LIVING LETTERS

STATE SERVICES COMMISSION

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MAORI RELIGION AND MYTHOLOGY PART 1

By Elsdon Best

NATIONAL MUSEUM BULLETIN No. 10

424 p. 1976. \$18 plus \$1.25 p & p An account of the theory of the universe and its creation, study of the origin of man, religious beliefs, rites, magic and folklore of the Maori people of New Zealand. First published in 1924, reprinted without textual alterations and retaining the original bulletin numbers. (Government Printer.)

MAORI

By Witi Ihimaera

45 p. 1975. \$1.20 plus 35c p & p A colourful booklet describing the coming of the Maori to New Zealand, his history, heritage, folklore, beliefs, and cultural unity.

Each chapter has a quotation from a Maori proverb, phrase, saying, or canoe chant and these concepts are pre-sented in words and pictures. Continues with the arrival of the pakeha and the pattern of events which followed, the Treaty of Waitangi and the Land Wars. Moves on to the Maori today, finishing with the theme, one country, two herrices in with

one country, two heritages in unity. Well illustrated with 64 coloured photos, of interest to all New Zealanders and tourists. (Tourist and Publicity Department.)

MAORI AGRICULTURE

By Elsdon Best

NATIONAL MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 9

315 p. 1976. \$13.50 plus \$1.25 p & p The only comprehensive study of Maori agriculture available, this bulletin adds a further volume to the series of Elsdon Best's works which the Government Printer undertook to reprint preserving the original text and bulletin numbers. I recommend this book and the series as a whole; to collectors, archaeologists, and to those studying the prehistoric economy of the Maori people. (Government Printer.)

THE MAORI AS HE WAS

By Elsdon Best

295 p. 1974 reprint. \$6.50 plus 70c p & p Fifty years of public demand since this book was first published resulted in the need for reprints in 1934 and 1952. The text has been reproduced unchanged but the originals of some of the figures could not be traced and these have been replaced with similar illustrations. There have been many advances in our knowledge of Maori life since this book first appeared. The work of numerous ethnologists, and more recently archaeologists, has critically examined many of the earlier concepts, confirming some, disproving others, and altering others to varying degrees. No one has yet produced a synthesis of the results of all this scholarship and there is still nothing as comprehensive as this book of Best's to give a general account of the Maori. This book was first published when Best was 68 and thus represents the accumulated knowledge of a lifetime. It has now become a classic introduction to Maori life. Its continued availability should help the reader to obtain a basic background to old time Maori life which can be extended by further reading.

THE MAORI CANOE

By Elsdon Best NATIONAL MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 7

451 p. 1976. \$17.50 plus \$1.25 p & p 451 p. 1976. A reprinted edition without textual alterations and retaining the old Dominion Museum number. Another example of The Desire dedicated effort to preserve Maori culture. The Elsdon Best's dedicated effort to preserve Maori culture. material presented on canoes, their materials, types, methods of construction, and associated artifacts make interesting reading for the layman as well as for scholars of the Maori. (Government Printer.)

MOA-HUNTER PERIOD OF MAORI CULTURE

ROGER DUFF-CANTERBURY MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 1

436 p. 3rd edition, 1977. \$17.50 plus \$1.25 p & p This book deals with the most important site yet investigated and in its discussions it traverses most of the New Zealand

archaeological field. A chance discovery in 1939 by a 13-year-old boy revealed the grave of a chief in the gravels of the Wairau boulder bank. The grave, goods, and bones of the ancient chief, prone in his gravel grave, with skull directed towards the setting sun, spoke with more authority regarding his race than the distorted memories of Maori tradition.

Although scholarly and technical, the book sustains throughout the drama of this archaeological discovery, and recreates from the evidence of bone and stone the life of our first Polynesians in the Moa-hunter period of Maori culture.

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CONTENTS

| Advertisements | | | PAGE 3845 |
|--|--------|---------|--------------|
| APPOINTMENTS | | | 3801 |
| Distribution Normana | | | 3843 |
| | ••••• | ••••• | |
| DEFENCE NOTICES | ••••• | ••••• | 3799 |
| LAND TRANSFER ACT: NOTICES | •····• | | 3844 |
| Miscellaneous | | | |
| Agricultural Pests Destruction Act: Noti | ce | | 3827 |
| Commerce Act: Notices | | | 3841 |
| Cinematograph Films Act: Notice | | | 3833 |
| Commercial Fishing Regulations: Notice | | | 3823 |
| Corrigendum | | | 3797 |
| Customs Act: Notice | | | 3827 |
| Customs Act Amendment Act: Notice | ••••• | | 3831 |
| Customs Tariff: Notices | | | 3837 |
| Government Railways Act: Notices | | | 3816 |
| Honours and Awards: Notice | | | 3801 |
| Import Control Regulations: Notices | | | 3818 |
| Land Act: Notices | | | 3822 |
| Local Authorities Loans Act: Notices | | | 3828 |
| Local Government Act: Notice | | | 3818 |
| Maori Affairs Act: Notices | | | 3824 |
| Marine Reserves Act: Notice | | | 3817 |
| National Roads Board: Notices | | | 3826 |
| New Zealand Walkways Act: Notice | | | 3817 |
| Post Office Act: Notice | | | 3817 |
| Public Works Act: Notices | | | 3803 |
| Regulations Act: Notice | | | 3832 |
| Reserves Act: Notices | | 3817, | 3820 |
| Standards Act: Notices | | | 3829 |
| Sale of Liquor Act: Notices | | | 3825 |
| Schedule of Contracts: Notices | 3832 | , 3836, | 3842 |
| Traffic Regulations: Notices | | | 3826 |
| Transport Act: Notice | | ••••• | 3816 |
| Tuberculosis Regulations: Notices | | | 3802 |

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