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OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. TO FOSTER the care, preservation, and proper use of archives and records, both public and private, and their effective administration.

2. TO AROUSE public awareness of the importance of archives and records and in all matters affecting their preservation and use, and to co-operate or affiliate with any other bodies in New Zealand or elsewhere with like objects.

3. TO PROMOTE the training of archivists, records keepers, curators, librarians and others by the dissemination of specialised knowledge and by encouraging the provision of adequate training in the administration and conservation of archives and records.

4. TO ENCOURAGE research into problems connected with the use, administration and conservation of archives and records, and to promote the publication of the results of this research.

5. TO PROMOTE the standing of archives institutions.

6. TO ADVISE and support the establishment of archives services throughout New Zealand.

7. TO PUBLISH a bulletin at least once a year and other publications in furtherance of these objects.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association is open to any individual or institution interested in fostering the objects of the Association. Subscription rates for 1987 are:

- within New Zealand: $NZ 19-00* individuals, $NZ 28-00 institutions
- overseas: $NZ 24-00 individuals, $NZ 32-00 institutions

Overseas members who wish airmail dispatch of notices and bulletins will need to advise their requirements. The additional fee will depend on current postal charges.

Applications to join the Association, membership renewals and correspondence on related matters should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary
ARANZ
P.O. Box 11-553
Manners Street
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

*For two individuals living at the same address (within New Zealand) a joint membership is available at $NZ 22-00 per year which entitles both people to full voting rights at meetings, but provides only one copy of each issue of Archifacts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address letters to The Editor, PO Box 11553, Manners St, Wellington. The editor reserves the right to abridge or decline any letter, without explanation. Letters are preferred double-spaced typed, on one side of the paper only. Letters are published only over genuine names and though not for publication full addresses must be given; pseudonyms are not accepted.
A FUTURE FOR THE LABOUR MOVEMENT'S PAST?
(Guest Editorial)

For a very long time a small but persistent number of voices have proselytised about the importance of preserving the historical records of the New Zealand 'labour movement'. Among these voices has been that of ARANZ's Labour Archives Committee (LAC). General awareness on the issue was low at the beginning of the current decade, as indicated by a languid response in 1979 to LAC's mass circularisation of unions and socialist organisations. But following upon the challenges posed to the labour movement by the ramifications of such factors as the new technology and altering overseas markets, the numbers of voices of concern increased.

With the implementation of 'Rogernomics' since 1984, noise level on the issue has dramatically increased - if as yet far from nearing a crescendo. The main reason is because 'traditionalists' within the Labour Party and the union movement, whether of welfare statist or socialist ilk, have been forced by the rapidity of the onslaught of politically-generated social and economic change to engage in crash-course examination of the relationship between means and ends. In working through the basic philosophy underpinning the emergence of the industrial and political wings of the labour movement, the primacy of collective and co-operative activity over the selfishness and inequalities of the competitive market, they have found the available material to be sparse and mostly unsatisfactory.

They have concluded - in the words of the LAC soon after its foundation - that 'New Zealand history has been written with a marked bias against the labour movement'. A number of those who are concerned about the redressing of this imbalance have appreciated that a prerequisite for getting the collective voice of working people and their representatives onto the historiographical agenda is a determined effort to preserve and make accessible the archives of the labour movement. Matters are now progressing so fast that even since Doug Crosado penned his contribution for this issue of Archifacts a significant new event has occurred. On 2 September 1987 the inaugural meeting of the Trade Union History Project (TUHP) was held in Wellington. The new organisation's general objective is to create 'understanding' in the community of the role of trade unions in forging New Zealand's society, and its supporters are deeply rooted in the world of both blue and white collar unions. Its patrons give some idea of its power base and scope: Sonja Davies, Colin Hicks, Jim Knox, Margaret Long, Bert Roth and Margaret Wilson. (Enquiries can be directed to the Secretary at P O Box 12412, Wellington).

The TUHP is poised to continue on a much grander scale the task undertaken over the years by ARANZ's LAC identifying archival sources for labour history, facilitating their preservation and so on. It has also, in response to the modern crisis in the labour movement, undertaken crucial new tasks. It intends to help fill the gaps in public knowledge about the history of New Zealand's organised working class - and to rectify popular misapprehension about that past. It will do so in
two key ways. First, it will create new archival material by recording, orally and visually, the memoirs of participants in the past struggles of (and within) the labour movement. Along with Crosado, it views 'oral history as an important appendage to traditional archives and records preservation' and a way of breaking down a public equation between archives and 'cloistered academic elitism'. Secondly, the TUHP will act as a co-ordinator, and sometimes as an initiator and sponsor, of efforts to present aspects of the labour movement's past to the public. The first such project, combining both approaches, is already at an advanced stage of planning, viz a television documentary on the industrial struggles of 1946-51. The period will be seen through the eyes of participants who espouse different points of view, concentrating upon the role of Jock Barnes. The projected hour-long programme will incorporate archival film, including some newly discovered footage shot by a dairy workers' union official, Lou Robertson. It will culminate with the momentous events of the 1951 waterfront dispute. The TUHP is not comprised of antiquarians, having emerged from the impact of recent political and socio-economic trends upon the labour movement. Nor is it a propagandist body, at least not in the narrow sense of the word, indeed it could hardly be that given the disparate ideological representation among its membership reflected in the composition of its office holders and committee. Its members are united in their awareness that the past - however one interprets its 'lessons' - provides the key to our understanding of the present and therefore to our ability to make informed choices about future directions. It is one of the most promising developments in the archival world in recent years.

Richard Hill
Wellington

* * *

TRAINING REVIEW

The Association's review of training for archives and records management, chaired by Professor Colin Davis of Massey University's History Department, has had to be cancelled. This unfortunate conclusion, which is no reflection on the members of the Steering Committee, resulted from a disagreement with National Archives over the nature of its participation and the short time available for the completion of the review. At its meeting on 15 October Council, however, affirmed its commitment to an independent review going ahead at some stage, but agreed not to consider the question again until next year.

Stuart Strachan
President

* * *
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand was held in conjunction with the Annual Conference in the Stringleman Room, Canterbury Public Library, Christchurch on Friday 28 August. Fifty-three members were present, and apologies were received from fourteen others. The major items of significance were:

**Election of Officers**

As the only nomination, Stuart Strachan was declared elected President for a third term. As there were three nominations for the two positions of Vice-President, Caroline Etherington and Michael Hodder were declared elected on the result of a postal ballot. Dr. Michael Hoare and Marlene Sayers were elected unopposed to the positions of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. As nine nominations were received for Council, Mary Reid, Nicola Frean, David Retter, Richard Hill, Jan Gow, Alison Fraser and Ken Scadden were declared elected on the result of a postal ballot. Since the Annual General Meeting, Dr. Hoare has resigned as Secretary and Nicola Frean has been appointed in his place. Nicola's place on Council has been filled by Kay Sanderson as the next highest polling candidate.

**Membership Secretary**

The meeting approved a constitutional change respecting the office of Membership Secretary, which was made a full member of Council. David Green was appointed Membership Secretary at the last Council meeting.

**Policy Statement on The Turnbull Library**

The most protracted discussion took place over the adoption of a policy statement on the relationship of the Turnbull Library to the National Library. The Policy Committee had circulated to the membership with the June issue of *Archifacts* a document on this issue, which expressed concern that the National Library was moving to reduce the identity and special position of the Turnbull Library, with the recommendation that it be adopted as Association policy. Council at its 14 July meeting decided that the whole document should be referred to the Annual General Meeting for ratification. It was obvious from the discussion at the Annual General Meeting that the detail and meaning of recent developments on this question was not well understood, but there was near unanimity that there should be no diminution of the Turnbull Library's standing within the National Library. The meeting accordingly passed the following resolution:

That the Annual Meeting adopt the policy statement and that Council pursue the resolution with all the vigour it can command.

Mr. Traue, Chief Librarian of the Turnbull Library, thanked the meeting for its resolution.

**Grants to Branches**

This issue was raised by the Otago/Southland Branch which pointed out that it was difficult for some branches at least to function adequately, without grants from central funds of the kind that need to be received. Their resumption was requested. It was agreed by the meeting that 'branches be requested to ask for Branch Grants and that these be considered on merit by Council.'

**Other Matters**

Other matters discussed were, the Association's participation in the 1990 celebrations, membership of Parbica which was approved, and the preservation of census records.

Stuart Strachan
Dunedin

* * *
HOW TO GET TO US

Enter from the Grand Arcade at 16 Willis Street (across the road from BNZ Centre), take the escalator to the first floor and walk straight ahead to the Grand Annexe. Take the elevator in the Grand Annexe (opp. the Scripture Union Bookshop) up to Floor 2 and you’ll find the Archives right there.

At our archives we have many treasured, valued and historical items. These items include Colonial Bank of New Zealand and Asset Realisation Board records, architectural drawings, photographs, Bank of New Zealand and world bank notes and coins.

The Museum is open on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. — free admission.

Enquiries about BNZ history or past BNZ staff: either phone (04) 746-999 extension 6630 or 6631 or write to: Archivist, Bank of New Zealand, P.O. Box 2392, Wellington. Please refer first to the National Register of Archives & Manuscripts in New Zealand.

Bank of New Zealand
Established in 1861

Greytown Branch built in 1876, now the BNZ’s oldest building and being restored to this original appearance.
A TRADE UNIONIST LOOKS AT ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

Archivists and librarians may have their professional differences, but they are agreed in their concern over the minimal resources placed at their disposal to perform their duties. This in turn must be a factor of some consequence in assessing the general public's understanding and perception of archival repositories and reference libraries. And although not setting out deliberately to be provocative, I have to say that there is evidence that the public perceives archival preservation as a form of cloistered academic elitism.

Up to 1972, my knowledge of National Archives was almost non-existent. I was aware of the Alexander Turnbull Library, but had never been in it. I had lived for 25 years within a stone's throw of the Auckland Institute and Museum Library, but never knew of its existence and this equally applied to other institutions around the country. My experience as an active trade unionist, hopefully in touch with public attitudes led me to believe that this was a common perception of archival repositories. I distrusted them as much as they scared me. I saw little practical use for them. How could the musty past help solve the bread and butter issues daily faced? I saw them as havens for pompous academics hiding away ignoring the real world. And I am aware that those feelings were shared by my peers. But now, so many light years hence, those judgements have mellowed although reservations still exist. Why this transformation? The answer to that is what this contribution is all about, an attempt by a 'user' to help redress false public perceptions. Repositories do not scare me nearly as much as before, archivists and librarians I have come to learn are surprisingly nice people. They are generally very helpful, that is, if the pressures they work under will allow for this. But nevertheless, there is still a certain lingering uneasiness and on occasions I feel out of place, not with the archivists and the librarians so much but with the atmosphere generally. It seems to keep reminding me of my limitations in understanding this new world. Somehow, it keeps impressing upon me that I am still an intruder and I have to question myself - is this home for the academic or for the proletariat? My cloth cap seems out of place. And I question - am I deceiving myself? I still find it hard to concentrate. I am self-conscious of the archivists and the librarians, and I reflect on what they may think of me, probably not realising they have more important things on their minds.

Like so many of my generation, I left school at the age of 14 being a product of the 1930s depression years. I served an apprenticeship with the Railways Department which was interrupted by overseas war service, and back home in post-war years resumed my activity in the industrial and political movement. This became my university of learning and those I came in contact with, were my teachers. This activity revealed some latent talent - albeit limited - to put together words in written form, but the reality was that I barely knew the difference between a noun or a verb, let alone the subtleties of metaphors and infinitives be they mixed or split, and today that basic ignorance still exists. So you may well ask by what right do I dare presume to sit in judgement on the professionals? Nevertheless, I am a part of that faceless general public that politicians love to speak for, and I suggest that now more so than ever before, the future of archival repositories hangs in the balance. They have reached another cross-road and their future could well be determined by public understanding and goodwill. The present economic trend of commercialisation must impact on archival preservation and if the repositories are to survive and expand, public support is essential.

Not because of any real literary ability, but more as a result of basic trade union lack of resources - something shared with those associated with the preservation of archives and records - I found myself nudged into the position of editor of our union's monthly journal. This in turn led to my being asked in 1972 to write something by way of commemoration of the union's Golden Anniversary of official recognition. And it was this that introduced me to the world of archives and records and the institutions where they were stored. The distrust of these institutions arising from this perception of academic professional elitism did not help when with extreme...
hesitancy and diffidence, I approached the Alexander Turnbull Library. And that was a trade unionist's awakening. Those people at the Turnbull pointed me in the right direction of research, how to research and where to seek the appropriate material. Suddenly a new dimension was opened to me in my union work. Here was a whole new world of information waiting to be used. And I didn't know it existed. In the past I had laboured long and hard in the preparation and presentation of claims and submissions to tribunals and Royal Commissions, and here I discovered so much more that would have enhanced that work. I learnt what non-current records were and where they could be deposited, it wasn't the rubbish tip as had been the norm in the past, and still is in far too many cases. I have since been able to draw upon the information which has been saved from the shredder and the rubbish tip, but sadly lies there almost unheralded, unwanted and under-utilised by the general public. Why should such a situation arise? In many ways the answer rests in my own experience and in my own misguided perceptions which are commonly shared. Like myself in 1972, people today are still not persuaded of the importance of the preservation and use of archives and records, and that this should not be seen as the preserve of the pampered few.

By 1974 events beyond my control forced me to become an observer rather than a participant in industrial activities. As a consequence of thirty odd years involvement in the industrial movement my interest turned to research and writing. I had been involved with a Railway union and had gathered together a reasonable private collection of associated documents and material, so it was only natural that this new activity centred around the State sector. With encouragement from some professionals I embarked upon a programme of reference work mainly centred around Railway industrial history. What surprised me was that with one or two notable exceptions, little real in-depth examination of the industrial movement has been attempted. Even more surprising, few if any union officials have undertaken this work. There have been superficial exercises in ego tripping and name dropping, but little detailed examination and analysis done by trade unionists. On the other hand University libraries abound with students' theses and research essays on industrial topics. While most are immaculate as a chronology of events, they are understandably limited in interpretation, but this aside, the sad thing is that most of this valuable work is buried away gathering dust. Public perception of elitism applies even more so to the Universities, and I suspect that repositories such as National Archives and the Public libraries suffer from this.

From a trade unionist's point of view, the major weakness in New Zealand industrial history is the lack of a recognised national labour repository. There are some valuable collections scattered around the country, but if forced to state a preference I would have to say that the Turnbull is the obvious place for union records accessions. At the risk of offending good people there, however, it is my impression that while the Turnbull willingly accepts union records, there appears little specialisation in trade union history. Unions, made up of workers, are along with the representatives of Capital, two of the main forces in society. In the interests of balance, greater attention should be given to the labour aspect. Hopefully, an improvement in this will be forthcoming when the Turnbull settles into its new home. I believe there are already signs of that.

That now leads me to the next point, the future of New Zealand archives and records as seen through the eyes of a user. The relationship between the user and the professional has been one where the former has been dependent upon the latter, and where the user's requirements have been secondary to the role of the professional in preserving the nation's archives and records. I seriously suggest that a reappraisal of emphasis is necessary. That in no way infers a complete reversal, but I do suggest that consideration should be given to the professionals going out into the community and selling both the role and the importance of preservation. I see this as most important in breaking through the perception of elitism as well as helping to survive in the new commercial environment. No longer can archivists or their colleagues remain passive in the face of this misguided perception and commercialisation. It seems to me that they have no alternative but to go out into the community and meet it head on. This is especially important in respect of the preservation of union records and history. Working class organisations must first be made aware of the nature of what exists and how it operates. They have to be convinced that the repositories are more than a place to unload non-current records.
An appreciation of their records' historical value has to be established, and union officials have to be shown how archival material can be used to assist them in their day to day activities. We can learn from our own history. It is surprising how much of history is cyclical and when that occurs a knowledge of the past is of immense value. I have learnt that from my own experience in learning the intricacies of research. But hard-nosed unionists take some convincing of the value of their own records. Following my approach to the Turnbull in 1972 and at their suggestion, I recommended to our union's national council that our non-current records should be deposited with the Library. I had to counter cynical scepticism similar to my own original feelings towards archives and records. In effect, I had to become agents for the Turnbull in selling the benefits and importance of lodging our records with the Library, and what I am saying here is that archivists and librarians have to become agents for their institutions, and that cannot be done by remaining passive. In my own case I became utterly immersed in our records, collating and cataloguing them. This has given me a far greater understanding of the role of those who had gone before me and has enabled me to write about our history. My experience so gained convinces me that current activists can also benefit from the practical use of archival material if only they knew where it existed and how to research it. So I say again and again, sell your wares to the community. Assure us that our perceptions of elitism are illusory and fallacious. Make us feel that we are wanted as we want your expertise. We do not want to feel we are a nuisance, but teach us something about the rudiments of research and in time you will find that a public demand will develop which will pressure the politicians who control the purse-strings, into conceding the resources so badly needed. In short, we the public users and you the professionals need each other.

There is now, an additional growing important dimension to archival preservation, and personally, it is another valuable tool gained from my early association with the Turnbull. I refer to oral history. It is a particularly valuable tool in preserving trade union history. My first essay into this field was in 1973 when with the assistance of Ray Grover and Bert Rot, we recorded the reflections of three retired officials of my own union, one was aged 84, one 75 and the 'baby' was 65, he being the only one now alive. The first two had been national presidents, one was on the platform of the Auckland Town Hall on that fateful night of the 1932 Auckland Riots, the baby, a national councillor, became one of New Zealand's leading communists. All three had first hand knowledge of and dealings with Gordon Coates, and time had not unduly dimmed their recollections of those savage years. Since then I have recorded on cassette many hours of reflections and reminiscences of many old time unionists. Most were radicals and in their time they had fought the authorities in bitter struggles. It is not important what my particular views and assessments are of these people, but what is important is that in the future, someone is going to research those struggles and write about them and here was an opportunity for those involved to place on record their account of the events they were involved in. At least this would help redress the balance and researchers of the future must surely be grateful for that. I have learnt much from these recording sessions, and most of it the hard way. With some validity, some traditional historians argue against oral history as a tool because of what they perceive as lapses in memory. However, my experience has convinced me that providing certain basic steps are adhered to, memory, be it diminished a little or coloured by the passage of time, enhances the written word. Indeed it puts flesh on the bones of stilted history.

Oral history is not a simple act of placing a microphone under the nose of someone and asking them to talk. Effective oral history calls for extensive prior homework. I have found it helpful to have a preliminary meeting and general discussion with a prospective interviewee to ascertain memory retention and the nature of what they are able to contribute. From this I prepare an agenda setting out subjects and questions which I wish to canvass with them, and they have that agenda for a period beforehand to enable them to do their own homework and prepare themselves. They themselves can suggest additional material. It is absolutely necessary that you yourself do as much research as possible on the subjects to be covered. This is one of the safeguards against faulty memories as well as being helpful in maintaining the flow of discussion, but never to the point of domination. The more one is versed in the subject the better and it is here that thirty odd years of industrial and political activity is of immense assistance. Then there is the
matter of integrity, and perhaps this is the single most important attribute one must have in working with oral history. The people interviewed must feel that they trust you, indeed, they must know that they trust you in respect of what happens to the material afterwards. After 14 years experience, I have come to the firm conclusion in so far as recording sensitive areas— and the real stories of behind the scenes manoeuvres in industrial and political struggles are certainly sensitive—that restrictions must be placed on the use of this material in a contract acceptable to both parties. This way it assures those who have something to say that they can talk freely in the knowledge that it is safe under the terms agreed upon. Oral history as used in the industrial and political context means opinion, criticism, condemnation and praise, and criteria of this nature are for posterity, not for today’s titillation.

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention. That certainly has been so for me these past 14 years. Oral history has been a learning process both in techniques and in technicalities. A major problem arises when a recording exercise occupies many sessions and when time elapses between them. Repetition becomes an obstacle to smooth presentation. It is as difficult to overcome, as it is to prevent an interviewee from moving away from the agenda or retracting that already done. It is a problem for the interviewer as well in that his/her memory can also be suspect when it comes to recalling that already done. As an example of this problem in 1976 I started recording the reflections of a well known trade union radical activist who arrived in New Zealand in 1930 and is now in his 80th year. His recall is remarkable and stands up to examination alongside the known written record. His ability to articulate and interpret the major struggle of his day is impressive. His critical analyses of these events are powerful and honest including self criticism. These recordings now just completed amount to 47 cassettes, but early on I came to recognise this problem of repetition and pondered over ways to deal with it. It was obvious that a system of indexing was called for, but a verbatim record was simply not practicable. So by trial and error I arrived at a system of matching the cassette recorder’s counter against sub-titles of the material on the tapes. In this manner it is relatively easy and quick to identify the nature of what is on each tape and where to retrieve it from. Incidentally, even with the use of this abbreviated system the index for these 47 cassettes amounts to 107 pages admittedly spaced out to allow for quicker retrieval.

Oral history is an important dimension in the preservation of industrial and political history. I am constrained to observe that in my opinion it is the progressives, the radicals, and the rebels who have the most to offer from an historical perspective regardless of whether society chooses to love or to hate them. They are invariably the leading actors in working class struggles. It is they that historians and researchers of the future will turn to in interpreting the past. This has been the case in the past, so will it be the case in the future. That is not to suggest that the non-rockers are ignored, a balance is necessary, but their contributions suffer by comparison with the radicals. However, all this is transcended by the fact that every effort must be made to place on record their own account of their times so as not to take their reflections to their graves. It is here that I see oral history as an important appendage to traditional archives and records preservation.

In conclusion I see oral history assisting in overcoming the barriers of perceived elitism. I believe it can act as a bridge between the non-professional and the professional. It is more comfortable to work with and does not call for the same standard of academic knowledge. But I must confess that I have on the odd occasion sensed a little antagonism from a professional when he set eyes on me and my cassette recorder. Nevertheless, I am heartened by the growing interest in oral history. I have been encouraged by the assistance given me by the Turnbull Library and by their growing interest in this field. I am delighted that an Oral History Association has been formed. But I make this general plea to the archival community at large. Go out and take your wares to the public. Sell the concept of the need to preserve our archives and our records, and in doing this the image of a cloistered elite will quickly evaporate. And in particular, I stress the importance of taking your work to the trade union movement and obtaining its confidence. Potentially they still have much to offer even though much of importance has already been lost.

Doug Crosado
AUCKLAND
THE LETTERBOOKS OF SIX NEW ZEALAND CHIEF POST OFFICES, (EARLY 1880s-LATE 1910s) AND THEIR VALUE AS SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARCHIVES. (1)

Introduction

The New Zealand Post Office Museum and Archives was fortunate in acquiring, from the mid-1970s on, the outward letterbooks and a number of registers (of correspondence, paid vouchers, overtime payments, registered letters and so on) from several Chief Post Offices (CPOs) in New Zealand. These included

- Wellington - 1866-1903, 3 volumes (with some breaks and including records of the General Post Office (GPO) and Telegraph department; abolished 1881)
- New Plymouth - 1865-mid 1910s, 20 volumes
- Dunedin - 1879-early 1920s, 30 volumes (10-registers only)
- Christchurch - 1887-1916, 22 volumes (both CPO and Telegraph office)
- Oamaru - 1879-1907, 9 volumes
- Invercargill - 1903-1911, 12 volumes

These letterbooks are possibly the most substantial, integral set of archives, older than 50 years, still in the Post Office possession. The letterbook, and corresponding register, were a mainstay of the Post and Telegraph records system up to the 1910s, when they were increasingly superseded by the use of proper (as opposed to ad hoc, often short-lived) subject files and a comprehensive system of subject classifications for the Department's records. The letterbook was the ideal format for keeping copies of letters that were given classifications according to the sequence of their receipt in a particular year rather than by a particular subject category. That is, the designation identifying letters received or despatched would include an initial letter, indicating office of origin - 'P G' or 'P O' for the Wellington head office, 'A' sometimes for others, year of letter (last two digits), and sequence of receipt/despatch within that year. Thus 'P O 11/600' would indicate the 600th memorandum despatched from the G P O in 1911. This was an extremely clumsy system (also used in other departments) that necessitated the maintenance of detailed registers, explaining the content of letters received and specifying the action (if any) taken on them. The letterbook format thus made it easy to identify a letter by the sequence of its receipt of despatch (if this was known), but not by its content (unless cross-referenced to the corresponding register).

The early years of this century witnessed a great upsurge in the range and volume of P & T correspondence, much of it ancillary, relating to the installation, maintenance and repair/replacement of the new telecommunications technologies which, from being a 'luxury to private householders' in the mid-1880s, were becoming a necessity for all. The old serial system of letter classification could not cope with this, and had to be replaced by a thorough-going system of subject classification.

During the mid-1910s there was a period of transition, when both new and old systems existed together. For example, the letterbook of the Christchurch Telegraph Engineer (abbreviated to T E Ch) from 29 June 1916 to 9 August 1916 contained examples of memos, both sequentially numbered and classified by subject matter. By the 1920s the old system had largely gone, and with it the letterbook format. Registers, of course, survived for listings of special items like overtime payments, paid vouchers and other administrative items, but not simply to list all mail received and sent out.

Scope of the discussion

In considering this set of archives and the picture they give us of turn of the century social attitudes and values as well as working conditions and administration generally in the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department (as the NZPO was formally known up to 1959), I would like to do two things, first establish how accurate a
picture these archives present of administrative and social attitudes of the time
Here one has to deal with any particular limitations in the archive's format and content
due to illegibility, ambiguous or archaic terminology and also with the wider problem
of what the administrators of the Department perceived themselves to be doing or
intending (as recorded in the letters) and what, from the perspective of historical
hindsight, they actually did. This leads on to a second aim, to consider, where
possible, the question of how typical were the Department's own attitudes and
practices in relation to those of New Zealand society as a whole. For a definition of
the typical I cite one given by the great Hungarian critic and theorist, George Lukacs,
 Its Marxist tone does not obscure the common-sense validity of its observations

A type does not become a type because it represents the average, nor does it
become such through its individual nature alone but rather because all the
moments of a historical phase which are essential and determining factors from
the human and social point of view converge and multiply within it
(2)

Problems with the archive format, some general observations

The unity of these archives comes largely from their physical appearance, from
their originating from particular offices over a roughly similar time-span. They all
also reflect a varied, often random array of topics - the 'nuts and bolts' of an
increasingly complex communications infrastructure in this country, most of which were
kept in place by routines that, once 'trialed', then stabilised, and generated little
interest to the historian after that unless found deficient and replaced

In other words, the letterbooks of all CPOs (larger and smaller) have the same
proportion of (prevalent) chaff and wheat. Because the letters they contain are only
ordered chronologically, their content can become obscure, not only for their (often)
routine nature but because the reader has to thread through a maze of changing topics
Obscurity of content is also heightened by the archive's format. These are mainly
outward letters, though the contents of incoming letters are sometimes summarised on
the former. Usually, however, we do not know the nature of replies to particular
letters, unless by inference from the nature of a subsequent outward letter, written in
response to an earlier inward one. In many cases the outcome of a sequence of letters
on a particular problem is not recorded, and has, in some instances (given later) to be
ascertained by checking in other archives, like the set of Staff Establishment
Registers, 1867-1901, held in the Post Office archives

The formal, 'official front' of the correspondence, also tells us little about
ulterior motives or wishes of the correspondents concerned. The letterbooks hold no
biographical detail about the Chief Postmasters (CPMs) whose signature appears to the
bottom of most outward memos, again, the letterbooks have to be supplemented by other
archives or publications to enhance their value for the researcher. There is also
little candour in the letterbooks, largely, of course, because this would not be
conducive to a tone of 'formal graveness' thought essential then in communication on
paper between officials. In addition the various correspondents would often make
assumptions about each other's knowledge of particular problems, unfolding
administrative situations and so on, and thus not spell out detail essential for the later
researcher if he or she is to understand all the points at issue. These particular
problems only add to the problem of any later researcher, trying to interpret written
'signals', left by earlier generations and often determined by perceptions, language
and values different from our own. It is these general problems of historical research
and interpretation that concern us here, not a more technical problem of archival
practice, such as establishing exactly the provenance (origin) of the archives in
question, or of classifying and storing them in a way that faithfully reflects this
provenance

The problems listed above, it should be noted, are not so great as to render
these archives useless for the social or administrative historian. But they are
sufficiently important for their dimension to be explained in more detail at this
point
Illegibility Obscure or Changing Terminology

These letterbooks, full of working correspondence as opposed to lists (registers) of letters received and filed, are not models of legibility, written in a uniform copper hand. To this extent they are unlike certain early letterbooks, say, of the Customs Department, in National Archives, copied several decades after the originals were written. Most of the papers in them are wafer thin, made out of what was then called Japanese paper, and were designed specifically for copying and to allow as many pages in each volume as possible. Their wafer-thin quality, however, caused the ink to blot frequently, and thus obscured the handwriting. No doubt, too, the copying clerk copied many out in haste, because of pressure of work, thus making them more difficult to read.

This problem diminished, of course, when typewritten correspondence became the norm in the GPO and CPOs from 1903-04 and at most DPOs, 5 years later (as is evident in the letterbooks). It should be stressed that this problem is not a major barrier to use of the copybook for research purposes. Nor is the use of quaint or obsolete turns of phrases or words found often in them - *e.g.*, *deal* for *great deal*, *perlustration* for *opening private mail containing dirty literature*, etc., *late* for *former*, rather than *(as today) deceased*. There is also that well used trio, *proximo* (next month), *instant* (this month), *ultimo* (last month). Errors of transcription, more common in the transcribing of listings and staff information - such as is found in the 20 volumes of staff establishment registers *(1867-1901)* held in the P0 Archives - are less in evidence in copies made of the outgoing working correspondence. Nor, by the 1900s, is another problem so evident in these letterbooks. This was more apparent in the first 50 years of the Post Office's administration and referred to the question of constantly changing or ambiguous, inconsistent administrative nomenclature. For example, the New Zealand telegraph service, in its first 30 years (up till the 1900s) saw its administrative head variously called General Manager, Telegraphic Engineer, Chief Telegraph Engineer, and Superintendent of Electric Lines, not always at the same time, but in such a way as to make the researcher wonder whether one or more people were being talked about in particular items of correspondence. The problem was evident in parts of the Christchurch Telegraph Office letterbook, 1877-1881 (reports of the local Inspector, W G Meddings). It was much less evident with postal nomenclature and became less evident, overall, with the promulgation, on 23 Jan 1891, of regulations under the Post and Telegraph Classification and Regulation Act, 1890. Under this, 3 broad divisions of staff were established - the First, the Clerical, and the Non-Clerical. The first covered the very top staff in the Department. The Clerical Division had, at first, six classes as well as special classes to cover cadets, postmasters, chief postmasters. The Non-Clerical Division, initially covered linesmen, letter-carriers, telephone exchange clerks and the like.

*except in the Railways and Post Office, over the [19th] century little progress was achieved in the classification and ranking of positions* (4)

It is now appropriate to move to the content of the archives themselves, considered under the following headings and in the light of the foregoing matters:

Administrative Problems Revealed in the Correspondence

Non-delivery/non-receipt of mail

A recurring problem in much correspondence in the letterbooks related to mishaps ('missendings' in the jargon of the day) in mail delivery. Sometimes its cause was simple carelessness and possibly partial illiteracy on the part of mail sorting or delivery staff. For example, CPO Dunedin letterbook No 3,1889-1891, records repercussions caused by letters addressed to Palmerston North, being sent to Palmerston(south), a letter for Milburn, 5 kilometres north east of Milton Otago, being sent to Melbourne, Australia and so on.

A low level of literacy could in some cases be to blame, especially amongst lower skilled staff in the non-clerical division. Under the 1891 Regulations, promulgated under the 1890 Act, educational levels for the various categories of staff were set out in some detail (6). Whereas staff from the Clerical Division, or those aspiring to the Clerical Division, had to pass the 6th standard examination as prescribed for all...
New Zealand schools under the control of the Education Department, non-clerical staff merely had a simple, in-house exam testing minimum standards of 'Handwriting, Reading print, Spelling, Arithmetic first four rules, simple and compound [sic]' (7). For a promotion beyond the fifth class of the Clerical Division, passing of the senior civil service examination for all Departments or obtaining the equivalent qualification (matriculation at least) was necessary under the 1891 Regulations. Of course, carelessness was admitted to be due to overwork or fatigue as well as to illiteracy. A lot of correspondence is taken up with rationalising staff work patterns, particularly in CPO mailrooms. The introduction of three shifts, around the clock, i.e. increasing the standard two shifts (5 am - 2 pm, 2 pm - 9 or 10 pm) is canvassed as a way of making for more even distribution of the workload and ensuring better work from staff. Under the 1891 Regulations (s 39) overtime had been paid to anyone required to work between 10 pm and 5 am as well as on Sundays and statutory holidays. This, it should be noted, was a period when a minimum 44-50 hour week was worked by Post and Telegraph staff and other employees in New Zealand. (This included Saturday morning work, with the usual option of time-off in lieu during the middle of the week to compensate for any work on Saturday afternoon or weekday evenings.

In some cases there were disputes between postal management and workers as to what constituted 'undue pressure of work.' Thus a petition from Dunedin CPO postal staff of 10 October 1896 is turned down by the Chief Postmaster who produces statistics to show that few workers on the shift worked more than a maximum of 9½ hours (presumably, before they became eligible for overtime). However, the CPO Inspectorate continue to view errors in the transmission of mails as due to possible fatigue as much as to simple illiteracy. On 30 May 1900, in the context of missending of mail to Naseby in Central Otago, the Postal Inspector wrote to the CPM:

I would like to urge that the time has arrived when something should be done in the arrangement of the mail work to enable the duties to be performed in a more satisfactory manner. What I suggest is that a night staff of 2 officers be appointed, to commence duty at 10 pm and leave off at 5 am, the preparing of receiving boxes commence at midnight so that the whole of the matter together with the correspondence posted at the Chief office would be worked up [sic] by the time the morning staff came on duty. I would also suggest that the night staff deal with all the Registered correspondence from the North. There is necessarily a [great] deal of overtime under the present system. Whereas if the night staff were appointed, overtime would be reduced to a minimum (7).

The CPM's reply to this was not found in the letterbook, but a three shift system was introduced because of obvious administrative logic. Such a shift has been standard in CPO mailrooms for many years. Often staff protests at overwork attracted a sympathetic ear (8) even though final decisions lay with Wellington. Indeed, the extent to which the most routine matters (even relating to minor disciplinary measures) had to be referred to Wellington by districts in the period 1880-1910 is, of course, a very important reflection of the times. Today's Post Office staff the extent of centralised administration, evident from turn-of-the-century letterbooks, seems extraordinary. A growing P&T service (2,225 staff in 1890, 7,258 by 1914, 14,000 by 1939) would make continuation of the same level of centralised administration impossible (9).

In their desire for better mail handling conditions staff were helped by pressures brought to bear on management by outside pressure groups. The most obvious and consistent (from these letterbooks at least) appear to be local branches of the Chamber of Commerce, working on behalf of the mercantile community. The Dunedin branch was particularly active, urging the Post Office, in an exchange of correspondence in October 1905, to improve mail-sorting on trains and thereby speed mail delivery on arrival. (Travelling Post Offices were introduced in the South Island from the late 1870s).

The role of the Post Office Union, originally called the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Society and formed under almost clandestine conditions on 18 June 1890, as well as the operation of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1894, in improving and changing labour conditions are not noticeable from the letterbooks. For years the Society was denied official recognition, the Postmaster General of the
day, Joseph Ward, thought the Society would usurp the functions of the Department's senior administrators. And there would be conflict and the Minister of the day would be placed in a most invidious position. There could not be two heads controlling the Department (10).

The Society for its part was suspicious of the workings, if not stated intentions, of the new Classification system claiming that merit had been made subordinate to length of service also there was no fixed period beyond which an officer could not be kept in a particular class (11).

They had a point. Non-merit factors - political patronage and influence, for example - still played a part both in securing entry to the Department and in subsequent promotion. In a revealing - 'private and confidential' - letter from the P&T Department Secretary, W Gray, to Postmaster General Ward following the 1893 election the Secretary complains about a Mr Cowper 'telegraphist, Auckland' meeting an MP (Hon W Cadman) over unspecified grievances' Gray noted so long as officers are allowed to approach Ministers and Members in the way they do here, there must be trouble, and in time administration will be little more than a term without effective meaning (12).

This stand-off between the Minister and the Society no doubt partly explains why the union did not regularly figure, judging by the letterbooks, in the minds of staff or management at the turn of the century, unless as a source of irritation to the latter. There is little evidence of a direct resort to Union pressure by staff to make management reconsider, say, a harsh penalty over some disciplinary matter, though behind the scenes union pressure could have escaped note in the correspondence. As it was, union pressure helped bring about the establishment of the Board of Appeal, under the Post and Telegraph Department Act, 1894, to hear appeals against non-promotion etc, the Society became an Association in 1897, and achieved official recognition from the Department in 1899.

Improper conduct

Paternal concern, tempered by firmness and warnings was the hallmark of the Post and Telegraph management towards staff for any breaches of discipline. The letterbooks abound with cases of fines for assaults by staff on each other, carelessness in mislaying mail, or even when a Postmaster provides a misleading character reference on an employee who turns out, in another office, to be deficient. There are items relating to legal actions concerning embezzlement by staff employees, and so on. In many cases severe cautions, so that there will be no recurrence of so serious an error, to use the common phrase, were alone applied in the case of simple, unmalicious neglect. Also the various Post Office Acts, notably those of 1881 and 1900, in the period concerned, provided management with a variety of sanctions, ranging from fines to dismissal, for impropriety and neglect on duty. Many of the cases involved alcohol and if the miscreant was preferred to admit wrongdoing and foreshow drink - 'sign the pledge' - the Department was compassionate. While the turn of the century Department took the line that suspects were guilty unless proven innocent, rather than the reverse, they also regarded them as potentially redeemable unless confirmed criminals or miscreants. For this reason much emphasis was placed on 'mitigating circumstances' if these could be established. The case of a Mr Reid, from the Invercargill CPO is telling here. In 1905 as a mail worker he had withheld certain parcels from declaration to Customs and pocketed the valuables they contained, thereby committing a defalcation, to use the jargon of the day for embezzlement. When the General Post Office in Wellington expressed surprise that this incident had happened, the Chief Postmaster at Invercargill noted that

Mr Reid had the longest service in the Invercargill office of any of the present staff, had been respected as a thoroughly reliable and honest officer, was liked and trusted by all, and on that account had not been so closely watched, hence he drifted and unfortunately abused the confidence placed in him. He has comparatively recently married again and has a young family to look after. For
these reasons probably the Department is inclined to take a lenient view of his case. I do not think it is a case that should go unpunished as it would have a very bad effect on officers generally, and be almost offering a premium [i.e., reward] and incentive to crime (13).

Reid had earlier been suspended for his crime and he was not to be reinstated until he has made good deficiencies on the incidental parcels and has furnished us with a certificate that he will abstain from liquor (14).

Where the crime was not so serious as to warrant automatic dismissal, but where contrition and a promise to improve were not forthcoming, dismissal often eventually resulted. A sequence of correspondence in June-July 1911 made it clear that two letter carriers involved in fighting on the job and drinking in Dunedin had not accepted treatment for their drinking problem, including a request for transfer, in one case, to a prohibition district while under suspension. On 25 July 1911 both were asked to resign through an offence that normally did not lead to this (15).

As an indication that people under suspicion were held to be guilty until they proved themselves innocent, the letterbooks contain references in cases of staff discipline to the practice of honesty tests used in the postal service in New Zealand up to the 1920s at least (16). As a more obvious example of discreet surveillance of staff to test their probity, in April 1912, the Chief Postmaster wrote to the Police at Dunedin asking them to investigate the financial background and habits of a certain Mr George Ellis, a parcel and mail sorter, suspected of defalcations - in his case, stealing mail. The Police turned up nothing against him, the Department was still suspicious, however, and arranged tests to ascertain Ellis's guilt or innocence, later observing:

If Ellis is guilty, the repeated unsuccessful tests here show that he understands the routine of this office too well. His transfer to new surroundings will at least alter this and either confirm or rebut the circumstantial evidence before the Department (17).

In the event, mail still went missing and by July 1912 the CPO had admitted that of 27 parcels reported missing (through wrong addresses, not through theft), 19 had been recovered - sorter Ellis, I may say, is still being retained in Parcels Branch (18).

Generally, then, PO administrative attitudes to breaches of its regulations by staff and public were harsh, even schoolmasterly, though administrators of the time took pains to see that they were perceived as acting fairly as well as firmly. The sheer range of regulations - many by today's standards petty, especially in relation to such things as handwriting and so on meant that infringements and transgressions by staff were bound to be numerous. Included amongst the collection of CPO Dunedin letterbooks is one ledger, a type of Index Damnatorum listing errors committed by staff in the Otago postal district, late 1870s-1890s, and the punishments. Interesting is the evidence from the archive that once an officer's name has been entered, he should have at least one foolscap page allotted to him, on the assumption that he was likely to transgress further in his career.

When any question of promotion or increase of salary is raised, the book will be referred to, and the decision in each case will depend, to a great extent on the entries therein (19).

Errors range from 'two postal notes not date stamped, 'Fined 6d, late attendance, misdirecting mail, even writing 'with love' on the outside of an envelope addressed to the girlfriend of the letter carrier. All these were infractions of postal regulations of the type produced increasingly from the 1870s and advised to staff by the Post and Telegraph Official Circular (20). No offences involving the criminal law were evident in this book.
Administration and social values

It is on the question of 'discipline' that administrative practices in the Department intersect with wider, social values. The letterbooks are invaluable in providing illustrations of social attitudes, often relating to questions of discipline and other administrative issues. The letterbooks themselves do not and cannot, of course, provide a wider context and insight into social attitudes of the time. Also they do not address the issue of how typical of the nation as a whole were the social values reflected in them and in the Department. This is an obvious limitation of them as social archives, one that can only be overcome by cross-reference to other documents and by background reading.

In the past 10 years, much useful work has been done on such issues as social mobility, wowserism/puritanism in late Victorian culture, the question of a change from a rural to an urban identity in many New Zealand localities and so on. Much of this work featured in early issues of the NZJH for 1979, drawing on papers prepared for a symposium on New Zealand social history held earlier (21). Useful book-length studies, relevant as background reading for these archives, include Stevan Eldred-Grigg's books such as A Southern Gentry: New Zealanders Who Inherited the Earth, A H and A W Reed, Wellington, 1980 and his subsequent (1984), book by the same publisher, Pleasures of the Flesh: Sex & Drugs in Colonial New Zealand, 1840-1915.

Another limitation of the letterbooks, as administrative documents with social import, lies not only in the often cryptic or formal official tone, their lack of candour, already mentioned, but in the fact they inevitably perpetuated self-perceptions about the role of the Department, its contribution to New Zealand society. These were obviously influenced by the Department's own traditions and its developing bureaucratic culture.

To the historian, writing from hindsight, what the Department thought it was doing and achieving and what its 'objective' contribution was, can be two different things. Hence the need in some instances, to take the judgements expressed in these letterbooks, the perceptions presented, with some degree of scepticism. In addition, many New Zealand social historians have commented on the general problem of 'doing' social history, using past empirical data based (inevitably) on past individuals' or groups' conflicting ideas about their own status and class, their own job definitions, and so forth. Even at the time, as we have noted, many people meant different things by the labels they gave to phenomena and specifically to jobs.

The system of occupational labelling [in the 19th century] furthermore generated a plethora of ambiguities and errors. The conventions of occupational language did not distinguish the occupationally versatile from the specialised. (22)

How can we categorise terms like mobility within the Department or within society as a whole when staff, even within similar occupational categories could have different ideas of what constituted a career and, indeed, a general social advance. (23) The historian in this case often has to move from the evidence of people's judgments and self-assessments to the more impersonal but reliable evidence of Registers of land transactions and wills, and so on, to assess the objective rise in society of individuals and families. The advantages of quantitative social research by historians was demonstrated in more recent social histories like S. Thornstorm's, The Other Bostonians: Poverty and Progress in the American Metropolis, 1880-1970, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1973. Quantitative social data of this type is less readily available in the letterbooks per se, as opposed to the P&T Classification Lists (from 1891 on) which provide much hard data on salary levels, changes in administrative terms, and permit the tracing of career paths of selected individuals. But the value of the letterbooks for providing qualitative data for social research should not be discounted. In many cases, things perceived as socially or administratively important in the letterbooks by official staff, are demonstrably significant to later historians and such things can be established, moreover, as typical of wider concerns in other departments of state, other segments of society in New Zealand at the time.
The role of the Department and its official culture and social values

The Post and Telegraph Department was then for example a more central Department of State than it is now, because Departments like Health and Social Welfare did not (pre-1900) exist and because the office of Postmaster General was a more senior portfolio than it is today, sometimes held while the incumbent was also Prime Minister as the cases of Vogel (for periods in the early 1870s) and Joseph Ward (1906-1912) illustrate. It was significant that the country’s first Public Service Commissioner, D Robertson, was also Secretary of the P&T Department from 1907 to 1912. The Department's importance stemmed from its long existence (the first official Postmaster was appointed in March 1840) and from its central role in building up the country’s communication infrastructure on which New Zealand’s economic and social well-being was so vitally dependent. The Department took its role and duties very seriously, expecting its staff to do likewise. In fact the Secretary reacted very harshly to a proposal in mid-1904, for example, by the Railways Department, to print its own stamps. As a result, in August that year, franking, free telegrams and phone call privileges, extended by the Post and Telegraph Department to Railways staff for their official business, were cancelled. (The Department had, however, allowed the Government Life Insurance Office to print its own stamps in 1890, but only as a compromise, after protracted negotiations.)

Along with the Railways, P&T was the first Department to implement extensive in-house job classification and training schemes. It could be said that its basic function was mundane—in essence, getting messages from A to B, albeit with the aid of increasingly complex technologies whose social and economic effects were rarely fully understood at the time of their introduction and whose benefits carried over, often, into the realms of other Departments like Education and Labour. It is not surprising to find that much Departmental correspondence in the letterbooks was concerned with administrative nuts and bolts, with ensuring that routines upheld by Regulations and by their (apparent) effectiveness, were kept in place. In fact, the Department’s official culture could be said in these years to be shaped by this sometimes prosaic, even philistine world of efficiencies and routines where there was a right way and a wrong way of getting messages (letters and telegrams) to and from people. ‘Wrong’ methods were inevitably exposed and put right, they resulted from ‘carelessness’, ‘inefficiency’, ‘misreadings’, ‘insufficient training’, etc. It was a world where staff were assigned particular duties with little room for the application of imagination or what today would be called ‘lateral thinking’ in the way they performed them, since the Regulations which governed their actions, allowed no scope for such things. This is not to condemn the work of the Department, merely to highlight a central element and feature of its work which was common to postal and telegraph work throughout the world. There is no particular passage from any letterbook, known to the author that encapsulates the points made above. They represent a reasonable deduction from cumulative reading and absorption of recurring terms and issues in the letterbooks. However, a document which more or less catches all the points made above in one passage comes from outside the letterbooks. In a pro forma memorandum to all staff, once appointed permanently to the Department, the Secretary notes, inter alia:

While in the service you are expected to attend to such matters as courtesy, tidiness, obedience, loyalty, cheerfulness, industry, alertness, physical fitness and a proper manner of speaking. By so doing you will strengthen your manhood, raise your self-respect and build up your character. Your motto should be ‘Be Worthy’.

This spirit of sometimes harsh paternalism in which, often, the personal progress of staff in the Department was seen as reinforcing or contributing to the progress of the country as a whole, permeates turn of the century official P&T correspondence. It infuses P&T attitudes to staff and towards other agencies of State, its tasks were basic and direct in nature with often a direct effect on local economies and trades, involving pragmatic decision-making, based largely on quantitative rather than qualitative assessments. As a result the impact of the P&T Department on early 20th century life helps reinforce a view that progress in early 20th century New Zealand society and in its public sector came less from socialistic/humanistic ideas of progress as from ideas of efficiency and strength of pulling oneself up and the nation up, of serving Queen and Country properly. W H Oliver, developing this theme, noted
with regard to Liberal Government legislation, especially industrial legislation of the 1890s, that the paternalist concern for efficiency has a harsh penal discriminatory ring about it and that

Where social policy is also economic policy one would find the essence of New Zealand public action directed to the promotion of well-being \([\text{also}]\) a strong aspiration towards an efficient and disciplined society behind that action\(^{(25)}\).

It was no coincidence, Oliver makes clear, that the focus of public administration from the 1870s to the 1910s was on matters like industrial relations, land reforms, agricultural production and communication in New Zealand, that is, nuts and bolts developmentism rather than development that improves the quality of people's lives and spirit, especially their health and education. In both these latter areas New Zealand in 1900 lagged behind the UK, it can be argued, where central and municipal authorities had been active and more effective in these areas longer.

Personnel policies and social values

These letterbooks, particularly on questions of staff discipline, postal functions, and so on provide evidence of a departmental culture that reinforces the above general conclusion. They also, in three other specific areas, confirm the firm, sometimes harsh paternalism that can be shown to be typical of public administration and social attitudes in the country as a whole. These areas cover attitudes to religion, and in particular the secular tone of official life, attitudes to drink and gambling, etc., attitudes to women and affairs of the heart, on or off duty.

The letterbooks of Oamaru CPO (1879-1910), in particular, reveal much about official attitudes to religion, specifically the study of religion, both on and off duty. Here one confronts a problem of interpretation, relating to these archives which has been highlighted elsewhere, viz, to what extent can the views of individual correspondents (Chief Postmasters or their underlings) be regarded as typical of departmental or even national attitudes as a whole? In the case of Oamaru we have an exchange of correspondence in 1886/87 between the CPM there, J A Hutton, and the GPO in Wellington over the case of a telegraph cadet, S M Shrimpton, who was perceived to be suffering an excess of religious zeal. Are the comments of the CPM on this case reflective of a personal anti-religious bias or can they be regarded as more broadly typical of prevailing attitudes to such zealotry? In this particular instance, the problem of interpretation is solved by two factors, not always present in every case—namely, fuller biographical information on the CPM concerned than can be provided by basic career outlines available from such things as Staff Establishment Registers or the Classification Lists, and secondly, relevant historical background\(^{(26)}\).

J A Hutton had a long and respected career in the Department to warrant a special obituary in the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Journal, that is the journal of the New Zealand P&T Office's Guild (Inc), which was the house union of Post Office management rather than its rank and file staff and whose journal was published between 1930 and 1940. Hutton, who was born in Edinburgh in 1846, like other more prominent New Zealanders (Ward, Vogel), came to New Zealand via Victoria. In 1864 the Southland Provincial Government applied to the Victorian Telegraph Service for two promising junior telegraphists - Hutton was one of them. He eventually became Chief Postmaster at Oamaru between 1881 and 1897, at Timaru, between 1879 and 1903, and at Wellington from 1903-1910.

He was obviously an example of the painstaking, energetic Scot like J K Logan who helped pioneer New Zealand's telegraph service. He also had some sensitivity and appreciation of education, if not formally well educated himself. This was reflected in his correspondence, his fine handwriting, and in the encouragement he offered his staff to better themselves by education. His career and the obituary do not suggest anyone violently against religion or a person who made decisions on the basis of grudges. The obituary spoke of a cultured gentleman of outstanding ability\(^{(27)}\).
In dealing with the content of Hutton's correspondence, particularly on matters of religion, it could be inferred that his views reflected commonsense attitudes as well as the prevailing official view that religious zeal had no place in a secular public service. Such secularism became more evident after the 1877 Education Act which committed the State to the development of compulsory and secular primary education, particularly as a result of the influence of prominent and 'free-thinking' politicians like Robert Stout. Also, as one social historian has pointed out (see note infra) regular church attendance was a minority occupation in late 19th century New Zealand. Pietist (non-conformist) groups were themselves a minority within the religious mainstream. Secular attitudes would then be especially evident, particularly towards non-conformist sects such as those met with in this episode. The sequence of events in the Shrimpton case, as can be gleaned from the letterbook, is as follows. In early 1886 the GPO proposed that cadet Shrimpton transfer from a smaller post office in the Oamaru area to the Chief Post Office itself. The Chief Postmaster objected.

I've had several troublesome officers to deal with here. I'm naturally not well disposed to the contemplated change [Shrimpton's transfer]. I don't know for sure what 'ism' Shrimpton affects, but I fancy it is Plymouthism [i.e., the Plymouth Brethren sect founded by John Darby and Edwin Cronin in the UK in 1827, with 'open' and 'exclusive' sub-sects]. The body is strong and exclusive in Oamaru. I have in the office at present an enthusiastic Salvationist in Courtenay, and to have on our staff a valid follower of each extreme, namely Salvationism and Plymouthism, would subject the office to more public comment than it at present enjoys. (28)

In June 1886 we learn from a letter from the Medical Superintendent of an unspecified asylum that Shrimpton had received unspecified treatment for 'religious mania.' Here the archives' contents should be treated with caution. In late Victorian New Zealand 'lunatics' were broadly defined to include indigents, down and outs, people acting oddly, and so on, all of whom could end up in asylums. It is by no means certain that under today's criteria Shrimpton's 'religious zeal' would qualify as mental illness. This item is, in fact, a useful reflection on late 19th century social attitudes to madness and to the secular spirit that might regard any manifestation of religious zeal, especially in non-conformist groups, as madness. It might not, however, make for administrative equity. Hutton, it appears, was less concerned with whether Shrimpton was technically mad as to whether he would fit in. Shrimpton got his transfer to the Oamaru Chief Post Office, but a year later, in a memo to the Secretary of the Department, of 24 May 1887, Hutton was still concerned about him, not the least because of his activities during slack periods in the telegraph room.

Mr Shrimpton brings his Bible to the office and at every spare moment pours [i.e., pores] over its pages. Reading is not prohibited to operators during spare times, and while light reading does not tax the brain, it is, on the contrary, reasonable to conclude that Bible study during office hours is incompatible with a proven application to work. I want to be saved the extreme course of expelling the Bible from the office and to that end would be glad to see Mr Shrimpton transferred to some busier office where he could reserve his studies for his leisure hours. (29)

Besides the idea that religious study has no place in secular office, Hutton's thoughts here could be typical of the times in another respect - Bible study for those who practise it, should be reserved for Sundays, which was a very Victorian notion.

Shrimpton's fate cannot be gleaned from letterbooks, again, they need to be complemented by other archives, in this case Establishment Register No 8 (South Island) 1885-1892 (p. 800) where it is revealed that in mid 1888 he was dispensed with on compensation £199-13-3. The Department obviously felt that religious zeal, mania or whatever could not be punished by outright dismissal. It obviously felt Shrimpton was unbalanced and probably, under the Employers' Liability Act, 1882 (and extending injury to include mental injury) made compensation equivalent to his estimated earnings during the 3 years preceding the injury (section 5 of this Act). Again we see an administrative act by the Department, where pre-judgements (secular prejudices?) are tempered by some compassion.
Departmental attitudes to gambling, drinking and pornography reflect what social historians like S Eldred-Grigg have established to be reasonably common. This author, however, does note that these New Zealand prohibitionists who were inspired by religious fundamentalism were less common than the American equivalents. Eldred-Grigg notes that contemporary (late colonial) statistics indicate that only 28% of all Europeans attended church regularly in New Zealand. Despite this, the high profile, especially at election times, of groups like the Social Purity Movement, the Women's Christian Temperance Alliance (set up in 1866) ensured that the wowser view was constantly in the public eye, if not always high in public affection. This fact also led to some ambiguity in departmental attitudes especially if one reads beneath the jargon and surface of official prose. In November 1905, the Chief Postmaster at Oamaru, then Mr W W Beswick, replying to a GPO confidential inquiry said that there was no systematic betting in his office. On the question of the use of telegrams to place bets, he fudged, saying it was an expensive way to bet.

Herein lies the ambiguity. Individual staff would no doubt be admonished or punished (fined) for betting or swearing, or forced to take the pledge (as we have seen) to expiate acts of negligence or fraud, supposedly due to alcohol. But officially it was not good form to admit that the Department as a whole was saddled with a drink or gambling problem amongst staff in sections like the mailroom where the routine and the boredom could lead people to alcohol or to placing bets. The Department, on the other hand, took seriously its role as a guardian of social values by announcing in regulation PG 95/2883 of May 1 1895 (notified in the Post and Telegraph Official Circular of that date, p 5) that officers are strictly forbidden to give any information to persons inquiring by telegraph or otherwise concerning the result of horse races, no matter whether a reply is paid or not. This ambiguity—admitting that widespread betting or drinking went on in individuals but that such problems did not infuse institutions or, by extension, the nation as a whole—is also evident in a publication like the turn of the century (1902) Cyclopedia of New Zealand. In the volume relating to Auckland Province it is remarked that the people who constitute the foundation stock of the community are hardworking and honest, and of a high order of morality, and though smoking, drinking, horse racing gambling and the minor vices and grosser pleasures generally receive too much attention from a not inconsiderable proportion of the population, the public sentiment is in the main healthy. The attitude reflected here and sometimes in departmental correspondence is that people as a whole are pure because they should be pure. There is an admission of a widespread social problem (drinking, gambling etc) but a certain coyness/decorum that obscures the extent of it in official prose. However, numerous case histories in the letterbooks suggest that abuse of alcohol and drugs such as laudanum, particularly by people on menial and repetitive work, was quite common, and a major cause of infractions of regulations.

Furthermore, evidence from the letterbooks suggests that the Chief Postmasters at smaller localities tended to take the official image of the Department more seriously because their impact and the Department's impact in smaller communities were greater. In 1881 shortly after taking up his job at Oamaru, Hutton expressed annoyance at smoking by customers in public areas of his post office. He suggested use of a notice to the GPO in Wellington but added ruefully that I am rather adverse to the adoption of the latter course as insulting to those who know better. Oamaru in the 1880s and 1890s could be called a small locality in relation to, say, Christchurch and Dunedin. It had a population of 5535, compared to Dunedin's 23,037 (excluding suburbs), (these figures are given in tables for 1893/94 at the end of an unpaginated PO register entitled Telephone Exchanges Number of Subscribers, Cost of Constructing and Operating etc, 1881-1894).
Censorship, Sexual matters, Leisure habits

The Department was more straightforward on its attitude to pornography as then defined (as opposed to religion), and to the treatment of women on its own premises and beyond Local Postmasters and mistresses acted as local censors, since much that was illicit went through the mail. Section 29 (1) of the Post Office Act of October, 1900 gave the Postmaster General, or any postmaster, the power to open mail if he suspected it to contain printed matter which is of a blasphemous, indecent or immoral nature or likely to have an indecent or immoral effect. Such powers extended to mail suspected of arranging lotteries or conveying paid astrological information, and so on.

The Chief Postmaster at Dunedin from 1888 to 1892, Edward Drury Butts, had experience with censorship work. As Chief Postmaster at Wellington 1873 - 1888 he oversaw the Circulation Branch and was Examiner of Letters especially those suspected of containing dutiable articles or 'dirty' literature. The Dunedin letter-books during his tenure reflect official vigilance. The Department in this sense was the front line of the censorship war, though formally under the Indecent Publications Act of 1910 it was the Police who prosecuted and the Courts which ruled what was indecent. The PO appeared to have cast its indecency net wide - to include general snooping on staff outside working hours. On 23 February 1899, W Beswick, Hutton's successor at Oamaru, observed to the GPO that offensive acts including one that was not indecent but suggestive were on the increase in the Oamaru district. A listing of each was forwarded to the Secretary in accordance with standing instructions. This was doubtless a reference to regulation PG 99/359, advised in the Official Circular of April 1, 1899, page 28, relating to the conduct of officers outside office hours. Part of this Circular read:

Postmasters have a grave responsibility cast upon them in seeing that the private habits of their assistants are beyond reproach and their conduct not likely to bring them into trouble or to discredit the Department. It need scarcely be pointed out that nothing bordering on espionage or action likely to injure the self-respect of any employee is necessary to enable responsible officers to keep in touch with the outdoor habits of officers and other employees on their staff.

Needless to say, the Department encouraged healthy outdoor (leisure) habits and this is evident in the letterbooks. There are often references to departmental annual picnics, to New Year's Day's excursions, often as far away as Oamaru, for Dunedin Chief Post Office staff. As late 19th century leisure was often enjoyed en famille in New Zealand, it was logical that the Department should regard its staff as part of a family and treat their leisure as an occasion for family reunions, i.e., staff picnics, etc., not the least to keep them away from more vicarious, less worthy pursuits.

The Department's desire to play the moral chaperone, yet another manifestation of its paternalism, in and out of the office and which did not abate in the period of the letterbooks under discussion, was focussed especially on its female employees. As an employer of women in offices, the Department in the 1890s was very much a trendsetter. It was the first Government Department to take on a large number of women employees for specific duties. For example, the first female telegraphist was appointed in 1878, from 1892 female cadets were increasingly taken on for training as exchange operators/clerks/typistes, etc. Despite having a political voice and increased stature (with enfranchisement in 1899), women within the Department occupied no senior or middle management positions in the 1900s and 1910s. Only from 1901 were women formally promoted within Government Departments in New Zealand on the basis of success in the Senior Public Service Examination or as well as in the entry exams (instituted in 1886). Only from 1947 could women obtain a permanent appointment in the New Zealand Public Service as a whole and, of course, their salaries up to 1960 were usually at least 15% below that of men doing equivalent work.

The Department's attitude was then more paternal towards them than towards its male employees. Women living beyond a certain distance from a post office were, at the
turn of the century, chaperoned to work on horse and buggy at departmental expense, young female P&T cadettes boarding away from home, besides getting a special lodging allowance, had to have references from clergymen or policemen as to their good character, these being held by their landladies for inspection, as and when required. In the Wellington GPO letterbook we see detailed instructions for the training of the first female cadettes where it is remarked to the Officer in Charge of the Telegraph Office:

"You will of course take every care to prevent undue intercourse [i.e., association with] and familiarity between the men and the women.

I think it would be as well in the meantime that the senior Exchange Clerk should be on duty from 8 am to 5 pm with the exception of an hour for luncheon, and this hour should be filled up by one of the senior married men from the operating staff." (33)

Part of the paternalism was fed by the notion that women were short-term, frail employees, any career sense they might have being subordinate to their 'natural desire' to marry and have children. In fact, when rural (part-time) postmistresses did marry, their jobs were often taken over by their husbands. The Oamaru CPO letterbook No 3, in mid-1890, records that following the recent marriage of the postmistress at Livingstone, a small locality 20 km north of Oamaru, her husband, a miner, with no postal experience should be made postmaster. For full details of this case, again, the letterbook, with its typical gaps in correspondence, needs to be amplified by the Staff Establishment Registers. Register No 9 (South Island, 1893-1901, page 333) in fact records the appointment of Jas Thos McQuade as Postmaster from 17 1890 at 10 pounds per annum (for about 5 hours work per week). The irony is that much of the rural postal service was kept going by unpaid wives of the paid male employees. The former did the accounts, kept records for each husband's postal duties and his other business work, such as keeping shop or running an inn. In time women sometimes took over their husbands' postal duties on becoming widows. This applied particularly to male contractors. The contracts could be transferred from the husband's name to the wife's, though, of course, the other male dependents did the bulk of the carrying and delivery work. Such transfers were much more common after the passage of the Married Women's Property Act in 1884.

Miscellaneous

Space does not permit a detailed account of the other 'social' insights from the letterbooks. Much ancillary correspondence was taken up with sanitary issues and practices. Letters before the passage of the Public Health Act, 1900 show why such an Act was necessary, letters afterwards relate often to carrying out its provisions in respect of district post offices and their surrounding areas.

There is correspondence relating to missing staff. Absconding from work and migratory patterns of labour were elements in the late 19th century employment and social picture, hence the need for elaborate Fidelity Bonds, backed by sureties which date from the Department's inception, for all employees. These did not, however, stop the 'disappearances'.

There is in the letterbooks little bearing on race relationships in the Department, though one revealing memorandum from the CPO Christchurch in 1908 opposes the random proliferation of Maori place names, especially for established settlements with well-known and liked European designations. This memo reflected the prevailing turn of the century white view that the Maoris were a dying race, with an often unpronounceable language. (36)

Conclusion

The picture of social and administrative practices in the Post and Telegraph Department from the 1880s to the 1910s, built up by this set of archives, is a vivid one. The limitations of the specific letterbook format - incomplete information, an official 'front', misleading or obscure language, etc, - are mitigated to some extent by using other archives readily available to the researcher within the Post Office and
outside, such as Staff Establishment Registers (to ascertain the outcome of a particular personnel issue) or bound volumes of turn of the century P&T Official Circulars, to check an unspecified regulation referred to in correspondence. On the wider issue of typicality, items such as bureaucratic jargon of the day can readily be established as typical by tracing their use in other Departments. This applies, also to such issues as recreational habits, social values of P&T staff, and the like. The prevailing departmental ethic, based on a certain paternalism, a concern for shepherding staff along a path called Efficiency and Progress, has its echo in the attitudes of other bodies, within and outside the New Zealand public service of the day. Where the archives show apparently idiosyncratic attitudes and values, the extent of this idiosyncracy can be gauged by references, again to outside sources— in the case of J A Hutton, for example, to his obituary and to the secular core in official attitudes in the New Zealand Public Service as a whole after 1877 especially.

These letterbooks, taken in themselves, then, have definite limitations. If these limitations are recognised clearly from the start by the researcher and overcome fairly easily by the techniques shown, their worth is greatly enhanced.

FOOTNOTES

(1) Parts of this article draw on material delivered in a talk to an ARANZ meeting held at the PO Museum and Archives, 153 Thorndon Quay, Wellington, on 16 July 1986. Preliminary research, under the author's guidance, was carried out on the letterbooks by Mr Roland Ng, a vacation worker and tertiary student, December 1984 - late February 1985. The author is curator of the NZPO's archives and the department's historian.

For ease of reference the letterbooks are referred to in the main text by the title 'CPO' followed by the locality concerned and the number of the volume.


(3) An example of the latter that this writer is familiar with is the National Archives series IA 4/250 (Colonial Secretary's Department records, 1841 to 1855). Up to 1858 this Department had a decisive say over postal policy, as opposed to details of administration, in New Zealand.

(4) Miles Fairburn, 'Social Mobility and Opportunity', NZJH, Xlll (1979) 1, p49 A copy of the 1891 Regulations was included in the first volume of P&T Departmental Lists (1891-1899) that were published each year from 1891 and subsequently bound in single volumes. They were also known as the classification Lists and from April 1961 as the List of Permanent Employees. The Regulations were also published separately as a supplement to the New Zealand Gazette of January 23, 1891. Section 1 of the Regulations defined the administrative terms used in the Regulations themselves.

(5) See Sections 4-23 of the Regulations in Supplement to the New Zealand Gazette of Friday 23 January 1891. Copy of the Regulation prefaces the first volume of the P&T Departmental (i.e., Classification) Lists.

(6) See Regulations, the New Zealand Gazette No 7, page 102 (section 17). The educational requirements appear to have been rigorously enforced. A Mr Kelly, an officer wanting promotion out of his job in the Non-Clerical Division, as an assistant messenger at Dunedin, was told by the CPM Dunedin that the Secretary cannot hold out any hope of further promotion until you can produce a 6th standard pass, or the equivalent of it (CPO-DN 3, p 766-letter of 15 May 1891), see also memo of 31 May 1900 from the DN CPM to the Secretary, Wellington, recommending certain Non-Clerical officers for promotion - and CPO DN 6, p 381.

(7) CPO Dunedin 6, p 380.
(8) See CPM memo of 2 March 1905 to GPO, advising that the Money Order and Savings Bank staff have worked an average of '10 hours a day' on interest calculations from 15 November 1904-1 February 1905 and requesting 2 extra staff for the section, and 'restrictions' on the taking of annual leave in the immediate future.

(9) See Howard Robinson, *A History of the Post Office in New Zealand*, Government Printer Wellington 1964, pp 203-204, for these and other figures relating to staff growth. In some cases figures included non-permanent employees.

(10) From an interview with the Postmaster General by members of the Society Executive, reported in the NZ Post and Telegraph Gazette, May 1 1891, p 4.

(11) Op cit p 5.


(13) CPO Invercargill letter to GPO on 27 February 1906 (CPO IN 5, p 488).

(14) Letter of 31 October 1905 to GPO (CPO IN 5, p 202).

(15) See correspondence in CPO DN 27, from 13 June 1911 to 25 July 1911.

(16) Cf a reminiscence by Mr A Helm, author of a lengthy unpublished narrative on the NZPO's history (1954) written while a member of the General Post Office in Wellington, to writer on 19 June 1985 at a work-in-progress seminar on the PO history project, given by the writer at the Stout Research Centre, VUW. Helm first joined the Department in 1927 as a message boy. He recalls at times being asked to sweep the yard of the post office where he was based, observing, but not being tempted by, 6d coins left there deliberately, as he realised, by the Postmaster, to test his honesty.

(17) CPO Dunedin 12, p 299, memo of 7 May 1912 to GPO.

(18) Op cit, p 301, memo of 5 July 1912.

(19) See handwritten note from GPO Wellington of 24 December 1894, stuck on inside cover. No other such index from other CPOs exists in the PO Archives, though doubtless these were kept by other district offices.

(20) These came out monthly and were often lengthy. Those issued for 1895, for example, came to 114 pages, all told. Besides Regulations, the Circulars issued lists of new offices, details about missing mail, and the like.

(21) Cf such articles as Miles Fairburn, 'Social Mobility and Opportunity' *NZJH*, XLI, 1, pp 43-60, Claire Toynbee, 'Class and Social Structure in Nineteenth Century New Zealand', *op cit*, pp 65-82. An earlier monograph in this journal was Erik Olssen, 'The Working Class in New Zealand', *NZJH*, VILL, pp 44-60.

(22) Cf, Miles Fairburn *op cit*, p 44.

(23) Problems can also arise because of the preconceptions of later historians in assessing statements. In his 1974 *NZJH* monograph Olssen criticized historians who minimised the extent of actual class consciousness in the 1890s in New Zealand, partly because they (the historians) held too conventional a view of class, ignored actual self-perceptions by groups at the time and the varieties within these perceptions of class. He felt also they placed too much emphasis on the official (political) rhetoric of Richard Seddon and his colleagues at the time, with their stress on 'one nation'.
From a GPO pro forma memorandum addressed in this instance to Master G S Jenkin, Stratford, of 7 August 1930. The fact that such attitudes persisted to the 1930s and beyond is evidence of their strength.

W.H. Oliver, 'Social Welfare, Social Justice or Social Efficiency', NZJH, XIII, 1, p 30, p 33

Bare career outlines have to suffice for most of the CPMs in this set of letter-books cf that for Edward Drury Butts, whose name features in many Dunedin letter-books. He was appointed CPM Dunedin on 1 July 1888, joining the Department in 1861, aged 33. He retired on 31 December 1892, and died on December 17, 1910.


See CPO Oamaru 4, p 450

op. cit., p 616

The prohibitionists and other puritan reformers were not conforming to a code which everyone took for granted, but were trying to impose it on a mass of people who, in the opinion of the wowsers, were 'immoral'. S. Eldred-Grigg, (1984), p 2. For a comparison of New Zealand and United States prohibitionists, see p 188, for figures on religious attendance in late 19th century New Zealand, see p 247 of this book.

See CPO Oamaru 7A, memo of 4 November 1905

See the Cyclopaedia of New Zealand, Volume 2 (anonymous authorship), Cyclopaedia Co Ltd, Christchurch, 1902, p 61

See CPO Oamaru 1, p 249, memo of 6 September 1881

CPO Oamaru 5, p 47

Memorandum from W. Gray (Secretary, P&T Department), 13 April 1892

Oaruha is a word which I am certain not one European in 500 can properly pronounce at the present time. What will it be in another 50 years when there will be fewer Natives and a lesser number of Europeans who can pronounce a Maori word? - Memo from Telegraph Engineer, Christchurch, to Hon Postmaster General, Wellington, of 2 November 1908, CPO Christchurch 7, p 400

Documents from other departments, revealing similarities in official prose and attitudes, are found in such volumes as P&T Parliamentary Papers, where correspondence from other departments within and outside New Zealand relating to trans-oceanic cables, etc., as well as the annual Reports or Statements of bodies like the Public Works Department are included, increasingly so in later volumes. (The Post Office Archives has a set of these papers in bound volumes, from 1904 to 196.) Later archives in the I A series (Colonial Secretary's Department, later Inernal Affairs), held at National Archives, Wellington, provide another useful point of comparison.

Tony Wilson,
Wellington
When the Auckland branch of ARANZ at its 1986 AGM decided to ask Father Ernest Simmons to be its patron, it was making a gesture of recognition towards the significant contribution he has made, not only to ARANZ but to archival work in New Zealand generally. Father Simmons had on that occasion resigned as vice-chairman of the Auckland branch, a position he had held for some years.

Catholic priest, historian, writer, Chancellor and archivist of the Catholic Church in the Auckland diocese, Ernest Richard Simmons was born in Napier in 1922. He trained as a teacher, and served in the army and the navy during World War II. In 1948 he began studies for the priesthood at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, continuing his theological education in Rome, where he was ordained priest in 1953. He has a B.A. degree from the University of Auckland, and a Licentiate in Theology of Auckland.

Father Simmons has served his Church and its people in many areas of Catholic life: as assistant priest and parish priest, as Dean of Chanel Institute for tertiary religious education, and as assistant editor and editor of the Auckland Catholic weekly Zealanda. He was appointed diocesan archivist in 1973 and Chancellor of the diocese in 1984.

A prolific, well-informed writer, whose wit and perception can enliven any topic he deals with, he is the author of some hundreds of articles, and has to his credit seven published books, the most interesting titles from an archival point of view being A Brief History of the Catholic Church in New Zealand (1978) in Cruce Salus (1982) - a history of the Catholic diocese of Auckland - and Pompallier, Prince of Bishops (1984), a biography of the man who established the Catholic Church in New Zealand in 1838. For this work on Bishop Pompallier Father Simmons was awarded by the Alliance Francaise the John Dunmore medal for contribution to the advancement of the French language, literature and people in the Pacific.

In the early 1970s Father Simmons, assisted by the late Ruth Ross, began organising the records and documents held at Bishop's house, Ponsonby, Auckland, into an effective archival centre. He has since spent about 15 years indexing, sorting and restoring order to a mass of the 'Zealanda'
valuable historical documents. The Auckland Catholic diocesan archives are at present housed in cramped quarters, mainly on the attic floor of the picturesque brick building designed by Pugin and built in 1894. Making the most of every corner, Father Simmons has created here a remarkable collection and organisation of early and continuing records that go far beyond the documentation of the Catholic Church.

Dating from 1836 the archives are arranged in groups by the names of the Bishops: Pompallier [1836-69], Croke [1870-75], Steins [1879-81], Luck [1882-96], Lenihan [1896-1910], Cleary [1910-29], Liston [1929-70], Delargey [1970-74], Mackey [1974-83], Browne [1983-] and the Interregna.

Each of these groups contains the major administration papers and records that have survived. They include correspondence with Rome, with overseas and New Zealand bishops, and with priests, parishes, societies, orders and laity within the diocese. Papers relating to official appointments, synods, conferences and councils, diocesan accounts, plans and financial documents regarding church, school, and other buildings and property in the diocese, correspondence with Catholic orders regarding their foundation and administration with the diocese, including Catholic hospitals, personal papers of bishops, clergy, religious and some laity.

The archives hold 658 original writings of Bishop Pompallier, ranging from books to small notes and long letters (even as long as 38 pages) the bishop wrote fluently in English, French and Maori. Of particular interest are his letters to Father Garavel at Rangiaowhia, giving a good idea of how the mission there was carried on in the 1850s, before the disruption of the Maori Wars.

Later bishops were in touch with various figures of historical and literary significance. The archives hold a letter from Mark Twain to his personal friend, Bishop Cleary, and there are also letters from Hilaire Belloc and G.K. Chesterton to Cleary as a fellow writer with stature of his own. Political names too appear among the varied and interesting items of episcopal correspondence.

Also included is an incomplete sequence of parish registers of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials, and marriage papers, dating from 1836. Although the Catholic Church shares with other Churches the difficulty of gathering a complete collection of such documents, those that survive are of considerable relevance even today. In many cases they are the only records of a great many Maori births and marriages, since registration of such births and weddings was not compulsory until well into this century.

In addition the archives contain photographs and other pictorial matter of church occasions, photographs of bishops, clergy, religious and laity, and photographic prints of documents and letters copied from the Propaganda Archives, Rome, relating to the Auckland diocese 1835-1970.

Father Simmons is most generous in making the archives available, not only to visitors, but to research students and writers, who are welcome to work there by arrangement over an elastic schedule of timing. His expertise and encouragement are as freely available to them as his premises.

Firm plans are in train at present to establish an administration centre in Ponsonby to cover the whole diocese. They include provision for new archival premises, and all Father Simmons's friends will wish him the joy of seeing the archives he has so faithfully conserved transferred to secure and adequate housing.

The Auckland branch of ARANZ joins the writer in offering him a tribute of admiration, affection and gratitude.

Sister Veronica Delany,
Auckland
NEWSPAPERS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Newspaper Collection includes original newspapers from those printed on paper, to those on silk, or blotting paper, and copies on archival quality microfilm. Based on the newspapers in the Turnbull Library, it will shortly include many of the historic newspapers from the Parliamentary Library - the nucleus of a collection that will give researchers access to the complete newspaper resource for New Zealand.

The newspapers will be brought together for the first time in the state-of-the-art conditions of the new National Library building, the original newspapers on horizontal compactus shelving, in an environment designed for 13° Celsius and 40% relative humidity, the microfilm in a separate airconditioned storage area.

Newspaper readers have a separate research room on the lower ground floor of the building, at present open 9 - 5 on weekdays and 9 - 1 on Saturdays (we hope to extend these hours for some evenings during the week). So far the pattern of use has borne out expectations of greatest interest by genealogists and other historical researchers.

Up to eight readers at a time can use original newspapers, plus four at microfilm readers (three of these top-projecting), and two at reader/printers. A proto-type table which can be angled, for reading large bound volumes of newspapers, is being tested. Copying from original newspapers has long been a concern and another useful development is the hand-held mini-copier which produces a strip 68cm wide - ideal for newspaper columns.

Current newspapers (up to six months old, from 1 June 1987) from New Zealand and overseas, will be available from the Serials reading room, next door to the Newspaper Research Room.

After Ross Harvey's two national surveys of the condition of newspapers (1983 and 1986/87), most people responsible for their care will be aware that papers are physically vulnerable. Many have been, and are being, irretrievably damaged. The National Library's Microfilm Production Unit has an ongoing programme of filming the newspapers which were identified as most at risk, but if any titles have deteriorated significantly since the surveys, or are in critical condition for other reasons, please contact the Turnbull Library (P O Box 12349, Wellington). The new Newspaper Librarian is Nicola Frean, who until recently worked at the National Archives. Nicola has a Diploma in Librarianship, and has published research into newspaper history in the Manawatu. As well as information about the physical condition of newspapers, Nicola would also like to hear of any additions to the material listed in the two surveys. A new union list of newspapers is in preparation.

As more historic newspapers are copied, using a microfilm instead of the original newspaper will become the norm for researchers. Printing or paper historians, bibliographers, and others who need to use the originals, will require the agreement of the Chief Librarian of the Turnbull Library. The National Library aims to provide, for the national newspaper resource, the highest quality microfilms with as little damage done to the original newspapers as possible, and to preserve in one repository as complete a run as possible of the newspapers which have been filmed - access to these available only if there is a proven bibliographical or technical need. Microfilms of newspapers will be available through the Interloans service.

This policy should ensure that the needs of all newspaper users, present and future, are well met.

Nicola Frean
Newspaper Librarian
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In June, we wrote to the State Services Commission asking what action, if any, was planned to address the recommendations of the report Information can be managed. The group indicated a vital interest in those recommendations relating to formal training and career structure. The SSC reply indicated that, in consultation with National Archives and others with expertise in the area, they plan to develop a framework for improving and developing records management in the public sector. They would integrate the identified training needs into an overall strategy for records management. Thereafter, implementation of such a programme would become the responsibility of permanent heads. Their letter ended with an assurance that they did not intend to see the recommendations of the report die. One year on, and no action.

In August Rosemary Collier and I were asked to co-chair the working party on Records Management, in an ARANZ sponsored Review of future training needs in archival administration and records management. It was with something akin to elation that I approached this project. However, this euphoria was short lived, and sadly, in early September, 'due to circumstances beyond our control' the committee unanimously voted to terminate the present review.

It would appear that the mention of training in the same sentence as Records Management immediately bedevils any effort to redress this sadly neglected situation. Members of the RM Group have indicated that they have very strong views on what should be available to them, and will 'carry the torch' until something is done to recognise their plight. In the financial climate of today, the practice of storing records, as opposed to managing them is eroding the 'administrative dollar'. The concept of permitting trained Records Managers to manage records will ensure that this situation does not continue. Though most reviews and studies address the situation of the public service, there is also a crying need in the private sector for assistance in the management of records in an efficient and cost effective manner. The establishment and provision of training programmes will therefore have wide appeal and far-reaching benefits.

The Records Management Group will reach its first birthday in November, and continues to go from strength to strength. Throughout the winter, meetings have been held bi-monthly in the Police National Headquarters, who have been kind enough to let us use their venue as our home.

I am pleased to say that attendance at the meetings averages about 20 persons per night, and the mailing list has expanded to approximately 80 persons. We cannot yet say that membership stretches from North Cape to Bluff, but we can boast that newsletters are posted to places as far apart as Whangarei and Christchurch.

We are in contact with the Records Management Association of Australia, (RMAA), and the Information and Records Management Association, (IRMA) of Victoria, Canada.

Several of our members recently attended the RMAA Conference in Melbourne, and had a most enjoyable, as well as educational visit. We would like to think that the increased number of New Zealand Records people attending was a direct result of the establishment of the RM Group and the interaction which is now taking place within it.

This year's programmes have included such topics as:

Micrographics - Does this really reduce your problem?

The discussion was introduced by Patricia Acton, who chaired a panel consisting of two representatives of commercial suppliers and Rosemary Collier, a Records Consultant. Some very interesting points were raised by the audience, and by the end of the evening those present had a better idea of the application, and in some cases restrictions of this form of storage.
Methods and Measurements - What is reasonable? and How do you measure achievement? presented by Fraser Boyd, Vice President, Institute of Management Services (NZ) Inc. In all too short a time the speaker introduced us to the concept of identifying and implementing methods of improving the way work is done, thereby increasing efficiency and effectiveness in our work place.

What I want from my career and my training needs to achieve this goal.

Though no guest speaker was planned for this evening, a small but vociferous group surrounded the conference table to hammer out this topic which should be of vital interest to all Records persons.

With the approach of the festive season, on behalf of the group I would like to wish you all a 'Record' Christmas.

Anyone wishing further information regarding the Records Management group should write to me at the address provided under Committee Convenors in this magazine.

Alison Fraser
Wellington

ACCESS RESTRICTED SUBJECT TO SORTING

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY

BARTON, Shirley A M Rewi Alley papers, ca 1936-1986 Letters from Alley to Barton, 1952-1986, poems, plays, talks, scrapbook 1m

COLLINS, Rev G G Journal, ca 1887-1889 Describes sojourn in New Zealand, and includes photographs and ephemera 1v

CORSO Further records 20m

FAMILY Life Education Council Records, 1966-1986 2m

FEDERATED Mountain Clubs Further records 3m

GOODMAN, Rev George H Papers, 1930-1986 Pacifist, family and church affairs 1 3m

JONES, Stella Morrison (Claridge) Literary papers, ca 1950-1960s 2 folders

LONG, Margaret Papers relating to human rights organisations, ca 1950s 30cm

McWHANNELL, Rhoda Diaries, 1938-1986 Daily entries and trips to Europe and South Africa 60cm

MEADS, Diana The Works of A A StC M Murray-Oliver an Annotated Bibliography, 1979 41 leaves

MURRAY-OLIVER, A A StC M Papers, 1920s-1986 ca 40m

ROWE, Betty Account of life on Arapawa Island, n.d. 254 leaves

SHERIFF, Rev Francis Sermons, 1873-1902 30cm

TAYLOR, Aileen Marjorie Papers, ca 1912-1980 Studied art in London and served as nurse during both World Wars 30cm

UNITED NATIONS International Year of Peace Aotearoa Committee Records, 1985-1987 4m

WILSON, George, b 1842 Letters written by William Wilson, 1862-1871 Written from Lyttelton, Hokitika, and Auckland 33 leaves

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WELLINGTON

ALEXANDER Turnbull Library Registered and unregistered files, 1918-1984 20m PARTLY RESTRICTED
CAWTHERN Institute, Nelson Institute and Trust Board records, ca 1916-1977 35m RESTRICTED

COLMAN, Fraser, MP Political papers, caucus papers, committee papers, 1973-1986 18 6m RESTRICTED

COMMISSION of Inquiry, Defence Review, 1987 4m RESTRICTED

CULLEN, Michael, MP Senior Government Whip records, 1973-1984 3m RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT of Health, Head Office Minute books, loose papers, 1960-1966 1m

DEPARTMENT of Internal Affairs War Graves card index, ca 1940-4 cabinets

DEPARTMENT of Justice, Head Office Set of electoral boundary maps, 1982 20 sheets

DEPARTMENT of Justice, Levin District Court Sample civil, children and young persons, and criminal case files, 1974-1976 30cm RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT of Justice, Wanganui District Court Sample case files, 1975-1981 1m Sample civil case files, 1976 10cm RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT of Justice, Wellington District Office Registered files, 1892-1986 5m

DEPARTMENT of Scientific and Industrial Research Films from DSIR audio-visual unit, ca 1965 74 cans

ELECTRICORP, Napier Glass negatives of Tuai power station, ca 1920s 400 glass negatives

FOREST Service, Residual Management Unit Ministerial and general press releases, 1974-1987 60cm

GOODS and Services Tax Co-ordinating Office Papers, 1985-1986 4 3m

HERCUS, Ann, MP Political papers, 1984-1986 7 1m RESTRICTED

HOUSING Corporation, Head Office Contract index cards, 1937-1986 5m

LAND Registry Office, New Plymouth Discharged mortgages, 1980-1986 48m

LANDCORP, Wellington Branch Multiple number subject files 14/-, 1885-1978, 30/- Housing, 1936-1981 34m

LANDS and Survey Department, Head Office Farm Settlement plans, 1953-1970 25 sheets

LANDS and Survey Department, Head Office Imperial records sheets, ca 1950-ca 1975 91 sheets

LANDS and Survey Department, Napier District Office Marginal lands files, 1947-1984 4m

LANDS and Survey Department, Nelson District Office Registered files multiple number subject, 1952-1984, alpha numeric subject, 1894-1980 23m

LANDS and Survey Department, New Plymouth District Office Registered files, 1888-1956 53 7m

LANDS and Survey Department, Wellington District Office Registered files, 1892-1986 5m

LANDS Department, Napier District Office Multiple number subject files 4/- Settlement files, 1910-1984 5m

LICENSING Control Commission, Registered files, 1946-1976 30cm

MAORI Affairs Department, Head Office Personnel files, 1881-1976 2 5m PARTLY RESTRICTED

MARTINDALE, L F Papers, ca 1951-1959 1m

McLAY, J MP Parliamentary papers, ca 1972-1984 10m RESTRICTED

MINISTRY of Agriculture and Fisheries, Head Office Orchard Instructors' Conference minutebooks, 1913, 1918 2v

MINISTRY of Agriculture and Fisheries, Head Office Personnel files, 1926-1977 25cm PARTLY RESTRICTED

MINISTRY of Transport, Head Office Search and Rescue maps and charts, 1850-1982 110 sheets

MOORE, Michael, MP Political papers, pre 1984 4m RESTRICTED

NEW Zealand Post Registered (multiple number subject) files, 1913-1986 9m
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Access/Restriction</th>
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<td>Incident and offence files, 1979-1981</td>
<td>60 cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLICE Department, Nelson</td>
<td>Incident and offence files, 1979-1982</td>
<td>30 cm</td>
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<td>POLICE Department, New Plymouth</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Wartime records, 1943-1956</td>
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<td>3 oil paintings</td>
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<td>STATE Services Commission</td>
<td>Maps and plans of New Zealand towns and buildings, 1902-1978</td>
<td>25 sheets</td>
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<td>Multiple number subject files, ca 1930s-1980</td>
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<td>Auckland Hospital Board, patient files, 1952-1982</td>
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<td>Incident and offence files, 1981-1982</td>
<td>2 m</td>
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<td>VALUATION Department, Henderson</td>
<td>Valuation rolls, 1969-1984</td>
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<td>WYLIE, David M</td>
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EARLY FRENCH MANUSCRIPT CHARTS OF NEW ZEALAND

Early French manuscript charts of New Zealand are listed in Isabel Ollivier's article 'French explorers in New Zealand, 1769-1840: a list of manuscript material' in The Turnbull Library Record (1983), (pp 5-19 and pp 95-110). Ollivier does not claim that her list is complete and the important charts omitted from Ollivier's list and noted below do not necessarily finalise the list.

Additional Beaupré manuscript charts

In addition to the manuscript charts listed by Ollivier (p 14) the following are held by the Archives Nationales, Paris:

- Marine 6JJ 3 36, Nord de la Nouvelle-Zélande
- Marine 6JJ 2, pièces 22 et 23, Iles Kermadec
- Marine 5JJ 19 (le second cahier du registre - non paginé)

Data and sketches relating to the above charts.

Manuscript charts prepared during Cécile's 1838 visit

Although Ollivier provides no details (p 104) of manuscript charts or views prepared in New Zealand waters by Cécile or his officers, there are several important manuscript works preserved in French libraries. In the Archives de France, Paris, the following item is held:

- (chart) - Admiralty file BB4 1011, packet 4, (included as a tail-piece in a letter received from M Cécile by the Admiralty, dated 11 September 1839) a traced plan of the Chatham Islands, drawn by Lieutenant-Commander Fournier in 1838.

The following works are preserved in the Centre de Documentation et de Recherche de Brest, Service Historique, Marine Nationale, Brest:

- Marine 8JJ (la sous-série) - Portefeuille 32, division 5, Pièce 5, Plan des baies de Koko-rarata
- Marine 8JJ (la sous-série) - Portefeuille 32, division 5, Pièce 6, Plan des Iles Chatham

Manuscript charts and views prepared during Du Petit-Thouars' 1838 visit

In addition to the sketch done by de Tessan and noted by Ollivier (p 106), the following manuscript works are preserved in the Archives de France, Paris:

- Marine 6JJ 14 - item 43, Plan of the Bay of Islands, drawn in 1838 by M de Tessan
- Marine 6JJ 14 - item 42, Marine survey used in drawing up the preceding item
- Marine 5JJ 112 - 9th folder - folios 5-24 (inclusive) - views of the coast of New Zealand, drawn in 1838 by M de Tessan.

Brian Hooker
Auckland
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ANALECTA

NEW ZEALAND HISTORICAL ASSN CONFERENCE 1989

The Conference will be held 26-29 January 1989 at the University of Waikato, Hamilton. The Conference theme will be *The Struggle for Human Rights* and addresses the anniversaries of the revolutions of 1689 and 1789, the 1889 struggles of European and Australasian labour, and the beginning of World War II in 1939.

Papers of 20 - 30 minutes duration are invited from historians researching in areas related to the Conference theme. Contributions are welcome in constitutional, legal, labour, religious, and military history, and from historians interested in women's and indigenous peoples' rights.

For further details, contact the Conference convenor, History Department, University of Waikato, Private Bag, Hamilton, New Zealand.

BRITISH REVIEW OF NEW ZEALAND STUDIES

The newly formed *British Review of New Zealand Studies* plans to launch its first journal in late 1987. Editors Ged Martin and Guy Robinson are based in Edinburgh and aim to produce a journal dedicated to the study of New Zealand, open to articles in all appropriate disciplines from anywhere in the world, and including a review section which will particularly seek to develop external debate on New Zealand scholarship. They are determined to produce the journal as inexpensively as possible and are seeking goodwill and support. Anyone interested in contributing to the journal, becoming a subscriber or finding out more information can contact the editors at the Editorial Office, 21 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD, Scotland.

COMMONWEALTH ARCHIVISTS ASSOCIATION

The Commonwealth Archivists Association is a new professional body whose purpose is to unite archivists scattered throughout the Commonwealth. The Association publishes a newsletter and is seeking contributions from Commonwealth archivists. Suggested topics include educational or copying projects with Commonwealth application, news of funding possibilities, articles on local conditions or projects, practical problem solving articles, notices of the appearance of guides or inventories, reviews of relevant archival literature, theoretical aspects of archival work, and information on archival education and preparatory programmes. Contributions should be sent to George Bolotenko, Newsletter Editor, Government Archives Division, Public Archives of Canada, West Memorial building, room 3103, 344 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A ON3, Canada.

CONSERVATION IN ARCHIVES

The National Archives of Canada, in conjunction with the International Council on Archives, is planning to host an international symposium from May 10 - 12, 1988, entitled *Conservation in Archives Current Dimensions and Future Developments*. The Symposium will be held at the National Archives of Canada, in Ottawa. The Symposium is intended primarily for conservation managers and for heads of conservation laboratories and will also be beneficial to preservation consultants and working conservators who are either employed by an archival repository or are in private practice. The Symposium is designed for those involved in planning, designing and implementing conservation programmes and will help provide participants with a good understanding of current conservation problems and workable solutions as well as those solutions under development. Session themes will include parchment, paper, photographic records, standards, magnetic media, future automated technologies and management. For further information contact, The International Conservation Symposium, P.O. Box 3162, Station 'D', Ottawa, Canada K1P 6H7.

1988 BENTLEY LIBRARY FELLOWSHIP AVAILABLE

The Bentley Historical Library has fellowships available through its Research Fellowship Program for Study of Modern Archives. The Library offers fellowships for research on problems associated with the collection, appraisal, administration, preservation and use of modern records and manuscript collections. Professional archivists, records managers, historians, and other scholars at any stage of their professional career are eligible for fellowships. For application forms and further information write to Francis X. Blouin, Jr. or William K. Wallach, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, 1150 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113. Applications for the Summer 1988 program must be postmarked by December 11, 1987.

HERITAGE AUSTRALIA INFORMATION SYSTEM (HERA)

Launched in April this year, HERA was established by the Australian Heritage Commission as a national computer-based...
bibliographic service. It aims to record all references to Australian heritage publications produced after 1986. Particular emphasis is placed on reports written or commissioned by government and non-government heritage agencies throughout the country. More than 600 reports prepared under the National Estate Grants Program (NEGP) are held in the library, covering topics as diverse as geological monuments, wilderness areas, endangered fauna and flora, Aboriginal carved trees, contact sites, historic urban areas and buildings, mining history and abandoned settlements. In addition to recording current material, attempts are being made to identify collections which will provide valuable retrospective additions to the database. HERA will include books, journal articles, legislation, maps, resource kits, theses and reports in many forms.

HISTORIC RECORD SEARCH

Another major Australian Bicentennial Heritage Project is the Historic Record Search conducted with the support of the National Library of Australia. It is a search for privately owned papers held by Australian families, businesses, clubs and other organisations, and the aim of the Search is to locate and record not collect material for historians and future generations of researchers. The Search will register not only documents relating to important events and places in Australia's history, but also the records of small businesses, community organisations and families and will include postcards, clubs, newspapers, photographs, theatre programmes, and posters as well as family records and letters. Individual items will be included along with large collections. A pilot Search was conducted in Leeton in July this year.

N Z SESQUICENTENNIAL

Frank Rogers, who with a group led by Murray Print (President of the Auckland Heritage Trust) attended the Heritage Week celebrations in Sydney in April, makes the following suggestions of activities as distinct from celebrations that need to be done in relation to our history in some of which we can benefit from the Australian experience:

1) The provision by the Government in time for the Sesquicentennial of a for-the-purpose National Archives building worthy of the name

2) The implementation of further recommendations of the Smith Report

3) The revision of the Historic Places Act to put more teeth into the legislation in respect of the preservation of historic buildings and structures, and the ditching of the present ineffective classification system which has been abandoned in Australia

4) The setting up of an organisation to record historical records in private hands along the lines of the Australian Bicentennial Historic Records Search

5) The encouragement by the above organisation of district records searches as a dress rehearsal for the Sesquicentennial Records Search

6) The establishment by an appropriate government agency of a New Zealand equivalent to HERA

7) An active programme of publicity through the media regarding matters relating to our history by means of press releases

8) Pressure upon the Department of Education to restore New Zealand history to its rightful place in the school curriculum

PICTON ARCHIVES FUNDING

The Marlborough Historical Society, supported by the Blenheim Borough Council, has requested financial assistance from the Picton Borough Council in funding the Brayshaw Park Archives and Museum building. So far, more than $100,000 has been raised for the $300,000 provincial project. The request has been made because of the large amount of archival material pertaining to the Picton Borough Council being held by the Society in the present archives. Society President, Kevin Andrews, said the Society had a mandatory obligation under the Local Government Act to store, protect, collect and preserve the borough's archives. The Council's administration committee recommended that the quantity of material be established before a decision is made on how much it might give to the provincial archives.

Marlborough Express, 13 May 1987
Marilyn Waring, in a recent *Letters to my sisters* column, reported on a conference on women in international leadership held at Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. Of one of the contributors she wrote: 'Mahnay Afkhami was minister of state for women's affairs in Iran from 1976-1978 prior to the religious revolution there. When she and her family fled, she made them leave behind clothes and treasures and carry all the papers of the herstory of the Iranian women's movement, a complete set of which she preserved.'

*NZ Listener*, 23 May 1987

**WINKELMAN PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION CATALOGUED**

The cornerstone of the Auckland Public Library's photo collection, the Winkelman photographs, are the subject of a new catalogue. The 1,873 glass plate negatives of inner city Auckland between 1896 and 1928 were purchased by the Public Library in 1928, and have been described by cataloguer John Holloway as an 'incredible visual documentary of the development of Auckland.' The catalogue is the result of five years voluntary and part-time work by Holloway, and lists the photographs in chronological order by year with panoramic views shown together in square brackets. It also cross references the photographs by area.

*Auckland City Harbour News*, 14 April 1987

**TURN UP FOR ROYAL ARCHIVES**

A researcher in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle has revealed the unexpected role of the British contraceptive industry in preserving the pre-revolutionary monarchy of France. Dr Jeremy Black was studying the papers of the Duke of Cumberland, the 'Butcher' of Culloden, when he came across a private letter of 1749 from Colonel Joseph Yorke, a British diplomat in Paris. Louis XV, 'it seems, has an utter aversion to his mistresses bearing children' doubtless because of the problems he had with the bastard children of his predecessor Louis XIV. The laws of France and papal rulings required that the '300 or more of those preventive machines, made use of by the gallant theo' prudent young gentlemen of this age' procured by Yorke from England for His Most Christian Majesty had to be smuggled through Customs for fear of search or seizure as contraband.

*Auckland Star*, 8 April 1987

**WHEN THE TRUTH HURTS**

The Iranagate hearings conducted by a United States congressional committee revealed a flurry of activity had taken place in November 1986 in Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North's office in the White House complex. Dubbed by the press as 'the shredding party', 21 November saw Fawn Hall, North's Secretary at the National Security Council, feeding 12, 15, 18 pages at once into the shredder. She said the classified documents were fed in so thick and fast that the shredding machine jammed and a repair man had to be called. Several classified council documents were altered the same day, four days before Colonel North was fired, to remove references to North's efforts to arm the Contras during a congressional ban on such aid. Historians beware.

*NZ Herald*, 10 June 1987

**EINSTEIN'S PAPERS**

Stacks of letters and notebooks left by Albert Einstein offer a rare glimpse of the scientific genius' personality, his often-troubled personal life, and behind-the-scenes involvement in world politics. The 43,000 documents, bequeathed to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and being released for publication over the next few years, are written in German. 'I'm studying English, but it won't stick in my old brain,' Einstein once wrote in his diary. Most of the papers are travel logs and letters written to people ranging from Roosevelt to family members. He wrote to his first wife in 1901 that 'I doubt my ideas about relativity', but his concerns turned out to be based on a computing error.

*Auckland Star*, 17 July 1987

**NEW DEGREES IN ARCHIVES AT MONASH**

In 1988 Monash University's Graduate School of Librarianship will offer a Master of Arts (Archives and Records). This new degree is intended for experienced archivists and records managers who wish to carry out advanced study and research in their fields. It consists of four elective courses plus a thesis weighted at 60%. Electives to be offered in 1988 include Conservation of Library and Archival Materials, Issues in Archives and Records Management, and The Impact of...
Technology on Archives and Records Management

The pre-requisite for enrolment is a Bachelor's degree at credit level, plus a graduate diploma in either archives or records management. Graduates who lack an appropriate diploma, but who have considerable experience in the field, may also be admitted to candidature.

For further information please contact the Chairman, Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168, Australia. Telephone (03) 565-2959

TE MAORI TE POROPOROAKI

What began as a small group of films assembled by the New Zealand Film Archives in 1984 to be used during the North American tour of Te Maori Exhibition, grew in 1985 into a major New Zealand Film Season at the Pacific Film Archive in San Francisco, followed by screenings in Chicago. When Te Maori returned to Wellington in August 1986, the National Museum hosted the Film Archives first Te Maori Film Season He pito Whakaatu a nga iwi Maori/Films of the tangata whenua. This was expanded in Dunedin and had more than doubled in size by the time it reached Auckland at the end of June 1987. Sixty films, spanning 84 years in 33 programmes, were shown over the ten weeks of Te Maori at the Auckland City Art Gallery.

The New Zealand Film Archive Newsletter, September 1987

HISTORY CITED IN LAND CLAIM

Acts of bad faith, breaches of promise, and threats by the Crown were revealed through documents made public for the first time in a Ngai Tahu land claim hearing - Christchurch historian Harry Evison unearthed the findings of an 1879 commission in the National Archives and presented them for the first time in a Ngai Tahu claim hearing as evidence that the Crown, through its actions after the Kemp's Deed transaction, had breached the Treaty of Waitangi. Soon after the transaction, the Crown committed a series of acts and omissions which deprived Ngai Tahu of the mahinga kai (natural food resources) and lands to which they were entitled under the Treaty, Mr Evison said.

The Dominion, 23 September 1987

STUDENTS TO HUNT FOR NAVY CREWS

School students will be poring over the personal files of about 16,000 former naval crewmen to find the estimated 600 who witnessed nuclear tests in the 1950s on the frigates Pukaki and Rotoiti. Because crew lists from the ships have not survived, the files of all those in the entire navy - about 16,000 - will have to be searched. The personal files will also be searched to find a control group of veterans of similar ages who did not serve on either of the frigates. It was hoped the crew lists would be compiled and health questionnaires sent out by the end of the year.

Evening Post, 2 October 1987

NATIONAL ART GALLERY GAINS LIBRARY

The National Art Gallery has followed international trends setting up a library and resource centre for art researchers in Wellington, research curator Mr Tony Mackle said. Facilities include an art library, slide library and artists' files which concentrate particularly on the life and work of New Zealand artists. Letters written by Charles Goldie and Raymond McIntyre are kept in the archives for reference by researchers. Mr Mackle said the records and letters were priceless as part of New Zealand's heritage.

Evening Post, 7 October 1987
BRANCH NEWS

AUCKLAND

Branch chairperson, Rachel Lilburn, left on 14 September to take up a Rotary fellowship at West Washington University, Washington state. Janet Foster has agreed to chair the branch for the rest of the year. A subcommittee of four branch members is meeting regularly to work out strategies for coping with the aftermath of a disaster such as flood or fire affecting records and archives. The branch is continuing to run a full programme of activities including a conservation workshop, an end of year barbeque and an archives forum. The regular newsletter produced by the branch gives further details of coming activities.

CANTERBURY/WESTLAND

The major event for Canterbury/Westland branch this year has been organising and hosting the 1987 conference. The conference was a great success and has even made a healthy profit. The branch committee is now reviving its regular programme of activities. The next branch meeting will be held in late November at the Wigram Airforce Base Museum and Archives. Recently appointed archivist, Mrs Terry Dowman, is helping to organise the meeting in response to a request from the National Council of Churches, whose headquarters is in Christchurch, committee members advised on the fate of the Council's archives when it becomes the Conference of Churches Aotearoa - New Zealand, on 1 January 1988. It is hoped the archives will remain in Christchurch.

CENTRAL DISTRICTS

The Central Districts branch will be hosting the next ARANZ Conference in Palmerston North in 1988. Planning is already underway and further details will be published in Archifacts as they become available. Branch chairperson, Ian Matheson, and Secretary, Julie McCammon, can be reached c/o Records and Archives, Palmerston North City Corporation, for further details of branch activities.

OTAGO / SOUTHLAND

The Branch has continued to run a full programme of activities this year. The next major event will be a Using Archives Seminar planned for 16-17 October. It will be aimed at all levels of users of archives and manuscripts. Through speakers, workshops and panel discussions, it will deal with basic aspects of use. It follows on from the Archives Training course (August 1984) and Conservation Workshop (November 1985), both of which were organised by the branch. The branch also successfully put a motion to the ARANZ AGM for the new council to consider grants to branches. Further information on branch activities is available on request direct to the branch.

WELLINGTON

The first two branch meetings for 1987/88 have been held at the New Zealand Film Archive and the Carter Observatory. Future meetings are planned at the National Art Gallery archives, Turnbull Library photographic archive, Ministry of Defence and a talk by Ken Scadden on the Auckland Islands.

The branch archive book ordering scheme has been very successful and will be continued. Interest has been shown not only by individuals but libraries, museums and archives are also placing orders through the branch.

* * *


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Tony Hampton,
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BOOK REVIEWS

James Brodie Terawhiti and the goldfields Wellington Karori Historical Society, 1986 328p $29.95

The rugged far-western corner of the North Island which bears the name Terawhiti is familiar to travellers between the Islands - from the air on certain approaches to Wellington Airport and, from the seas, off the decks of the rail ferries. From sea or air, Terawhiti impresses as a wild and remote corner of the country.

Terawhiti and the goldfields contains interesting introductory chapters on the local Maoris and on the Europeans' exploration and taking up of the land. But the bulk of the book is given over to a meticulously complete record of the district's past as a minor but often busy goldfield. It was the scene of alluvial prospecting and gold recovery in the 1850s and '60s, and of quartz mining and crushing in the '70s and '80s. Organised mining petered out in 1914. In an epilogue, the author outlines the geological and technological reasons why Terawhiti was never a successful goldfield.

The book is based on exhaustive research, which is a source of both strength and weakness. The facts are all here, and, as a work of reference on Terawhiti, James Brodie's effort is unlikely to be superseded. But the detail often overwhelms the narrative, and it is not easy to read-through the whole book for pleasure. There are maps aplenty, but the maps the 'casual' reader needs are often not in the right places. I puzzled over the topography of Terawhiti, only to find that the map which made most of it clear was on page 68, well into the text.

The author's long and assiduous research has not been done entire justice by the presentation of the material. The footnoting in the text is done rather spasmodically. The index is not comprehensive. The sources - oral recollections, newspaper reports and official land and mining records - are described in the foreword, but there is no bibliography, and a bibliography is indispensible in a reference work such as this.

A worthy publication, yes, but had there been on hand someone to edit the text and present the source material in a clear, attractive way, it would have been much better.

John Wilson
Christchurch

An account of Joseph Sowry's voyage to New Zealand in the ship Zealandia Edited by Clive Vincent Sowry Lower Hutt privately published, 1987

I have read many 19th century shipboard diaries, and intend to take the opportunity, while reviewing this publication, of commenting rather generally on trip diaries as a kind of autobiographical writing. Joseph Sowry will not be forgotten. However, his account, although special to him and containing some distinctive entries, is so typical of a large body of historical records that it invites some more general observations.

Historians have not been sufficiently aware of the significant source of 19th century autobiography available to them in voyage accounts. All passengers embarking on a ship to New Zealand and who could write were urged to keep a diary during the voyage. Many hundreds did so. It was a way of filling in the long tedious days at sea, a way of producing an account for friends and relatives at home, and a way of recording probably the greatest adventure that most of the writers were to experience. Disappointingly, it was often the last piece of autobiography the writers produced. Once they reached New Zealand shores other tasks became more urgent, and diary writing was put aside.
Voyage accounts vary not so much in the topics they cover, for the trip had a certain uniformity to it, but in the angle from which the experience is related. There are accounts by steerage and cabin passengers, by men and women, by single and married persons. Some diarists were highly literate. Others could write but knew next-to-nothing of spelling, grammar and syntax. There is a very clear difference between diaries which were written on board ship and accounts that were written sometimes months, sometimes years after the event. The former far outshine the latter in interest and value.

As far as I know, there is no listing of the extant trip diaries. This would be a useful research tool. Many diaries and accounts have been deposited in libraries and archives, often in a typescript form. The originals, if not lost, are presumably still in private hands, and in these days of photocopying and microfilming it would be nice to have these also made available. It seems likely that there are still a fair number of accounts that have not yet reached a library.

Although every diary possesses something of the individuality of its writer, there is a pattern to voyage diaries imposed by the voyage itself. The diary begins with the writer’s arrival at the port of departure, it details the trip down the English Channel, past the Bay of Biscay, through the tropics and across the Equator, into colder weather, usually round the Cape of Good Hope and on to Australia and New Zealand. The weather, heat, calms and storms are all recorded in detail. Rituals such as ‘burying the dead horse’ and the visit of Neptune are described. Births, illnesses and deaths are noted. Flying fish, birds, and passing ships cause excitement. Dances, ships’ newspapers, church services, glee clubs, debates, auctions, and alcohol break the monotony. Food is a constant source of complaint. Fellow passengers are criticised. All of these things are common. All appear in Joseph Sowry’s diary written on board the Sealandia in 1862. Some diaries have unusual events to record, mutinies, fires, passengers going mad, alcoholic captains, even shipwrecks. Sowry records a rather half-hearted mutiny by some of the crew, and how the male passengers came to the aid of the captain.

The diary format provided for more private communings. Unfortunately, voyage diaries do not exploit this possibility as much as historians might hope. It is rare to find a ship diary which exposes secret longings or a rich and complex inner life. As many diaries were written to be read by the people back home, there was a limit to the extent of confidences diarists would commit. They wrote with their audience in mind. Thus Joseph Sowry, a deeply religious man, records the church services, recollects attendance at chapel in his home town of Leeds, appraises the sermons, and regrets that the conversation on board ship is not as high-minded as it had been in the prayer meetings he had formerly attended. Yet Sowry also reveals the tension between official Church of England clergymen and non-conformist passengers, his liking for theological debate, and his scorn of Anglicanism. Sowry, for all his lack of formal education, so evident in his diary which is published here as it was written, was clearly an intelligent auto-didact. It is in his recordings of events and in the aside comments that we find clues as to the nature of the man. There is direct testimony as to why he emigrated to New Zealand and to his desire for order, respectability and stability in life, but these statements reek of conventional piety. It is when Joseph is less self-conscious that he is most interesting. For example:

this morning we had A fine row amongst the Irish at the other side of the ship. The Subject was who had the most lice. Grand that, Is it not (p. 11)

Joseph Sowry’s diary is simply but elegantly published. The quality of the printing is first rate. There are useful appendices listing the passengers on the Sealandia, reproducing notices of the ship’s arrival, detailing the principal events of Sowry’s life and provenance of the diary. Any family planning to publish a similar diary would do well to use this book as a model.

The pious Joseph did well in the new land, and, in 1887, became the first mayor of Woodville.

Raewyn Dalziel,
History Department,
University of Auckland
Currently there are many uncertainties about the future of broadcasting. Who will run the third television channel? Will anyone ever take any notice of the report of the Labour Government's Royal Commission on Broadcasting, especially as it is saddled with a dissenting opinion? What will be the result of the acrimonious public debate between broadcasting chiefs and the Government over the level of the television licensing fee? Ironically, at a time when radio and television people overseas are facing new technologies that will radically change their working lives, New Zealanders are still struggling to arrive at a satisfactory conventional system.

So, what is new? Radio and television journalists have worked in an environment where amendments to the Broadcasting Act have run at a rate in excess of one a year for more than 20 years, and where, periodically, there are major restructurings. What is remarkable is that, given this fertile ground, there has been so little literature generally available on the subject. Prior to the publication of Politics and Broadcasting all that one could find was a handful of books on specific aspects of broadcasting and a few theses.

Gregory does not claim that his book is a comprehensive historical analysis of New Zealand broadcasting. Indeed, he considers such a 'prodigious feat of encapsulation' as probably a long way off. Instead, his focus is on one of broadcasting's most controversial areas - that of news and current affairs.

Disputes on news and current affairs have not, as the author demonstrates, simply set politicians against broadcasters. Instead, there has been a three-way split. As administrators have sought to gain autonomy for their organisations from both formal and informal political controls, they have become sensitive to any controversial programming that might cause the government to tighten rather than relax its grip. However, this approach has often alienated journalists, sensitive to any constraints on their professional independence.

Gregory looks at the period from 1936-62 when broadcasting was run as a government department with news bulletins amounting to little more than handouts from the Department of Tourism and Publicity. He then moves on to examine in detail the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation, the public corporation established in 1962 and abolished a decade later after a 'chequered and largely unsatisfactory career'.

The problems which bedevilled the NZBC came about because the period when it was endeavouring to define its status coincided not only with the rise of that most powerful media form, television, but also with the development of independent news and current affairs programming. Controversies abounded. There was Alexander McLeod's dismissal as editor of the New Zealand Listener, Gordon Blick's resignation over a Compass programme, a Looking at ourselves talk which criticised the sending of troops to Vietnam. All brought broadcasting, with its new-found autonomy, into conflict with the government, causing politicians to doubt the wisdom of allowing a medium rapidly growing in the ability to influence public political debate, and throwing into sharp relief the ability or inability of administrators to cope with the ensuing pressure. Gregory comes to the conclusion that the NZBC was unable to lead, failed to come to terms with its journalists, inhibited creative performance, and gave an appearance of passive political partisanship. Such weaknesses gave the Third Labour Government cause to restructure the organisation.

The book's last chapter concerns developments from the NZBC through to the aftermath of the 1984 general election, and the Fourth Labour Government's announcement of a royal commission on broadcasting - a commission whose report, we now know, has brought little change.

In writing his book Gregory has been able to draw on personal experience, he spent 12 years in the system in journalism, public relations, administration and television programming. However, the work is based primarily on the research which he undertook.
for a doctoral thesis (he is now Senior Lecturer in Political Science and Public Administration at Victoria University). The work has been rewritten, but the extensive bibliography which would have characterised the thesis has been retained. Hopefully Gregory’s effort will facilitate intelligent public debate over the future of broadcasting. We can only hope

Michael Higgins,
Christchurch


In Chambers’ 20th century dictionary one definition of history is ‘an eventful life, a past of more than common interest’. If this is, indeed, what history is, the material in Speaking for ourselves cannot be classed as history. It consists of printed extracts from 12 ‘Spectrum’ documentaries that have been broadcast over the past decade. The people whose experience, thoughts and feelings are recorded on the original tapes are, or were, in the main, unexceptional people.

Contributors include Bob Edwards the swagger, Murray Gunn of the Hollyford Valley, Joe Gasparich who worked in Northland’s kauri bush, a doctor who, early on in his career, drove a large black V8 on the West Coast, and a person whose childhood was spent in urban Wellington at the turn of the century. A prominent figure who sneaks in is nonagenarian Maori activist Whina Cooper.

The book, a finalist for the 1986 Wattie Book of the Year award, has its place on the shelves beside the scholarly studies of our history, illustrating as it does the personal dimension, the struggles and perceptions of ordinary individuals whose daily lives have been profoundly affected by events in Wellington and on Wall Street. The cycles of history give at least one of the tales a chillingly familiar ring.

I saw people who lived in luxury, and I saw people who had absolutely nothing. All these things began to make you wonder who was responsible.

You’d given away respect for the law because you found the law was protecting only one thing and that was privilege. So you became contemptuous of it.

The book is a commendable attempt to transfer oral history from tape to print. The inevitable loss of the richness and depth of feeling conveyed by the human voice may disturb the oral history purists, yet each account manages to stand alone as a piece of lively social history. All the narratives are enriched to some degree by the personalities of the speakers which the printed form has subdued but not suppressed. Depth is added by the succinct introductions which provide historical context; and by a generous number of photographs.

The appendix contains advice on interviewing techniques and recording equipment. An index and a short glossary would have been very useful. Still, the careful choice of contributors, the photographs and the introductions show that Alwyn Owen and Jack Perkins are as serious about producing good books as they are about producing good radio documentaries.

Barbara Birkbeck,
Auckland
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