Memories of Auld Scotland

In 1870 or thereabouts, the Otago politician and writer Vincent Pyke had a friendly dispute with a Scottish settler named George Brodie. Though himself an Englishman who had never strayed further north than Cheltenham, Pyke boldly asserted that he understood the Lowland Scots idiom well enough to write in it. To Brodie, such a claim was absurd.

Pyke issued a challenge. He would write a story for Brodie to inspect before sending it on to Messrs Chambers, in Edinburgh, for publication. If accepted, Pyke would win the day. The multi-talented Pyke soon produced ‘Lost at the Goldfields: A Tale of the Otago Diggings’, which in due course appeared in Chambers Journal, and was later republished in Dunedin. It can be read in the Hocken Library’s run of the Southern Mercury, 11 June 1875, p. 555.

The anecdote not only illuminates one of the many by-ways of the Hocken’s Scottish holdings, but reminds us that the whole way of life in southern New Zealand was drenched in Scottishness. Dr Hocken was not a collector of Scottish material for its own sake, and little of that kind of material is recorded here (consult the main University Library for its considerable holdings in Scottish history etc). But the diaries, journals, correspondence, newspapers and published literature of the earlier settlers, particularly during the period up to the 1920s, are so permeated with Scottish connections and allusions that this bulletin can do little more than point the way.

Art

English rather than Scottish influence predominates in the Hocken Pictures Collection. J.A. Gilfillan and J.M. Nairn are the best-known Scots artists represented, though Nairn only by his work in New Zealand. Others, such as J.H. Scott, were Scots-born. Works depicting Scottish scenes in New Zealand, such as Capt. Cargill. John Brown’s cartoons often portray early Dunedin settlers in the trappings of Scottish dress; as does an unattributed ‘Scrap Book of Pen Sketches’, set on the West Coast.

Autobiography


Begg, Neil. The Intervening Years, McIndoe, Dunedin, 1992. Scion of a noted Scottish family.


Deans, John ed. Pioneers of Canterbury, Deans Letters 1840–1854, Reed, Dunedin, 1937. The original Christchurch settler came from Riccarton, near Kilmarnock, hence the transfer of the place-name.

Smith, Sir Sydney, Mostly Murder, London, 1959; the boy from Roxburgh who became a leading pathologist in Edinburgh.


Biography


**Business**

Angus, J.H. *Donald Reid Otago Farmers Ltd.*, The Company, Dunedin, 1978. Reid was from Perthshire.


Ross, Norah M. *One Hundred Years with Ross and Glendining Ltd*, Dunedin, 1967.


Many other published business histories have Scottish connections, and Hocken Archives holds records from a number of businesses founded by Scots.

**Fiction**

Adam, R.N. *The Counterfeit Seal: A Tale of Otago’s First Settlers*, Dunedin, 1897.


**Genealogy**

The Tartan and the Gold, issued after the N.Z. Society of Genealogists conference in Dunedin in 1982 contains several papers of Scottish interest; and see also general works relating to genealogy. The list of booklets with Scottish family coverage is virtually endless: Aker, Molly J. *Macraes to New Zealand*, 1994, 448p.


Calder, D.J. *Genealogical Table of David Calder*, 1949, 32p.


McEwans.


Hocken Archives holds papers from many Scottish emigrant families, such as Adams, Begg, Cameron, Cargill, Cromb, Farquhar, Gow, Johnstone, McKenzie, McNeur, Park, etc, too numerous to list individually.

**General accounts**


Hocken, T.M. *Contributions to the Early History of N.Z. (Settlement of Otago)*, London, 1898. The first significant history of the Scottish origins.

Kirk, W.R. *Pulse of the Plain. A History of Mosgiel. Township and its name owed much to the Burns significant history of the Scottish origins.*


Heraldry
The Watt Collection of heraldry includes the late Dr Morris Watt’s correspondence with the Lord Lyon King of Arms (the premier officer of arms in Scotland) about the granting of arms to various corporate bodies including the Dunedin City Council, Otago University, and a number of halls of residence and Dunedin secondary schools. Books in the collection include Sir Thomas Innes of Learney’s classic, *Scots Heraldry*, and Sir James Balfour Paul’s *Heraldry in Relation to Scottish History and Art*, two standard works; also Sir Thomas’s *The Clans and Families of Scotland* (1938) and Robert Bain’s *The Clans and Tartans of Scotland*. The *Surnames of Scotland*, by George F. Black, is of value to genealogists and Albert Mackie’s *Scottish Pageantry* is a readable account of historic ceremonies and regalia. A rare volume, one of a limited edition printed in 1866, is *An Inquiry as to the Armorial Insignia of the City of Glasgow*.

Music
Gaelic Society and New Edinburgh Folk Club.
Seator, George and Jean. *Celebrating 21 Years of Presenting Scottish Culture to the South*, [1992], Invercargill.
The Hocken holds some sheet music and a number of recordings of Scottish folk music. Consult the on-line index or the Hocken staff.

Organisations
Allnutt, W.C. *Jubilee of Lodge St Andrew No. 432, Scottish Constitution*, Dunedin, 1914.

In Archives
Caledonian Society of Otago, 2.2m; minute books of directors’ and committee meetings from 1868, annual reports, rule books, press cuttings, programmes etc.; a significant collection. Also the Port Molyneux Caledonian Society, 86–102.
Dunedin Burns Club; clipping books 1887–1966, minute books 1943–64, letter book 1892–94, rules, programmes 1940s–1980s; a significant collection from one of the oldest Burns Clubs in the world, and the 69th to be affiliated (in 1894) to the Burns Federation.
Gaelic Society of N.Z. Inc.; photographs, minutes, reports, song book, scrapbook etc.
Lodges: Papers lodged from the Lodge Otago Kilwinning No. 417, Lodge St Andrew 432, and others with Scottish affiliations.
Mt Ida Curling Club, 0.1m, 1878–1978; Ranfurly Curling Club, AG301.
N.Z. Scottish Regiment Ex-Members Assn.; videos of 16mm films, c1941, 96201. Also 2nd Battalion Ex Members, 82–032.
Orkney and Shetland Society; records 1929–85, 95–127; Shetland Society, formed 1995, 97–095.
Piping & Dancing Assn of N.Z., Dominion Council, 2.8m; includes correspondence from the 1920s of pipers and dancers emigrating from Scotland; also five 16mm films of Scottish dancing. Ibid, Otago Centre, 0.9m; programmes, minutes etc.
Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society, N.Z. Branch, Otago Region, records 1955–92, 1m; also McIntosh papers, 97–055.
Scottish Society of Dunedin Inc., minutes etc 1920–1960s, 2 boxes, 87–040.
[Note: The substantial records of the New Edinburgh Folk Club are partly of Scots interest, but the Claymore Swords Club was simply a fencing club formed in 1959].

Presbyterianism
Dickson, J. *History of the N.Z. Presbyterian Church*, Dunedin 1899.
Merrington, E.N. *A Great Coloniser. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Burns*, Dunedin, 1929.
[The very substantial Presbyterian literature can be consulted in detail through the indexes].

Reminiscences of Scotland

Scotland visited or revisited
Bannerman, E. *Notes By the Way*, Waimate, 1918.
One of several books by New Zealand medical figures who carried out postgraduate study in Edinburgh.
Chisholm, Alec H. *The Incredible Year*, Auckland, 1944; pp.85–141 etc.

Scottish affiliations.
Scotts visiting N.Z.
Kennedy, Marjory. *David Kennedy, the Scottish Singer*, 1887.
See also the indexes to *N.Z. National Bibliography*.

Verse

John Maclean, himself ‘a Maori . . . born on the tussocky plains’, wrote these lines:

*My mother has tales of the purpling heather,*
She *tells them so fondly I cannot but hear;*
And, *hearing, I vow I could listen for ever,*
Tho’ *often she speaks through a fugitive tear.*

His poem ‘From Dunedin to Dingwall’ (*Neptune’s Toll and other verses, W. & T.* 1907), is a typical example of a New Zealander carrying on memories, in this case, of Ross-shire. Other collections of nostalgia and dialect include:


Clyde, Alan. *‘Te Kooti’ and Other Poems*, Dunedin, 1872.

Donaldson, R.M. *Scotland For Ever! Bluebell and Heather; songs and poems*, Christchurch, 1932.

Ferguson, Dugald. *Castle Gay and other poems*, Dunedin, 1883.


From Glasgow.


Stenhouse, W.M. *Poems, Songs and Sonnets*, Glasgow 1886; *Lays from Maoriland . . . Scottish and English*, Paisley, 1908. Stenhouse was president of the Dunedin Burns Club.

Summers, John. *Simeon Stylites Twa*, Christchurch, 1994. Summers took more than three years to write this 250p work in Lallans shortly before his death.

Miscellaneous
Anon. *A Souvenir of the Scotch Carnival, Garrison Hall . . .*, Dunedin, 1895.


Cuples, George. *Scotch Deerhounds and Their Masters*, 1894. Published in Scotland, but notable for the Dunedin subscribers who sponsored its publication.

Grant, J.G.S. The prolific pamphleteer of early Dunedin, strongly represented in the Hocken, was born in Banffshire.


An interesting item is the 1848 Gaelic bible, *Leabhrhaichean an T-seann Tiomnaidh, air n tarruing o'n cheul chunain chum Gaelic albannaich*, presented to John Cameron at the Achosmigh School in 1850 as 1st prize for proficiency in English reading, and given to the library in 1969.

Architecture: Scottish architects were influential in the early settlement; and the stone buildings of Dunedin, in particular, still show those Scottish influences. Such individuals as Lawson, Troup, Forrester (Oamaru), Salmond and Troup are well represented in the architectural literature, and the Hocken holds some of their plans.

Maps: Scotland is represented in a range of atlases, but by only one map — Edinburgh in 1878.

Microfilm: Archives of the N.Z. and Australian Land Co., Edinburgh; also material relating to the Otago Association in the N.Z. Company archives.

Newspapers etc.: See Trimble’s Catalogue p. 399 for Scottish journals in Hocken’s original collection (a browse through Trimble will reveal further scattered Scottish material).

Photographs: Limited coverage of such subjects as piping, highland dancing and curling (including a fine panorama), as well as portraits of Scots settlers and their descendants; but quite a number of albums donated to the Hocken over the years contain photographs of Scottish scenes.

Posters: The Hocken holds several of the early emigration posters that were distributed around Scotland.
