

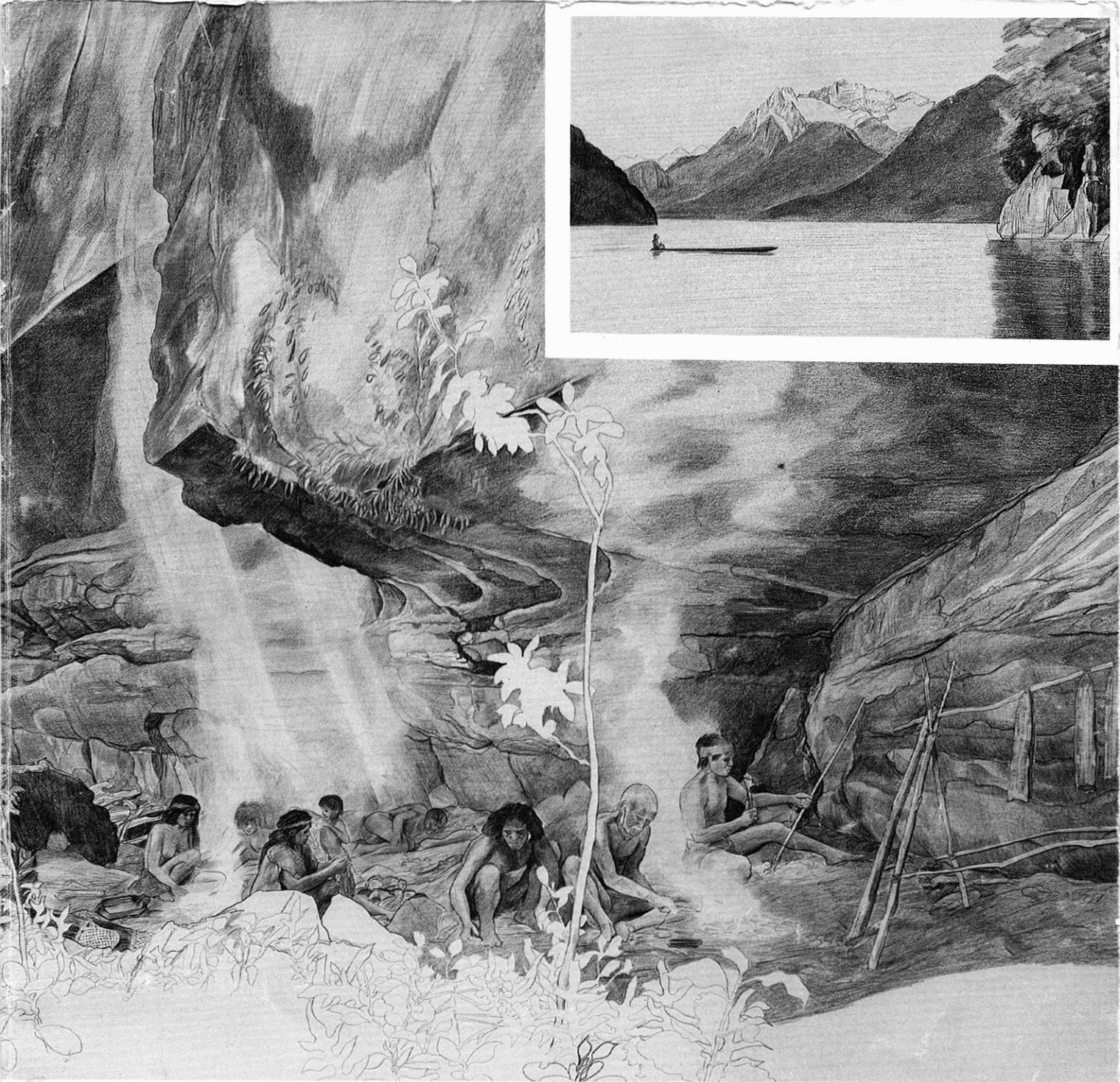


**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MONOGRAPH 18:
Atholl Anderson and Richard McGovern-Wilson (eds), *Beech Forest
Hunters***



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Beech Forest Hunters

Edited by
Atholl Anderson and Richard McGovern-Wilson

New Zealand Archaeological Association Monograph 18

INTRODUCTION

Atholl Anderson

This volume brings to a conclusion an archaeological salvage project which began in 1979. During April that year, Dr John Hall-Jones, Honorary Park Ranger of Fiordland National Park, advised the Southland Museum that rockshelter sites had been discovered by Messrs Russell Dawson and Vernon Thompson of Te Anau on Lee Island, Lake Te Anau. Several days later the sites were inspected by Ms Jennifer Cave, then Anthropologist at the Southland Museum. She took charge of the material which the discoverers had removed, including a totara bark basket from S131/5, and wrote a detailed report (Cave 1979). During May she discussed the sites with me and we concluded that in view of their delicate nature and proximity to the main boating route up the lake, as well as the fact that their discovery was by then well known in the local community, the only practical conservative measure was salvage archaeology.

After lengthy discussions, however, our proposal to undertake this was rejected by Southland Maori authorities, who felt uneasy about giving permission to disturb an ancestral site. In addition, a history of unhappy experiences at the hands of fossickers and some foreign researchers had created an expectation that archaeologists would take no notice of Maori concerns in any case, and would simply go ahead and excavate. The Maori hope was that Fiordland National Park staff would be able to protect the sites from further damage. But the Park Board argued that it could not afford to build protective grills in front of the sites or undertake special patrols and it urged excavation. Park staff and Southland Maori representatives visited the sites with Cave in December, but the impasse remained and we withdrew our proposal.

The December 1979 visit had disclosed further evidence of fossicking, albeit on a minor scale, and similar events continued to occur. In August 1982, Park Ranger Ray Slater and Mr Les Henderson saw an adze on the surface of S131/4 and decided, reasonably enough, that it should be recovered. In September, Ms Lynette Williams, the newly-appointed Anthropologist at the Southland Museum, discovered more fossick holes in S131/3, S131/4 and S131/6, and she and I examined the sites in November. Early in 1983 a large fire-plough and stick which had been taken from S131/4 in 1982 were handed in to the Southland Museum.

By now it had become apparent that rescue archaeology was the only appropriate management decision left. Southland Maori authorities agreed and gave permission for excavations. These took place 4-14 March 1983 and were directed jointly by

Williams and me. The Waihopai Maori Committee took a close interest and the work was preceded by karakia led by Mr Jerry Ratima. Generous funding was provided by the Lands and Survey Department, Invercargill, and the Fiordland National Park Board provided every facility we required, including staff, transport and accommodation.

The material recovered was taken to the University of Otago for analysis, but progress was uneven. Some categories of material proved difficult to identify, and various promised reports remained incomplete. In particular, Williams found it very difficult to continue working on the project after she took up an appointment at Canterbury Museum. In 1989 she relinquished her interest and McGovern-Wilson agreed to assist in getting the outstanding papers completed and edited.

All the material recovered by excavation, together with notes and plans, has been deposited in the Southland Museum and Art Gallery by agreement with the Waihopai Maori Committee, the Fiordland National Park Board and the Museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much has changed since 1983, including institutions as well as individuals, but in most cases it seems sensible to acknowledge both as they were at the time. For assistance on and off the sites I thank:

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2. The Southland Museum and Art Gallery, particularly Mr Russell Beck, Mr Michael Forrest, Mr Karl Gillies, Ms Jenny Cave and Ms Lyn Williams. To the latter two friends and colleagues I owe, of course, a particular debt of thanks.
3. The Fiordland National Park Board and staff, especially Mr Ted Atkinson, Mr Paul Green, Mr Kim Morrison, Mr Hunter Shaw, Mr Bill Thompson and Mr Chris McMillan. Others on, or associated with, the Park Board and staff who provided useful assistance were Mr John Hall-Jones, Mr Les Henderson, Mr Tony Dunn, Ms Claire Maley, Mr John Ayto, and Messrs Owen and Neil and Ms Jill Linscott.
4. Mr W.J. Reilly of the Lands and Survey Department, Invercargill.
5. University of Otago students: Ms Pamela Bain, Ms Deborah Foster, Ms Anna Harrison, Mr Simon Holdaway, Mr Brian Kooyman and Ms Moira White. Mrs Susan Kooyman, Ms Ingrid Adamczyk, Ms Andrea Seelenfreund and

Mr Chuck Bollong also assisted.

6. Historic Places Trust: Mr Neville Ritchie.
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The following abbreviations are used throughout the monograph:

- J.P.S. = Journal of the Polynesian Society
J.R.S.N.Z. = Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand
N.Z.A.A. = New Zealand Archaeological Association
N.Z.J.A. = New Zealand Journal of Archaeology
N.Z.J.S. = New Zealand Journal of Science
T.N.Z.I. = Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute
T.R.S.N.Z. = Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand

REFERENCE

- Cave, J. 1979. The Lee Island Shelters, Lake Te Anau. *Southland Museum Publication*, 1979/3.