



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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The Late Mr J.D.H. Buchanan

With the sudden death of John Duncan Henry Buchanan on Saturday, 29th April, 1961, the New Zealand Archaeological Association as well as the whole field of New Zealand history lost a keen enthusiast and a notable authority on the Dominion's past. As a foundation member of the Association, Mr Buchanan's experience in the recording of archaeological sites while a member of the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society provided an invaluable aid to the Archaeological Association in the formation of its national field recording scheme. Many members will recall Mr Buchanan's contribution to the Third Annual Conference at Wanganui in 1958 when he discussed the recording of archaeological field evidence.

Mr Buchanan was also well versed in Maori traditional studies and was considered an authority on the traditions and genealogies of the Ngati Kahungunu tribe of Hawke's Bay. This special knowledge of tradition and prehistory as well as a broader interest in New Zealand history made him a worthy representative of the Royal Society of New Zealand on the National Historic Places Trust. As one of the originators of the proposal for an Historic Places Trust, Mr Buchanan was a member of the Trust from its inception until the time of his death.

Following a brilliant career at Christ's College, Mr Buchanan took Degrees in Science at Canterbury College and also at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Subsequently he returned to Christ's College as a master in 1925, later establishing the Grantchester Preparatory School at Timaru. In 1936 he was appointed Headmaster of Hereworth School at Havelock North, and later for health reasons joined the staff of the Wanganui Collegiate School in 1953.

Despite his academic qualifications and his vast knowledge of historical matters Mr Buchanan was essentially a modest man. His friends will remember his kindness, his wisdom, and his generosity for he made available his own research to fellow workers without thought of personal gain. To his widow and family we offer our deep sympathy and the knowledge that we also are poorer for his loss.

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