



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION FROM
A NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCE

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While archaeologists and students of the prehistory of the Maori have always actively sought to record the presence of prehistoric sites, there are other workers who have recorded such information incidentally to their principal objectives. Among these have been some of the field-workers of the Geological Survey, whose work has been published in the series of Geological Survey Bulletins from 1906. Some of this information has a direct archaeological significance and was consciously and in some cases conscientiously gathered by the field-worker, the demands of whose work in the early days of the Survey required him to go on foot to all sections of his allotted area, and to traverse most gullies and ridges. It is unfortunate for archaeology that in recent years aerial photographic techniques have removed much of the necessity for extensive and minute ground traverses, and that the geological detail now shown is so massive that cultural details are either obscured or omitted. Even in the early days, however, the amount of cultural detail gathered depended to a large extent on the interest and enthusiasm of the individual field-worker, and on this largely depends the worth of the maps that accompany each bulletin to the present-day archaeological field-worker. It is interesting to note that one geologist, H. T. Ferrar, who was responsible for two surveys and parts of several others, produced maps showing a large proportion of the pa sites existing in the areas surveyed. As an archaeologist, one can only lament that more geologists had not followed his example, or that Ferrar had not been responsible for more surveys.

The primary archaeological information in the maps can be divided into two groups. First there is the information plotted because the geologist was aware of its cultural links with the early Maori occupation. This consists largely of the location of pa sites, but other features recorded include pits, gardens, villages, burial areas and middens. Secondly, there is the archaeological information that may be inferred from the details on the map. Principally this consists of the names of coastal bays and points, and of spot heights and

triangulation stations. These will often be the names of the pa located at such points, but not noted as such on the maps. In some areas many caves are marked, and these may be worthy of archaeological investigation.

In addition to the primary archaeological information, there is what might be called secondary archaeological information - that is, information concerning the period since written records have become available (Clarke, G. 1954, 7-9). Included here might be the sites of battles, the location of early farm buildings, the names of early property owners, and the location of mines, tramways, sawmills or butter factories. All of this information may be found on the geological sheets.

A summary of the bulletins carrying primary archaeological information, grouped according to the number of pa sites shown, is as follows:

A. Large number of pa sites recorded:

Bulletin No.	27	1927	Whangarei-Bay of Islands
	34	1934	Dargaville-Rodney

B. Many pa sites recorded:

Bulletin No.	24	1923	Mokau
	28	1926	Huntly-Kawhia (Puniu sub-sheet)
	29	1927	Egmont (Wairau and Cape sub-sheet)
	41	1946	Te Kuiti
	61	1960	Maungakahia (Punakitere and Motatau sub-sheets)

C. Scattered pa sites recorded:

Bulletin No.	8	1909	Whangaroa
	15	1912	Waihi-Tairua
	16	1916	Te Aroha-Hauraki
	31	1927	Tongaporutu-Ohura

It is appreciated that in many areas there would be few, if any, pa to be recorded.

It would seem that this series of maps may well repay the efforts of any archaeological field-worker who consults it. The sheets vary

greatly in the amount of archaeological detail carried, but most sheets carry some data for the discerning reader.

REFERENCES

Clarke, Grahame. 1954. 'The Study of Prehistory', Cambridge University Press, quoted in Daniel, G., 1967, 'The Origins and Growth of Archaeology', Penguin Books.

DSIR Geological Survey 1906 Geological Bulletins, Nos. 1-69 (New Series)

