



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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NOTES AND NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

The Association would like to welcome the following new members and wishes them many happy years of archaeological endeavours:

Kaye Albyt, Barbara Ellis.

STANDARDISED COMPUTER VERSIONS OF THE SITE RECORD FORM

Council have moved to standardise the format of computer derived Site Record Forms, as it was found that more and more members were producing their SRFs on computers and there was a growing promeration of types.

The standardised versions are available in either Mac or PC format and may be obtained by forwarding a formatted disk to Rick McGovern-Wilson, P0 Box 9004, St Clair, Dunedin and I will copy the file onto your disk and return it. Remember to tell me what version you require as my Mac accepts both types of disk.

Members who continue to use their own style are likely to find their SRFs returned by both Regional and Central Filekeeper for 'tidying up'.

1995 CONFERENCE

There has been a change of venue for the 1995 Conference - it will be held in Dunedin over Queen's Birthday Weekend, 3-5 June. We will be offering a full programme of papers, fieldtrips and social events and people should start thinking ahead. Full details, including options for accommodation will be included with the subscription notice early in the New Year.

Meanwhile, if people have papers they wish to offer, please forward details to:

1995 Conference Organiser, P0 Box 6337, Dunedin North.

HOUHORA REVISITED

I am cataloguing and analysing the artefacts in Auckland Museum from the early site of Mt Camel at Houhora, which was excavated by Wilfred Shawcross and Noel Roe in 1965.

If any members were present at the excavation and have recollections they

would like to share, or information about 'fellow diggers', please contact me.

Louise Furey
Auckland Museum
Private Bag 92018
Auckland

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING, 10th Sept.1994

- Kelvin, Pam, Chris and Warren had a very successful meeting with Te Taru White, Group Manager Regions, Te Puni Kokiri Headquarters the day before the Council meeting. We hope, and it seems likely, that this will lead to a helpful long term relationship with this organisation and, through it, with iwi groups in the regions.

- We are deeply concerned about the seeming ineffectiveness of the legal deterrents of the Historic Places Act, 1993. We have written more than once to the Trust about following through with prosecutions in documented cases of knowing and wilful cases of site destruction. We urge archaeologists to support the legislation by attempting to employ its statutory powers wherever possible.

- There is an urgent need for a conference for filekeepers. We are applying for funding for this purpose.

- We are also applying for funding for the production of a new NZAA pamphlet and for a rewriting of the site recording handbook.

- A proposal for the funding of a report on the consequences of the recent division of responsibility for the protection and management of archaeological sites between NZHPT and DOC is being submitted to the Royal Society.

Moira White, Secretary, NZAA

ASHA JOURNAL, VOLUME 9, 1991

The papers presented by New Zealand contributors (R. Brassey, R. Clough, K. Jones, S. Macready, P. Mahoney, N. Ritchie and I. Smith) at the ASHA conference (Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology) held in Auckland in 1990 have finally been published in Vol.9 of the ASHA Journal. Although the journal issue is dated 1991, various unforeseen production delays resulted in the journal not appearing until late 1993. A further paper by N. Prickett will appear in Volume 10 due out shortly.

OBITUARY

Robert Hamilton Wallace Parker, 1916-1994



Ham was a character. He was one of those rare people who was in one way or another memorable for just about everyone he came in contact with. Everyone has their own recollections.

Kath Prickett, who began at Otago University in 1968, remembers her first encounter with Ham, sitting in the Museum lecture theatre waiting for her opening Stage I lecture in Anthropology. A small, scruffy man who Kath took to be the cleaner entered at the front and began arranging things on the desk. When Ham began his lecture there was the surprise of his beautiful speaking voice.

When I went to Otago in 1970 Ham was well known around campus, as well as being an important part of the small Anthropology Department teaching staff. He would hold court in the 'caff', talking about much more than just archaeology, with a changing group as students came and went to lectures. Always there was a cigarette in his right hand, lit from the stub of the last one. Ham would tap the ash over his left shoulder in a mannerism which left you wondering how it was he had never set fire to himself.

This was the era of the Vietnam War, of which Ham held very different views to most students. His politics, I believe, took after those of his father who had been involved with the National Party. But while I recall him giving his views, I do not remember any shouting matches resulting from these minority opinions. There was much more to talk about than just the issues of the moment.

opinions. There was much more to talk about than just the issues of the moment.

It will astonish students of the nineties to learn that Ham chain-smoked throughout his lectures, lighting one cigarette from the last, often only half smoked, and tapping the ash over his shoulder. His lectures were always interesting - or was it that his topics were interesting, I can't remember. Certainly, to Ham fell many of the subjects - Old World civilisations, New Zealand archaeology, etc. - that drew many of us to the subject. He could hardly fail.

Ham never finished his own degree, a circumstance he sometimes spoke of with pride, reckoning, truly enough, that he would be the last of his kind. It was a life of different parts: boy, soldier, farmer, teacher, archaeologist. For all that his interest in archaeology started early.

After an attempt to study medicine at Otago, Ham switched to the arts. Among other subjects he enrolled in H.D. Skinner's introductory anthropology course in, I think, 1938. He also began writing poetry at this time. When war broke out Ham quickly enlisted and went away with the 24th Battalion, 2nd N.Z.E.F. In the Western Desert he is said to have emptied his pack of soldier's equipment, to fill it with potsherds which he would take back to Egyptologist Guy Brunton in Cairo. And he continued to write poems which I recall the late Ron O'Reilly describing as far from bad.

Back on the farm he maintained his interest in archaeology, and especially Egyptology. He taught himself hieroglyphics, and ordered through a local bookshop in Tauranga the wonderful publication on the Wilbour Papyrus, which caused the owner to emerge from the back of the shop and shake him by the hand when the order finally arrived from England.

In Dunedin in the early seventies Ham and his great friend Donn Bayard would head over the Museum Reserve at 5 o'clock every evening, regular as clockwork, for a drink at 'The Cook'. Donn's long ambling strides contrasted with Ham's compact figure and walk. In summer this was early in the long southern twilight; in winter it was already dark and the north Dunedin pubs would be filling with students, ready to settle in for the evening.

For a time Ham lived next to Kath and me at Broad Bay. We played a lot of chess for which he studied openings from his extensive chess library. Sometimes I went to his place, but the mountain of cigarette butts spilling from the fireplace onto the living room floor and green loaves of bread on the kitchen bench eventually put me off. Ham then came over to our place which was more comfortable. These were the days before anyone had heard of passive smoking.

When Ham was suddenly ill I took him into 'Accident and Emergency' in town. I understood at the time that his problems were connected with being run

care of himself. In later years that was left to his wife, Minh.

But for a call from Doug Sutton I would not have known that Ham had died. Few archaeologists were able to make his funeral. The service at the chapel of the Onehunga undertaker, C.H. Barker, was conducted and the eulogy given by the Rev. Bruce Hucker. We then went to the servicemen's section of the Waikaraka Cemetery where Ham was buried to the strains of 'Whakaaria mai' beautifully sung by Maori friends, and a badly damaged tape recording of the 'Last Post' provided by the Onehunga R.S.A.

Ham was a most unusual person. I know of few people with less interest in personal appearance, or indeed the material things of this world. And he was probably too interested in too many things ever to have gone up the academic ladder. But his fascinating talk on an immense range of subjects and his gentleness of manner made him a pleasure to be with. He will always be remembered by those lucky enough to have known him.

Nigel Prickett

(See pp. 255-271 for a full account of Ham's life by Elaine Cooper and Doug Sutton)