



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

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 21 of them, but the 101 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,

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such as Museum and University ethnologists, the May vacation was a very important fieldwork period.

Obviously some compromise was desirable. This could be effected by holding biennial instead of annual Conferences: a policy which would have the additional advantage of relieving the pressure on the Conference organisers.

The main and weighty objection to the idea of biennial Conferences was the very success of the Annual Conference in bringing together for two or three days of intensive and enjoyable archaeological discussion and activity members from every part of the country who normally would not meet each other or any other member of the Association at all.

In order to cater for annual meetings of the Association therefore which would not perpetually clash with members' fieldwork or constitute too heavy a burdon on the Association's resources, Council passed a resolution, to be presented as a motion for the approval of the next Annual General Meeting:-

that the major conferences of the Association should be held in May biennially and that in alternate years a less formal two-day extended Annual General Meeting be held at Queen's Birthday week-end.

The next Conference will be a full one and will be held in Wellington in May, 1960. It will continue the theme of the Rotorua Conference by discussing the recording, interpretation and care of excavated material.