

**MUSEUM OF NEW
ZEALAND
TE PAPA
TONGAREWA**

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22 February 2022

Tēnā koe,

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – Te Wharerangi Tiki

I am writing in response to your email dated 14 January 2022 in which you requested the following information:

This is an Official Information Act request for Te Papa to provide the complete file for the registered item in your collection registration number ME013188 of the Tiki of the Te Wharerangi Whanau.

The file is enclosed.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request please contact me at OIA@tepapa.govt.nz.

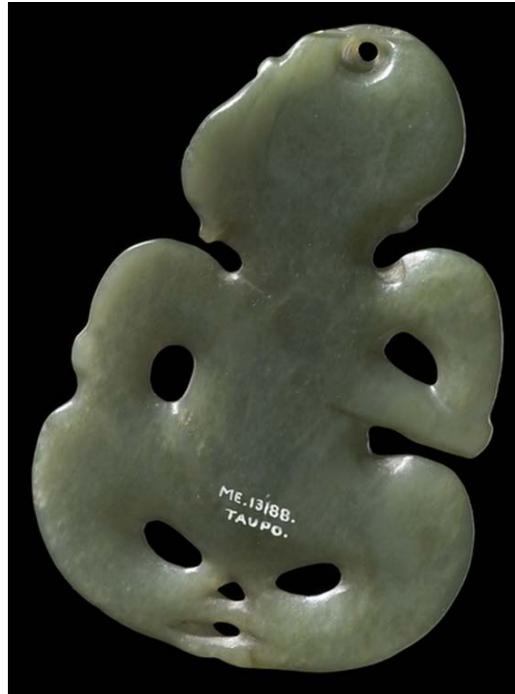
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FL'.

Frances Lawrence
Principal Advisor Strategy, Planning and Performance

Te Wharerangi Hei Tiki

Collection registration number ME013188



Purchased in March 1975 from auctioneers Dunbar Sloane Ltd (Wellington)

21 March, 1975 Dunbar Sloane Ltd auction catalogue; lot 3: "Pre European greenstone Hei Tiki made for Chieftainess Te Wharerangi family, Lake Taupo"

1975/20 accession number

97mm (h) x 65mm (w) x 10mm (d)

Female hei tiki fashioned from pounamu of the pale inanga variety. Necked type of tiki with ear and chin projections. The head is relatively small in relation to the body and legs. Conversely the legs are large. Head is rounded on top and tilts to tiki's right at an approximate 45 degree angle. Mouth is heart shaped with a small tooth indicated in the right corner. A well-defined forked tongue extends from the left side of the mouth. Small eyes. Brows carved in low relief. Forehead ridge forks at nose-bridge. Nose details clearly worked. A rare feature of this tiki is the knob on the forehead. Right arm bends sharply at the elbow with the large hand resting across the chest. The left arm is downwards with the hand resting on the thigh. Both hands have three fingers and a thumb. Projections on each elbow, and the pito. Thighs and lower legs form a continuous tapering curve meeting at three toed feet. Holes worked through between the toes. A relatively thin tiki with thickest parts at the head

and the body. Suspension hole is drilled from the back to the front through the left brow. [Examined by Dougal Austin, 11 June 2009]

It was Te Wharerangi, chief of Motuopuhi (Lake Rotoaira, Taupo), who hid Te Rauparaha from Tauteka and Ngati Te Aho who were pursuing him. Te Wharerangi secreted Te Rauparaha in a kumara pit and seated his wife Te Rangikoea upon it. After successfully eluding his pursuers Raha emerged from from out of the pit and performed the life-affirming haka 'Ka Mate'. [Matiu Baker]

Examined by Russell Beck 5/12/2008. The pounamu is a pale green nephrite of inanga variety; high translucency. From visual inspection the pounamu source is inconclusive. Suspension hole drilled front to back; saw scarf across top of tiki. Finished state of workmanship.

NEPHRITE HEI TIKI.

ME.13188.

TAUPO.

1975/20.

9.7cm. l. x 6.5cm. w.

LIGHT GREEN, SEX INDICATED.

MADE FOR CHIEFTAINESS TE WHARE RANGI FAMILY.

PURCHASED DUNBAR SLOANES AUCTION. 21/3/75
LOT. 3. \$2,500.00.