

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

The Annual General Meeting will now be held on Wednesday, 15th November, beginning at 5.30pm in the Seminar Room, Hocken Library, 90 Anzac Ave.

Following the meeting – which will not be a lengthy occasion - Jenny Burchell will speak about her 150th anniversary official history of the City Choir Dunedin. This is a subject of wide interest – bring a friend.

The Annual Lunch in September, at the Dunedin Club, was a great success. This was our first departure from the standard evening gathering, and it was gratifying that over 40 members and friends were present to hear Malcolm McKinnon, author of *The Broken Decade 1928-1939*, speak about his life as an historian. He comes from a family with a remarkable record in public life, and his reflections had that sense of authority about them.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The public lounge at the Hocken now has several computers, and people can go there Monday-Friday between 9am-10am, and begin their research on-line.

The need for additional space is becoming critical. Storage has been created at the rear of the Public Researcher Services, plan cabinets have been installed in the Pictures Stack and other supporting projects are taking place across the full range of collections.

With a full staffing complement now being trained, supporting work is now taking place across the full range of collections. Paul Barton, one of the Information Resources librarians who specialises in cataloguing has been seconded to the Hocken to catalogue approximately 7000 pamphlets that are gathered in the several collections of bound pamphlet volumes.

The book *Undreamed of 50 Years of the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship* by Priscilla Pitts and Andrea Hotere,

was launched in mid-September - in three places, Hocken, Wellington and Auckland. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Harlene Hayne, was able to use these occasions to share information on the upcoming University of Otago 150th Anniversary Celebrations in 2019.

The link between Hocken and Kai Tahu, the *tangata whenua*, is an extremely important one. It was further strengthened in mid-September during *Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori* - Maori Language Week. The events included two well-attended seminars, a small exhibition in the foyer, and the launch of a new book by Associate Professors Angela Wanhalla and Lachy Paterson. The title of their work is *He Rēo Wahine: Māori Women's Voices from the Nineteenth Century*. It describes the women's experiences in their own words – speeches, evidence, letters and testimonies.

EPHEMERA

As this is being written, the long-drawn-out saga of the 2017 General Election is unresolved. The principal players still occupy the media lime-light, without it being at all clear who are to have the star roles. How many, to use the Bard's words, have strutted and fretted their hour upon this year's stage, and then, likely enough, will be heard of no more.

Such thoughts were occasioned by the news that Katherine Milburn is developing a new system for acquiring a more representative range of electioneering material from around New Zealand and across the whole political spectrum. Katherine is the Liaison Librarian and Curator of Ephemera.

What an appropriate word 'ephemera' is, with its associations of moths and butterflies, and day-long fevers. Printed material relating to electioneering, is almost by definition, transient – much of it to be thrown away the night before the final polling day. Yet it is significant – the slogans, the faces, the effects striven for, are all part of our history. Katherine has undertaken a very considerable task, and it will help us to reflect better on who we are

THE STORY OF A BOOK

There's something about a book that isn't captured by merely describing its content. Reading is more than appreciating words – it's a tactile experience. A book, while we read it, becomes part of us. A volume standing on a shelf becomes a reminder of an occasion or a person.

Donald Kerr's wonderful biography of Thomas Morland Hocken does just this. It recreates the man, at the same time as it provides us with all the information we need about him. Hocken was a lover of books and now we know all about the works he acquired over decades of judicious purchasing. By 1887 he completed a draft catalogue, and one of the titles named in it is John Liddiard Nicholas' *Narrative of a Voyage to New Zealand*. Since it is exactly 200 years since its first publication I hoped it might be possible to trace the progress of the two-volume work, from author to publisher, to initial purchaser, and finally to the Library itself.

The original purchase was located, after skilful sleuthing by the Library staff, but the books themselves offer no indication as to provenance. They had been rebound about 50 years ago, and there is nothing like a bookplate or inscription to indicate the previous owner. On the flyleaf, in pen and ink, is a neatly written four figure number, which might suggest a personal record, or, maybe, a catalogue number from a book sale. Another copy is from a known, and much more recent, gift. With the help of both sets, this brief article illustrates something of the way in which Hocken's treasures have found their way to the Library's shelves.

Nicholas was born at Holborn, Middlesex in 1784, and was an iron founder at the Cannon foundry, Shadwell, London. It does not seem he was ever married. He arrived at Sydney in October 1813, having undertaken to bring £10,000 in capital and equipment, including a steam-engine to be sold to the governor for sawmilling. Nicholas, as a businessman, disappointed his backers, 'showing no enterprise', but he did spend time sociably with [Samuel Marsden](#).

Harrison Wright refers to him as a 'gentleman ... with time on his hands', and, it would seem, a genuine interest in missionary work. In 1814 he accompanied Marsden to New Zealand on that celebrated first missionary visit. Nicholas reported plainly and fairly on the voyage made in the brig *Active* between November and March, which resulted in the establishment of the first Christian mission to the Maoris and the first transfer of land to white men. On 24 February 1815, as one of two witnesses, Nicholas signed the deed of sale to the

Church Missionary Society of 200 acres (81 ha) for twelve axes.

On his return from New Zealand Nicholas was granted 700 acres (283 ha) in the parish of Gidley, County of Cumberland, New South Wales in October 1815. However, he left the colony a month later and returned to London. He had a sympathetic, for its time, view of the Maori and was pleased to meet with Hongi Hika and Waikato, of Rangihoua, when they visited England in 1818 with Thomas Kendall.

In 1822 Nicholas sold his Sydney property to Marsden for £300. He continued to support Marsden in his disputes with the Governor and denied accusations that the chaplain was abusing his office. He made contact with William Wilberforce and Elizabeth Fry in respect to Marsden's work with the Female Factory at Parramatta, and afterwards assisted Mrs Fry in her attempts to improve conditions on female convict ships. He appears to have been always closely associated with the Church Missionary Society.

The only indication of any occupation after his return to England is as a 'Clerk to Charity Commissioners'. When he gave evidence on the state of New Zealand before the Lord's Committee in 1838 he stated he was 'in no employment', though he was recorded as an 'agent' in the 1851 Census. In a summary of this hearing in the Westminster Gazette he is consistently and erroneously referred to as Colonel J.L. Nicholas. He died at Reading, Berkshire, on 22 July 1868.

His work was published in 1817 by James Black and Son, under the title: *Narrative of a Voyage to New Zealand /performed in the years 1814 and 1815,/in company with the Rev. Samuel Marsden,/Principal Chaplain of New South Wales*. The work was well received and had been translated into Dutch and German in 1819. It was printed in two volumes - Vol.1 pp.xx, 431, and Vol.2 pp. xii, 398. There are 4 plates and two charts, both after Cook – and there is a Maori vocabulary of 450 words. An appendix contains extracts from earlier works, by David Collins *Account of the English Colony in New South Wales* (1798); John Turnbull's *Voyage Round the World in the years 1800....*(1813); and a memoir of Duaterra (Ruatarua) 'so faithful a helper to Mr Marsden'.

Hocken describes it as 'an admirable account of early New Zealand and the natives, also of the introduction of Christianity and civilisation into New Zealand under Mr Marsden.' The *New Zealand National Bibliography* says: 'His narrative, told in standard 18th century prose, is a useful parallel to the more volatile but succinct and direct record kept by Marsden.' Harrison Wright states: 'The narrative has many word pictures, details on the

establishment of the mission, and descriptions of the leading Maoris as the author saw them, but not a great deal of information.'

Anne Salmond devotes a good deal of attention to what Nicholas wrote. In her *Between Worlds...* (1997) she says: 'Like most of his contemporaries, Nicholas echoed the claims of European 'common sense, which linked reason and truth with Christianity and civilised life, and savagery with ignorance and superstition. He [Nicholas] assumed that Western science offered decisive proof of the superiority of rational, restrained Europeans over passionate, ignorant savages.' This article is not a critique of Nicholas' work, but these final comments place the author fairly where he belongs as a man of his times.

Hocken signed his name in ink in each copy – and that is all. If those four figure numbers on the flyleaves are, as I have guessed, a catalogue number, then it is appropriate to refer to Dr Donald Kerr's exemplary biography of Thomas Hocken where he gives evidence of the doctor's business dealings with Quaritch of London, the great antiquarian bookseller. He was buying from this source at least as early as 1880 – as was Alexander Turnbull. Whether these two volumes came through Quaritch is simply not known.

Bernard Quaritch (1819 – 1899) was German-born, and after being apprenticed to a bookseller went to [London](#) in 1842, where he was employed by a publisher. In 1847 he started a bookseller's business off [Leicester Square](#), becoming naturalized as a British subject. In 1848 he started to issue a monthly *Catalogue of Foreign and English Books*. About 1858 he began to purchase rare books, and in 1860 moved to [Piccadilly](#). In 1873 he published the *Bibliotheca Xylographica, Typographica et Palaeographica*, a remarkable catalogue of early productions of the [printing press](#) of all countries.

Hocken became a regular buyer at all the principal book-sales of [Europe](#) and [America](#), and from time to time published a variety of other catalogues of old books. All Quaritch's catalogues are of considerable bibliographical value. By this time (1880s) he had developed the largest trade in old books in the world. He died at [Hampstead, London](#), leaving his business to his son, [Bernard Alfred Quaritch](#), and the business survives to this day.

The Library, however, has more than one set of these volumes. A more recent acquisition came through the extensive gift of R. Bruce Godward, born in Invercargill in 1916. He was the son of E.R. Godward, an engineer, a noted inventor, and book collector. Ernest Robrt Godward made a fortune through the development of

the carburettor, and it was he who put the crinkle in the ladies' hair clip.



Bruce himself studied art, trained as a teacher, and after WW2, when he was a conscientious objector, went overseas and worked in English hospitals as an art psychotherapist. He travelled extensively in Europe, and collected books on Pacific history for forty years. He was associated with Rex Nan Kivell of the Redfern Gallery, and through contacts like this would have been aware of what was available on the rare books market. Ill health brought him back to Invercargill in 1982, and following his death in 1992 his valuable collection came to the Hocken.

It would be good to complete the stories of these two collectors' pieces. Neither set gives any indication of the 19th century owners, and it would be interesting to know the sort of people who were then interested enough in New Zealand history to want to have Nicholas' significant work on their library shelves.

Whatever the case, Hocken had acquired his copy by 1887. It was, so Donald Kerr's meticulous research shows, one of 56 entries relating to pre-1830 publications relating to New Zealand. It is good, on this bi-centenary of the publication of this work to tell its story.

There is no Frigate like a Book

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry –
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll –
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human Soul –

Emily Dickinson

ROY COLBERT

The Hocken Blog is a must. Many Friends probably check it out regularly, but, if you don't, get into the habit. Over recent months there have been several entries relating to Dunedin pop music - if that label is a fair one.

Because Roy Colbert touched so many lives, and not only in this field, it seems the just thing to include the tribute posted by Amanda Mills, Hocken Liaison Librarian, Curator Music and AV.

'It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Roy Colbert. Colbert's contribution to the local music scenes in Dunedin cannot be understated – his 2nd hand music store 'Records Records' (formerly located in the Terrace Houses in Stuart Street) was the place many discovered new and different sounds, often recommended by the man himself. His mentoring of and friendship with Dunedin musicians was legendary, his influence so strong that Chris Knox called him 'The Godfather' of the Dunedin Sound. Colbert was also a very fine writer on all topics, especially sport and music, and his stories about local and international artists were told with honesty, humour, goodwill, and (more often than not) his tongue firmly in cheek.

Roy Colbert was a supporter of Hocken's recorded music collections from its establishment in the 1970s when we began purchasing items from Records Records. Most recently in April this year a small number of rare NZ 45rpm discs were purchased from Roy.

Roy Colbert's legacy looms large in Dunedin music, his kind and gregarious nature will not be forgotten, and he will be greatly missed.'

PLUS ÇA CHANGE

Councillor Taverner moved the adoption of the Finance Committee at the previous evenings Council Meeting. Various matters affecting salaries and wages had been

under discussion and 'some progress had been made,'..... 'An application from the Otago University Council for a grant of £75 for the Museum and Hocken Library had been declined, no provision having been made in the estimates for such expenditure.'

(Otago Daily Times, 15th November 1917)

WW1 TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

The appalling tragedy of the war found personal expression on October 12th in the *Otago Daily Times* when approximately 160 individual soldiers, killed at Passchendaele, were named and remembered. Throughout the whole country nearly 1000 lives were lost – Otago suffered its share of grief that day.

The work of the 16 or so volunteers proceeds well, and advantage will be taken during the AGM to acknowledge their efforts.

A number of diaries have been completed, and their transcriptions, alongside high quality PDFs of the originals, can now be used by readers.

It is likely that a new wave of work will concentrate on transcribing letters. The best ways to make this wonderful effort available online are still being discussed.

CHRISTMAS – BOOKS AND BARGAINS

The three FOHC publications are available through the Hocken 'shop'. Prices have been reduced. and they would make a welcome and thoughtful addition when you are planning your Christmas gifts.

<i>Aspiring to Art</i>	\$20.00
<i>Gaining a Foothold</i>	\$45.00
<i>Haven at St Leonards</i>	\$10.00

Also, have a look at the Hocken Online Shop - <https://library.shop.otago.ac.nz/>

FOHC MEMBERSHIP

*Subscriptions: Individual: \$25 per annum; Life Member \$250
Joint: \$30 per annum; Joint Life Member \$300
Cheques to: Friends of the Hocken Collections, PO Box 6336, Dunedin North 9059. Online payment is preferable: Westpac 03 0903 0393175 000, including "Subscription" in Particulars field, surname/initials in Code and Reference fields.*

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