



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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## EDITORIAL

" The importance of publishing proper reports of archaeological research, and especially of excavations, cannot be too strongly emphasized. For, as has already been said, the excavations of a site involve its destruction; once excavated, the evidence cannot be reconstituted except from the records made by the excavator. Failure to publish these records, therefore, is as much a crime against science as the deliberate suppression of a newly discovered historical document. Publication is thus an integral part of excavation."

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY. by R.J.C. Atkinson.

One way and another there has been a great deal of activity in archaeology in New Zealand, over the past few years. This issue of the newsletter is an attempt to record some of the evidence of the changing theoretical outlook which has come from this work. The Anthropological Section of the Science Congress held in Christchurch in August 1962 was devoted entirely to archaeology, and papers were presented either as part of a symposium on cultural succession or as contributions to fieldwork. As a result of the discussions in the symposium some of the papers were modified and re-written for this issue of the Newsletter.

It should perhaps be appreciated that archaeology in New Zealand is carried out entirely on a part-time basis. There are no full-time fieldworkers or specialists. Despite the isolation of the individual workers, the Association does provide a common meeting ground. The three trained archaeologists all lecture in the Departments of Anthropology in two Universities and spend their vacations guiding the activities of other enthusiasts. These enthusiasts vary from the 'collector' (and we have some very sophisticated collectors), to the amateur. The Science Congress revealed that the collector and tourist is no more than an interesting survivor from the Victorian attitude to archaeology, and that the amateur in his serious regard for the continuing accumulation of knowledge has at last gained the field.

However, the cause of the continuing accumulation of knowledge is not aided by the lack of publication of work already done. The reader will find numerous references to sites and data that have not only failed to find their way to the Central File of the site recording scheme, but have also not been honoured with anything more than interim or preliminary reports. This is not entirely due to lack of ways and means.

We may have lost our Victorian ardour for collecting, but let us not lose the Victorian attribute of bursting into print.