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94. Note on a Maori Feather Box (Waka Huia)

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Source: *Man*, Vol. 15 (1915), pp. 166-167

Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2788801>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 01:02 UTC

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New Zealand.

Beasley.

Note on a Maori Feather Box (Waka Huia). *By H. G. Beasley.*

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On several occasions fine examples of these Feather Boxes have been described in MAN, notably by Mr. Edge-Partington and Baron von Hügel.* It

FIGS. 1 AND 2.

may therefore be of interest to have a short notice of this specimen which came to me some months ago. Unfortunately, as with most good pieces, the history has been lost, excepting that the late owner's father was a ship's carpenter, who worked at Deptford.

This box, though lacking in quality as compared with either of the specimens referred to above, is undoubtedly one of unusual merit, and it will be noticed that, like them, it is of the square-ended type, which I am convinced represents a much

FIG. 3.

older form than the boat-shaped boxes. The great age of this box is obvious, and a study of Fig. 2, which shows the bottom view, reveals to what extent the carving on the bodies of the figures has been worn away. No. 1 illustrates the side view, and shows the three heads which join on to the figures underneath. No. 2

* 1907: 23. 1904: 111.

shows the lid, which is not unlike the Cambridge specimen; the ridge, however, is not so elaborate, and the projecting head at the end is missing.

The length over all is $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the width $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. H. G. BEASLEY.

Australia: Archæology.

Hamlyn-Harris.

Queensland Stone Implements. By Ronald Hamlyn-Harris, D.Sc.

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Miss A. Breton's references to the Stone Implements contained in the museums of Australian cities (MAN, 1915, 25), though valuable, are, in view of the very large collection of stone tools housed in the Queensland Museum, unfortunately incomplete. Miss Breton evidently did not visit Brisbane, and thus had no opportunity of inspecting the collection for herself. These remarks are therefore intended to supplement her paper.

STONE KNIVES.

The stone knives exhibited are contained in a case by themselves, and consist of a collection of some eighty mounted and unmounted specimens; in addition, a large number of the latter, which may be regarded in the light of duplicates, are consequently stored in the basement. The mounted consist principally of quartzite, shaped and two-edged. The handle is invariably made of resin, sometimes, not always, painted with reddish ochre, to which is occasionally added, as is the case with the more elaborate tools, a flat piece of wood ornamented with ochre designs. A sheath of the bark of the tea-tree (*Melaleuca leucadendron*, Linn.) usually acts as a protection, which is very necessary on account of the keen edge which all these knives possess. The outer side of such a sheath is generally covered with white clay, and a few feathers, principally cockatoo, usually complete the ornamentation. In such districts where quartzite is not obtainable, jasper and, sometimes, but rarely, flint, may be used. Two of our largest specimens yield the following measurements:—

(a) From North-West Queensland, a knife with a very small blade has a total length, with sheath, of 330 mm.

(b) From Idamere, total length, without sheath, 295 mm.

The smallest specimen in our collection comes from Glenormiston, N.W.Q., the total length of which is 105 mm. It is not provided with a sheath or any embellishments.

HAFTED STONE AXES.

The collection, though not large, is a very representative one (twenty-five specimens in all). The largest and finest specimen is one obtained from the south side of the Johnstone River, measuring 329 by 251 mm., and weighing $10\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. without handle. This is an exceptionally large and uncommon implement. One specimen from North Queensland (120 by 75 mm.) shows double grooving all round, with a space of from 5 to 10 mm. between the grooves. The remainder possess only a single groove. An interesting stone axe mounted in a "withey" handle and fixed in gum, has the entire length of the handle covered with emu skin and feathers. This specimen, which was obtained from the Bunya Mountains, bears the aboriginal name of "Waggara," length 398 mm. The mounted axes show no sign of any padding in the handles, as is the case with specimens from the Northern Territory, and consequently possess no spring.

In the olden days a practice, not uncommon in certain parts of Queensland, of mounting axes, was to cut an incision into a sapling while still growing in the bush, and to insert the stone axe into position, which was then left for a year or two, until the implement was firmly fixed by the natural growth of the tree, when it was ready for use.