Māori Material Culture

Select bibliography

Books

Best lived among the Tuhoe of the Urewera mountains from the 1880s, was the Dominion Museum's Ethnologist and president and editor of the J.P.S. 1922-1931. This book covers social life and customs, arts, agriculture, fishing, war, music, games, forest lore, buildings and scientific knowledge. 2 volumes.

Best, Elsdon. *The Māori as he was: a brief account of Māori life as it was in pre-European days*. 1934.
Posthumously published. Shorter than the previous work. Covers physical and mental characteristics, traditional history, mythology and folklore, fishing, agriculture, war, music, games. Forest lore, buildings and science. Best lived among the Tuhoe of the Urewera from 1890 to 1911, later becoming ethnologist at the Dominion Museum.

Firth, Raymond. *Primitive economics of the New Zealand Māori*. 1929.
Includes chapters on transport, gift exchange, land, property and wealth, hakari and work and production.


Kinship, the whanau and hapu, marriage. Birth and children, menstruation, massage. Food, agriculture, fishing and hunting. The author, from Te Arawa, was the first Māori woman to obtain an M.A. First published in 1938.

A comprehensive coverage of the field. Brief accounts of most of the well-known stories and entries for natural phenomena, animals etc. Notes on sources and an index.


Simmons, D.R. *An index of Māori items held in overseas museums*. 1996.

Covers books and journal articles published prior to 1970. It is classified by subject and includes sections on: music, songs, games, chants and recreations, pp.81-84; science and medicine, pp.62-64; warfare, pp.94-97; archaeology, pp.98-105; hunting and food gathering, p.107; food - cooking and cultivation, pp.108-109; dress, ornament and tattooing, p.110; houses and settlements, pp.111-112; carving and art design, pp.113-115; handcrafts, implements and artefacts, pp.116-123. Entries are not annotated and there is no access by iwi or region.

Aims to be comprehensive.
Pictorial sources

A chronological listing of prints from the published accounts of missionaries, early explorers etc. Only a few are illustrated. The index includes headings for Maoris--Costume and adornment, Maoris--Life and customs, Maoris--Weapons and artefacts, as well as people, places and artists.

Angas, George French. The New Zealanders illustrated. 1847.
Original quarto volume. Full-size facsimile ed. of 1966 also available. Large paintings in expensive reproductions.

Angas, George French. Savage life and scenes in Australia and New Zealand. 2nd ed. 1847.
Full-size facsimile ed. also. As above.

Quarto reproductions from the 1847 volumes with extracts from Angas' diaries.

Quarto reproductions with diary extracts.

Black and white and colour plate illustrations of panels from whare whakairo, pataka, waka, waka huia, waka tupapaku, weapons and musical instruments.

A comprehensive catalogue with small black and white reproductions of paintings, sketches and drawings.

Bell, Leonard. The Māori in European art: A survey of the representation of the Māori by European artists from the time of Captain Cook to the present day. 1980.
Includes many reproductions of mainly early paintings and drawings. Discusses questions of authenticity.


Published in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name. Contains many illustrations and bibliographies of published material relating to particular voyages and artists.

Edge-Partington, J. An album of the weapons, tools, ornaments, articles of dress of the natives of the Pacific Islands. 1969.
Originally published in 1890 these two volumes consist of line drawings of artefacts from museums and private collections (including the British Museum) indexed by the name of the object and by island group. Includes sections on New Zealand.


Includes photographs from the 1860s.

Originally published in 1897. Includes large sections of photographic plates of items from museum collections. Chapters on canoes, habitations, weapons, ornaments and dress. Vocabularies of Māori terms.

Murray-Oliver, A.A.S.M. *Captain Cook's artists in the Pacific 1769-1779.*
A selection of the more artistic works. Colour reproductions.


Earle was an artist who visited the Bay of Islands in the 1820s.

Kivell, R. N. *Portraits of the famous and infamous: Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, 1492-1970.*
Catalogue to portraits in the Rex Nan Kivell collection, including portraits in published books. Small black and white reproductions.

400 pages of black and white plates.

One unnumbered volume consists entirely of illustrations including portraits, art and material culture.

**Early accounts of Māori life**


Includes notes about early Māori visitors to England and Australia and their impressions of English civilisation.

Earle was a young gentleman artist on an extended holiday. Generally antipathetic to missionary endeavours.

Maning, F. E. *Old New Zealand*. 1876.
Maning's reminiscences of life as a trader in Hokianga in the 1830s. Includes anecdotes of muru, tapu, tohunga, matakite. Originally published in 1863.

Notes on family life, women, polygamy and adultery, cannibalism, tapu and Māori "character".

Polack was in New Zealand from 1831-1837 working as a trader. The books are mainly about the Bay of Islands and Tolaga Bay.

Polack, Joel Samuel. *New Zealand: Being a narrative of travels and adventures during a residence in that country between the years 1831 and 1837.*

Taylor was a missionary stationed at Wanganui. His book includes notes on cosmology, mythology, atua, matakite, patupaiarehe, tapu, karakia, tangihanga and whakatauki.

Yate, William. *An account of New Zealand*. 1835.
Yate was a C.M.S. missionary at the Bay of Islands. Pages 80-164 of his book note his impressions of Māori customs and beliefs. Anecdotal.