



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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SHORTER COMMUNICATIONS

PERFORATED SHELLS

Alan Taylor

In the course of a recent survey of several Manukau paa sites, perforated shells were recovered from a number of exposed middens. Principally queen scallop (Notovola Novaezelandiae), the shells were of the following species: Tuangi or common cockle (Chione stutchburyi); Triangle shell (Spisula aequilateralis); Ringed dosinia (Dosinia anus); Auckland rock oyster (Saxostrea glomerata); Ostrich foot (Struthiolaria papulosa); Southern olive (Baryspira australis); Slipper shell (Maoricrypta costata); and Siphon whelk (Austriosipho adusta). Used as charms and for necklaces, the shells are drill-bored or roughly stone-perforated. The large number collected suggests that the shells, generally, were of limited value, were, probably, used once and then disposed of. There is little evidence of continued use, particularly in respect to stone-perforated shells which were possibly used as a 'sound accompaniment' in dancing. These shells are normally the large species queen scallop and ringed dosinia. The smaller drilled shells, Southern olive, for example, were probably the atahu or charms; they occasionally show slight signs of wear.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL CROSS-SECTION SYMBOLS

Alan Taylor

The following 35 cross-section symbols are alphabetically arranged and represent, in a simple form, relatively common natural and artificial stratigraphical material present on most field sites.

The symbols are designed for both prehistoric Maori and 19th Century European military and civil archaeological sites: paa, mission stations and block-houses, for example.

In addition to the set of symbols is a theoretical cross-section with numbered symbols, which could possibly be adopted as much needed standard symbols for either a specific region or the country as a whole.

A combination of symbol and numeral is advised in the more complex cross-section drawing.

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