



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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experience. It would be particularly useful if members could publish results and any problems in this Newsletter - which is an admirable medium for the exchange of ideas.

P. G.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS:

Japan Before Buddhism by J. E. Kidder Jr. -  
Thames & Hudson, London.

This is another of the excellent Ancient Peoples and Places series, under the general editorship of Glyn Daniel. The periods covered are Palcolithic and Mosolithic, Neolithic, Bronze-Iron and Protohistoric. The book is illustrated with 108 excellent photographs, 65 line drawings and seven maps.

It gives a very good summary of what is known of the life work and art of the people who lived in Japan before the coming of Buddhism. The later portion, of course, can to some extent be supplemented by literary references, but all that we know of the earlier periods is from chance finds and archaeological excavation, except for a few references in the older Chinese literature.

Japan, like many other islands, was subject to considerable movements of people in early times, and the present Japanese people, as is indeed evident even from photographs, are derived from several different ethnic stocks, who have all left behind in the earth the non-perishable tools, weapons, ornaments, pots and house-sites that they used, and the remains of the vegetable and animal food that they ate. The shallowness of many Japanese archaeological sites is remarkable.

This book has particular interest for those of us who live in the Pacific area, and is remarkably good value at the price of 25/-.

Two minor criticisms may be permitted. The Author, like so many overseas archaeologists, confuses adzes and axes

Gordon Childe was a notable exception, but in a fairly extensive reading of overseas archaeological work I have gained the impression that we in New Zealand are usually much more conscious of the distinction than others. The other point is that fig. 20 illustrates stone "rice-reapers" of the ulu type of knife - such objects are not unknown in New Zealand, with two to three index drilled near the back edge, and the author states "The holes, of course, held loose strings that could be screwed around the hand." Unless he has evidence, which he has not published, that this is so, it seems reasonable to suppose that, as elsewhere, the holes were the attachment of wooden handles.

Late Saxon and Viking Art by T.D. Kendrick - Methuen,  
London.

Those of us of British stock will probably find this book on the art of our forbears' manuscripts, crosses, carvings, etc., of interest. It was published in 1949, but I had not seen it until recently. The line-drawings are good - there are 24 of them, but the 104 half-tone plates, although adequate, are not quite of the standard seen, for instance, in the book reviewed above.

R. J. S.

#### CONFERENCES OF THE ASSOCIATION

At the end of the very successful Conference at Rotorua in May, the Annual General Meeting passed a recommendation approving the principle of holding Annual Conferences in May. This recommendation was very fully discussed by the new Council at a meeting in Wellington in July. Two questions were raised:

- a) was May the most suitable time for a conference?
- b) could the Association afford both in money and effort the support of a full scale conference every year?

It certainly seemed that for most members, especially school-teachers, students and farmers, the May school holidays constituted by far the most satisfactory period for the Conference. Yet for some professional members,