

THE MUSEUMS OF NEW ZEALAND

did not take kindly to the change and he died shortly afterward; his remains now rest in state on a rock by a fleshy-footed shearwater (one of the sea petrels) in the museum.

The friendship between Hochstetter and Haast not only resulted in New Zealand's being exceptionally well represented in the Imperial Museum, Vienna, of which Hochstetter was appointed Director-General in 1876, but also led to valuable exchanges of material between European and New Zealand museums. Moreover, Hochstetter was instrumental in securing the services of his countryman Andreas Reischek, a taxidermist, to help Haast. Reischek found so much to interest him in the colony that he stayed 12 years instead of 2, and assisted with the arranging of the collections in the Auckland and Wanganui Museums as well. In company with his devoted dog, Caesar, he made many an expedition throughout the country and adjacent islands to collect specimens of native flora and fauna.

Unique Collection

The relics of the "moa-hunters," the first "Maoris" to migrate here from Polynesia and a people whose existence was first demonstrated by Haast during his explorations in North Otago and Canterbury, form the nucleus of the unique collection now supplemented by the stone adzes, necklaces of moa-bone beads shaped like the teeth of sperm whales, pendants of whale ivory, and other prized possessions discovered by J. R. Eyles, then a schoolboy, at the Wairau Estuary, Marlborough, in 1939. In the course of digging for Maori relics in this district Eyles unearthed the burial place of the chiefs of the moa-hunters



Te Rangitapua (King Tommy Solomon), the last of the Morioris. The Canterbury Museum has an excellent collection of relics of this race.



Pyramid Valley, North Canterbury, where a record number of complete moa skeletons were unearthed by members of the staff of the Canterbury Museum.

and thus enabled the museum to add invaluable specimens to its collection. Indeed, Dr. R. C. Murphy, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, considers this exhibit cannot fail to thrill the most critically minded of museum men. The Chinese have a saying that one picture is worth 10,000 words, a truth peculiarly well demonstrated by all that is pictured to the mind's eye in that single museum case.

Primitive Cultures

The Canterbury Museum possesses countless objects representative of the primitive cultures of other countries, and because of its close proximity to Lyttelton, the port used by all shipping to and from the Chatham Islands, situated some 400 miles east, it has acquired an excellent Moriori collection, including the replica of a carved wooden figure closely resembling Easter Island designs, the only known Moriori cloak, the only example of the Moriori quarter-staff, a large raft canoe, and quaint circular fish-hooks of stone. The inhabitants of these islands were an offshoot of the moa-hunters in New Zealand, betaking themselves to the islands during the moa-hunter period. They suffered dreadful decimation through the musket fire of invading Taranaki tribes in 1835 and from that time the race began to dwindle with disturbing rapidity. By 1933, with the death of jovial Te Rangitapua, King Tommy Solomon, a veritable mountain of a man who turned the scale at 28 stone, there was not a single Moriori of pure-blooded stock remaining.

A recent discovery which would rejoice the heart of any museum official, let alone a specialist in Maori and Polynesian ethnology like the Director of the Canterbury Museum, R. S. Duff, is an ancient wood carving cut with stone implements in totara which was dug up by C. C. Stanley during draining operations in a swamp midway between the Opihi and Orari rivers, near Temuka, and about 3 miles distant from the sea. It passed unnoticed amid the other finds of swamp totara and was recognised as of human handiwork only when Mr. Stanley was preparing to chop up the timber for firewood some weeks later. Fortunately the relic was spared from the axe and brought into the museum, where urgent treatment was given to ensure its preservation. At the present time the carving has no parallels in New Zealand and is possibly the earliest example known of the wood-carving art of the tribes who preceded the Maori fleet of 1350 A.D.

Fine Arts Collections

Eastern civilisations are illustrated by fine arts collections, Mrs. W. A. Moore having donated much of the Japanese material collected by her father, the late Sir Joseph Kinsey, founder of the shipping firm and attorney for Scott's two polar expeditions and one of Shackleton's. (The shipping magnate's popularity with members of these polar expeditions can be gauged from the letter dated December 8, 1901, which Captain Scott wrote him shortly before the Discovery sailed from Lyttelton: "Champagne is, with us, a luxury reserved for very