

MUSEUM OF NEW
ZEALAND
TE PAPA
TONGAREWA

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10 March 2021

Tēnā koe,

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – Pomare - Part 3

I am writing in response to your email dated 17 February 2021 and in which you requested the following information:

RE: ME023854; Kahu kākā (kākā feather cloak); Unknown [Y2006 – MCH Taonga Tūturu Registration] [2787]; Acquisition - Purchase; 2007; Dunbar Sloane Ltd (Auckland); Approved

I am continuing to research the circumstances of this sale, on behalf of my family, and to that end would like to make a further OIA request for all correspondence entered into, or internal memos/purchase orders that pertain to the acquisition/purchase of this item on behalf of Te Papa - including, (but not limited to), Awhina Tamarapa, CE Seddon Bennington, Arapata Hakiwai, and the individuals who were selling it through the Dunbar Sloane auction, or who may have been consulted about the acquisition. Also, any communication with members of the Maui Ormond Woodbine Pomare family who may have helped facilitate or provide information regarding provenance, (Miria Louise Pomare, Mrs Louise Pomare, Te Rakaherea Woodbine Pomare).

Please could you also provide the name of the account holder who the proceeds of this sale went to.

The below is an extract provided by the Collections team:

Q1. I am continuing to research the circumstances of this sale, on behalf of my family, and to that end would like to make a further OIA request for all correspondence entered into, or internal memos/purchase orders that pertain to the acquisition/purchase of this item on behalf of Te Papa - including, (but not limited to), Awhina Tamarapa, CE Seddon Bennington, Arapata Hakiwai, and the individuals who were selling it through the Dunbar Sloane auction, or who may have been consulted about the acquisition.

After searching the physical records of the curator that acquired the cloak, Awhina Tamarapa, the email archive, and the acquisition file, all records relating to the pre-acquisition research, the acquisition process, and the acquisition of this taonga has been scanned and are **attached**. This includes research conducted by Awhina Tamarapa regarding the provenance of the cloak prior to the acquisition. The file includes

- Email correspondence between Arapata Hakiwai and Awhina Tamarapa documenting plans to consult with whanau prior to purchase
- Acquisition research notes taken by Awhina Tamarapa including notes on her discussion on the certificate of examination of artefact registration (Y registration) that occurred in 1988 with Robin Watt, a former staff member of the National Museum and the examiner / signatory of the certificate including discussion on the accuracy of the provenance information provided by Maui Pomare.

- Brief notes by Awhina Tamarapa recording the telephone consultation between Moana Parata and the Pomare whanau representative, Miria Pomare. This consultation occurred prior to the purchase of the cloak at auction by Te Papa.
- Acquisition process documentation including acquisition proposal and internal emails between the Acquisitions Advisor and members of the Executive Leadership Team including Dr Seddon Bennington regarding authorisation of the bidding limit.

The provenance research indicates that the owner of the cloak in 2007 was a party who had purchased the cloak at auction in 2001. There is no indication in the information found that Awhina Tamarapa or any other staff member had any contact with this individual.

The sale price was paid to Dunbar Sloane (Auckland) Ltd – invoice attached.

Q2. Also, any communication with members of the Maui Ormond Woodbine Pomare family who may have helped facilitate or provide information regarding provenance, (Miria Louise Pomare, Mrs Louise Pomare, Te Rakaherea Woodbine Pomare).

Included in the **attachment** is an email discussion between the Awhina Tamarapa and Arapata Hakiwai that indicates consultation with the Pomare whanau representative Miria Pomare did occur prior to the acquisition proposal approval to bid being granted. This was a telephone call between Moana Parata and Miria Pomare.

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 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.

Yours sincerely



Frances Lawrence
Senior Advisor Planning and Performance



Zoë Genet
Principal Legal Counsel