



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



This document is made available by The New Zealand  
Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons  
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

food preparation over a considerable period.

---

AN ARCHAIC TYPE OF MAORI HEI-TIKI FROM THE WAIRARAPA EAST COAST

by T. Barrow.

Illus. Plate 1.

Map ref. Pahaoa N.166 (271129)

Mr. R.H. Broughton of Masterton recently placed on deposit with the Dominion Museum a small tiki which he discovered (April, 1957) imbedded in surface sand on the floor of a wind-eroded hollow in dune about a mile south of Honeycomb Rock lighthouse, and approximately 400 yards from the shoreline. The front and back views of this tiki (Plate 1) indicate that the specimen is remarkable in both form and material.

First reference to Mr. Broughton's discovery appeared in a Wellington newspaper (Evening Post, 6/5/57) under the caption "Baby tiki proves a puzzle - Unique find on the Wairarapa coast." The report also suggested that the material might be tropical clam (*tridacna*) but I was unable to reconcile this with the photograph appearing with the article which showed unusual but clearly Maori workmanship. As I was overseas at the time of the discovery it was not possible to investigate the find immediately, but soon after my return to New Zealand Mr. Broughton visited the Dominion Museum with the tiki, deposited in in the collection, and kindly invited me to visit the site of the discovery. In March, 1959, with Mr. Keith Cairns I visited Mr. Broughton at Glenburn, when it was possible to travel in company south, to the location defined above. Apart from the benefit of general observations in the region, it was possible to establish the existence of fragments of human bone where the tiki was discovered, which confirmed beyond reasonable doubt, that the artifact was in primary association with a burial.

With reference to the material of manufacture, this was positively identified by Dr. F.K. Dell of the Dominion Museum as large dog cockle (*Glycymeris laticostata*). The Bollons Collection yielded two simple ornaments from Cape Maria van Diemen cut from the same type of shell and revealing the "grain" visible on the tiki. This "grain" is due to the pronounced radial ribs of the large dog cockle which give rise to regular wavy striations which remain clearly

defined even when the surface is ground flat and polished.

Dimensions of the Broughton tiki, are 50mm. x 25 mm. x 6 mm. The shell material limits the size, but no doubt contributes to the simplicity of form. Finely incised lines defining mouth and a single finger are present, but weathering has erased other surface details. The absence of a conventional suspension hole at the head suggests that the tiki was worn inverted, with suspension cord passing between the legs. A bone tiki of unusual style in the Wanganui Museum has a suspension hole similarly placed. The Broughton tiki has lost a small fragment from between the feet, but it is clear that when the specimen was intact, this could have been the method of suspension.

The most striking feature of the Broughton tiki is its archaic style. In form it is more related to Marquesan stone hei-tiki than to the conventional nephrite forms of classic Maori culture. The earliest nephrite forms employ the upright head and balanced stance (see frontispiece to Dr. H.D. Skinner's The Maori Hei-tiki, Otago Museum booklet No. 1, 1946), consequently with reference to the Marquesan examples, and the wood sculpture of Tahiti, we may assume that the upright posture was widely used in the human images of early Maorie culture. It is not possible to determine the chronological age of the Broughton tiki, but it was either made at a very early period (as the fragmentary state of the associated burial suggests), or by a craftsman working at a comparatively late period within the traditions of a local Maori culture marginal to areas where local conditions, and the absorption of new influences, wrought such far-reaching change in the artistic conventions.

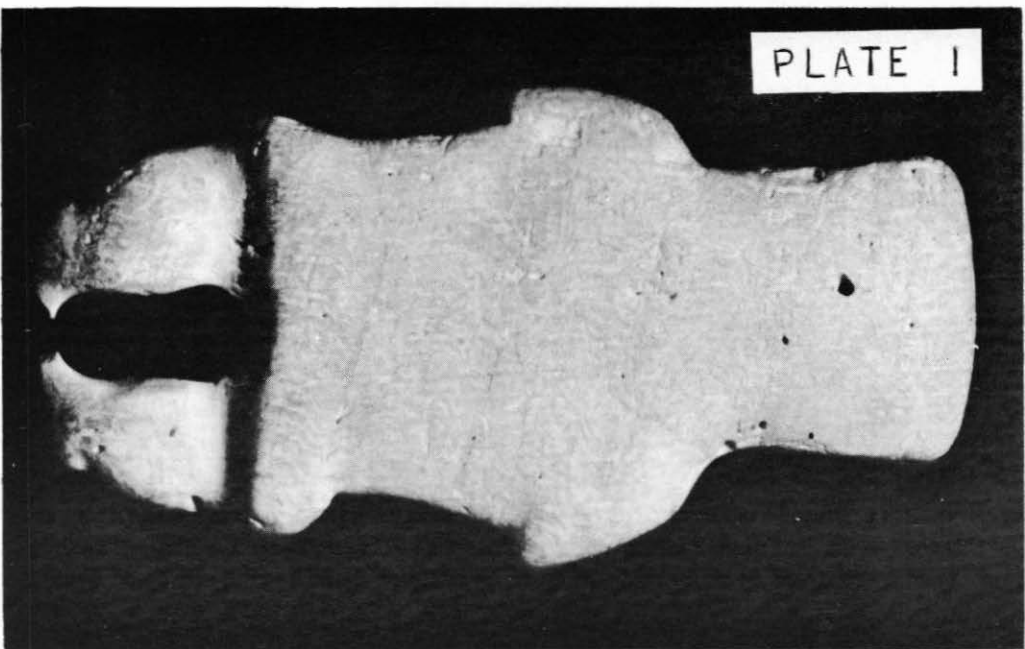
The photographs reproduced on Plate 1. were prepared by Mr. Frank O'Leary, Photographer, Dominion Museum.

#### FIELD RECORDING SCHEME by W. Mumford.

Now that the Association's scheme for site recording is more or less established, let's take a look at it's early history so that the efforts of the original architects can be properly appreciated.

In 1954 the Historical Section of the Hawkes Bay Branch of

PLATE I



THE BROUGHTON TIKI - HT. 5CM. ART. T. BARROW.