

The Editor

Sir

Sir George Grey and moa sightings

Sir Walter Buller (1888) noted that Sir George Grey had told him that "a party of natives" at Preservation Inlet had described the recent killing of small moa at Preservation Inlet. Anderson (1989) did not give credence to this account, because Grey was never at Preservation Inlet. However, contemporary records (Anon 1878) show that Grey passed the inlet while travelling from Hokitika to Riverton on the SS *Hinemoa* in 1878. It is likely that the ship's log for the *Hinemoa* for 1878 was destroyed by a fire involving Marine Department records, so proof that Grey did visit the inlet at the time is not presently available. However, the possibility that he did visit remains and Grey's claim cannot be dismissed on the basis that he did not do so. If the date of 1868 given by

Buller is, as is likely, a mistake, that would account for the absence of any mention of this report by Grey in his letter to the Zoological Society of London in 1870 (Grey 1870).

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LITERATURE CITED

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