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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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 FURTHER HEAPHY RIVER EXCAVATIONS

O.R. Wilkes and R.J. Scarlett

A further three weeks' excavation has been carried out at the Heaphy River moa-hunter site since the previous report (Wilkes, Scarlett and Boraman 1963). The chief feature of this excavation was the discovery of a further two paved areas.

Pavement 2 was about 9 feet across and of roughly triangular shape. Pavement 3 was 5 feet across and of no particular shape. Both lacked the raised kerb found on the first pavement. From the abundance of flakes and abraders around these pavements it appears that they served as workshop areas, and the paving may have served to keep the workers and their materials off the West Coast mud, which, judging by our wet weather experiences, would have been ubiquitous. Pavement 1 seemed to be devoted mainly to woodworking, and Pavements 2 and 3 to the manufacture of minnow shanks and to a lesser degree, to woodworking.

A C 14 dating of 1518^T-70 A.D. has been obtained from the Institute of Nuclear Sciences. This confirms the impression obtained while collecting sub-fossil moa from local caves that Anomalopteryx must have survived until fairly recent times. It is interesting to note that the obsidian collection is of 100% yellow-green translucency in contrast to the earlier (.1150AD) Wairau Bar collection which is 87% yellow green.

A full report on these excavations has been prepared for publication in the Records of the Canterbury Museum.

Reference:

Wilkes, O.R., Scarlett, R.J., and Boraman, G. 1963. Two Moa-hunter sites in North West Nelson. N.Z.A.A. Newsletter 6 (2) p.88.

References to 'Further Work at South Bay':

Fomison, T. 1963 "Excavations at South Bay, Kaikoura." NWESLETTER Vol.6, no. 2 page 100.

Scarlett, R. 1963 "Comments on 'Excavations at South Bay, Kaikoura!'" NEWSLETTER Vol 6. no.3 page 159.