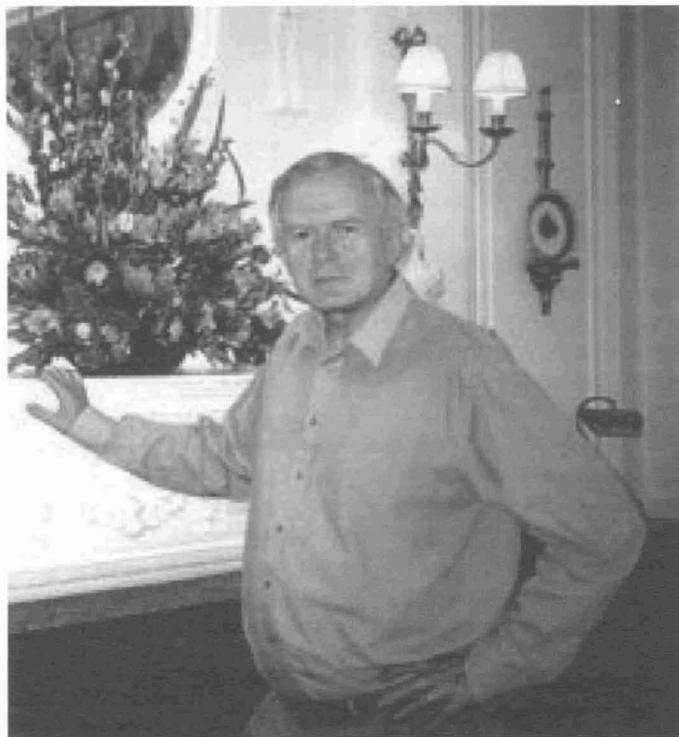


GETTING TO KNOW YOU

DR JOHN FLENLEY, MASSEY UNIVERSITY,
NEW ZEALAND



Q: How did you get into anthropology/archaeology, and specifically that of Easter? What triggered your interest?

By being a palynologist. Palynology has always had close links with archaeology. And, while I was school, I read Heyerdahl's *Aku Aku*.

Q: Who or what do you consider to be your most significant influence (scientific or otherwise) either as a person or a particular work, or series of works?

The use of Easter Island as a warning for our planet, in the book *Easter Island, Earth Island*.

Q: What theory or project of yours turned out to be either different from what you expected, or surprised you?

I had expected the New Zealand academic community to be more open minded about the presence of people in New Zealand before AD 1200.

Q: What would you have done if you had not pursued your current line(s) of research and interests?

Become a landscape gardener.

Q: What was your best Eureka moment?

Finding that the palm fruits from Easter Island were closely related to the Chilean wine palm.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish (in anthropology/archaeology) on Easter Island in the future?

I hope to take cores to the bottom of Rano Kau and do the palynology and dating of them.

Q. What are you currently reading?

Krakatoa by Simon Winchester

Q. Date and place of birth?

Ormskirk, England, 15 July 1936

Q. A list of your major publications?

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- Flenley, J. R. 1998. Tropical Forests Under the Climates of the Last 30,000 Years, *Climatic Change* 39:177-197.
- Flenley, J. R. 2000. Keynote Address: The History of Human Presence and Impact in Island S. E. Asia and the South Pacific. R. M. McKenna and P. Hesp eds. *Proceedings of the 20th New Zealand Geography Conference, July 1999*, New Zealand Geographical Society, Massey University, Palmerston North, pp 18-23.
- Flenley, J. R. and P. Bahn, 2003. *The Enigmas of Easter Island: Island on the Edge*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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- Walker, D. and J. R. Flenley, 1979. Late Quaternary Vegetational History of the Enga Province of Upland Papua New Guinea, *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. B* 186:265-344.