

For reasons for which we can only surmise, E.S. Halswell who in 1841 was appointed the New Zealand Company's commissioner of native reserves and protector of the aborigines for the southern districts, failed to record the name of the Maori who sketched this

comprehensive map of the South Island. Like other maps sketched by Maoris in olden times it needs to be read in its proper perspective in order that we can appreciate the depth of geographical knowledge held by a folk who had recently emerged from the new stone

age. First of all it needs to be appreciated that in olden times the Maori had no appreciation of distance other than an arms length. This resulted in the emphasis being placed on prominent headlands, sheltered bays and harbours, pas as well as localities where bush and bird life existed which was of prime importance for people travelling light. Stretches of country lacking in resources were reduced in scale. The point that did come across to people like Halswell however was the deep love and knowledge of the country which seemingly warranted a name for every feature no matter how minor it may appear to the European enquirer.

Although his duties never took him to the hinterland Halswell had no hesitation about recording lake Wakatipu on the company's copy of the map from the information conveyed by his informant. This lake of course was one of the sources of greenstone.

Land marks given prominence on the east coast are Otago Harbour, Akaroa and the other inlets of Banks Peninsular, Kaikoura Peninsular, Port Underwood and Arapawa Island with a much widened Tory Channel between the capes Te Ata and Otoaha. Today these two latter names bear the names given to them by the whalers namely East and West Heads. To be viewed in its proper perspective Halswell's Maori map needs to be regarded as the first edition of the "New Zealand Pilot" because of its benefit to coastal navigation.

2 Te Huruhuru's map of the Otago back country

Te Huruhuru not only knew the vast expanse of his tribal domain like the back of his hand but he was also an accomplished draughtsman as this map sketched for Shortland's information shows. Apart from the vista of distant mountains all the detail was sketched from memory when Shortland camped miles away near the coast.

