems which face sites located on the edge of lakes or in areas of swamp, island pa. The management and protection offered these sites is compared with that of stands of native bush in the area. It is found that the management of wet archaeological sites is inadequate to ensure their continued survival. It is proposed, however, that through adopting a management approach which does not look at sites in isolation, but in relation to the surrounding environment, and through conducting regular field checks of the condition of sites such as this, it will be possible to preserve the sites and the information they contain for future researchers.

Christophe H. Descantes, Symbolic Stone Structures. Protohistoric and Early Historic Spatial Patterns of the 'Opunohu Valley, Mo'orea, French Polynesia. 1990.

Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (xvii) 203 (1) pp., 8 plates, 20 figures, 97 tables, 3 appendices.

This thesis presents a spatial and symbolic analysis of the surface stone remains in the 'Opunohu Valley, Mo'orea, French Polynesia. The stone structures are treated as symbols, actively involved in social strategies within particular spatial and historical contexts. The interior of the 'Opunohu Valley is interpreted as a permanent refuge for people resisting political transformations induced by European presence on the coast of Mo'orea. The stone structure symbolism was involved in legitimating Ma'ohi social order. Possible models for valley settlement and abandonment are discussed in relation to ethnohistoric records and spatial patterns of the archaeological data.

Myfanwy M. Eaves, The Heavy Clay Industry in Auckland, 1830-1930. 1990. Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (xi) 197 pp., 63 plates, 16 figures, 16 tables, 6 appendices.

This thesis is a presentation of data pertaining to the establishment and development of one of Auckland's earliest industries, the Heavy Clay Industry. It was established when technological advances in Europe were at their height, and their importation and adoption here were controlled by many factors, both economic and social. By combining archival evidence with technological information it is possible to recreate a picture of the establishment and development of this industry in Auckland. Finally, this information is applied to a suburb of Auckland, Hobsonville, from an archaeological perspective.

Joan M. Lawrence, The Archaeology of the Waitakere Ranges. 1989. Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (xi) 248 pp., 48 plates, 80 figures, 15 tables, 2 appendices.

The prehistory of the Waitakere Ranges is analysed on a broad basis using available data. An unusually rich, varied, and well-preserved group of artefacts has been recovered from dry caves, rock shelters and sand hill middens on the west coast. These artefacts are described with reference to type, distribution, and chronology. Variations in settlement pattern derived from recorded prehistoric sites are examined in relation to geographic, economic, and social constraints. Many pa were situated on promontories on the western coastal fringes. These pa were associated with undefended terraces, pit complexes, and midden sites. The central and eastern regions lacked significant settlement. Traditional information, supported by a series of radiocarbon dates, suggests a maximum population through the 16th and 17th centuries. A synthesis of traditional history, archaeological field survey, and the recorded artefacts is used to construct a tentative cultural model of the prehistoric sequence of the Waitakere Ranges. Specific issues requiring further study are discussed with reference to deficiencies in the current data.