

MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND
TE PAPA TONGAREWA

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19 March 2010

Roberta Colombo Dougoud
Conservatrice département Océanie
Musée d'ethnographie
Boulevard Carl-Vogt 65
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1211 Genève/Geneva 8
SWITZERLAND/SUISSE

Tēnā koe (Bonjour) Roberta

LA TÊTE MOMIFIÉE 024584 /TOI MOKO 31

Thank you for your email dated 20 February 2010 indicating the Musée d'ethnographie Genève wishes an update about La tête momifiée 024584 /Toi moko 31, which was repatriated to the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Te Papa) in 1992.

In respect to your request, I am pleased to indicate the Toi moko (La tête momifiée 024584 /Toi moko 31) is housed in Te Papa's Wāhi Tapu (a sacred repository only for human remains). The Wāhi Tapu is climate controlled with strict access conditions.

Furthermore the New Zealand government recognised Te Papa's contribution to the repatriation of Māori ancestral remains by mandating Te Papa's **Karanga Aotearoa Repatriation Programme** to undertake repatriation work on behalf of New Zealand. This is also supported by Māori.

Since 2003 Te Papa has repatriated 186 kōiwi tangata (Māori ancestral remains) back to New Zealand, with 82 kōiwi tangata (Māori ancestral remains) returned to their place of origin in New Zealand by Te Papa and its predecessor the National Museum. For more information about the Karanga Aotearoa Repatriation Programme please refer to the programme's resources included in this letter, as well as additional information on the following webpage address:

<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/AboutUs/Repatriation/pages/overview.aspx>

Loan Agreement Request

On behalf of Te Papa I would like to formally apologise for the delay in corresponding in respect to the loan agreement between our two institutions.



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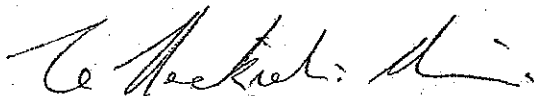
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Furthermore, I dutifully ask if Musée d'ethnographie and the City of Geneva would kindly consider extending the loan agreement to a long term loan or alternatively gifting the Toi moko to the care of Te Papa, until a final resting place is found for these Māori ancestral remains.

I look forward to receiving your response in due course and hope Te Papa's request meets with the approval of both Musée d'ethnographie Genève and the City of Geneva.

Ngā mihi (Kind regards)



Te Herekiekie Herewini
KAIWHAKAHAERE KAUPAPA PŪTERE KŌIWI
Manager Repatriation

