



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

I was delighted to see the publication of the photograph of the people attending the 1956 conference with the names recorded. The history of all branches of anthropology in New Zealand is fascinating both because of the individuals involved and the ideas they have played with. It is important that we encourage people to record their memories of involvement in things anthropological and to ensure that potential archival material is clearly directed to the appropriate institutions.

Recently the family of Bill Hartree (identified in your 1956 photograph) gave to the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum his collection of moa bones and the remaining portion of his correspondence and papers relating to archaeology and moa. The collection and papers are available to those involved in moa research. Unfortunately most of the material is not identified, though it is well provenanced. Most of the collection is from sites close to his farm at Patoke, Hawke's Bay. The correspondence is from Ron Scarlett, Roger Duff, Colin Smart, Gilbert Archey, John Yaldwyn, J.S. Watson, K. Wodzicki, A.J. Healy, P. Dwyer, W.F. Harris, H.S. Gibbs, R.W. Willett, H. Gibbs, R.A. Falla and R.K. Dell.

The Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum Library also has some of the J.D.H. Buchanan papers. Of interest to archaeologists may be those relating to the beginnings of the site recording scheme in which Buchanan took an active role. There are three notebooks of particular interest on this topic. The first is "Recording and Preservation of South Pacific Archaeological Sites". The second is a letter book relating to a proposed New Zealand archaeological recording scheme. This includes letters from W.A. Bodkin, R.W. Halbert, R.G. Dick, Peter Buck, W.J. Phillipps, C.B. Brereton, Leo Bestall, H.D. Skinner, V.F. Fisher, Gilbert Archey, Les Lockerbie, R.A. Scobie, Ralph Piddington, Ernest Beaglehole, J.H. Beattie, G. Blake Palmer and G.L. Adkin. These letters are dated 1951-2.

The scheme Buchanan proposed took shape after the Science Congress in 1951. In the third notebook Buchanan describes the development of his ideas and the scheme itself in an address to an N.Z.A.A. conference.

The list of correspondents for both Hartree and Buchanan indicate a wide network of people concerned with matters archaeological in the 1950s outside the university departments. Museums and government departments were playing the same vital role then as they are today. There was a wide amateur network

also, of people with broad anthropological interests who were easily attracted to the association's activities. Our ability to attract the interest of those not professionally involved in archaeology has been a concern of successive Association councils. In this regard I would like to commend Mary Jeal for her efforts here in Hawke's Bay to co-ordinate a diverse group of locals who enjoy regular discussions of matters archaeological. The vitality of the Association outside the main centres of Otago, Canterbury, Wellington and Auckland is dependent on people like Mary.

Yours sincerely

David J Butts
Hawke's Bay Art Gallery & Museum
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