



NEW ZEALAND  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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**ABSTRACTS FROM THESES,  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND 1991-92**

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Abstracts from three MA theses in archaeology completed during the period late 1991 to early 1992 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, namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

Gerrard Carter, Other Pasts. Subjectivity and the Experience of the Past. MA thesis. 1992. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (vii) 135 pp., 11 figures, 2 tables, appendix.

Knowledge of the past is not the just the prerogative of the archaeological establishment. This thesis examines three groups who make use of the past in different ways, for different reasons.

The first group to be investigated is the archaeological establishment. By examining the motivations for excavation in the Auckland region it is demonstrated that subjective influences, such as the objectives of property developers, have had a radical influence upon both the recovery of archaeological material and the interpretation of that material.

The second group to be examined covers the various strains of thought usually labelled as 'Fringe archaeology'. It is shown that the 'alternate archaeologists' who have been interested in New Zealand possess a theoretical framework, and attempt, unsuccessfully, to emulate establishment archaeological methods. Reasons for the abiding popularity of alternate archaeology are examined, as is the establishment response to the perceived threat that this archaeology presents.

The third group is the Women's Spirituality movement. This group derives a great deal of meaning from a past often out of accordance with established prehistory. Through interviews with several Women's Spiritualists, the manner in which the past is experienced, and the meaning they derive from the past, is discussed.

All three ways of experiencing the past have their advantages. A mechanism for combining these ideologies, Post-Structuralism, a methodology little used in New Zealand archaeology, is presented and discussed.

Mark D. Eddowes, Ethnohistorical Perspectives on the Marae of the Society Islands: The Sociology of Use. MA thesis. 1991. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (xvi) 253 (5) pp., 37 plates, 15 figures, appendix.

This thesis puts forward an ethnohistorical reconstructionist approach to the interpretation of the ceremonial complexes of the Society Islands, the marae. It is based on the premise that when critically evaluated the written and illustrated ethnohistoric record of these islands provides information relevant to the interpretation of marae as social entities at the period of contact. They have hierarchical associations which are discernible in both these records and in archaeologically recovered information. In their form and related associations they reflect historical processes of change in both pre-contact and post-contact Tahitian society which are linked to aspects of chiefly competition. Further it is suggested that encompassed in the ethnohistoric record are structurally predicated indicators of cosmologically based social hierarchies in which marae played a central role as forms of expression, signifying the relative status of associated groups or individuals. Therefore interpretation from these sources, supplemented by archaeological correlates, enable researchers to determine a more sociological function of marae and their symbolic nature than has formerly been attempted.

Marianne T. Turner, Make or Break: Adze Manufacture at the Tahanga Quarry. MA thesis. 1992. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; 336 pp., 84 figures, 37 tables, 5 appendices.

The purpose of this thesis is to demonstrate the value of studying adze manufacture, and to increase our knowledge of adze manufacturing behaviour in New Zealand prehistory. The basic premise of this study is that both the raw material and the manufacturing techniques employed strongly influenced adze morphology.

The important adze quarry at Tahanga on the Coromandel Peninsula is the principal focus of this research, and a primary aim was to identify and describe the process of manufacture that occurred there. Surface analysis of eight sites at Tahanga was undertaken, and an extensive programme of over 150 replication experiments was carried out in order to obtain information on the nature of Tahanga basalt and the manufacturing techniques that were used. The replication experiments also proved valuable in the formulation of a methodology for employment in the analysis of the debitage at Tahanga. Other adze materials such as Motutapu greywacke and metasomatised argillite were also used in experiments in order to compare their performance with that of Tahanga basalt.

The influence of manufacturing techniques on procurement, production and distribution strategies was investigated by comparing the flake assemblages at Tahanga with those at sites away from the quarry such as Whitipiroua, Ponui Island and South Kaipara Head. The influence of technological factors on the

change over time in adze materials, technology and morphology is also discussed.

Significant contributions of this study include an identification of the physical properties of Tahanga basalt, and how this affected adze manufacture. Tahanga basalt was a difficult rock to flake due to its toughness. However this quality proved its worth in the efficiency in use of Tahanga basalt adzes. There also appears to have been considerable variability in the rock, with oval and rounded boulder and cobble shapes the most consistent source of good quality, homogeneous stone. The shapes of these boulders and cobbles created extra shaping difficulties for the Tahanga adze makers, and this factor coupled with the toughness of the stone may have limited the size to which these adzes could be made. Flake blanks served for the production of small and medium sized adzes, but larger specimens had to be made from thick oval cobbles which required very high levels of skill to shape into preforms.

Valuable information was also obtained from the experimental programme on probable processes of manufacture, particularly in regard to quarrying techniques and methods of roughing out large adze blanks. Because the flaking technique was a difficult and unpredictable one, most of the flaking was undertaken at the quarry. Sites away from the quarry, such as those on the Coromandel east coast, appear to represent the final trimming stage of flaking only, while others further away such as South Kaipara Head, represent the use of adzes rather than their manufacture. Reworking of broken unfinished and finished adzes was a prominent activity at these sites reflecting the effort required to return to the quarry to make new adzes. Such a practice may have provided a vehicle for the change in adze shape, technology and material, when other factors such as conflict and territoriality disrupted access to and distribution of products such as those of Tahanga basalt.