

Some textual inclusions mark this as a doctoral thesis, and as such, the book would not have suffered from their omission. The section on ‘cultural entanglement’ (Chapter Three) reads a little like an engagement with theory as demanded by a supervisor, but which adds little to the book. I was also a little surprised by the number of times the author spelt out her opinion that the ‘superstition’ of Māori religious practices was replicated in what the missionaries were preaching, using what comes close to derisory tones. The missionaries were products of their times, and it is all too easy to dismiss them with twenty-first-century judgements about their zeal. However, these are only minor issues and should not take away from what is a superb piece of writing, which I would recommend to all New Zealand historians and those with an interest in a key period of our history. It is also a useful illustration of the way in which the worlds of the archaeologist and the historian can meet, blend and produce a very, very fine piece of research.

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The Enderby Settlement: Britain's Whaling Venture on the Subantarctic Auckland Islands 1849–52. By Conon Fraser. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2014. 256pp. NZ price: \$50.00. ISBN: 9781877578595.

The Enderby Settlement is like a microhistory of nineteenth-century New Zealand, as it includes a Wakefield-like vision for a settlement, Māori, Moriori, settlers, whalers, problems with drink and the governor Sir George Grey. All of these provide the key ingredients for an enthralling tale about the failed Enderby Settlement on the Auckland Islands. The vision came from Charles Enderby, an Englishman whose family had made their fortune from sealing and whaling. However, his rose-tinted dream for a southern whaling port and settlement that would resource this economic enterprise was always doomed to failure, given the depletion of whaling stocks and the inhospitable location.

The author Conon Fraser, who passed away as the book came to print, had a lifelong passion for and interest in the Auckland Islands. Fraser had a colourful career as a journalist, short-story writer, director and producer of documentaries. After producing award-winning documentaries, like *Children of the Mist* (1974) about the Tūhoe people, he wrote *Beyond the Roaring Forties: New Zealand's Subantarctic Island* (1986), which includes a chapter about the Enderby Settlement. In the same year, Fraser directed and wrote a documentary about the Auckland Islands, which gave him first-hand experience of the settlement and the surrounding islands.

The narrative begins with the landing of Charles Enderby and the settlers in 1849 on his family ship the *Samuel Enderby*, named after his grandfather. This was a fitting tribute to the Enderby family as Abraham Bristow, who worked for Samuel Enderby, discovered the islands in 1806. The Southern Whale Fishery Company, under Royal Charter from the

Crown, now owned the islands and had appointed the energetic Charles Enderby as the Lieutenant Governor. This was more than simply another economic enterprise; it was also Enderby realizing his dream for a whaling colony that would bolster the family fortune. Fraser expertly backgrounds the Enderby family and their London-based company Samuel Enderby & Sons. He includes detailed explanations for whale hunting and the graphic aftermath as the blubber and oil were processed. He also recounts the expeditions of the Enderby company ships in their quest to catch whales. The most famous whale story *Moby Dick* is referenced, not just because of its great descriptions of whaling, but also because of the connection to the Enderbys. Herman Melville in *Moby Dick* writes about the whaling ship the *Samuel Enderby* and the company itself.

The settlement on the islands required its inhabitants not only to adjust to the subantarctic weather, but also to learn to coexist with Māori, who were living in two separate sites, under Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama chiefs Matioro and Ngatere. This was the same Matioro who had the fearsome reputation for his role in the slaughter and subsequent enslavement of the Moriori in the Chatham Islands. Matioro and Ngatere eventually left the islands and settled on the Auckland Islands in 1842 with a small group that included Moriori slaves. Slavery had been outlawed by New Zealand in 1840, but Matioro still wanted to keep his slaves. Relations between the European settlers and Māori were generally good, despite the scarce food sources on the islands. Enderby worked well with Matioro and Ngatere and made them constables on the islands. Fraser notes that Matioro even hanged seven of his dogs that had killed one of the company's sheep 'to show his zeal in the Company's service' (p.28).

These early chapters introduce main characters such as Charles Enderby and his deputy William Mackworth. The latter is important because he and William Munce, the settlement's accountant, left diaries that recorded their time on the islands. Fraser helped to edit these and they were subsequently published in 1999. These diaries, passed down the generations by family members, are significant sources as they provide a personalized narrative of life on the islands that would otherwise be difficult to uncover.

Once the colonists had adjusted as best as they could to life on the islands, there was a visit from the Governor of New Zealand, Sir George Grey, and his wife Eliza in 1850. The Greys visited not only the settlers, but also Matioro and Ngatere. During his visit Grey, who took a great interest in Māori customs and language, wrote down some karakia delivered by Matioro. These early stages of the settlement seemed quite promising and Grey even complimented Enderby on his enthusiasm and energy in developing the settlement. The visit of the Greys seems to have been a high point in the brief life of the colony.

Fraser details the gradual disintegration of the settlement through a series of events. A major blow was the return of the whaling ship the *Brisk* after more than nine months at sea. It returned with only seven tons of whale oil. The ship had endured fierce storms and the crew were discontented. Drink and ill-discipline were a major problem. Once ashore the men drank and fought, as well as going to the nearest available women, who were Māori and Moriori. Enderby's leniency only exacerbated the problem. His second-in-command, Mackworth, wanted to deal more firmly with troublemakers, but was constantly undermined by Enderby being too quick to rescind

or reduce any punishments. This sign of weakness meant Enderby never had the full respect of the colonists and the whaling crews. These problems, combined with the lack of success in whaling, hastened the end of the settlement.

Fraser paints a sympathetic picture of Enderby. He is presented as an idealist in his bid to make the colony work, who was hampered by poor decisions from the Southern Whale Fishery Company. Enderby wanted to source well-built whaling ships with experienced crews, but the board overruled this and used inferior ships with inexperienced crews. This last decision proved to be the source of ongoing discipline problems. Yet Fraser argues that Enderby had some culpability, as he did not uphold his own policy of short voyages with quick turnarounds.

Much of the book details life on the islands and also the disastrous whaling trips that produced insufficient oil. Fraser brings to life the main characters in this doomed settlement and creates some great tension outlining how the commissioners from England came to shut the settlement down when it lost money. Enderby became a tragic figure, shorn of all respect by the commissioners who undermined his authority. After the settlement was abandoned in 1852, Enderby tried to reclaim some sense of dignity through the courts by refuting a litany of claims made by the commissioners. But ultimately this victory was Pyrrhic, as his vision for a settlement was shattered and he was left bankrupt.

Fraser weaves a superb narrative of the failed settlement of Enderby, using a good range of source material that has become available in recent years. His book updates Fergus McLaren's *The Auckland Islands: Their Eventful History* (1948). McLaren covered some of the same narrative as Fraser, but did not have the benefit of the diaries. Fraser expands the visits by the Greys and the commissioners and focuses exclusively on the settlement, whereas McLaren covered an extended time up until the early twentieth century.

The text is richly illustrated with photographs and paintings of the principal characters and various events alluded to within the text. In particular, the colour photographs detailing the flora and fauna of the islands demonstrate why this is now a World Heritage site. This book should serve as the standard work on this unsuccessful whaling settlement.

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Hocken: Prince of Collectors. By Donald Jackson Kerr. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2015. 424pp. & 40pp. photos. NZ Price: \$60.00. ISBN: 9781877578663.

Most researchers end up taking the collections and archives they work in for granted. We tend to be focused on what is in them rather than how they came to be. While we may be thankful that there were individuals who undertook the initial collecting, if we are honest our interest is usually concerned with what we may discover. Yet there