Putting Arens to the Test

Tyler A. Balli  
*Brigham Young University - Provo, tylerballi@gmail.com*

Justin Cannon  
*Brigham Young University - Provo, justincannon33@gmail.com*

Blake Brailsford  
*Brigham Young University - Provo, blakebrailsford93@gmail.com*

Aubrey Kartchner  
*Brigham Young University - Provo, aubrey.kartchner@gmail.com*

Hallie Johnson  
*Brigham Young University - Provo, halliejeanne14@gmail.com*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub](https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub)

The Annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference showcases some of the best student research from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The mentored learning program encourages undergraduate students to participate in hands-on and practical research under the direction of a faculty member. Students create these posters as an aide in presenting the results of their research to the public, faculty, and their peers.

**BYU ScholarsArchive Citation**

Balli, Tyler A.; Cannon, Justin; Brailsford, Blake; Kartchner, Aubrey; and Johnson, Hallie, "Putting Arens to the Test" (2015). FHSS Mentored Research Conference. 266.  
[https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub/266](https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub/266)

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Family, Home, and Social Sciences at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in FHSS Mentored Research Conference by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Earliest European accounts of Maori cannibalism came from explorers such as Captain James Cook. Many of these accounts are questionable in their validity.

Author Paul Moon in his book, *This Horrid Practice* gives ample evidence in order to argue about the historical certainty of Maori cannibalism.

William E. Arens in his book *The Man-Eating Myth* argues that the thousands of accusations leveled at indigenous peoples, such as the Maori of New Zealand, are in fact invented. As one testes Arens’ theory in the Maori case it is difficult to dismiss the incredible amount of information in support of cannibalism. Although Maori cannibalism occurred, the frequency of its occurrence has been grossly exaggerated.

It was exaggerated by missionaries who needed to show the “lost” state of the Maori in order to secure more funding and evangelists to further spread Christianity. Explorers also exaggerated in hopes of impressing those back home with wild and adventurous stories.

Cannibalism amongst the Maori reached its’ demise somewhere between 1830 and 1840 due to the efforts of Christian missionaries.