

Services Commission) selected their own staff remains shadowy, but important since such selection was apparently a fillip to one's career. (On this point, a brief comment is consigned to a footnote on p.389.)

Altogether then, this is a valuable account, but a 'history from below' of the New Zealand public service under 'commission control' will need to come from the variety of studies of individual departments. And the changing role and influence of the State Services Commission from the early 1960s requires a more detailed analysis than Alan Henderson was able to provide in the time available to him as a 'contract' historian.

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*Shackleton's Lieutenant: The Nimrod Diary of A.L.A. Mackintosh, British Antarctic Expedition 1907-09.* Edited by Stanley Newman. Polar Publications, Auckland, 1990. 144 pp. NZ price: \$47.50. Copies may be obtained from the publisher, P O Box 36-093, Northcote, Auckland.

AENEAS LIONEL ACTON Mackintosh, leader of the Ross Sea party of Ernest Shackleton's 1914-1917 transantarctic expedition, disappeared in May 1916: with a companion, he had attempted the dangerous journey across newly-formed sea ice from Hut Point to Cape Evans on Ross Island. Mackintosh's action epitomizes not only the courage but also the foolhardiness which characterized much of the 'Heroic Age' of Antarctic exploration, and which sometimes had tragic consequences. *Shackleton's Lieutenant* makes available Mackintosh's diary of his activities on Shackleton's earlier expedition, 1907-09, and the diary gives examples of both the engaging energy and the occasionally flawed judgement which Mackintosh was to display in later years.

Mackintosh, born in India and educated in England, served as an officer in various merchant ships before joining Shackleton's expedition in 1907. His opportunity to be 'one of the Land Party' was dashed during the unloading of the *Nimrod* at Cape Royds: a hook from a swinging cargo hoist damaged one eyeball so badly that the eye had to be removed. Nevertheless, Mackintosh served on the *Nimrod* when it returned south later in 1908, and twice sledged across 'the Barrier' to near Minna Bluff early in 1909. A few weeks before, his initial experience of sledging went within a hair's-breadth of disaster: with Thomas McGillan (or McGillion), a New Zealander, he was caught on sea ice which was breaking up. With difficulty, the pair reached land south of Cape Bird, and a few days later they tramped for some 40 hours, in increasing confusion, to Cape Royds, where they were located by members of the shore party. Mackintosh's account of this episode makes exciting reading, and will be relished by armchair explorers.

The diary reproduced in *Shackleton's Lieutenant* is not Mackintosh's holograph version (which has not been located) but a typed copy in the possession of his family and believed to be a faithful copy of the original. Stanley Newman, the editor, has neatly divided the diary into chapters, thus importing into the narrative a dramatic structure, and, assisted by David Harrowfield, has amplified the text with copious annotations, including references to other contemporary materials, to provide a useful context. No less valuable are the biographical notes by Richard McElrea: these identify not merely the well-known

personalities but also the sailors aboard the *Nimrod*, a number of whom, including several New Zealanders, signed on at Lyttelton. It is perhaps necessary to emphasize that this expedition, like other British expeditions of the period, was intimately involved with New Zealand in various ways, a point illustrated by an enthusiastic letter from Mackintosh, written aboard the *Nimrod* in Lyttelton harbour, to his sister, which Newman gives in full in the prologue.

Although the editor has been assiduous in sieving the spare entries for clues, Mackintosh's diary does not resolve such vexed questions of Antarctic historiography as Shackleton's controversial decision to turn away from King Edward VII Land and use McMurdo Sound as a base, and the intensity of his disputes with Captain Rupert England, master of the *Nimrod*. For those who are curious about the Edwardian mores which impelled young men to seek fulfilment in the southern wastes, however, and for those who are steeped in Antarctic literature, *Shackleton's Lieutenant*, with its evocative photographs and clearly-designed maps, will be enlightening and entertaining.

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*Labour in the South Pacific*. Edited by Clive Moore, Jacqueline Leckie, Doug Munro. James Cook University of Northern Queensland, Townsville, 1990. Published 'as the first of a series provisionally entitled Studies in Melanesian History'. li, 335 pp. NZ price: \$66.60.

SINCE I AM currently involved in editing a multi-authored volume, I have nothing but praise for the editors of this collection who have coped with twenty-four authors. Editors get what they inspect, not what they expect. And the rather prolonged and uncertain publishing history of this collection must have been very frustrating. That the book exists at all is a considerable achievement.

Labour in the Pacific has for some time been a fashionable topic and the literature is now huge — but it also has several limitations. Among these is its rather spotty local and regional coverage, a concentration on Melanesians as labourers for Queensland and Fiji and Asians for Hawaii, a lack of a comparative dimension, a concentration on the nineteenth century, a lack of gender concerns, and the absence of any general overview of either labourers' experiences or the capitalist/colonial labour 'systems'. This book is a most ambitious attempt to begin to address such issues for the Pacific islands as a whole (and not just the South Pacific as the title misleadingly claims) and from pre-European to post-colonial times. Labour is defined widely, including domestic, slave, convict, waged, free and indentured.

The scene is nicely set by Jacqueline Leckie, who briefly examines pre-capitalist labour in the Pacific and overviews the Pacific labour reserve, and Doug Munro, who presents a succinct though extremely valuable commentary and statistics on the labourers' origins. This may be the most useful chapter of the book. At once the complexity of 'labour' is apparent since labourers might be 'internal', from other Pacific islands, from 'Asia' (countries such as India, China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam), as well as from such unlikely places as Norway, Poland, Spain, Portugal and Italy.