WILEY

97. Origin and Relationship of Hani, Tewha-Tewha, and Pou-Whenua

Author(s): H. D. Skinner

Source: *Man*, Vol. 16 (Nov., 1916), pp. 161-164

Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2788763>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 02:36 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Man*

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

With Plate L.

New Zealand: Ethnography.

Skinner.

Origin and Relationship of Hani, Tewha-Tewha, and Pou-Whenua. By H. D. Skinner.

97

Figs. 1, 2, and 3 of Plate L represent three characteristic kinds of Maori weapon. Fig. 1 represents a hani, or as it is called in Taranaki, a taiaha. It is 72 inches long, and the greatest width of the blade is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In actual fighting the hani is grasped by both hands just above the carved end, which is pointed downwards. The blow is delivered with either of the edges of the blade, both being sharp. The hani is generally, though quite wrongly, called a spear. It is sometimes less incorrectly described as a two-handed sword. As will be seen from the facts adduced below, hani, tewha-tewha, and pou-whenua are all light, elongated clubs having a sharp striking edge or edges and also a point used for in-fighting.

In Fig. 1 the carving at the lower end has been boldly designed and finely executed with stone tools. The point (Fig. 4) represents a human tongue ornamented with scrolls. Above it are the teeth and upper lip, above which may be discerned a diminutive nose, eyes obliquely set and inlaid with circlets of shell, and a beetling brow with conventional forelock. Above the carving is a band, some 6 inches wide, of scarlet kaka feathers, surmounted by a circlet of cream-coloured dogs' hair. This hair has been cut from the tails of native dogs and tied in little tassels with binding of dressed flax. The flax tags of these tassels are then woven into a cord, along which the tassels hang at regular and close intervals. The whole cord is wound round the hani a number of times, thus completing the decoration of one of the most beautiful products of the Maori workman. Above the decoration rises the long blade, beautifully polished, and having its edges sharp. The end of the blade, where it is widest, is generally shaped in a curve, but it occasionally takes the form of an obtuse angle.

Hani vary much in size. The smaller and the more delicate specimens were used only on ceremonial occasions, and then generally as adjuncts to oratory. Specimens made of whale's bone are sometimes seen. There are in museums a good many wooden specimens in which the whole blade is decorated with carving, but the writer has never seen an old example of this kind. The carving would impair the fighting value of the weapon.

Fig. 2 represents a tewha-tewha. Its length is about 45 inches. In fighting it is grasped just above the band of carving towards the pointed end, and this latter, as in the case of the hani, is pointed downwards. The blow is delivered with the sharp straight edge, to which the axe-like expansion acts as a make-weight. The pointed end is used, like the bayonet in "shorten arms," to deal with an opponent who has got within the guard, and also for dispatching a prostrate enemy. The tongue of the hani is used for the same purposes. The narrow band of carving (Fig. 6, right) towards the pointed end represents two human faces facing outwards. The single circle of shells serves for the eye of each face, the two circles thus doing service for four eyes. There is the same diminutive nose, the upper lip, and the teeth, as in the hani of Fig. 1. The pointed end represents an elongated tongue. Where the lower edge of the axe-like expansion joins the part we have called the blade, a bunch of feathers, said to be hawks', hangs from a small hole. A single side of the vanes is stripped from the quill, which is then cut so that blocks of it are left attached at small regular intervals to the remaining vane. These decorated vanes are then tied with binding of dressed flax in a large bunch and attached to the tewha-tewha. The same method of treating feathers may be seen in specimens of featherwork from Melanesia.

FIG. 15.

FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.
DETAIL CARVING OF FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

FIG. 1.

MAORI WEAPONS (HANI, TEWHA-TEWHA, AND POU-WHENUA).

FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.

Tewha-tewha do not vary in size to the same extent as do hani. A very large proportion do not differ in measurements more than an inch or two from Fig. 2. An exceptional specimen in the Liverpool Museum measures 70 inches in length and 12 inches across the expansion. Small specimens made of whale's bone are occasionally seen, and there is in the Dominion Museum a small example from the Auckland district made of greenstone. This, like those of whale's bone, must have been used only on ceremonial occasions. Occasionally the expansion, and more rarely the blade, are decorated with carved spirals, but I know of no example in which this carving has not been executed with steel tools.

FIG. 9.

In the illustrations to Parkinson's account of Cook's first voyage to New Zealand the tewha-tewha, when shown, is almost invariably given an expansion unusually wide and having its upper edge markedly concave. This has probably arisen through Parkinson copying one model in all his illustrations. If this supposition is correct his model must have been a tewha-tewha brought home by Cook and now in the Dominion Museum, Wellington, N.Z. It is unusual in possessing both the characteristics just mentioned.

Plate L, Fig. 3, represents the pou-whenua. It is about 60 inches in length and the greatest width of the blade is 5 inches. It is grasped above the carving, and the blow is delivered, as in the case of the hani, with either edge of the blade. In typical examples the proportions of the blade are those of the blade of the hani. The carving of this specimen is shown in detail in Fig. 6, middle. Fig. 7 represents the primitive form of the pou-whenua, in which the blade and the point are as strongly differentiated as in any of the types already figured but in which there is no band of decorative carving. The region below the grip is shown in Fig. 6, left. No examples of pou-whenua other than wooden are known.

The development from the simple pou-whenua (Fig. 7) of such a specialised form as the hani will best be seen by comparing a series of detailed drawings of the carving on the part below the grip in all these weapons. Fig. 6 represents the carving on three of the weapons already figured. The left specimen is almost plain. To this plain shape the familiar double human profile, so common in Maori carving, is added in the case of the second pou-whenua (middle). The carving of the tewha-tewha (left) is essentially the same. In this specimen the teeth are not indicated, an unusual feature. Fig. 11 represents the same region in three hani. The length of the pointed part below the human face is much shorter than in the case of the specimens of Fig. 6, and this shortness is, as is indicated by the Rarotongan club (Fig. 8), a primitive characteristic. In the left specimen the familiar double human profile appears. In the middle one the faces have been turned through 90 degrees and adapted to the new surface shape. The second face is, of course, wholly in reverse. In the right specimen degeneration has set in.

$\frac{1}{8}$ Full size
FIG. 8.

$\frac{1}{7}$ Full size
FIG. 10.

From a consideration of the facts adduced above, we may conclude that hani, tewha-tewha, and pou-whenua are closely related forms, and that their differences are superficial. Further, we may conclude that Fig. 7 represents a form more primitive than any of the others. Fig. 8, a light double-edged club from Rarotonga, is an allied form retaining some primitive features. One of these is the shortness of the point below the grip. This shortness is retained in the hani, as already noted. A second primitive feature is the ridge running down the middle of the blade, a feature which indicates its paddle ancestry. The shape of the end of the blade points backwards to the same ancestral form. It is worth noting that a characteristic pointing in the same direction may be seen in any collection of pou-whenua. The greater number have the end of the blade curved, as in Fig. 9, left. A few, however, have the end angular (Fig. 9, right), a feature which we must regard as primitive.

Fig. 10 represents a paddle club from the Solomon Islands. The handle has been sharpened. The ridge along the blade should be noted. From this form of club to the ordinary paddle of the Solomon group is a small step, and every intermediate gradation of shape might be figured.

From the considerations already advanced we are, I think, justified in claiming a Melanesian ancestry for the two-edged clubs of Rarotonga and New Zealand. A question at once arises, Did the three Maori forms differentiate themselves in New Zealand, or must their point of origin be placed over-sea? Plate L, Fig. 5, which represents a light

FIG. 11.

club from the New Hebrides, seems to indicate that the differentiation of the tewha-tewha form had already begun in Melanesia.

HANI, TEWHA-TEWHA, AND POU-WHENUA.

Illustrations.

(Plate L.)

- Fig. 1.—Hani. Length 72 inches. Locality Taranaki. Skinner Collection.
 Fig. 2.—Tewha-tewha. Length 42 inches. Locality unknown. British Museum.
 Fig. 3.—Pou-whenua. Length 60 inches. Locality unknown. British Museum.
 Fig. 4.—Detail carving of hani, Fig 1.
 Fig. 5.—Light club. Locality Aneitum. Length 42 inches. Royal Scottish Museum.

(In Text.)

- Fig. 6.—Detail carving of Figs. 4, 2, and 3.
 Fig. 7.—Pou-whenua. Length 48 inches. Locality Taranaki. Skinner Collection.
 Fig. 8.—Light club. Locality Rarotonga. Length 90 inches. British Museum.
 Fig. 9.—Upper ends of pou-whenua: two types.
 Fig. 10.—Paddle club. Length 50 inches. Locality Soloman Islands. Skinner Collection.

Fig. 11.—Detail carving of three hani. After Balfour, "Evolution of Decorative Art," page 57.

H. D. SKINNER.