

# Editorial

This edition of the Journal commemorates the 1990 ASHA Conference, the first to be held in New Zealand and an occasion that was to lead to much closer relations between New Zealand and Australia in the field of historical archaeology. The Auckland Conference was immensely enjoyable, and since then no Australian conference venue has been without participants from across the Tasman. Our original decision was to publish the papers as a separate volume of conference proceedings, to be edited by Neville Ritchie, the Conference Convener. When it was subsequently decided that they should instead be incorporated into the next edition of the ASHA journal, the Editorial Committee agreed that, in line with normal practice in publishing conference proceedings, this issue would not be formally refereed. Neville Ritchie thus became the Journal's first Guest Editor, and we thank him for his industry in collecting the papers and seeing them through the early stages of publication. This fruitful association has paved the way for the participation of other guest editors in future editions of the Journal. In this context we foreshadow the inclusion of a revised style sheet and instructions to contributors in the next issue (ASHA Journal, volume 10), advance copies of which are currently available for trial. Again we would like to thank Mary Casey and Tony Lowe for assisting with the proof reading of the Journal.

Primary emphasis in the Auckland Conference was on industrial sites, especially those of New Zealand, and its major theme was the exploration of ways in which the archaeology of industrial sites could make a significant contribution to our understanding of the capitalist system: at the same time papers on other themes were not excluded. Neville Ritchie's opening paper provides an excellent overview, with bibliography, of the progress of historical archaeology in New Zealand, an archaeological field of which many in Australia were surprisingly ignorant. Ritchie's paper, together with the magnificent slides that accompanied it when delivered, is primarily site-oriented. Its companion paper by Ian Smith reviews the birth and development of historical archaeology in New Zealand from a bibliographical perspective, providing a complementary frame of reference and an additional valuable bibliography. Macready's review of urban archaeology in Auckland is especially useful in that most of the work it brings to notice, as in Australia and elsewhere, is available only in unpublished reports. Publication of the location and source of such reports is an important first step to their wider accessibility. Jones' paper on archaeological work at the Katherine Mansfield house museum is a good example of a site whose significance lies in its association with a famous figure of the past: Jones well pursues the archaeological and literary issues this raises.

There is little need to underline the usefulness of a paper which presents details of a large, well-dated set of clay tobacco pipes from an Auckland pub in the second half of

the nineteenth century. Stuart's paper on the glass bottles from the 1878 *Loch Ard* shipwreck reminds us again that the literature of bottle collectors is of little relevance to archaeologists, since they seek to answer different questions: he goes on to explore what some of these might be.

With Ritchie's second paper on the problems of a formally-consistent classification system for industrial sites the emphasis shifts from artefacts to sites: Ritchie looks at the debate between 'lumpers' and 'splitters', and includes an invaluable bibliography of regional site surveys in New Zealand. Clough's paper on copper mining on Kawau Island looks into the factors behind the failure of a spectacularly beautiful early New Zealand industrial site now yielding a familiar story of doomed courage and enterprise to the archaeologist's trowel. Brian Rogers continues his series of meticulous studies of colonial salt works and the transmission of traditional technologies, this time looking at a Tasmanian site. It is more difficult to characterise Simmons' account of Te Wairoa, a Maori and European settlement buried under a metre of mud and scoria in the 1886 eruption of Mt Tarawera: part mission and contact site, part window into nineteenth-century European tourism, and part 'archaeology of archaeology', this paper also makes its own contribution to the death throes of the Pomeii premise debate. The paper on the Barcardine strike camp in Queensland is another archaeological investigation of a place significant because of its association and symbolism rather than for the quality of its remains, which were invisible if not almost non-existent: the challenges and issues of such projects are particularly well explored. This paper, like Stuart's, also well illustrates the frustrating difficulties faced by many interstate historical archaeologists in getting access to published studies of historical archaeological artefacts, most often from overseas, even in 1990. Mahoney's two brief papers bring to attention less well-known categories of industrial site, supporting both with extremely pertinent contextual information. The last paper ends this volume on a suitably expansive note, recalling to the forefront of discussion the big themes in what Bob Schuyler, and subsequently Leone, Orser, Paynter and others, have seen as almost certainly the most fruitful field for anthropologically-minded historical archaeologists to pursue, namely, the study of the material manifestation of the expansion of European culture into the non-European world, in effect the expansion of the European capitalist system, and of imperialism itself.

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