

**MUSEUM OF NEW  
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TE PAPA  
TONGAREWA**

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16 February 2021

Tēnā koe,

**Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – Pomare**

I am writing in response to your email dated 2 February 2021 and in which you requested the following information:

*Vis-a-vis my previous enquiry, I wonder if you would be able to clarify the purchase and provenance of the following item in 2007 <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/783336> from Maui Ormond Woodbine Pomare (perhaps from his estate as he had passed in 1995, which may explain why it wasn't found in your search).*

The below is an extract provided by the Collections team:

**ME023854; Kahu kākā (kākā feather cloak); Unknown [Y2006 – MCH Taonga Tūturu Registration]**

**[2787]; Acquisition - Purchase; 2007; Dunbar Sloane Ltd (Auckland); Approved**

Proposed by Awhina Tamarapa 1 November 2007

Approved by Te Papa Collections Acquisition Team and CE Seddon Bennington 9 November 2007

Dunbar Sloane, Auckland, Maori and Pacific Artefacts Auction, 11 November 2007, Lot 39

Hammer Price: \$55,000 (excluding buyer's premium and GST)

Justification:

Y 2006, lot 39: Kākā feather cloaks are very prestigious, rare, and highly prized. There are only three cloaks in Te Papa's collection that are predominantly covered with kākā feathers from an estimated 120 feather cloaks. This cloak had an association to the Pomare family. It was owned by Maui Pomare who had the cloak Y registered in 1988 by the National Museum. Maui Pomare stated that the cloak was made by Rongowhakaata with whom he had ancestral links. This provenance for the cloak will have to be verified further with his family. This is a rare collection opportunity to acquire a highly prized kākā feather cloak.

There are three other primarily kākā feather cloaks in the collection, and approximately 100 full feather cloaks. In all, there are approximately 350 cloaks total in Te Papa's collection.

Auction catalogue:

"The Kaka Cloak, A rare and brilliant (contact period 1820s) Maori Chief's kahu huru huru feather cloak with a complete covering of Kaka feathers (rusty red colour), except side borders of Kereru feathers in white and green. Natural coloured flax fring (sic-fringe) across the top border. Made by Rongowhakaata in Northern Hawkes Bay. The Kaka bird is extinct and virtually impossible to ever find another one as this was only worn by high ranking Maori Chief's. Y2006 L.151cm H.100cm \$55,000-80,000"

Note-Kākā are in decline but are definitely not extinct.

(Taken from 'Production' tab of the catalogue record)

Provenance:

Belonged to the late Maui Ormond Woodbine Pomare (?-1995).

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us please contact either Frances Lawrence or Zoë Genet, at [OIA@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@tepapa.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Frances Lawrence  
**Senior Advisor Planning and Performance**



Zoë Genet  
**Principal Legal Counsel**