

2019 TALK PROGRAMME

The first on the programme is:

Life on the Otago goldfields - Insights from recent excavations in Lawrence. The presenters are Prof. Hallie Buckley and Dr Charlotte King of the Dept of Anatomy, University of Otago) and Dr Peter Petchey (Southern Archaeology Ltd and Department of Archaeology, University of Otago).

NOTE: April 17th, Seminar Room, Hocken Library. Refreshments at 5.15; Talk to follow.

In connection with the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the University of Otago, **Dr Warwick Brunton, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, will be the next speaker on Wednesday, 17th June.** His subject is: 'If we have been extinguished, yet there rise a thousand beacons from the sparks we bore': An Antipodean Appreciation of William Lauder Lindsay (1829-1880) and the establishment of the Otago Medical School.'

Your Committee expects to publish the full diary for the year after its next meeting.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO PETER HOLLAND

Friends are advised that the Department of Geography has arranged for a Memorial gathering for Peter. It is to be held in the Main Common Room of the Link Building at 2pm on Friday, 15th March.

UNESCO Memory of the World Register

The main article in this issue continues the subject covered in the last – the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Friends may remember some of what was shared in the November *F&J* about the unrivalled record of Hocken in the number of inscriptions it has achieved.

This time the emphasis is more on the work that goes into achieving such international recognition, rather than on the subject matter of each inscription. To meet the exacting standards that the submission requires for inclusion in the Memory of the World Register a very considerable amount of administrative work has to be done. In a sense the Library's policies and practice have been thoroughly checked, and approved.

An additional condition was that the submission be supported by the testimony of two independent experts. It was given wholeheartedly by Emeritus Professor Atholl Anderson of the Australian National University, and by Professor Tony Ballantyne, the Otago University Pro-Vice Chancellor Humanities.

Hocken Library is without question a significant factor in the international reputation of the University of Otago. And in this particular matter it was being faithful to its founder's vision. It is 150 years since the Otago Institute was established, committed to the advancement of science in all its forms. One attendant need in the pursuit of science, said its Vice President, Alfred Eccles at a meeting of the Institute in November 1869, was the availability of a reference library.

Such a statement would have, as Donald Kerr says, captured Dr Hocken's full attention. The Institute became a vehicle for his growing interest in New Zealand history, a focus for his collecting, and a 'social and intellectual outlet' where he could rub shoulders with kindred spirits. Herries Beattie was that sort of a person.



The foregoing provides the setting for the news that another of Hocken’s treasures has gained international recognition by being added to a UNESCO heritage register. The James Herries Beattie Papers, a comprehensive collection detailing Ngāi Tahu culture and history has been added to UNESCO’S Memory of the World New Zealand register.

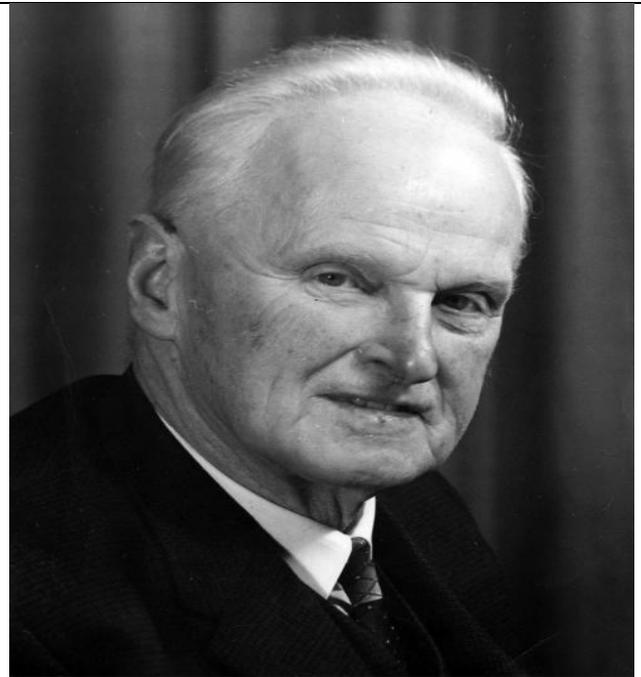
When Dr Hocken’s *Bibliography of the Literature relating to New Zealand* was published in 1909, the index entry under ‘Anthropology and Ethnology’ contained 57 items. W.H. Trimble’s 1912 *Catalogue of the Hocken Library*, refers to anthropological subjects under ethnology (E., 5), with 97 items in all - of which less than half dealt with matters relating to Māori or Pacific cultures.

The papers of Henry Devenish Skinner, so long and so closely associated with Hocken Library, make up one of its most prized collections. They include material relating to his anthropological and ethnological work, such as Māori artefacts, letters with Elsdon Best and Stephenson Percy Smith, both of whom, are referred to as ethnologists or ethnographers by the *New Zealand Dictionary of Biography*. If Skinner is remembered as the founding father of New Zealand anthropology, he was, strictly speaking, first appointed as Lecturer in Ethnology at the University of Otago in 1919.

The formal beginnings of ethnology (and anthropology) as an academic discipline in New Zealand followed decades of observation, analysis and interpretation by largely European-born visitors and residents. If they lacked formal qualifications by today’s standards, they made up for it by their intense interest in, and commitment to, Maori language and culture. Without the personal records of their experiences and their collecting much irreplaceable material would have been lost.

This following criticism made in respect to the work of Elsdon Best may, however, have a rather wider application to those who were writing on ethnological matters in the latter part of the 19th century: ‘However, the evolutionary and racial assumptions that informed his theorising detract seriously from their ethnological value.’

Thomas Hocken retained contact with a ‘select group of bibliophiles’, to use Donald Kerr’s phrase. The Doctor was deeply interested in everything relating to this country - ‘history, flora, fauna, geology & inhabitants....’ There weren’t too many in the ‘select group’, and the presence of the two ethnologists, Smith and Best, indicate Hocken’s own leaning. By the very nature of his profession he would have favoured a more scientific approach to the understanding of human culture.



James Herries Beattie.

The Register, as has been noted, showcases significant documentary heritage, to highlight the importance of preserving and providing access to such items. The vision of the Memory of the World Register ‘is that the world’s documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and, with due recognition to cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all and without hindrance.’

To achieve this recognition the Library was required to complete a very substantial Nomination Form. Anna Blackman signed off this form on behalf of Hocken Collections, and its 21 pages illustrate the degree of care and accuracy that is needed to meet UNESCO’s exacting requirements. It is an extraordinarily thorough document, asking for an explanation as to why the particular documentary heritage is unique and irreplaceable, how the Beattie papers evoke their time, what is their importance for the history of New Zealand, and what is the significance of the places and the people referred to.

The following summary will enable Friends to understand the background to this latest achievement. Archival material had first come into the Hocken Collections in the 1920s and was added to until Beattie’s death in 1972, though some later accessions came through purchases made over the past 20 years.

Its uniqueness lies in the fact that 'much of the content was compiled as a result of interviews or correspondence with people, living through the 19th and early 20th centuries in the South Island, whose knowledge and experiences was not otherwise recorded. Beattie was an extremely thorough researcher and the information he collected, being so detailed and specific, played a major role in the Ngāi Tahu claim. All the researchers both for iwi and for the Crown used the Beattie papers repeatedly as they provided reliable and detailed historical and ethnographic data. Two independent experts were required to give testimony in support of the application, and Emeritus Professor Atholl Anderson of the Australian National University, a foremost scholar in this field, noted that Beattie's papers were so often used by the Tribunal that fears were held for the 'physical stamina of the material.'

The Memory of the World authority also sought information:

- on the nature of the 'custodian' (institution or individual); on its legal status (the papers are owned by the University of Otago);
- on the accessibility of the collection (including cataloguing, physical access to originals or copies, availability for copying purposes);
- on the care and preservation of the documents, including risk of fire or natural disaster, their being held in a controlled environment, and their availability for loan to other institutions.
- on the public promotion of this documentary heritage, through the media, and through appropriate reference to the Memory of the World programme.

All the foregoing – and more could be added – indicates both the care that is taken before authorisation is given, and the particular collection is inscribed in the Register. The Nomination Form is demanding and its completion is a tribute to the work of the Hocken staff. It is also a tribute to the standing of the Hocken Library internationally as a house of treasures, as its name in *te reo* indicates.

The formal description of the Herries Beattie Collection, provided in the submission, is as follows:

James Herries Beattie created the collection over a lifetime of research and writing. Beattie (known as Herries) was born in Gore in 1881, the son of Scots immigrants. He worked briefly as a journalist and librarian, as an ethnographic researcher for the Otago Museum and he owned and ran a bookshop in Waimate but much time was devoted to research and writing.

The earliest items are childhood writings and diaries, interesting examples of such 19th century writing from the mind of a bright and curious boy.

A very significant part of the collection are the records of interviews with South island Māori conducted by Beattie in the early 1920s as an ethnographical project done in collaboration with H.D. Skinner of the Otago Museum. These notes were to inform many of Beattie's subsequent writings and publications but were not published in full until *Traditional Lifeways of the Southern Maori* (ed. Atholl Anderson) was published posthumously in 1994.

The Māori whom Beattie met through this work were to continue to inform him and included people such as Erute Poko Cameron, Tiemi Haereroa Kupa, Taare Reweti Te Maihāroa, Tuhituhi Te Marama, Hone (Teone) Taare Tikao and Eruete Kingi Kurupohatu.

There are many folders of correspondence with Māori, historians, writers, European pioneers and their families and naturalists from many parts of the South Island on Māori history and legends, Māori food gathering, Māori trails and travel, Māori and European place names, the use of Māori words in different parts of the Island, South Island birds and bird names and early European pioneer history and gold mining history.

Many notebooks collate material on specific topics such as Māori and European place names in the South Island, Māori warfare, early European settlements, early Otago run holding, birds (for a book on native birds not published), gold mining, South Island legends, notes copied or gathered from other individuals.

Other material includes manuscripts of both published and unpublished works, printed proofs for publication, short stories, poems, albums of newspaper clippings on the topics outlined above, addresses and lectures, essays and papers from other individuals. There is a small number of volumes of newspaper advertisements for Beattie's bookshop in Waimate.

A small number of maps were donated to the Hocken with the papers. These are housed and catalogued separately as part of the Hocken maps collection. These maps identify Māori place names in particular.

A printed and bound inventory was produced for MS-582 in 1987 and is available for consultation. It includes the index of names within MS-582. MS-0181 and other subsequent additions to the collection have been incorporated in the arrangement of MS-582.

Beattie produced many works of lasting importance and by the end of his career he had produced around 44 titles, many were reprinted several times. He was awarded the Percy Smith Prize for achievement in anthropology in 1967 and was made an MBE. He died in 1972.

The collection is 5 linear metres, and includes 469 items (folders of correspondence, newspaper clippings, notebooks, albums, a few photographs and maps).

PETER GEORGE HOLLAND
1939 – 2019

Born in Waimate and educated at Timaru Boys' High School, Peter was a graduate of the University of Canterbury (MSc) and the Australian National University (PhD). After time teaching at McGill University, Canada, the University of Nairobi, the University of Cape Town, and the University of Canterbury, he came to the University of Otago in 1982. He retired in 2006 but continued his association with the Department of Geography until 2013.



From about that time Peter became a much appreciated friend and 'resident' of the Hocken Library as he continued his research interest – the relationship between settlers and the land they farmed in the South Island. Hocken provided him with the raw material he needed – diaries, and newspapers, and other primary sources.

He became involved with the Friends in 2015 and made a unique contribution in seeing through to its successful conclusion the award of the first Research Fellowship. Though retired from the Committee last year he had willingly offered to continue in this particular role during 2019/2020.

Once, in describing his experiences for a professional journal, he wrote: 'The chief functions of tertiary study: to make discoveries, evaluate knowledge, and deepen public awareness of the ideas and objects that shape our nature and our lives.' Peter was happily engaged in this task till the end.

A GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better." – said the American writer and producer Sidney Sheldon.

The title for the next exhibition in the Hocken Gallery comes from the centrepiece of the famous Hieronymus Bosch triptych of c1500, now in the Prado at Madrid. It is a masterpiece that has fueled the imagination for centuries.

This new exhibition, 'immersive, experiential and sensory', combines works of art and special collection items drawn from both the Hocken and the Central Library special collections of rare books, as well as other objects from research collections within the University of Otago. Curated by Robyn Notman, Head Curator of the Pictorial Collections, the exhibition is the fruit of a collaboration with the 2008 Frances Hodgkins Fellow artist Heather Straka, as well as other collection specialists within the University.

While designed 'to prompt the imagination', as does the Bosch original, the exhibition also celebrates 150 years of teaching, research, exploration and 'daring to be wise'. It is a fitting contribution by Hocken Collections to this landmark year in the history of Otago University.

The Exhibition opens on May 11th and will run through to August 3rd in the Hocken Gallery.

[Please note that Hocken Collections is open Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm.]

FOHC MEMBERSHIP

*Subscriptions: Individual: \$30 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.*

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