

MAORI GREENSTONE PENDANTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, SYDNEY

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Plates 22-24. Figs 1-33.

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SUMMARY

This paper examines a collection of 93 Maori greenstone pendants in the Australian Museum. Only straight *kuru* are abundant enough for quantitative analysis, but this is first preceded by an examination of the spatial-chronological distribution of the population of this type, changes in it numerically through time, and the characteristics of a random sample. The randomness of the Australian Museum sample of 58 pendants is questioned. A random sample of 70 straight *kuru* in the Auckland Institute and Museum is employed for comparative purposes, and an investigation made of the nature of and interrelationships between various pendant parameters, for the two samples. Other pendant types considered, in addition to straight *kuru* and anomalous forms, are the *kuru kapeu* (5 examples), *hei matau* (1), *koropepe* (4), *pekapeka* (4), *poria* (2), *rei puta* (1), and Triangular Pendant (6). Since none of these types is abundantly represented quantitative studies are impossible, and the spatial-chronological attributes of each are merely examined, and the Australian Museum specimens compared and contrasted with those in other museums.

* The research reported in this paper was initiated between December 1968 and January 1969 while the author was employed as a Vacation Assistant in the Anthropology Department at the Museum. The New Zealand fieldwork and museum visits referred to in the text relate to the author's Ph.D. research and were not undertaken specifically for the study reported here.