

## TALK SERIES 2018

### 1<sup>st</sup> August (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

TE KERĒME: REFLECTING ON 20 YEARS SINCE THE NGĀI TAHU TREATY SETTLEMENT

Takerei Norton and members of the Ngai Tahu Archives Team will talk about some of the innovative projects on which they are working.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Barbara Brookes and Angela Wanhalla's topic is entitled 'Rediscovering Māori women's voices'.

**Note:** This talk is part of the Friends' Annual Celebration, and is to be held at the Cobb and Co. function room at the Dunedin Railway Station. The talk is timed for 2pm, and afternoon tea (\$20 per head) will be served at 3pm.

### 19<sup>th</sup> September

Laurence Fearnly, who with Paul Hersey, was the recipient of the first Hocken Collections Research Scholarship, will speak on 'The pleasure of researching and editing an anthology of New Zealand mountaineering writing'.

### 28<sup>th</sup> November

James Beattie, an environmental historian, has garden history as his subject.

All the talks, with the exception of the early September gathering, are held in the Hocken Seminar Room. Refreshments and chat at 5.15 pm, followed by the talk at 5.30pm.

---

## THE TASKS/TRIALS OF THE EPHEMERA LIBRARIAN

Katherine Milburn's illustrated talk on the Library's Hunter Collection was fascinating. The weather wasn't kind, and the numbers were down, but the interest of the audience was captured.

---

In the later 1930s the Spanish Medical Aid Committee despite being labelled a 'Communist front', enjoyed wide public support. Its national president until June 1938 was Dunedin Labour MP D. G. McMillan. Branches elected Popular Front-styled executives, the Dunedin committee's secretary being Edgar (Ted) Hunter, a union official and member of the Labour Party, and later of the Communist Party. His collection is a notable example of a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century socialist/communist collection.

Katherine's talk underlined how thorough and pains-taking is the work of the archivist when it covers so wide a variety of print and ephemera. Everything is now at the fingertips of the researcher. But she also said something about the man himself, an unobtrusive tram conductor, faithful to his older dreams for socialist unity, and to the principles of trades unionism.

---

## TURNBULL AND HOCKEN

The centenary of the death of Alexander Turnbull on June 28<sup>th</sup> was recently remembered in Wellington. It is appropriate that the importance of the Turnbull Library should be acknowledged here in Dunedin.

In 2015 Dr Donald Kerr gave a talk to the Friends of the Alexander Turnbull Library entitled: **A H TURNBULL AND 'THAT MOST ENTERTAINING LITTLE MAN, DR HOCKEN'**. *F&J* is grateful to Dr Kerr for his permission to include in this edition a condensed version of his detailed and interesting talk.

Dr Kerr's biography of Thomas Morland Hocken makes clear the significance of the relationship formed over a period of 20 years or so between the two men. It is fair to say that Hocken had a significant influence on the process by which his colleague's collection became a national treasure.

It is hoped that this selection of extracts from Dr Kerr's talk captures the essence of what was, at the time, a mutually beneficial friendship. Equally, it underlines their joint influence on the course of New Zealand historiography.

### TURNBULL AND HOCKEN

Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull was born in Wellington on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1868, the youngest son of Walter Turnbull, a prominent merchant. In 1885, in his late teens, he bought J. H. Kerry-Nicholl's *The King Country; or Explorations in New Zealand* (1884). He called this purchase 'the first book of my collection.'

In 1893 he wrote to Dulau & Co., booksellers and publishers of Soho Square, London, asking for: 'Anything whatever relating to this Colony, on its history, flora, fauna, geology, & inhabitants, will be fish for my net, from as early a date as possible until now.' There were other interests: the Pacific Islands and voyaging in the Pacific, Australiana; John Ruskin and British nineteenth-century fiction; Scotland, English drama, the Kelmscott Press, and works by the poet John Milton.

In 1893 Hocken was 57, and a collector since he arrived in Dunedin in February 1862. Throughout his life he published lectures and books, helping document the early history of New Zealand. He had travelled the country to see 'the antiquities of New Zealand', and to tread in the steps of Captain Cook, Samuel Marsden, and the old missionaries. The people he met were often asked for anything historical - books, manuscripts, sketches. This was how he amassed much of his collection, with its New Zealand focus.

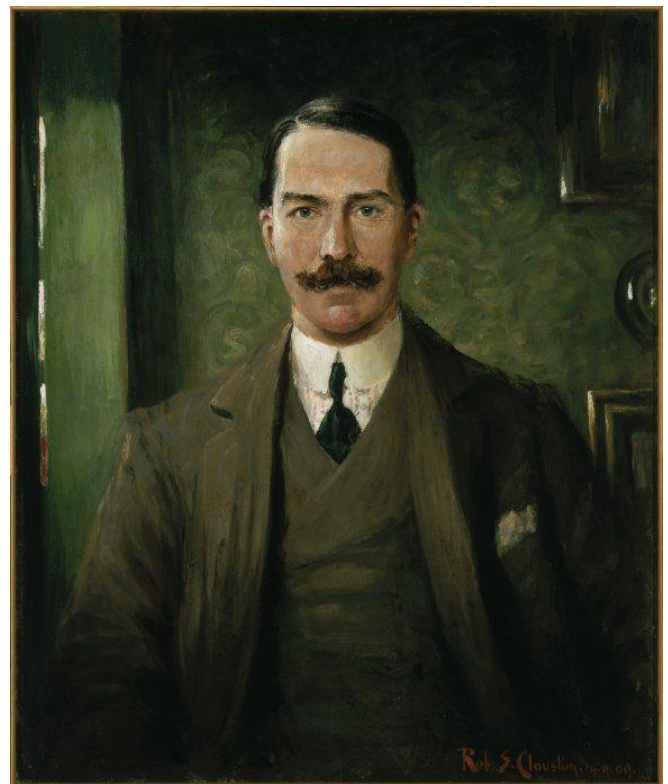
In 1894 Turnbull wrote to his brother 'A Dr Hocken of Dunedin has been visiting me lately, he is a great collector of New Zealand books & we have had many a long talk already over our respective libraries. Dr Hocken is supposed to have the finest series of works on this country there is. He is a most entertaining little man & during his stay in Wellington has been most instructive to me.' By that time Turnbull's collection of New Zealand books already numbered 1500.

Correspondence between the two remained fairly constant until the latter's death in 1910. Proud of what each had secured and always eager to obtain that next special item, their letters contained social gossip, book-talk, pleasure in a recent acquisition, and an endless wish-list. In 1894 Turnbull 1894 wrote offering duplicate pamphlets he had found in a cupboard. In turn he asked, 'Do you have a duplicate of the first number of the *Otago Journal*, as you thought you did when we met in Wellington? One of Turnbull's copies of the New Zealand Company's 1000 page 'Supplement to the 12<sup>th</sup> Report of

the New Zealand Company' (April 1844) has Hocken's signature on the title-page.

Turnbull visited Dunedin in 1895, and although there are no reports, it can be presumed that he called on Hocken and viewed his collection. In 1899, Hocken offered duplicates of the *New Zealand Spectator*, the *Wellington Independent*, the *Nelson Examiner*, and *Otago Witness* for 'exchanges or purchases.' He set out quite a list of old newspapers he wanted. Turnbull was wealthier than Hocken, and liked a bargain but in Dr Hocken he met his match, finally agreeing to his asking price of £200. 'I wish I had some duplicates to exchange with you, so as to avoid the 'money' difficulty but you have everything in your library that I have in duplicate so there is no chance for me.'

Around this time Turnbull wrote to Downie Stewart, the Dunedin lawyer: 'Yes, Dr Hocken is a bit of a miser



with regard to his duplicates: He pursues a different policy in this matter to what I do. I am not sure he is not right because I never seem to have duplicates to give away when they are much wanted whereas the Dr always has some up his sleeve to distribute or exchange when necessary.' A major topic at that time was the sale of William Larnach's library. Hocken attended and bought what were considered bargains. Not being on the spot, Turnbull was fortunate to have a friend like Hocken, who gave Turnbull a number of pamphlets he bought from the sale. The sale catalogue was poorly compiled and for both men, as dedicated collectors, sorting was an essential activity.

Hocken was absent from New Zealand between 1901 and 1904 and it wasn't until early June 1905, that Turnbull wrote again. Then there was another gap of four years until Turnbull wrote, and in this instance the impetus was reading about Hocken gifting his library to the University of Otago: 'I read Mr Stephen's contribution (in the *Evening Post*) with very great pleasure & I am sure many here will experience the same feeling. So far as I can recollect this is the first proper description of your collection, as a whole, I have seen & I am glad it has appeared because it will give the public some idea of what you are presenting to the Dominion &, I hope, will make them realize what sacrifices in time & money you have endured to make your library so perfect.'

Their hunting had continued, with each man keeping a eye out for materials that would satisfy the other. For example, Hocken spurred Turnbull's interest in Samuel Butler, especially in reference to his writings in the Christchurch publication *Literary Foundlings* (1864). For Turnbull this event resulted in correspondence with Henry Festing Jones, Butler's biographer.

A letter to Turnbull in July 1909 conveys the character of their relationship: 'My dear Turnbull, I purposely postponed until I could see Thomson who was editor & proprietor of the *Journal of Science*. He told me this morning that he had not a copy & had not seen one for years. So all I can do is to keep my eyes open & make enquiries. About a year ago I saw for sale a bundle of unbound ones; where they went I don't know. I suppose you would be glad to have odd numbers failing a complete set. I found out, in my own book too but had forgotten the incident, that Abbott the surveyor who died in 1849 drew the picture of Little Paisley. I have his original but it has no initials on it. But he was the artist. We are all well & send you our kind regards. For the first time in my stay in N.Z. I had no holiday this year otherwise I hoped to have seen you as usual. I was laid up in bed for more than a fortnight from an illness caught during my close attendance upon Lieut. Shackleton. Sincerely yours my dear Turnbull. - T.M. Hocken'

Hocken, wrote to Turnbull in February 1910, when he was dying: 'My dear Turnbull, I must not allow a second of your kind letters to pass unanswered though I am in a sadly crippled condition & do not know what the end may be.' He was pleased that Turnbull had found his *Bibliography* useful. He himself believed it was of 'great value'. Hocken had been too ill to supervise the distribution of his books and pictures into the newly built wing at the Otago Museum, but to Turnbull, he added: 'Few can understand this but you will most thoroughly.'

He also referred to his last visit in Wellington when he was too ill to leave the ship. 'You know how much I should enjoy and long talk & browse with you. Let us hope the

day may come again. I forbear to ask you questions.' When Turnbull heard about how critical Hocken was he wrote: 'All this makes me very sad and think of Thomson's lines: 'Whether man's life or heart it be/ Which yields thee harvest, must thy harvest fields/ Be dunged with rotten death.' Hocken died on 17 May 1910, aged 74; he had spent 48 years in New Zealand collecting.

Donald Kerr notes some of the similarities and differences between the two men. Both belonged to the Linnean Society of London - Hocken from 1883 on the grounds of his 'Attachment to the study of natural history, especially that of New Zealand and Polynesia'. Turnbull was elected a Fellow in 1891

Both men designed bookplates for their collections - they were an integral part of a good collector's notion of forming a collection. It says, 'This book is mine.' About the time Turnbull became an FLS in July 1891, he applied to have arms attached to the Turnbull family, and then eight bookplates followed, over a period of years.

Turnbull was not a scholar like Grey or Hocken He was primarily a collector, who did, however, help others by making his collection accessible. Hocken's *Contributions* and *Early History* and his *Bibliography* (1909) stand as important reference works. On the publication of the latter, Turnbull wrote to Downie Stewart: 'You can imagine with what interest I have been looking through the volume - looking through it without a tinge of envy - because though I am a greedy collector I have never been an envious one.' Turnbull referred to the early missionary manuscripts: 'if the Library contained nothing else but these it would be in the front of all New Zealand Collections.'

Both were concerned with what would happen to their collections after their deaths. The terms of Hocken's Deed of Gift had been teased out with advice from Downie Stewart, and Turnbull, among others. In 1910, the physical transfer of the collection was signalled by the opening of the 'Hocken Wing'. Hocken was too ill to attend the opening ceremony, but he wrote: 'This work has been to me a labour of love ... A desire, then, to, in some measure, do something for the people among whom I have so long sojourned .... has been the actuating motive in the formation of this collection ....'

Turnbull was also concerned about his collection's future. In 1916 Turnbull was forty-eight. With a foreboding of future events, he made the decision that it would go to the State. When he died in 1918, he was (and is) considered the prime one.

## MUSIC MONTH

The Hocken celebrated May Music Month with a range of activities; the Music Poster wall display in the Hocken foyer garnered positive feedback; both Liaison Librarians (Katherine Milburn and Amanda Mills) contributed to Dunedin Public Art Gallery and Dunedin Public Library's music month events with talks; evening talks at the Hocken were given by Dr David Murray and Dr Ian Chapman and an old fashioned sing-along was held at the Hocken.

## EXHIBITION DIARY

**"Primary Care"** opened on 30 June and runs to 25 August 2018. Curated by Andrea Bell, it brings together a selection of artworks, photographs, ephemera and archival materials largely gathered from across the Hocken's collections. The exhibition considers aspects of physical, spiritual, community, mental and public health, and the works relate to health promotion and disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, deinstitutionalization, patient education, community care, and Māori health. It represents a range of approaches to health and wellbeing, and developments in the medical field.



Works by Simon Denny, Giovanni Intra, Robyn Kahukiwa, Eileen Mayo, Robert Rauschenberg, Ava Seymour, Ann Shelton, Heather Straka, Lionel Terry, and Robin White, among others, are on display.

The 2018 QS World University rankings confirmed **Otago Physical Education School** as New Zealand's leading teaching and research university in Sport and Exercise Sciences. It was ranked 12<sup>th</sup>, based on national and international academic reputation, research and reputation of our graduates amongst employers. This global score is the second highest ranking of any department at any New Zealand University. A small

display celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Physical Education School will be in the Hocken Foyer until 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Later exhibitions you might note in your diary include Hocken's response to **Suffrage 125** (15 September – 3 November 2018), and then **'Hand in Hand: Photographers and Painters alike'**, curated by Dr Anna Petersen (24 November – 26 January 2019 \* end date to be confirmed).

## MĀORI LANGUAGE MATTERS

Hocken is participating in the Royal Society's Takarangi Project by maintaining a regularly updated display of Māori non-fiction publications from the list of 150 publications identified in the Project next to the Researcher Services desk. Setting up this display resulted in some great outcomes, including the strengthening of Hocken's Māori collections, by being featured in talks around the country

A talk on resources for Whakapapa research will be given by Jacinta Beckwith, Kaitiaki Mātauranga Māori, and Megan Vaughan, Hocken Researcher Services on Wednesday 18 July, 2018 at 1-2pm at the Hocken Library Seminar Room. Come early for kaputi (cup of tea) prior to the kōrero.

## STATISTICS

Despite what the popular saying says, statistics are important. The Hocken Librarian, Sharon Dell, reported that in May there were 1951 check-outs of material to researchers, over 1500 across-the-desk archival enquiries, as well as 44 written enquiries. All this, for example, impacts on archival storage, and there is on-going work on improving space utilisation.

## 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. Online payment:  
Westpac 030903 0393175 000 - "Subscription" in Particulars  
field, surname/initials in Code/ Reference fields.*

*Prepared by Donald Phillipps for the Friends of the Hocken Collections  
P.O.Box 6336, Dunedin North 9059 - [donaldphillipps@gmail.com](mailto:donaldphillipps@gmail.com)*