



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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detailed examination but we may note here the presence of Kuri and Tuatara both from Layer III situations.

The area excavated was very small in relation to the total area of the site (probably at least 8 acres) and no firm generalisations can be drawn. The evidence, however, seems sufficient to suggest tentatively:

1) That it is possible to recognise locally in the area excavated, four distinct phases of occupation and that the evidence suggests that they are spread over a prolonged period of time. The evidence obtained from the working floor on the beach front of the site indicates that the earliest occupation cannot be much later than 1300 A.D., and the sum of the evidence which cannot be argued here in full that it may be substantially earlier.

2) That Layer III occupation at least is 'Archaic' in cultural terms, and shows strong parallels to the earlier phase of occupation at Sarah's Gully.

It is clear that the site is one of great interest and of some importance and it is to be hoped that the Society will at some not too distant future date be able to resume its exploration.

NOTES FROM THE AUCKLAND MUSEUM by V.F.Fisher

On March 19, 1960, the extensions to the Auckland War Memorial Museum were officially opened by His Excellency, the Governor-General, the Viscount Cobham. So the Hall of Memories and the War Trophy Halls were opened to the public, and some of the natural history halls re-opened. On the ground floor a new addition -- the Hall of Oceanic Navigation -- was also thrown open to visitors. As its name implies, this new section displays a representative series of canoes from the Pacific Islands. The plan for a special hall to house Oceanic canoes was of long-standing, and so slowly, over the years, canoe after canoe was added to the collection.

Within the restrictions and limitations of a large hall, an attempt has been made to give a hint of the Pacific atmosphere by the use of sand, tropical plants, shells and driftwood. But it is the canoes themselves that are important, for each is different, and all impel attention because of beauty of form, pride of craftsmanship, and constructional details. Several issues of the Newsletter

portrayed on the front cover a sketch of an adze. This reminds us that all canoes of the Pacific area were the product of skilled artisans wielding either stone or shell adzes.

Pride of place is given to a Tikopian outrigger canoe, complete with Pandanus sail. This sail was rigged by four Tikopian men, who spent some time in Auckland a few years ago. For recompense they chose fish-hooks, plane blades, axes, and other items carefully selected at a large hardware store.

Nearby is a small sailing canoe from the Gilbert Islands, made by Tem Matang of Tarawa, which came to the Museum in 1955. Like the Tikopian canoe it is fully rigged with a neatly plaited Pandanus sail. Owing to the shortage of timber in the Gilberts, imported wood has been used for the hull planks, but native timbers were employed for all other portions of the canoe. For the float the breadfruit, te mai, was selected; for the crutch support for the steering paddle a reddish coloured wood te ngia (Pemphis acidula) was chosen; and the white wood of the kanawa (Cordia subcordata) for a small section at the bow, while the mast and steering paddle are of coconut wood. Bearing the name Te Ang ni Raoi (the fair wind), this canoe was sailed on the Waitemata Harbour by two Gilbertese student teachers in 1957 in order to demonstrate its sailing abilities.

Two small outrigger canoes with a hull hewn from a single tree come from Samoa and Raratonga. From Atiu in the Cook Islands is a large double canoe (vaka katea) bearing the poetic name Te Kiva o te Rangi or 'the blue dome of the heavens'. One hull that on the port side, is shorter than the other, and so serves the purpose of the float on an outrigger canoe. The hulls of Tamanu (Calophyllum inophyllum) are not hollowed out of single logs, but consist of sections of four trunks securely lashed together.

Sikaiana or Stewart Island contributes a fine outrigger canoe (waka) of a type paddled on the lagoon or in the vicinity of the reef. Its long, narrow hull, fashioned from a single tree-trunk, has a washstrake lashed firmly in position. Secured to the booms of the float are a series of light stringers which provide a large platform.

Solomon Island canoes are well represented by six plank-built examples, including two from Buka, and one each from Ysabel and Ulawa. The exterior of the Ysabel canoe hull is covered with

the so-called 'putty-nut' (Parinarium). The kernel of this nut is reddish-brown in colour when applied, but it quickly changes to black and sets very hard. An attractive decorative effect is produced by inserting pearl-shell inlay to portray the frigate bird. The scintillating pearl-shell forms a marked contrast to the black back-ground of Parinarium cement. Both bow and stern are ornamented with white Ovulum shells. A small, light, plank canoe from Buka has a painted design of human faces executed in red and black.

The whole of the south wall is decorated with a map mural of the Pacific Islands, thus enabling visitors to locate the area where the canoes were used. Such, then, is a brief sketch of the Hall of Oceanic Navigation, a hall which displays the watercraft of the Pacific. In some small measure it does justice to the Oceanic sailors who, in single or double canoe, or maybe in an outrigger, voyaged from island to island, explored the coastline of their own islands home, or perhaps merely went a-fishing.

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGIST by H.J.R.Brown.

Archaeologists and teachers throughout New Zealand are often asked by children for books on archaeology. The following is a list of books found to be very readable, well illustrated, and, in most instances, reasonably priced. (The prices quoted are approximate for New Zealand.)

The Puzzle of the Past (The Wonderful World of Archaeology); Ronald Jessup, Rathbone Books, London, 1956. Price 15/-

Seventy large, well illustrated pages cover many general aspects of archaeology. Written by a practical, experienced archaeologist, the book is divided into five chapters. 'The Past sets a Problem' introduces the subject, and following chapters are headed, 'Preserving the Clues', 'Unearthing History', 'Methods and Science', and lastly, 'The Past Has a Future'.

The coverage is great: "Dragon Bones", Tree ring chronology, the work of C.J.Thomsen (first curator of the Danish national archaeological collection), Dr.Howard Carter and Tutankhamen, aerial photography, area excavation, underwater archaeology, first-aid in the field, Carbon 14 and the Piltdown forgery are some of the subjects dealt with in a general, elementary and accurate manner. This work is by far the best book for children.