

quality of the book's contents. The essay topics would have greatly benefited from more illustrations, in particular colour images. Colour centre pages just do not make up for well-illustrated text. I also found the placement of the individual essay notes in a group at the end of the book frustrating given that all the essays are extensively annotated, and the notes were generally a very rewarding read in their own right.

While the book reflects the diversity of research into aspects of New Zealand dress, it also makes clear the extensive gaps that exist in the documenting of this significant topic in New Zealand cultural history, thus providing an exciting challenge for both graduates and established researchers. Until a solid history of dress is written, collections of essays such as this are extremely valuable as a permanent record of the diversity of research into dress in New Zealand.

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Amassing Treasures for All Time: Sir George Grey, Colonial Bookman and Collector. By Donald Jackson Kerr. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2006. 351pp. NZ price: \$59.95. ISBN 1-877372-21-8.

SIR GEORGE GREY, twice Governor and then Premier, is one of the towering figures of nineteenth-century New Zealand, and any new book about him is something to look forward to. This one, with nearly 80 pages of footnotes, bibliography and index, is the outcome of years of painstaking research into Grey's activities as a collector of books and manuscripts. In view of the bibliographic focus of the book, political events in New Zealand and South Africa are barely mentioned. Donald Kerr worked as Rare Books Librarian in the Grey Collection at Auckland City Libraries for many years and the book is based on his 2001 PhD thesis on the same topic.

Grey donated major book collections to public libraries in Cape Town, at the end of his 1850s term as Governor, and in Auckland, where he retired to live in the 1880s. The Auckland collection comprises around 8000 books and 7000 manuscripts and letters. It is a large and diverse collection and includes rare and beautiful examples of early printed books and medieval codices, bibles in over 200 languages, as well as a range of more standard nineteenth-century works. Indigenous languages were a particular focus of Grey's philological interests and he put considerable effort into contacting missionaries and officials to obtain copies of publications of all kinds, in African, Australian and Pacific Island languages. Grey was conscious of the value of indigenous languages and literatures at a time when most of his contemporaries were only interested in the conversion of their speakers.

For New Zealand the chief value of the collection is the vast amount of manuscript material in Maori which Grey amassed, some of which he used in his published collections of myths, legends and waiata. The chapter devoted to his accomplishments in this area is one of the most interesting in the book, especially in its portrait of the Governor on his famous trip to Rotorua and Taupo in the company of Te Heuheu, the paramount chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa. Earlier material, including manuscripts dictated by Te Rauparaha during his enforced stay in Auckland, was lost when the first Government House was destroyed by fire. This chapter could have been augmented for historians with more analysis of the Maori manuscript and printed material and the people involved in its production.

Amassing Treasures contains interesting accounts of Grey's family, schooling and Sandhurst years, and his tour of duty in pre-famine Ireland, including his reaction when he stumbled across an illegal poteen still. Memoirs of contemporaries are used in conjunction with the somewhat scanty information in Grey's own correspondence

to shed light on the development of his intellectual interests. His activities in Australia as a collector of geological and faunal specimens for museums and learned societies in England, his published accounts of his explorations and his connections with some of the major scientific figures of the age, are the subject of a further chapter.

A large part of the book, however, is an exhaustive examination of Grey's collection building activities, his relationships with London and Auckland booksellers and dealers, prices paid and catalogues perused, long lists of his more expensive and important purchases. This is material for the specialist bibliographer and bibliophile rather than the historian, and could perhaps have been more usefully tabulated in an appendix, where the overall shape of Grey's interests and sources would be more apparent, and it would be possible to search for particular books and categories of book. Did Sir George buy any of Charles Darwin's works or Karl Marx's, for instance?

One of the author's goals is to use Grey's libraries to shed light on his character and beliefs. Grey appears to have been motivated by standard nineteenth-century visions of Christian duty, scientific progress, moral and material improvement, and the advance of civilization. He had a strong belief in the educational role of the public library, and his speeches at the official openings of the South African and Auckland Public Libraries are quoted at length. After the bulk of his books were transferred in 1886, and right up to his death in England in 1898, he continued to purchase more books for Auckland. Figures given show that he devoted a considerable proportion of his income to his book purchases and did not leave a large legacy to his adopted niece and heir.

Much of Grey's book purchasing appears to have been somewhat random. He arranged with one bookseller to be sent 120 of the best new books on history, travel, biography and fiction each year, sight unseen. Books sold by auction in New Zealand at the end of Grey's first term as Governor (over 1500 in all) might be replaced in later years. Kerr is sometimes inclined to credit his subject with more perspicacity and perseverance than he deserves, for sitting down with publishers' catalogues and marking up lists to send to London booksellers.

The book will be a valuable resource for historians of libraries, booksellers and book collectors, and a useful addition to existing biographies of Grey, which have very little to say on these aspects of his life.

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No Left Turn: The Distortion of New Zealand's History by Greed, Bigotry and Right-Wing Politics. By Chris Trotter. Random House, Auckland, 2007. 384pp. NZ price: \$36.99. ISBN 9781-86941-8090.

THIS BOOK PRESENTS A USABLE PAST, a history that instructs, inspires and warns. While this reviewer is in sympathy with Trotter's politics, the history that is traversed is more complex and more ambiguous than Trotter allows. His broad argument is that New Zealand has a robust egalitarian heritage, constantly threatened by the apostles of money and privilege. Naturally, this egalitarian heritage is most completely displayed in the organized working class.

The treatment of the nineteenth century is sketchy, with much omitted that would have assisted the argument. There is much more to the Wakefield settlements than conflict with Maori, as older and more recent provincial histories demonstrate. In a patchy discussion of the 1860s, Trotter omits the Taranaki war and concludes by arguing that the Maori world was changed forever, the result being a numerous population who 'think of themselves not as Maori, but as New Zealanders' (p.51). It seems not to occur to Trotter that overlapping