



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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For full Congress programme please see Royal Society circulars. This programme contains only information of archaeological interest and thanks are due to Mr. L.M. Groube, Mr. F.W. Shawcross and the editor for help in arranging it. As it promises to be an outstanding programme, Association members are urged to make their arrangements now to attend. Information is available from Congress Secretary, Mr. T.J. Bayliss, P.O. Box 5358, Auckland, or myself, at Department of Anthropology, Box 2175, Auckland. An exhibition of past research in the fields of archaeology will be on display at No. 7 Symonds St. throughout the conference.

R.C. Green.

Friday, 12th February

Section F - All day symposium on Mind of Man, including paper by Mr. F.W. Shawcross (Univ. of Auckland) on The Mind of Fossil Man. An Archaeologist's View, discussed by Mr. J. Golson (Australian National Univ.).

Saturday, 13th February

9.00 a.m. - All day field trip to sites on Motutapu for NZAA members only - sponsored by Univ. of Auckland Arch. Soc.
8.00 p.m. - Social (details to be announced later) Organized by Univ. of Auckland Archaeological Society.

Sunday, 14th February - Afternoon - Archaeological Excursion.

11.15 p.m. - Assemble in front of main Arts block of University, Princes St.
1.30 p.m. - Science Congress excursion of sites in Auckland area by bus. H.J.R. Brown (Auckland Univ. Arch. Soc.), organizer.

Sunday, 14th February - Evening - Films for NZAA members.

8.00 p.m. - Recent films on archaeology. H.J.R. Brown (Auckland Univ. Arch. Soc.), organizer. - No. 7 Symonds St.

Monday, 15th February - Morning Symposium: Maori Culture and European Contact. Chairman - J. Golson.

9.00-10.00 - L.M. Groube (Univ. of Otago): The Classic Maori: Prehistoric or Protohistoric.

One of the most important tasks in New Zealand archaeology is defining the extensive changes in Maori culture in the 19th century. This review of these changes completely revises our definition of Classic Maori settlement patterns, art styles, artifacts, etc. It also raises fundamental problems about the character and rate of cultural change in prehistoric New Zealand, suggesting that the Maori culture of 1769 was more like that of the Archaic Phase than seventy years later.

Monday, 15th February (Cont'd) - Maori Culture and European Contact

- 10.00-10.30 - J. Golson (Australian National Univ.) - Discussion of Groube's paper, followed by general discussion.
- 10.30-11.00 - TEA.
- 11.00-11.30 - K.A. Shawcross: The Adoption of Pakeha Material Culture by Maoris of the Bay of Islands, 1769-1840.

The adoption of all artifacts, foods, and animals for which historical records exist will be discussed, beginning in 1769 with glass bottles, and ranging through various tools, firearms, clothing, etc., to wheat, cattle, mills, and schooners in the late 1830's. In relation to each article the following will be discussed - (1) when it was first acquired; (2) when it became desirable; (3) when it became common; (4) its relative desirability, and (5) important changes produced by its adoption. Notable omissions from the list of adoptions will be mentioned. This information could allow theoretical construction of a typical assemblage of artifacts for any period between 1769-1840.

- 11.30-12.00 - V.F. Fisher (Auckland War Mem. Museum) - Identification and Dating of European Items in Maori Sites.

Very little attention has been devoted to the study of material associated with the Early European Contact phase, yet clearly it may elucidate many problems, and is of value and importance in any attempt at a more refined dating of archaeological material. Material most valuable for this purpose, because it is readily dateable, includes coins, medals, tokens, brass counters and hall-marked silver. Of secondary value are clay pipes, recognizable parts of firearms and weapons, porcelain, bottles, regimental buttons, and a host of other objects, many made from metal.

- 12.00-12.30 - Discussion: 5 minutes each by Mr. Groube, Mrs. Shawcross, and Mr. Fisher: then general discussion led by Chairman.

Monday 15th February - Afternoon Symposium: Field Monuments - Their Analysis and Recording.
Chairman - Dr. A.G. Buist.

- 2.30-3.00 - L.M. Groube (Univ. of Otago): The Prehistory of Fortifications in New Zealand.

An analysis of change in fortification techniques is the only adequate means of dating the thousands of Pa sites in New Zealand. The problems of doing this are reviewed and certain hypotheses about changes in fortification techniques are presented for discussion. A conjectural typology incorporating these hypotheses in a study of the distribution of the types illustrates this problem and its analysis.

- 3.10-3.40 - A.G. Buist (Hawera, Editor NZAA.) Distribution Analyses of Pa by Type and Setting.

A new method of field description of the pa is suggested. Whilst it is not intended to entirely replace the topographic descriptions previously propounded, it is suggested that a description in terms of 'type' and 'setting' allows the possibility of analysis of the total pa of one locality and allows some firm conclusions to be drawn. The talk will be illustrated with colour slides.

Monday, 15th February (Cont'd)

3.50-4.20 - J.R.S. Daniels (Wellington Central File Keeper, NZAA): Site Types and Distribution around Wellington.

While range of site types around Wellington is not as wide as in other regions, they exhibit some distinctive characteristics reflecting Maori exploitation of the environment. A fair amount has been written on certain portions of the region, but no study apart from Best's has assessed the general archaeological character of the whole region. Additional information from early records and recent results of intensive field surveys make such an assessment possible. While these confirm the main lines of Best's conclusion regarding large permanent sites, they also indicate a wide distribution of small, probably seasonal occupation units. **A. Leahy &**

4.30-5.00 - M. Nicholls (Univ. of Auckland Arch. Soc.): Site Mapping and Surveying in Auckland Area.

Some of Auckland's larger pa have been mapped in detail over the past year. The techniques used in mapping will be briefly outlined. The conclusions reached and the questions raised from a detailed study of the layout of these pa will be discussed.

Monday, 15th February - Evening - Public Address in Town Hall.

8.00 p.m. - Sir John Eccles.

Tuesday, 16th February - Morning Symposium: New Zealand Archaeologists in the South-West Pacific.

Chairman - Dr. Roger Duff (Canterbury Museum).

9.00-9.30 - J.B. Palmer (Fiji Museum): Archaeology in Fiji.

Results from Karobo excavation excavation and from the surface of Site VL 16/1, Sigatoka, supports the view that early sites on the south Viti Levu coast were those of Proto-Polynesians, whose fishing tackle, adze forms and some pottery forms were dissimilar to those of the later Melanesians. Evidence for the probable use of flat-bottomed dishes is put forward and botanical evidence is described from low levels, which suggests that these Proto-Polynesians may have introduced the coconut to Fiji.

9.30-10.00 - J. Davidson (Univ. of Auckland): Archaeology in Samoa and Tonga.

Recent excavations in Samoa and Tonga have furnished archaeological material of some antiquity from Upolu in Western Samoa and Tongatapu in Tonga. At the same time, extensive sites surveys in Samoa have provided a wealth of information about fortifications, mounds, and old village sites, which can be compared with field monuments in Tonga. The evidence so far obtained suggests considerable differences between Samoa and Tonga not only at European contact, but at a more remote time in the past.

10.00-10.30 - H.R. Parker, O.R. Wilkes (Canterbury Museum): Archaeology in the Southern Cooks.

Canterbury Museum Excavations of six weeks in summer of 1962 and six months in 1964, concentrated on TAROFCUSA, the major 'high island' of the group. Although at time of writing no 'break-through' discovery of early artifact bearing occupations has been encountered, the plotting, surveying and stratigraphical testing of surviving field structures with relation to the greatest field monument,

the pre-European road (Ara Mētua), which encircled the island together with work in certain valleys, throws some light on age and type of site and prehistoric settlement pattern. Accounts of field operations for which they were responsible will be given by the speakers.

10.30-11.00 - TDA.

11.00-11.30 - L.R. Cowell (Univ. of Otago): Archaeology in Pitcairn.

An account will be given of the work of the 1963/64 Otago University Expedition, including surface survey and excavations at settlement and technological sites. An assessment will be made of the results, with some consideration of the prehistory of the island in relation to that of the surrounding area.

11.30-12.00 - D. Simmons (Otago Museum): Dendroglyphs and Archaeology in the Chathams.

Perhaps the most striking and least durable of the prehistoric monuments in the Chatham Islands are the bark carvings. An expedition was mounted to study the carvings in relation to the other prehistoric evidence in the Chathams. This survey has raised a number of problems which could be of interest for New Zealand and Polynesian prehistory generally. Prehistoric and historic sites of the Chathams are many and varied, but as the land area is strictly limited, a suggested settlement pattern can be deduced from site distributions.

12.00-12.30 - Discussion: Led by R. Duff and participants in Symposium.

Tuesday, 16th February - Afternoon Symposium: South-West Pacific Studies.

3.00-5.00 - A Congress Symposium sponsored by the social science section and of general interest to all.

Tuesday, 16th February - Evening: Special A.G.M. of NZAA.

8.00 - Agenda: Adoption of first scheduling of Category I & II sites.

Address: Dr. G. Blake-Palmer (Wellington, Pres. NZAA):
Our Association, its origins, present problems and future prospects.

Early references to archaeological interest in New Zealand are noted from missionary and early settlement period. Some parallels are drawn with the role of local archaeological societies in Great Britain and the development of archaeology on a national basis since the formation of the NZAA. The Association's future role in recording, conservation and research and its pattern of co-operation with Universities, Museums, and Government Departments and Agencies, whose responsibilities bear directly on archaeology, is then discussed.

Wednesday, 17th February - Morning Symposium: New Techniques for Investigating Prehistoric Materials.

Chairman: Mr. F.W. Shawcross.

9.00-9.30 - J. Kennedy (Otago Anthro. Soc.): Bay of Islands Pa. 1772.

The use of archaeological investigations in conjunction with early historical records will be illustrated by a description of the 1772 settlement in the southern Bay of Islands. Reference will be made to knowledge gained from recent site surveys and excavations in the locality by the University of Otago project during December 1964 and January 1965.

Wednesday, 17th February (Cont'd).

9.30-10.00 - J.M. Davidson (Univ. of Auckland): Techniques for Sampling and Analysing Refuse Deposits.

Refuse deposits, or middens as they are often called, have long been regarded as a "happy hunting ground" by seekers of artifacts, but it is only recently that archaeologists have begun, by systematic excavation and sampling, to tap the wealth of information about diet, economics and ecology which these sites also contain. Different kinds of deposits will be briefly described and methods will be discussed by which important information other than artifacts can be obtained.

10.00-10.30 - E. Crosby (Univ. of Auckland): Aspects in the Classification of New Zealand Fishing Gear.

The technological category 'fishing gear' covers a wide field of equipment, but for practical purposes this discussion is limited to those components liable to be preserved in archaeological sites. Various outlines for the classification of fishing gear will be reviewed in the light of current research in Polynesia and a survey of existing materials in New Zealand collections.

10.30-11.00 - TEA.

11.00-11.25 - F.W. Shawcross (Univ. of Auckland): Swamp Archaeology.

Anaerobic conditions which exist in permanently waterlogged deposits make possible preservation of organic artefacts. For many years chance discoveries have been made of Maori woodwork in New Zealand's swamps, but only more recently have techniques of archaeological investigation in swamp sites been applied here. This paper describes the Kauri Point swamp, which was excavated according to methods originally developed in Scandinavia, and applied to such famous sites as the British one of Star Carr. The results of this work suggest a considerable and fruitful similarity between the techniques of Northern European archaeology and those which might be employed in New Zealand.

11.30-12.00 - J. Hjarnó (Otago Museum): Conservation of Artifacts.

All the substances from which man has made his artifacts are subject to deterioration due to mechanical, fungal, bacterial, ultra-violet and chemical damage. While these processes apply even to stone, organic materials are much more vulnerable. Even when organic artifacts have been preserved in their original forms they are much altered structurally, and are liable to disintegrate ultimately through exposure to normal atmospheric conditions. At the present time a considerable amount of research is going on into the causes of deterioration and methods of its prevention which may be employed by both archaeologists and museums to preserve the evidence of the past.

12.00-12.30 - Discussion: led by Mr. Shawcross.

Wednesday, 17th February - Afternoon Papers: Current Research Around New Zealand.
Chairman: Mr. R.A.L. Batley (Taihape).

2.30-2.50 - M.M. Trotter (Otago): The Barbed Fishhook; its place in New Zealand Prehistory.

Evidence that the barb was a feature of early Polynesian Culture is

gradually being accepted, but specimens from early New Zealand sites are still often treated with suspicion. Published records will be briefly reviewed and a description given of varieties obtained from recent excavations of Moa-hunter sites in North Otago as evidence of general use of barbs in an Aspect of the Murihika Archaic.

2.55-3.30 - O.R. Wilkes (Canterbury Museum): Excavations at Wairau Bar.

Fieldwork and excavations carried out since the publication of Duff's "Moa-hunter Period of Maori Culture" (2nd ed., 1956) is summarized. Particular attention is paid to quantitative analysis of occupation residues, and to lithology and provenance of artifacts materials reflecting the sequence of occupations at the site.

3.35-3.55 - G. Mason (Canterbury): Some Problems in Rock Shelter Art with Reference to South Canterbury.

A theoretical framework for the investigation of key problems in the study of rock drawings is considered and an analysis presented of the problems met in the field when recording drawings and excavating rock shelters containing them.

4.00-4.25 - B.G. McFadgen (Univ. of Otago): Excavations at Foxton.

Excavation has revealed in the dune belt near Foxton a site once occupied by Polynesians and showing evidence of hunting, gathering and fishing activities by these people. The site, which falls into the Archaic Phase of New Zealand Eastern Polynesian Culture, demonstrates for this region, contemporaneity of man with the Dinornis and other species of Moa, at a time not earlier than 1250 A.D.

4.30-4.55 - T.R. Price (Hastings): Excavations at Poukawa.

Owing to favourable weather in Hawkes Bay, excavations almost every week-end have been in progress for two years at the Poukawa swamp. Over eight thousand broken and worked bones of extinct birds and moas (with a six to one ratio in favour of extinct birds) have been recovered closely associated with two pumice layers, and scattered objects of man. From a stream bank immediately alongside these deposits, some 2000 objects relating to human activity have been found and three pumice deposits have been located preserved in material excavated by him from a headland overlooking the deposits.

5.00-5.25 - D.R. Robinson (Hawera): Results of Recent Excavations in South Taranaki.

The main points to be covered are as follows: (1) Locations of controlled excavations; (2) Scope of each excavation and its aim; (3) Summary of published reports, and (4) Summary of unpublished material.

Wednesday, 17th February - Evening - 8.00 p.m. Informal Seminar.
Chairman: L.H. Groube.

J. Golson (Australian National Univ.): Ends are Means: Theory and Practice with reference to New Zealand Archaeology.

Taking the materials of New Zealand prehistory and recent discussions of its organization and interpretation, this paper aims to show the integral and inescapable role of theory in the assembly and explanation of data.