



NEW ZEALAND  
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**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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RECENT FINDS FROM HAURAKI

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Remarkable finds are still being made of Maori carving. Two recent finds - a lintel from Thames and a figure from Kennedy Bay - add greatly to knowledge of carving styles.

The Harataonga figure (see cover)

Towards the end of 1979 a female figure was found at Ropita Point, Kennedy Bay on the Coromandel coast (N40/834703) by A.W. McKenzie. The carving was embedded in blue clay exposed by the tide. Custody under the Antiquities Act has been granted to the Harataonga marae but until the marae is completed the figure is to be kept in Auckland Museum (catalogue number 50431). The dimensions of the figure are as follows: length 52 cm, width 19 cm, depth 19 cm.

The figure has been made with stone tools and predates the present day occupancy of the area by Ngati Porou of the East Coast. About 1850 Captain Kennedy accompanied a settling group of Ngati Porou to Harataonga Bay. The Ngati Porou had been using the bay as a stopover on the way to sell potatoes in Auckland. Ngati Porou were granted the land to grow potatoes by both Ngati Maru and Ngati Hei.

The former occupants of the area were Ngati Huarere. To the south of them were Ngati Hei. Both of these tribes are of Arawa origin. Ngati Hei who live around Te Whanganui a Hei or Mercury Bay are the descendants of Hei, elder brother of Tama Te Kapua of the Arawa canoe. Ngati Huarere were the descendants of Huarere, grandson of Tama Te Kapua. Ihenga his father also lived on Moehau and it is on the main peak of Moehau that Tama Te Kapua was buried. His brother Hei was buried at Te O a Hei (commonly called Hahei) on the pa named Hereheretaua. Ngati Huarere came under severe pressure from the Ngati Maru tribes of Thames and are said to have eventually reached the state of building their pa in the trees (Graham, 1920 and 1923). As a tribe, the Ngati Huarere ceased to exist, though legends of "the wild men of Moehau" were common among Europeans in the nineteenth century. These almost certainly refer to the Ngati Huarere tales told by Maori and embroidered by European kauri millers, goldminers and settlers.

The Harataonga figure is a central figure probably from the front of a small storehouse. The head is slotted to take a beam which would be horizontal if the figure leant out at an angle. This

would suggest the centre board above the doorway. The figure is female and has shoulders, elbows and hands decorated with tara-tara a kae notching and spirals. This is a feature found on Bay of Plenty carvings. It is the decoration used on the Te Kaha storehouse, Te Potaka (Auckland Museum, No. 22063), on the lintel from Te Puke (Auckland Museum No. 2024), both of which are made with stone tools, and on later Arawa carving such as the storehouse Te Puawai o Te Arawa which stood at Maketu in 1868 and which is also in Auckland Museum.

The Arawa and Mataatua carving styles of the Bay of Plenty are not usually stone tooled styles; there are only rare examples. Stone tooled tara-tara a kae decorated pieces in the Whanau Apanui style of the East Cape, the early Ngati Porou style of the East Coast, and in the Arawa style of the Bay of Plenty, on the other hand, are fairly common. The antiquity of the form is illustrated by the portions of a lintel found in the Kohika excavations which could suggest a sixteenth to eighteenth century date. Considering the history of Ngati Huarere as recorded by Graham (1920) then an early date is more likely for this figure than a later one.

#### The Thames lintel

This lintel (see Plate) was found in two pieces in 1981 on either side of the Waihou River (N49/114124 and N49/128078), after the major floods of March 1981, by Clive Smith of Puriri and Greg Way of Turua. Under the Antiquities Act of 1976 Auckland Museum has been granted custody of the lintel (catalogue number 49391). Conservation of the lintel has now been completed by Gerry Barton, Assistant Conservator at Auckland Museum. Dimensions are as follows: length 110.5 cm, depth 37 cm, thickness 5 cm.

The lintel is the work of a Ngati Porou carver using iron tools about 1830. Enquiries were made among East Coast elders who may have known of such a lintel. We now know that the lintel was a koha (gift) made about 1832 for the marriage of Marumaru of Ngati Porou and Ngati Kahungunu, to Hinekaiwaka of Ngati Maru. The complete wedding gift was a house Iri te paru which stood at Karakaturitunoa village on the Wharepoa Stream near Puriri.

A son of the marriage was Ngahuia who was taken to Te Reinga in Hawkes Bay. In 1863 he was in the party which accompanied the Rev. W. Jenkins to England to see Queen Victoria. At the end of his stay the Austrian Ambassador gave both he and the Pomares a ride around London in his coach. Neither Ngahuia nor the Pomares had a koha left to give in return so gave the Ambassador their patu. These later went to the Archduke. The National Museum of New Zealand has recently acquired Ngahuia's whalebone kotiate, Te Rere o Mou, from the Archduke's grandson and it has been placed on loan in Auckland Museum (catalogue number 50429).

The lintel and whalebone kotiate were recently taken to Thames to be with their people at Mataiwhetu marae, at Kopu (see Plate).

References

- Graham, G.      1920      The wars of Ngati-Huarere and Ngati-Maru-Tuahu, of Hauraki Gulf. Jnl Polyn. Soc., 29:37-41.
- 1923      Ngati-Huarere. Jnl Polyn. Soc., 32:38-43.



THAMES LINTEL. At Mataiwhetu *marae*.



TE NGAHORO. Aerial view from the north.