

and funny episodes, from the poignancy of influenza epidemic losses, to the frustrations of organizing under-powered filmshows in the 1940s.

Part Three, which traces the working life and economy of Stratford, is the most valuable in the book. It outlines the fluctuating fortunes of sawmilling, the struggles to break in farmland, the boom in dairy exports, and shows the author's ability to integrate government legislation, village settlements, and individual enterprise. He has succeeded where many local historians do not, in tracing the district's development through the twentieth century, up to the scarcity of land for recent generations ('What was not solved was what to do with surplus children'), and diversification into deer and goat farming and horticulture in the 1980s.

Part Four outlines the founding and unification of Stratford and Whangamamona councils, and the contributions of council chairmen and engineers. This is followed by a long section on the construction of roads, bridges and railways, and conveys some sense of the dependence of settlers on these arteries.

In the brief conclusion to the book, Ian Church provides a good analysis of changes in the Stratford region; this is missing in most of the earlier sections and these comments would be more valuably placed with the relevant facts, rather than as an endpiece. It is unfortunate too, that the author in a well-researched volume, shows little awareness of recent trends in social history or oral, rural and feminist history, and the importance of these disciplines to regional history. His near-to-final comment in the book, 'The conservatism of the county can be seen in the absence of women councillors', could be applied to the format and material of his text. The selection of photographs highlights this: there are fine photographs of rodeos, stock-yards and bush-milling, and one intriguing one of Edwardian women in a nail-hitting contest. Very few other women are entered in this history. Family life and children are similarly overlooked in most sections. Seddon's remark on visiting a Strathmore school, on 'the young white slaves of the back-blocks', could have been valuably pursued.

The detailed research of *The Stratford Inheritance* provides a basis for future historians, but more importantly a challenge to move beyond its limitations, to extend the variety of sources used by local historians, and to re-examine our vision of what and whom regional histories should embrace.

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*New Zealand and Japan, 1945-1952: The Occupation and the Peace Treaty.* By A. Trotter. The Athlone Press, London, 1990. 231 pp. UK price: £25.00.

IN WRITING this book, Ann Trotter could not have chosen a more difficult topic. Not only does she discuss the occupation and the peace treaty, but she also weaves in the impact of the war, and the genesis of the Anzus treaty. She set herself a sizeable task, and the lack of other secondary works covering this period has forced her to provide considerable detail while at the same time attempting to maintain a clean line of narrative and analysis. The result is a book which is scholarly, readable and informative but which stops short of thematic generalizations: there are many examples of fine judgment, but in the end Trotter seems reluctant to knit these into a sustained argument. The search for security,

which so characterized New Zealand foreign policy during these years, and which seems the most convincing explanation for linking the occupation and the peace treaty together with the Anzus treaty, is the crucial theme in the story, yet rather like Banquo's ghost it appears only fitfully.

The Pacific war marked a new and more complicated chapter in New Zealand foreign policy. The United Kingdom, unable to meet its prewar undertaking to protect New Zealand from external threat, was forced unilaterally to transfer its guardianship to the United States of America, and from that moment the relationship between mother country and dutiful dominion changed fundamentally. The wartime lesson was clear: New Zealand security could never again depend exclusively on British power. While the patronage of Britain and the reach of the Empire continued to ensure the economic prosperity and international standing of New Zealand, there was no longer any certainty that these historical benisons would endure in the face of another global, or indeed regional, conflict. Other means had to be found to ensure international stability; other allies had to be found capable of offering supplementary military protection to New Zealand should international stability break down. The war also gave New Zealand leaders like Peter Fraser and Walter Nash, and officials in the fledgling Department of External Affairs, valuable experience in international collaboration beyond the councils of Empire. It was this conjunction of insecurity and confidence, much more than the desire to be a Commonwealth 'team player', that was to form the basis of New Zealand involvement in the occupation of Japan and the Japan peace treaty, and later the Anzus treaty.

Trotter seems reluctant to venture many such general conclusions about the nature and motives of New Zealand foreign policy during this period, but she nevertheless provides a great deal of sensible and thoughtful comment about a number of individual episodes. One of the strengths of the book is the way it details the interaction between officials and their political masters, integrating the public and the private aspects of policymaking. Trotter's interests in Carl Berendsen is particularly evident, and she properly stresses his influence and his 'fearless advocacy of the right of small nations to be heard', although never denying the important contributions made by others, and most especially the pivotal role played by Fraser. Another strength is the way she thoughtfully tackles the relationship between the Anzus treaty and the Japan peace treaty. She makes the appropriate connections, but is careful not to over-emphasize the 'Pacific-mindedness' of New Zealand policymakers after the war: New Zealand signed the Pacific pact in 1951, but it was seen as a way to keep Pacific powers, other than the United States and Australia, at arms' length. These are all important contributions to an incomplete historiography. Yet perhaps the greatest virtue of this book is its clear structure. Trotter has successfully gathered the strands of the occupation, Japan peace treaty and Anzus together to form one coherent whole; a high degree of structural clarity has enabled her to tell a very complicated story.

Trotter has told a vivid and interesting tale of New Zealand foreign policy in the years immediately following the second world war. Displaying considerable skill and verve she has clearly joined together personalities and events, excelling at a style of narrative seldom practised by writers of New Zealand diplomatic history. If she is unable to sustain more than a strained courtship between careful analysis and bold argumentation, this is no criticism. She is simply a victim of the many gaps which exist in the diplomatic history of this period: a definitive history of this topic seems not yet possible. However, Trotter has performed a most valuable service by bravely tackling a difficult topic which has been ignored for too long. It is now up to others to pick over the ground she has skilfully tilled.

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