

whose pursuit the large *in situ* collections now made practicable. Beyond the construction of classificatory categories whose defining criteria were inevitably arbitrary, there opened the vista of the life of the Moa and its history. The Glenmark bonanza was only the most dramatic of the increasingly extensive discoveries which the resource-inspired surveys and increased construction activity made possible. No longer was the Moa represented by a fragment here or a small clutch of bones there, whose incompleteness and lack of contextual data made conclusions as to its nature more arbitrary and less complete than Owen's authoritative classification appeared. Haast's reconstruction of whole skeletons, the availability of an age series, the discovery of fertilized eggs, the readily available foot-bones which made the question of foot-prints so important a generation earlier a question of fact rather than speculation, the recovery of feathers, and, finally, tight associations of artifacts with Moa remains raised questions of a different sort. The pursuit of these questions was no longer one to be centred in the laboratory of the comparative anatomist with a universalist view but rather in the field. While problems of classification could not be ignored and while the general tenor of Owen's classification served as a foundation upon which the natural history of the Moa was to be built, that building was to be done in New Zealand. The availability of so great a population sample of the Moa and the availability of a cadre, small as it was, of professionalised naturalists such as Haast, Hector, Buller and Hutton, shifted the locus of Moa research to New Zealand; and the familiarity with and the sense of possession of the local materials provided a focus for a New Zealand science which had been lacking.

For the research necessary to explore the new and controversial problems of the natural history of the Moa and, in particular, the effect of the prehistoric human occupation upon its history and eventual extinction, local effort, local interest and local support were necessary. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that from that shift of the Moa problem from England to New Zealand, a substantial foundation of a New Zealand science was laid. Whatever the politics involved in the selection of the New Zealand Commissioner to head up the Colony's exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London in 1886, it was Haast, 'the Moa Man', in his last official act, who brought his Moas to London as a major feature in the display of New Zealand's resources.

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While it goes without saying that this article could not have been written without the aid of others, I would like to express my