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## TATTOOED HISTORY THE STORY OF MOKOMOKAI

### THE STORY OF MOKOMOKAI

*Tattooed History: The Story of Mokomokai* is the first book to comprehensively explore the history of these remarkable Maori ancestors. The elaborate facial markings (*ta moko*) of the Maori are well-known, but less so is the unique process of preserving the tattooed heads of both enemies and loved ones. This work presents many sources, documents and illustrations for the first time to explore its subject in a new and original way.

*Mokomokai* were first encountered by Europeans during the exploration of New Zealand by James Cook. When missionaries, traders and other visitors learnt more about *mokomokai* they published the first descriptions of how they were preserved and the customs surrounding them. This book examines these early nineteenth century writings and describes how *mokomokai* were first exhibited to curious foreign onlookers around the same time. The acquisition of *mokomokai* by outsiders, often in exchange for weapons, is discussed along with how these heads formed part of the earliest collections of museums and other institutions.

Once European settlement expanded, the practice of preserving heads ended and there were very few left in New Zealand. While New Zealand established its own first museums they often had to acquire *mokomokai* from outside the country. This work describes the auction and sale of *mokomokai* in Britain for a period of over 150 years. It discusses the collecting of *mokomokai* by such renowned British collectors as Horatio Gordon Robley and W.O. Oldman, who were sometimes the source of *mokomokai* for New Zealand institutions.

The public sale of *mokomokai* at auction in Britain ended when Maori mounted legal challenges to such sales. These legal strategies are discussed along with how they were replaced by comprehensive repatriation strategies that received government support and are ongoing. *Tattooed History* presents the 250 year-long story of *mokomokai* in a new and exciting way, through rich historical and illustrative documentation. This book places these unique remains in the overall context of New Zealand history, the characters who formed part of it, and the emergence of an international market for ethnography after the Second World War.

**Robert K. Paterson** is a professor emeritus of law at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada. He obtained his law degree in New Zealand and then completed a JSM at Stanford Law School in California. He has written extensively in the area of cultural property and art law, including co-authoring *Cultural Law: International, Comparative, and Indigenous* (Cambridge, 2010). He was rapporteur of the Cultural Heritage Law Committee of the International Law Association, of which he remains a member. He is also a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Cultural Property* and the director's advisory council of the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology.