



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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from outside, cultural traits would be just as likely to be carried well into the heart of the Pacific, there to be preserved in permanent isolation.

It is not the 'mass invasion', but rather the concept of the small accidental influx of foreign cultural elements carried into Polynesia that may well explain many hitherto anomalous cultural elements of the Pacific. It is highly probable that the first kumara tuber found its way into Polynesia by this manner, thus providing not only the plant, but the knowledge and direction of its American Continental source to a previously non-agriculturally inclined people.

If future work in the Pacific is able to recognise the presence of distinct past alien continental influences in the culture of the Polynesians, then E.N. Ferdon Jr., should be well satisfied with the clear elucidation of the possibilities that he has forecast here. Until that time however, he may rest assured that he has provided many sobering thoughts in his summary of the possible Pacific cultural complexes, which will no doubt influence the development of working hypotheses on Polynesian origins for many years to come.

I. W. Keyes

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