



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Site Ranking

Dear Sir,

It is pleasing to see, in the last issue of the News-letter, that the Historic Places Trust is making progress in evaluating the significance of archaeological sites (Jones, 1981). The author is in error, however, in implying (pp. 170, 177) that the three "site evaluation categories" he puts forward were initiated by Trust staff. The original version of the three-part "A - preserve, B - investigate, C - modify" system was in fact proposed in 1976 (see Coster and Johnston, 1976) in response to requests from the Auckland Conservancy of the New Zealand Forest Service for a workable system of site evaluation.

The three "management groups", as they were termed at that time, were adopted by the Forest Service (see Coster, 1979:92) in a form almost identical to that cited by Jones, but it was not until nearly two years after the idea was first mooted that the Trust began to pay it serious attention (see McFadgen, 1978:2).

John Coster  
New Zealand Forest Service  
Awanui

References

- |                            |      |   |
|----------------------------|------|---|
| Coster, J.                 | 1979 | Exotic Forestry and Site Management in the Auckland Region. Pp 89-94 in J.R. McKinlay and K.L. Jones (eds.), <u>Archaeological Resource Management in Australia and Oceania</u> . N.Z. Historic Places Trust, Wellington. |
| Coster, J. and G. Johnston | 1976 | Archaeological Survey 1976-1977. Internal memorandum, File 6/0/21/1, N.Z. Forest Service, Auckland.   |
| Jones, K.L.                | 1981 | Site ranking: the New Zealand Historic Places Trust criteria for field surveys. <u>N.Z.A.A. Newsletter</u> , 24:164-178.  |

McFadgen, B.G.

1978 Proposals for Evaluation and  
Management of Archaeological  
Sites Recorded During Site Sur-  
veys of Forest Service Land. Un-  
published paper HP 171/1978, N.Z.  
Historic Places Trust, Wellington.

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Opito hook points

Dear Sir,

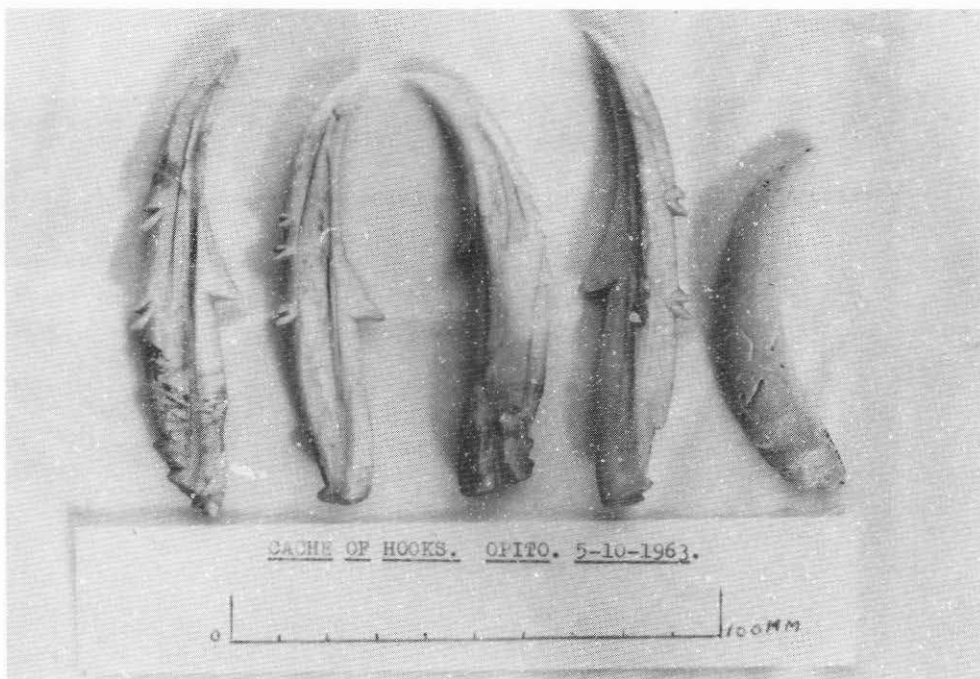
The hooks illustrated (Pls 1 and 2) were found by chance whilst walking along Opito Bay beach on 5 October 1963. I noticed something odd in the edge of the dune, and was amazed at the handful I had, hooks, four ivory, one shell.

I have previously stated that the Opito area contains Archaic and Maori working and living areas, and the hooks I feel are part of the evidence for Maori habitation. Just what kind of fishing they were used for is a matter for conjecture. I made no attempt to excavate in the area at the time, so if there was anything to suggest wooden pieces as part of composite hooks, the evidence is still in place, if erosion has not removed it.

The pieces are so very well made that I have considered ceremonial or sacred use. Dr. Sinoto has carefully examined them, and concluded that they were of some kind of sea mammal ivory. The possibility of pig tusks was ruled out on account of their size. Some one has stated that such hooks were used for capture of albatrosses.

I hope that some readers will by means of a letter to the Editor, or a short article enlarge our knowledge of the use and method of manufacture of this kind of artifact. The hooks are held in the writer's collection.

R.G.W. Jolly  
Papakura



OPITO FISHHOOKS Plate 1.



OPITO FISHHOOKS Plate 2. Reverse.