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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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BOOK REVIEWS

Susan Bulmer, Garry Law, and Douglas Sutton (eds), A Lot of Spadework To Be Done; Essays in honour of Lady Aileen Fox by her New Zealand friends. Auckland, New Zealand. Archaeological Association Monograph No. 14, 1983. 329 pp. \$22.

Lady Fox was unaware of the preparation and publication of the Association's Monograph 14. Consequently when, on the first morning of the Association's conference in Napier, the President, Garry Law, called her to the platform and presented to her the volume produced in her honour, she and a fair proportion of the audience were completely taken by surprise. The end of Aileen's ten years as a resident of New Zealand, as a leading light on the small stage of New Zealand archaeology, was marked by a dramatic moment. She had never had a festschrift, and was almost lost for words.

I arrived in Auckland from England within days of Aileen, early in 1973 - so close that I was once accused of coming as her cabin baggage. Later, through my work in the University of Auckland and with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, I came to know her well. For anyone who has known Aileen, in Britain or New Zealand, however limited their interest in archaeology, the first two contributions in the book will be compulsive reading. "Aileen Fox in New Zealand: an appreciation by Janet Davidson", summarises her sustained and full-hearted contributions to New Zealand archaeology, particularly to field studies, excavation, publication, and site protection and management. "Mad dogs and Englishmen - archaeological site recordings with Aileen Fox", by Mary Jeal, is a more personal account, a thankful tribute from the perspective of Hawke's Bay.

The twelve archaeological essays which follow have been grouped by the editors to demonstrate the breadth of Aileen's research interests. These interests are very wide, so there is no common theme in the volume. Unfortunately there is little theoretical content in the papers, which vary in weight and in their likely wider usefulness. Some papers contain more compositional and typographic errors than others. However, in most of these respects the book is better than some archaeological festschrifts known to me. It is attractively bound and is produced on good quality paper, and most of the illustrations have reproduced well.

There are four papers on pa. Susan Bulmer describes in full her investigations at Waitete on the Waiuku Inlet. This was perhaps one of the last headland pa built in the Auckland

area, apparently constructed by the Ngati Whatua in 1835 and extended in 1836. The excavated bank, ditch, and palisade lines of the outer defences are of interest. Kevin Jones presents a field survey of Moerangi, which was built by Major William Mair and Arawa recruits on the destroyed settlement of Paengaroa during the Tauranga bush campaign of 1867. "Rangihoua Pa and Oihi Mission Station, Purerua Peninsula, Bay of Islands", by Jeremy Spencer, is a fascinating integration of field survey and historical evidence, and for me is the best paper in the book. Impressively drawn and printed cartography, and reproductions of magnificent nineteenth century illustrations, are combined by a well organised text. Caroline Phillips discusses the possibilities and practicalities of pa recording. Her strange stylised plans of pa sites, redrawn as recorded twice at different times by different survey methods, demonstrate gross discrepancies in recording. Site recorders take note: your results will be critically examined sooner or later.

Atholl Anderson's illustrated essay on Maori wooden bowls from Central Otago is the first of four contributions discussing artefacts. Unfortunately Atholl's paper is dislocated by an error in pagination. A pumice carving from Mahia Peninsula is presented by David Butts. Wendy Harsant's survey of the historical evidence of the use by the Maori of unmodified shells as tools is well written and absorbing. An explicit section on the cutting of human flesh is not for the squeamish. A ridged and notched stone reel ornament from Whakatane, held privately in the Scilly Isles, is illustrated and discussed by Helen Leach. This ornament is significant because the wear on the longitudinal perforation indicates use as a single neck pendant rather than as part of a necklace, and because a further lateral perforation suggests conversion for use as a toggle.

Two papers on prehistoric structures, houses and pits, follow. Doug Sutton's essay on Moriori houses of the Chatham Islands falls into two parts: discussion of the historical evidence of Moriori living structures, and the form in which they may be expected to appear archaeologically; and an account and interpretation of the structures excavated at the sixteenth century Waihora site. It is concluded that the Moriori before 1820 lived mainly in large rectangular houses. Ian Lawlor considers the forty pits uncovered during the Maruka investigations at Kawerau. The illustration on two opposite pages of the plans of the pits as excavated is particularly useful. Ian's paper may prove to be of more long term comparative value than most.

The volume concludes with two regional reviews. Alan Clarke considers the paucity of evidence of prehistoric settlement in

the interior of the Manukau Lowlands, and interprets this as evidence of a buffer zone between the powerful tribes which populated the Tamaki Isthmus, the Hauraki Gulf, and the Lower Wai-kato. Nigel Prickett presents an account of the prehistoric archaeology of the Taranaki region, concentrating on selected themes: the moa hunter sites, the fortifications, and the carvings in wood from swamp sites. He suggests a relatively late first settlement of the region, in the fourteenth century.

The title, A Lot of Spadework To Be Done, is explained by Mary Jeal: Aileen Fox used the phrase in connection with the launching of the New Zealand Journal of Archaeology, to which she gave firm support. "A lot of spadework to be done" is therefore not an invitation to indiscriminate excavation, but rather is a comment on the essential hard work of publication of results - particularly excavation reports, but also analyses of structures and artefacts, and regional and national syntheses. Monograph 14 has provided an appropriate outlet for such hard work. Because of the variety of its contents, anyone maintaining any kind of reference collection of New Zealand archaeology will need to obtain a copy.

Aidan Challis

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Early Eyewitness Accounts of Maori Life 1. Extracts from Journals Relating to the Visit to New Zealand of the French Ship St Jean Baptiste in December 1769 Under the Command of J.F.M. de Surville. Transcription and translation by Isabel Ollivier and Cheryl Hingley, with an appendix of charts and drawings compiled by Jeremy Spencer. Wellington, Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust in association with the National Library of New Zealand, 1982. 225 pp. \$18.95.

This volume owes its origin to an interest of Auckland anthropologist, Anne Salmond, in going back to original European accounts of the Maori as part of an attempt to explore regional variation in Maori culture. The view of Maori culture and lifeways put forward by such as Elsdon Best, Raymond Firth and Te Rangi Hiroa has been established wisdom now for fifty years. Their view is of a society essentially static and largely similar throughout Aotearoa. Anne Salmond was not satisfied with this picture: she writes, "The main aim of this project is to return to the first European accounts of Maori communities and to first principles of research - to study their observations on a precisely regional and historical basis, so that we may begin to understand how Maori life in particular places has changed since earliest contact."

This is the first of a projected series of publications of eyewitness accounts of early voyagers. In the volume are trans-

cribed (French) and translated (English) copies of various journals of de Surville's voyage. These are the journal and log of Captain Jean-Francois-Marie de Surville, the journal and log kept by Guillaume Labé, First Lieutenant, a presumed copy of a journal and log kept by Jean Pottier L'Horme, Second Lieutenant, and versions of an account of the voyage by the ship's clerk, Pierre Monneron. Jeremy Spencer's appendix contains detailed information on (New Zealand) charts and drawings associated with the voyage of the St Jean Baptiste and reproductions of many of these.

The St Jean Baptiste was in Doubtless Bay for two weeks in December 1769. The French accounts of that stay and especially of the people they met with are quite fascinating. I cannot remember reading anything so fresh and immediate from the journals of any other voyage - including those of Cook and his men. The latter after all were well travelled and in the exploring business - not to be too astonished at any new people of strange habits they came across. De Surville and his officers retain their naivete and their wonderment throughout. In their journals they describe their anchorage and the surrounding land, their (not very successful) interaction with the local people, and something of the material culture and ways of doing things of the Doubtless Bay Maori.

The book uses a large format to allow presentation of French and English copies of the various journals side-by-side on each page. The translations we may take as definitive. The scholarship evident in provenance details and bibliographic references is very valuable and should satisfy the most painstaking researcher. Jeremy Spencer, too, is to be congratulated for bringing together the pictorial record of the voyage. The book is a key document in the history of the earliest Pakeha - Maori contacts in New Zealand. All those involved deserve our thanks, and I look forward to the next result of the project. The book is available from government bookshops.

Nigel Prickett

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