

F&J

Flotsam and Jetsam
Newsletter of the Friends of the Hocken Collections

Number 58: December 2013

Christmas function

Friends are invited to a Hocken Collections Christmas 'occasion' on Wednesday December 11 at 5.30pm, at the Hocken Library.'

We are delighted that Dr Ian Griffin, the recently appointed Director of the Otago Museum, has accepted our invitation to speak, and his subject will be 'The Future of the Otago Museum.' Dr Griffin has his PhD from London University, and is known as an astronomer and the discoverer of asteroids. He worked for a time at the Auckland Observatory, but prior to coming to Dunedin had been CEO for the Oxford Trust, which is focused on the pursuit of science and enterprise.

It need hardly be said that his subject will be of great interest to the Friends, given the historic links that were first forged between the Museum and the Hocken Collection 100 years ago.

Please note this in your diaries, and invite a friend to come with you, and RSVP to annablackman@otago.ac.nz.

"Settlers' terrible trio: gorse, thistles and rabbits".

On Wednesday October 16th, Emeritus Professor Peter Holland's presentation of his meticulous research was well received by the nearly 30 Friends and others in the Library's Seminar Room. His subject matter was clearly close to his heart, and his use of farmers' diaries demonstrated how far these three introduced pests negatively affected the lives of those on the land in southern New Zealand.

The lively and appreciative response from his audience equally demonstrated how our New Zealand consciousness has been affected by the 'terrible trio'.

Donors

The Friends are regarded as a part of the **Hocken Library's** world of donors. Each year the Library honours those who have assisted and augmented the Hocken Collection.

You may have seen the newspaper report about the recent donor event where, among other items, a series of recently accessioned glass plate negatives of an unknown Otago family were particularly mentioned. You will be interested to know that through their publication in the *Otago Daily Times* the family has been identified as the Elliots of Mt Ross Station at Matarae in Central Otago.

UNESCO - Memory of the World

New Zealand is a member of the international community working to promote the importance of documentary heritage through the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme.

The UNESCO New Zealand Memory of the World Committee has announced the inscriptions to the Aotearoa/New Zealand Memory of the World register for 2013. **Hocken Library**, as the custodian of the Charles Brasch Papers, is one of just three New Zealand repositories to be so named this year.

Further evidence, if any is needed, of the international significance of the Hocken Collection.

WW100 Diaries

The response from Friends to this item in our last F&J was most encouraging. Five people have offered their services already

– if you are still interested please let Anna Blackman know.

For these five, the Library staff is preparing an introductory programme. It will be specifically designed to assist them, and others, to undertake this important and deeply satisfying task of bringing to light the events, and the emotions and experiences of these first-hand witnesses to both the horrors and the companionship of 1914-1918.

Library Management Systems

Sharon Dell, the Hocken Librarian, is now able to advise the Friends of the very significant changes that are taking place. From early December 2013 there will be a new interface for Library users which will enable them to search throughout all the resources of the University of Otago Library system.

Understandably, these changes will present a very 'new look' to those using the system. It will take a little time to get accustomed to what will be in every way an improved and more efficient means of discovering what you, the researcher, want to find.

Users will, as might be expected, be asked to re-register. But the Library staff will be there to help.

Gaining a Foothold

This major project of the Friends is now ready to be wound up. To date the proceeds from the sale of books has generated \$28,951. The original print run of 539 copies is now down to well under 200.

At a special price of **\$35** (available until December 24th 2013) this handsomely produced, well illustrated, and authoritative 467-page history of pre-1840 southern New Zealand would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

If you are interested, please contact Dr Gerard Ellis, the FOHC Treasurer. His contact no. is 027-233-2976. Payments can be made directly to the FOHC bank account: 03-0903-0393175-00.

On payment arrangements will be made to have the volume sent to you by mail.

December 1913 in the newspapers

Papers Past (a collection of digitized historic New Zealand newspapers) is indeed a wonderful and so often wholly unexpected source of information. One hundred years ago the **Hocken Library** was there with the best.

The University Council's Library Committee had, at last, after three years, fully considered the provisions of the **Deed of Gift**, and the Council, taking its advice, gave their approval and returned the Deed to the solicitors. The Council also received a proposal for the construction of a librarian's office in 'a corner of the Library', as well as the provision of more 'book accommodation.' Both proposals were referred to the Registrar to ascertain costs. 'Plus ça change....' as they say.

The New Zealand press reported quite widely that the Library's precious album of watercolours by **Sir William Fox** had been looked through by a committee – Alexander Bathgate, Dr W.B. Benham, and C.W.S. Chamberlain. As a result a large selection had been chosen and framed, to be hung each on a 'place on the walls in its own section'

Even more national attention was given to, of all things, a sermon preached by Paul Fairclough, a Wesleyan minister and historian, on a verse in Isaiah that speaks of a world 'wearied by the greatness of its way.' Fairclough used this verse, somehow, to point to the impressive range of buildings in Dunedin that gave evidence of the '**preponderance of voluntary socialism** and gifts to the public so typical of this city.' Over the previous four or five years Dunedin had been transformed by the erection of many such buildings. Knox College headed the list (in terms of cost) but the Hocken Library was also quoted as a prime example of what might now be called non-profit private benefaction.

Prepared by Donald Phillipps for the **Friends of the Hocken Collections**
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