

New Zealand Religious History

Newsletter

No. 1

June 1987

Late in 1984 the idea of a newsletter such as this was first suggested at a meeting connected with the Dictionary of National Biography. It has taken much longer than hoped to prepare this first - and experimental issue - and I am very grateful to those who have waited, on the whole uncomplainingly - for the appearance of this newsletter. The delay has, however, had one good effect. It has ensured that the evidence for the vitality of the study of New Zealand religious history is even stronger than when the newsletter was first projected.

I would welcome suggestions from those who receive this newsletter about what future directions the project should take. It would be helpful to have comments on the following points, among others:

1. How often should such a newsletter be issued - annually, biannually?
2. Any suggestions for its improvement?
3. Any names of persons or organisations to whom it should be sent?
4. Any suggestions about ways by which study of and research into the study of New Zealand religious history might be assisted?
5. Should the newsletter cover all work on religious history in New Zealand or New Zealand religious history only

Recent Publications:

Ballis, P.H. (ed.) *In and Out of the World: Seventh Day Adventists in New Zealand*, Palmerston North: Dunmore Press, 1985.

Cookson, J.E. *Upper Riccarton Methodist Church: a centennial retrospect 1886-1986*, Christchurch: Upper Riccarton Methodist Church, 1986.

Brown, C.G. "Christianity in Australia and New Zealand", *Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. M. Eliade, New York: Macmillan, 1986-87.

Davidson, A.K. "A Protesting Presbyterian: The Reverend P. B. Fraser and New Zealand Presbyterianism, 1892-1949", *The Journal of Religious History*, vol. 14/2 (Dec. 1986), pp. 193-217.

Davidson, A.K. and P.J. Lineham (ed.) *Transplanted Christianity: Documents illustrating aspects of New Zealand Church History*; forthcoming from College Communications, Auckland.

Elsmore, B. *Like them that dream: the Maoris and the Old Testament*, Tauranga: Moana Press, 1985.

Eyles, R.J. *Rutherford Waddell: man and parish*, Presbyterian Historical Society, forthcoming 1987.

Irwin, J. *From Dependence to Autonomy (a history of the Maori Synod of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand)*, Presbyterian Historical Society, forthcoming 1987.

Jackson, H. *Churches and People in Australia and New Zealand 1860-1920*. Wellington: Allen and Unwin with Port Nicholson Press, 1987.

Lineham, P.J. "Adventism and the Sawdust Trail in late nineteenth century New Zealand", in *In and Out of the World: Seventh Day Adventists in New Zealand*, ed. P. H. Ballis. (Publication details above.)

_____. "English Bibles and Italian Protestants: the British and Foreign Bible Society's Colportage work in Italy, with particular reference to Count Piero Guicciardini", in a volume of Proceedings of the Convegno di Studi su Piero Guicciardini to be published in Florence, 1987.

_____. "Finding a Space for Evangelicalism: Evangelical Youth Movements in New Zealand", in *Voluntary Religion*, ed. W. J. Sheils and D. Wood, *Studies in Church History*, vol. 23 (1986), pp. 477-494.

_____. "Freethinkers in Nineteenth-Century New Zealand", *New Zealand Journal of History*, vol. 19/1 (April, 1985), pp. 61-81.

_____. "How Institutionalised was Protestant Piety in Nineteenth Century New Zealand?", *Journal of Religious History*, vol. 13/4 (Dec., 1985), pp. 370-82.

_____. "How popular was eighteenth century Methodism?", Summary of paper given at Religion and the People Conference and printed in *Bulletin of the Society for the Study of Labour History*, vol. 51, Part 1, April, 1986, pp. 8-9.

_____. "Justice or Charity? an historical analysis of the application of Christian principles to social issues", *Interchange*, no. 36 (1985), pp. 25-40.

_____. "Religion", in *The New Zealand Book of Events*, ed. B. Fraser, Auckland, Reed Methuen, 1986, pp. 342-352.

_____. "The Significance of J.G. Deck 1807-1884", *Christian Brethren Research Fellowship (NZ) Journal*, no. 107 (Nov., 1986), pp. 13-34.

Parsonson, G. *The Gospel in the Southern New Hebrides 1839-1958*, Presbyterian Historical Society, 1986.

Peters, M.A.H. *Christchurch S. Michael's: a study of Anglicanism in New Zealand*, Christchurch: University of Canterbury, 1986.

Stenhouse, J. "The Wretched Gorilla Damnification of Humanity': the 'battle' between science and religion over evolution in nineteenth century New Zealand", *New Zealand Journal of History*, vol. 18/2 (October, 1984), pp. 143-62.

In late 1984 the Wesley Historical Society (NZ) reported the following titles as among their recent publications: *The Decisive Decade* (Auckland Central Mission, 1927-37) (Ian Faulkner); *Wesleyan Missionaries in New Zealand before 1840* (J.M.R. Owens); *From Grafton to Three Kings to Paerata* (E. W. Hames); *The Search for Unity* (A. K. Petch, J. J. Lewis and R. Rakena); *The Saga of the Probert Trust* (E.W. Hames); *New Zealanders and the Methodist Evangel* (P.J. Lineham); *The Bainbridge Story* (Rotorua Church) (J. B. Dawson); *Journal '84* (a collection of short articles). Their 1987 response indicated that the following titles had appeared or are soon to do so: *Valuable beyond price* (Sr. Lina

Jones) (G. G. Carter); *Journal '85* and *Journal '86* and *With Renewed Vigour* (financial history) (D. J. Janus).

Theses, Dissertations and Research Essays:

Rourke, J. 'Catholic Fertility in Australia and New Zealand, 1880-1939', M.A. Thesis. Auckland 1986.

Cadogan, B.F. 'Lace Curtain Catholics: the Catholic Bourgeoisie of the Diocese of Dunedin, 1900-1920', B.A. (Hons) thesis (Otago), 1984.

Ireton, D. 'O Lord How Long: a revival movement in New Zealand, 1920-1933', M.A., Massey, 1987.

Sangster, A. 'The Anglican Reactions to the Secular Clause in the 1877 Education Act', M.A., Massey, 1984.

Simpson, J.M.R. 'Joseph W. Kemp and the impact of American Fundamentalism in New Zealand', B.A. (Hons), 'Directed Study', 1987.

Stenhouse, J. 'The 'Battle' between Science and Religion over Evolution in Nineteenth Century New Zealand', D. Phil., Massey, 1985.

Other theses, dissertations and research essays reported (without full details) include an M.A. research essay (Auckland) on the New Zealand tour of Pastor Charles Chiniquy in 1880 by Helen Curren and Michael Clark's research essay (Auckland) entitled 'The Roman Response to the Protestant Mission' (a study of Bishop Cleary's response to the Bible in Schools issue in the 1920s).

Jim Irwin notes that the Hewitson Library, Knox College now holds a number of research essays and theses, some by Maori students. Fuller details may be obtained from the Librarian. Peter Matheson notes that recent dissertations lodged there include:

Eyles, R. 'Outreach: St. Andrews Presbyterian Parish, 1880-1905'

Pearson, C. 'The Rev. Jack Bates: his early years'

Theses now being assessed at Canterbury include a study of Eastern Orthodox churches in New Zealand, and a study of 'women's spirituality' based on interviews with a diverse group of women in the Christchurch area. Fuller details will be available once assessment is complete.

Work in Progress:

This section, especially, may serve to put those engaged in research on the same, or similar topics, in touch with one another.

Colin Brown (Religious Studies, University of Canterbury), is currently working on an article on Bishop Harper (for the projected Dictionary of New Zealand Biography), and a review article on the recent resurgence of Fundamentalism for the journal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for American Studies.

Allan Davidson (S. John's College, Auckland) is currently engaged in research on the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand in the period 1930-60 as part of the work that is being done in preparation for writing a history in connection with the sesqui-centenary of the Presbyterian Church in 1990.

Bryan Gilling is engaged on a D.Phil. thesis (Waikato) studying revivalism in New Zealand and, specifically, the crusades of Torrey-Alexander (1902); Chapman-Alexander (1912-3) and Billy Graham (1959, 1969).

Jim Irwin (12a Wainui Road, Ohope) is preparing material for a study of Presbyterian missionary work amongst the Maori people.

John Jensen (History, University of Waikato), and Laurie Barber are co-operating in research on Hans Cort Schnackenberg, a pioneer Wesleyan missionary on the North Island West Coast. An edited documentation of his papers is planned and two articles are awaiting publication (*Historical News*, and *Journal of New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies*).

Peter Lineham (History, Massey University) is preparing a biographical entry on C. C. Bowen for the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. He is also writing an essay, on the smaller sects, for a volume about Victorian religious history. In addition he is preparing papers for the *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* on the Swedenborgians and on the English mystical tradition in the 18th century for the Medieval and Early Modern History conference in Auckland in August this year. In addition he is preparing the material needed for teaching his course on New Zealand religious history extra-murally and - as if all this were not enough (!) - he is revising the very useful *Religious History of New Zealand: a bibliography*.

Jenny Murray (48 Garden Road, Christchurch 1/History Department, Canterbury during term-time) is continuing work on early missionaries, especially in the post-1840s era.

Sue Weddell (Religious Studies, Otago) is working on a 4th year dissertation entitled 'Spreading the word - a personal view of the experience of being a Mormon missionary in New Zealand.'

The Wesley Historical Society (N.Z.) advise that materials being prepared for publication include: *Deaconess Register* (Wesley Chambers); a thesis by Graham Brazendale on aspects of the work of the Rev. John Whiteley and a survey by Doug. Pratt of the work of the Methodist Faith and Order Committee. The Society also notes that Les. Clements has undertaken to write the history of prison chaplaincies in New Zealand (he was, of course, a pioneer in this area), and that a few copies of a MS by the Rev. Alex. McDowell on the McDowell family and Heathcote Valley will be made available through the Society.

Courses, Seminars, etc.

Hugh Jackson (History Department, University of Auckland) is currently teaching a Stage III paper on "Religion in Changing Societies - British Isles, Australia, and New Zealand", with secularisation as a main focus.

Allan Davidson reports that an 'overview' course "Christianity in New Zealand" is taught at S. John's/Trinity Colleges and is examined as L.Th. 602 under the Joint Board of Theological Studies and largely coincides with Church History 217 for B.D. (Otago).

Laurie Barber (History Department, University of Waikato) is currently teaching a course (with c.25 students) entitled "Aspects of New Zealand Religious History".

Peter Lineham (Department of History, Massey University) is teaching an honours students' class in a course on New Zealand religious history and the same course will become available as an extramural 3rd year course.

Colin Brown (Religious Studies, University of Canterbury), has, in recent years, incorporated some reference to New Zealand in his 200 level course on "Christianity since 1800". At MA level he is now in the second year of offering a course on "Fundamentalism" which, although

extensively concerned with developments in the United States, includes also reference to New Zealand and to the general character of Fundamentalism.

Courses offered at Knox College/University of Otago include, in alternate years, "Churches and Society in the South Pacific Islands", and "Churches and Society in New Zealand and Australia", both taught by the Rev. Dr. K. N. Booth.

There may well be other such courses at, e.g. Victoria University of Wellington, but the list above is compiled from replies to my two circulars.

Conferences:

The Wesley Methodist Historical Society held a South Pacific Regional Conference at Wesley College, Paerata from May 18-25 under the general title of "Ministry, Mission, and Culture in the South Pacific - a Methodist Perspective."

The biennial conference of the New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions will be held at the University of Canterbury from August 26-29, 1987. Several of the papers offered relate to New Zealand religious history. Further details, and application forms are available from Colin Brown. Registrations close on July 1.

Notes and News:

The Presbyterian Historical Society of New Zealand is already at work on a variety of projects related to the sesqui-centennial in 1990. Thus they are hoping to commission someone to update James Chisholm's history of the Synod of Otago and Southland, published in 1898. Other projects in view include: the history of Presbyterian missionary work in India and China; the history of the Chinese Church in New Zealand and proposals relating to an 'oral history' archive and the general stimulation of research and publication as 1990 looms up.

Allan Davidson (S. John's College, Auckland) will be on leave from June 1987 to January 1988 and based at Cambridge, U.K. His major project will be research on the training and preparation of clergy in England during the nineteenth century and before they came to New Zealand.

Professor Robert Ellwood (Southern California) will be at the Turnbull Library as a Turnbull Fellow from January to June 1988. One of his interests is the study of 'new religious movements' and the Turnbull Library hopes to plan a conference in this general area with special reference to New Zealand.

The recently appointed chairman of the Wesley Historical Society (N.Z.), is the Rev. Dr J. J. Lewis.

In 1984 a Wellington branch of the Presbyterian Historical Society was formed with the Rev. Dr J. Veitch as president and the Rev. W. W. Gibson as secretary.

In connection with a recent re-organisation of the *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church* Colin Brown was among those from outside the United States appointed to the editorial board. Those responsible for this journal are especially anxious to encourage contributions which have substantial reference to Anglican history whether in the United States or elsewhere. MSS on more general topics in religious history will be considered also. Colin Brown will be glad to supply further details to anyone interested.

Library and Archival Items:

The St. John's College Library in Auckland is now the designated repository for material relating to the Anglican Church of the Province of New Zealand. Diocesan materials are still held at diocesan level. At both provincial and diocesan levels more is now being done - a bit unevenly at diocesan level - to gather and to house archives adequately.

The Parish Archives Handbook: guidelines for the care and preservation of Parochial Records, produced by the Provincial Archives Committee of the Anglican Church in New Zealand provides a very useful guide in the area indicated by its title. It can be obtained from St. John's College Library, 202 St. John's Road, Auckland 5 for \$3.50 plus GST and postage.

Jim Irwin has drawn attention to an important article by the Very Rev. J. G. Laughton on the Maori response to the Christian message in *The Outlook*, November 25, 1942.

Peter Matheson notes that relatively recent accessions to the archival holdings in the Hewitson Library, Knox College, are the records of the former Presbyterian Overseas Mission Committee. The library is building up a master list of Presbyterian holdings throughout New Zealand.

John Stenhouse has drawn attention to an interesting pamphlet collection in the Leys Institute, Ponsonby including some not available (to his knowledge), elsewhere in New Zealand.

The archives of the Christchurch (Anglican) Cathedral are now held by the Canterbury Public Library.

The Wesley Historical Society (N.Z.), advise that information about Methodist archives is available from Mrs Marcia Baker, 61 Wainoni Road, Christchurch 6. They also advise that the Rev. G. G. Carter is setting up a Methodist archive in Auckland in addition to the Christchurch holdings.

Conclusion:

There may well be corrections and up-dating needed where this newsletter is concerned. I shall be willing to try and get a second issue out in December this year or January of 1988. If material could reach me by **November 15, 1987** this would help.

It will be necessary for the cost of preparing, printing and mailing this newsletter to be met. I suggest - tentatively - a donation of \$2 to cover two issues. How does that sound?

Please send in your reactions, corrections, suggestions and - in due course - your contributions for the next newsletter - if you think there should be a repetition!

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June, 1987