



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Editor-in-chief: R.J.Scarlett, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.
Editor for this issue: C.D.Smart, Dominion Museum, Wellington.

Dear Fellow-Members,

The only things to report from Canterbury are the formation of the Canterbury Museum Archaeological Society, which grew out of a series of W.E.A. lectures given by Dr.Roger Duff, Rhys Griffiths, Tony Fomison and myself, on archaeology so that we now have a good number of senior members and have absorbed the old C.M. Archaeological Club which was largely composed of seniors, and that the Museum carried out a fortnight's dig at Pari Whakatau, Claverly, in August-September, excavating a Ngati-mamoe house pit and a midden. I'll be reporting on this in the December issue.

With Colin Smart as editor, I'm sure the Wellington team will produce a good issue of the Newsletter. Colin Smart replaced Dr.T.T.Barrow as editor of the Wellington issue. Dr.Barrow has been overseas on a S.E.A.T.O. fellowship for much of this year.

Good digging,
Ron.J.Scarlett,
Editor-in-chief.

Another EDITORIAL

Again Wellington initiates a progressive step.. Last year Wellington introduced the use of the off-set printing method for drawings and half-tone plates. This year the method is used throughout. Such an experiment has been made possible by a generous grant from Dr.R.A.Falla, on behalf of the Dominion Museum, and by donations from several individual Association members. It is to be hoped that the experiment will prove successful.

Avenues for the publication of archaeological reports in New Zealand are extremely limited. The Polynesian Society's Journal and the publications of the major Museums offer the only outlets. These are obviously limited. The Polynesian Society has sufficient material now to complete its Journals for two years or more so that only reports of particular significance are likely to be accepted. The major Museums are compelled to cater for mainly museum projects and little else. Where then can the reports be published ?

Perhaps the N.Z.A.A.Newsletter could provide an outlet. Admittedly, it already does to some extent but, it offers a rather unattractive fate for a report of any great quality. Inherent in the cyclostyling method of

reproduction is the coarse absorbent paper, the unattractive print and an inability to reproduce accurate and detailed maps. Also, the present distribution is only some 200 copies per issue. These disadvantages must be overcome before a quality article can be accepted with a clear conscience by the editors.

A properly printed periodical is, of course, the ideal but the N.Z.A.A. is in no financial position to take such a step and will not be for some time to come. Off-set printing, by the "Xerox" or "Multilith" process offers a solution. As can be seen from this issue, an improved appearance is possible. The printed page is more attractive to the eye while diagrams and maps, an essential supplement to the written information, can be readily included. The photographic methods employed in off-set printing allow for the reduction or enlargement of printed and drawn originals. Even half-tone plates, though not of extremely high quality, can be accommodated. Obviously this is a much more versatile method of reproduction than is cyclostyling.

An increase of cost would be the main objection to the use of this process. Each copy of this issue is actually worth about 2/6 and is, by content, the biggest issue yet. A recent cyclostyled issue, from another center, cost about 10d. but contained less than half the content of this one. The very small total number of copies of each issue explains the high cost for each. It can be seen, however, that the relative costs of the two types of reproduction are very similar. It is, in fact, the size and not the quality which has increased the cost.

If the Newsletter is to expand and improve it will require a sounder financial basis than at present exists. The Association will have to budget for its production in future years rather than continue to rely on uncertain irregular arrangements for financial support from other institutions. A certain portion of the Association's annual income must be set aside solely to maintain the Newsletter. This, however, is unlikely to be sufficient on its own, under the present circumstances. The improved appearance possible by the off-set printing method, as well as more articles of a higher standard, would make the Newsletter more attractive to Libraries and offer an incentive to potential members, thereby increasing the annual income of the Association. Regular financial support from established institutions is undoubtedly forthcoming once the Association makes a definite effort to improve its own financial position. The Association must make the first essential steps.

Perhaps the new year will see the advent of an attractive production containing useful, practical, theoretical and quality articles in a more permanent form. Perhaps even a new organisation wherein the majority of the production is centralised. It certainly COULD be accomplished.

C.D. Smart