

SIR GILBERT ARCHEY, 1890-1974

It is with great regret that we note the death in Auckland on 20 October of Sir Gilbert Archey, Director Emeritus of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Sir Gilbert was a scholar in the finest sense of the word and played a most significant role in the development of both the arts and the sciences in New Zealand. He was best known for his contributions to the study of Maori art forms and it is particularly pleasing to know that he had been able to complete his latest work, *Whaowhia Maori Art and its Artists*, shortly before his death. We will always be grateful for his *South Seas Folk*, a handbook of Maori and Oceanic ethnology published by the Auckland Institute & Museum in 1937 and now in its third edition (1967), and for another handbook *Sculpture and Design: an Outline of Maori Art* published in 1953 and now also in a new edition (1960) as well as for *The Art Forms of Polynesia*, Bulletin No. 4 of the Auckland Institute and Museum, published in 1965.

Sir Gilbert began his career as a zoologist under Professor Charles Chilton at what was then Canterbury University College, making pioneer studies of New Zealand centipedes which have not been surpassed today. He provided a link between the older generation of classical biologists and the modern computer-orientated worker. He was Assistant Curator of the Canterbury Museum from 1914 to 1923 but devoted the remainder of his life to serving the Auckland Institute and Museum, a task well rewarded by the knighthood bestowed on him in 1963. Sir Gilbert's post on the University Grants Committee and on the Senate of the University of New Zealand allowed him to make a continuing contribution to the development of university facilities in New Zealand for which we must be grateful. Latterly he served on the Maori Purposes Fund Board, the Waitangi National Trust Board, the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council, and several other important bodies, to each of which he brought his wisdom and knowledge.

Sir Gilbert Archey paved the way for today's studies of the birds of the Chatham Islands with his paper of 1924 written with Charles Lindsay in the *Records of the Canterbury Museum* (2: 187-201), "Notes on the birds of the Chatham Islands." But he will always be remembered for his monumental treatise *The Moa. A Study of the Dinornithiforms* published by the Auckland Institute and Museum as Bulletin No. 1 in 1941. Sir Gilbert's own contribution to the discovery of moa remains with his cave-searching team, Sir Frank Mappin, Sir Carrick Robertson and Mr A. T. Pycroft, from 1930 to 1944 is related in his parts of the *Centennial History of the Auckland Institute and Museum 1867-1967* to which the reader should turn to learn of Sir Gilbert's achievements in making this noble institution what it has become since he was appointed its Director in 1924. Visitors (and research workers alike) to the Auckland Museum, set in its lofty splendour above the city and the incomparable harbour, have good cause to honour the name of Sir Gilbert Archey. As it was said of another great man — *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice*.

E. W. D.