



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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JOHN HOUSTON O.B.E.

In June of this year after fighting a debilitating illness for five years and nearly fifty years after he was admitted to the Bar, John Houston died in New Plymouth Hospital.

Mr. Houston became interested in the Maori people in the late twenties when the late Rev. Tahupotiki Haddon became his mentor and confidant on the history and traditions of the South Taranaki Ngati-ruanui tribe. Students will be familiar with some of the fruits of his friendship with the Maori people, for in 1932 he published notes on some sixty pa sites which lay around the town of Hawera. In addition he published some of the traditions of the local tribe, thus providing a valuable source of material for research. The writer is indebted to him for his great interest in the more recent field-work in the area. The Archaeological Association was supported by him from its early years.

In later years he became interested in Maori wood-carving and published several descriptive articles in the J.P.S. on material from the Waitara area. It was always his hope that a piece of genuine South Taranaki stone-tool work would be discovered before he died, but nothing except agricultural tools came his way. He had a modest but excellent collection of artifacts amongst which it was his roguish delight to place an Irish neolithic adze which his Father had found on ancestral lands.

Mr. Houston was keenly interested in a practical way in the welfare of the local Maoris and was accepted by a local hapu who made him an Elder. New Zealand has lost a scholar and a writer. We regret his passing, but we are grateful for what he left for posterity.

A. G. Buist

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WILLIAM HENRY HARTREE

It is with deepest regret that the Association records the death, after a period of illness, of William Henry Hartree on March 2nd 1962, in Hawke's Bay.

Bill was an active member, particularly in the investigations of the limestone caves and rock-shelters in his district, and it was in the latter connection that the writer grew to know him very well, and to realise his enthusiasm, tireless energy and self-devotion to the activities in which he was interested.

To his wife and his children we extend our deepest sympathy. The writer has lost a dearly valued friend. Bill will be missed by all who knew him.

Ron Scarlett

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