

Maori Drawings From 1818

Maori in pre-European times were renowned for their 10-foot wing span bird kites, but the New Zealand Polynesians constructed and flew handsome kites in many other shapes as well. Illustrated here from the Auckland Public Library are kites drawn by a young Maori chief named Titore on a visit to London in 1818. The kites are unidentified, although the one with human face seems to be a variant bird kite. Kites were built from sticks bound with flax fibers. Bark cloth formed the covering. The horns projecting from the head of the manu or bird kite are probably plant stalks decorated with feathers. Tails to give the kites stability were often constructed by tying clusters of feathers to cords.

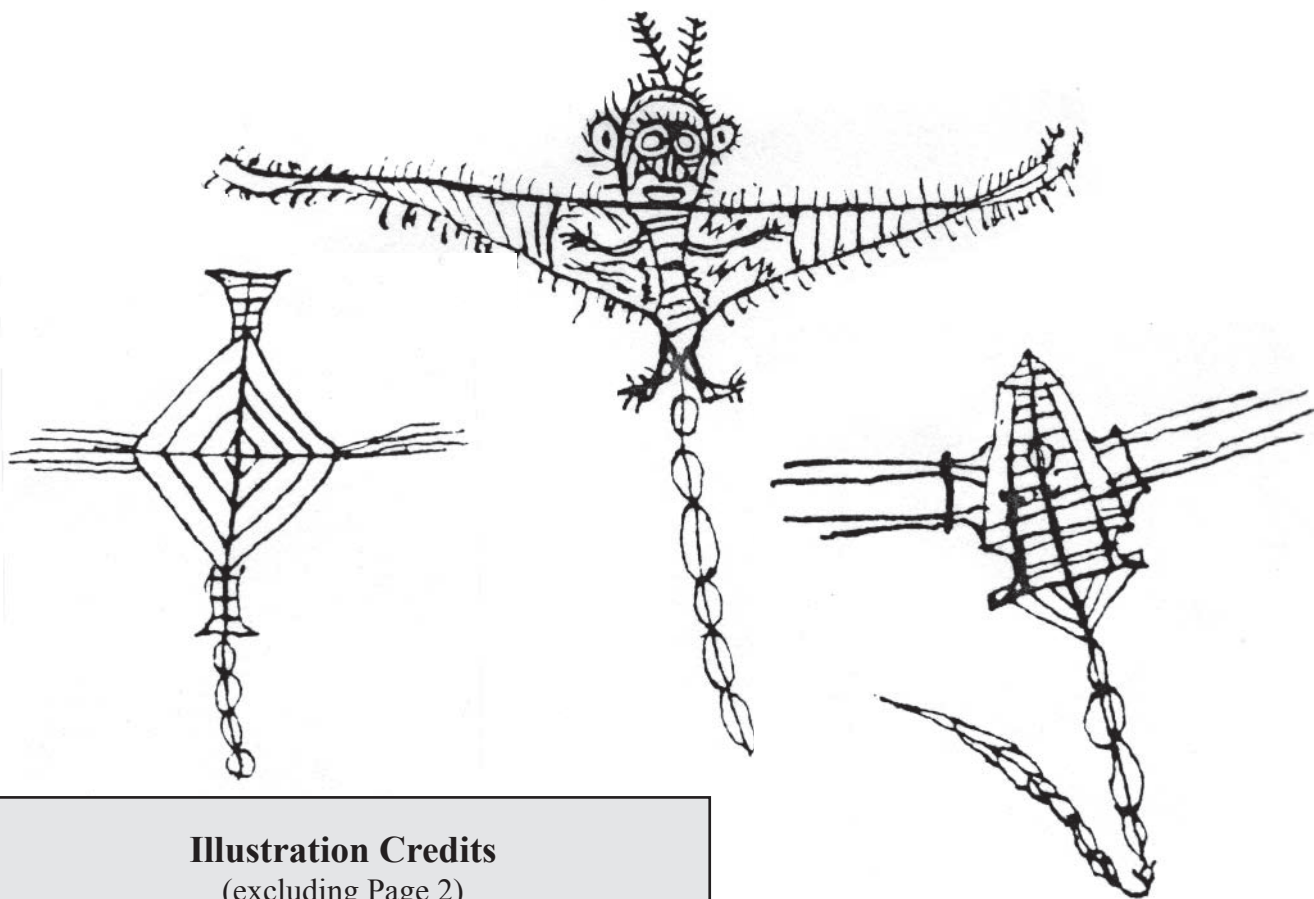


Illustration Credits

(excluding Page 2)

Cover—Fototeca Guatemala, CIRMA; Pages 4,5,7 (top and bottom right), 8,9,11,12,14,18,27,39— Ben Ruhe; Page 7 (bottom left)—Ali Fujino; Pages 15,16—Christophe Cheret; Page 19—Rohleder, Borges & Fleming; Page 20—Charles Schulz Estate; Page 21 (left)—Michael Jensen; Page 21 (right)—John Militzer; Page 25—Jane Yolen; Pages 26,31,32—Scott Skinner; Page 28 (left)—Charmaine Umbower; Page 28 (right)—Jim Day; Page 29—Walter Diem; Pages 33,34—Tokyo Kite Museum; Page 37—Eden Maxwell; Page 42—Jan Desimpelaere; Page 44—Ed Grauel; Page 45—Andre Thiebalt; Page 47—Titore.

