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NEW ZEALAND’S LONDON:

The Metropolis and New Zealand’s Culture, 1890-1940.

Felicity Barnes


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ABSTRACT

The role of London in forming New Zealand’s culture and identity is a significant feature of New Zealand’s cultural history that has, until now, been overlooked. Ties with London and with ‘Home’ generally, have received little study, and ‘Britishness’ in New Zealand is largely considered a legacy of demography to be eventually outgrown. This thesis suggests something different. During the period 1890-1940, technology changed cultural perceptions of time and space, and it changed the relationship between metropole and former colony too. These technologies drew New Zealand and London closer together. London was constructed as an active part of the New Zealand cultural landscape, rather than as a nostalgic remnant of a predominantly British-born settler population. London was New Zealand’s metropolis too, with consequences for the way New Zealand culture was shaped.

This thesis considers the cultural impact of London using four tropes linked to those changing perceptions of time and space. ‘Greater New Zealand’ is concerned with space, whilst “‘New’ New Zealand” is concerned with time. ‘London’s Farm’ and the ‘Imaginative Hinterland’ consider propinquity and simultaneity respectively. Each theme draws from different bases of evidence in order to suggest London’s broad impact. Collectively, they argue for a shift away from a core and periphery relationship, towards one better described as a city and hinterland relationship. This approach draws upon existing national, imperial, and cultural historiography, whilst at the same time questioning some of their conventions and conceptions. New Zealand as hinterland challenges the conceptual borders of ‘national history’, exploring the transnational nature of cultural formations that otherwise have been considered as autochthonous New Zealand (or for that matter, British) developments. At the same time, whilst hinterlands may exist as part of empire, they are not necessarily products of it. Nor are they necessarily formed in opposition to the metropole, even though alterity is often used to explain colonial relationships. ‘New Zealand’s London’ is, instead a reciprocal creation. Its shared cultural landscape is specific, but at the same time, it offers an alternative means for understanding other white settler colonies. Like New Zealand, their cultural histories may be more complex cultural constructions than national or imperial stories allow.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thanks are due to other staff in the department, in particular Associate Professor Caroline Daley, who has always been generous with her assistance. I have enjoyed the informal network of PhD students that has developed over the past few years, particularly around Friday lunchtimes. I also need to thank my child care network, formal and informal, without which this would have been an impossible task.
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIML</td>
<td>Auckland Institute and Museum Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJHR</td>
<td>Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANZW</td>
<td>Archives New Zealand (Wellington)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANZAC</td>
<td>Australian and New Zealand Army Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APL</td>
<td>Auckland Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>Auckland Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATL</td>
<td>Alexander Turnbull Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFINFTVA</td>
<td>British Film Institute Non-fiction Film and Television Archive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMB</td>
<td>Empire Marketing Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>National Archives (United Kingdom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZCDC</td>
<td>New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZEF</td>
<td>New Zealand Expeditionary Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZFA</td>
<td>New Zealand Film Archive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZH</td>
<td>New Zealand Herald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZJH</td>
<td>New Zealand Journal of History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZWCA.</td>
<td>New Zealand War Contingency Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIDA</td>
<td>Travel and Industrial Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UOA</td>
<td>University of Auckland</td>
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<tr>
<td>YMCA</td>
<td>Young Men’s Christian Association</td>
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