Immigration to New Zealand

URGEONING interest in genealogy and family history in recent years has been paralleled by a renewed interest in the sources and character of European and non-European migration to New Zealand from the late 18th century as shown by recent substantial publications, including D.H. Akenson’s Half the world from home: perspectives on the Irish in N.Z. 1840–1950 (1990); Charlotte Macdonald’s A woman of good character: single women as immigrant settlers in nineteenth century N.Z. (1990); Rosalind McClean’s thesis Scottish emigration to N.Z. 1840–1880: motives, means and background (1990); James Ng’s Windows on a Chinese past (1993); and Tony Simpson’s The immigrants: the great migration from Britain to New Zealand 1830–1890 (1997).

Practically the only previous comprehensive survey was W.D. Borrie’s thesis ‘Immigration to N.Z. since 1854’ (University of Otago, 1937) substantially republished as Immigration to N.Z. 1854–1938 (Canberra, 1966). Immigration since 1900, in particular, awaits detailed analysis. In 1996 the Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs began a major study of immigration from Britain to New Zealand in an effort, despite the paucity, inadequacy and destruction of much critical information, to identify the changing source and character of the most important British migratory streams to reach this country.

Data difficulties notwithstanding, immigration to New Zealand, especially since 1918, has attracted much comment and investigation, reflecting contemporary social and economic concerns and debates. This bulletin offers a sampling of the Library’s wide-ranging holdings. Remember always to check details in secondary sources against primary sources.

Bibliographies

A number of useful bibliographies relating to immigration include:


Journals

The Library holds a comprehensive collection of journals contains statistical information and many articles on various aspects of immigration, especially since 1945. Two early periodicals are:


More recent journals include:

Comment
Commonwealth Survey
International Migration Review
Labour and Employment Gazette
N.Z. Commerce
N.Z. Economist
N.Z. Financial Review
N.Z. Financial Times
N.Z. Geographer
N.Z. Journal of Public Administration
N.Z. Manufacturer
N.Z. Monthly Review
N.Z. National Review
Quarterly Population Bulletin
Population
Round Table
Tomorrow

The bibliographies listed above, especially Hargreaves and Heenan (1972) and the Department of Labour (1975, 1980, and 1982), offer useful guides to the material available in these publications.

Public Record Office, London

The Hocken holds microfilm copies of archives of the N.Z. Company which occupy an important place in our early British immigration history. Among them are:


CO 208/274. Original applications for free passage and list of emigrants.

CO 208/275. Register and index to 272 and 273.
CO 208/277. Papers relating to German emigration [Nelson].
CO 215/140. Correspondence, outwards letters, emigration, 1839–1843.

Statistical Sources
Reliable and comprehensive data on immigration into New Zealand, certainly prior to 1871, are scarce. The difficulties were seriously compounded by the destruction in 1972 of original census data dating back to 1857. Some statistical information was published in the Statistics of N.Z. After 1871 the data available improve and can be found in appendices and papers published in the journals of proceedings of the various provincial councils, but especially in the Appendices, Journals of the House of Representatives. The D papers contained separate immigration returns. The N.Z. Official Yearbooks, from 1894, also offer some statistical information.


Statistics for the 20th century are more readily available and include the N.Z. Department of Statistics N.Z. Permanent and long-term migration, time series statistics 1922–1979, Wellington [1980]; and Statistical reports on external migration, Wellington, 1922–1932 (continued in Population, migration and building statistics).

Passenger Lists
Bulletin 14 contains details of passenger lists. It names major sources and the ships for which lists are held. The former include the New Zealand Company’s Emigration Lists 1839–1851; the Otago/Southland Assisted Passengers, 1872–1888 which give ages, marital status, place of origin (or possibly place of last residence), and occupation; and the Passenger Lists to Otago 1869–1875, drawn from the Otago Provincial Gazettes, which provide place of origin or last residence and occupation; Paying Passengers to Otago 1871–1880 by P.Henderson and Company; and An Inventory of Holdings, 1839–1888, at the Auckland Public Library (1968). Unfortunately, a full set of passenger lists for ships carrying assisted migrants to Otago up to 1871 is not available. Bulletin 14 gives a list of those ships for which passenger lists are available.

Two useful sources are T.M. Hocken’s Contributions, in which Appendix F lists all passengers and ships arriving in Otago between 1848 and 1850, and V. Maxwell’s Settlers to Otago pre 1861, Dunedin, 1989. The Hocken also holds a microform copy of National Archives Im 15/41–52, Nominal index to passenger lists, January–May 1873, and of a register of ships carrying assisted migrants to N.Z. over the period 1871–1887 (being a copy of National Archives immigration file Im 9/1).

Other useful sources include the Auckland Institute and Museum’s Inventory of passenger lists, nominal rolls . . . index of ships, 1839–1888 (Auckland, 1968). Further data relating to Auckland can be found in J.J. Craig’s Historical records of jubilee reunion of old colonists, including role of pioneer settlers who arrived prior to 1843 (Auckland, 1893), and [F. Eadie’s] Roll of early settlers and descendants in the Auckland province prior to the end of 1852 [Auckland, 1940].

A recently published and very useful source is the Passenger Lists, Victoria. AUS outwards to N.Z. Prepared by the N.Z. Society of Genealogists, the first and last of three parts for lists are being published, in microfiche form, in three parts, 1852–1860, 1861–1865 and 1866–1870. At the time of preparation of this bulletin the first and last parts had been published.

Voyage Accounts
Again Bulletin 14 sets out the Library’s holdings of voyage accounts. A recent work which includes some New Zealand sources is Hassam, A. Sailing to Australia: shipboard diaries by nineteenth century British immigrants, Manchester, 1994. N.Z. Letters of Thomas Arnold the Younger . . . ed. by James Bertram, Auckland, 1966, has many shrewd observations.

Emigrants’ Guides
A wide range of emigrants’ guides offer interesting insights into many aspects of migration, including the selection of destination, the voyage to New Zealand, and settlement in the colony. Among them are:

Ashby, W. N.Z., the land of health, wealth and prosperity. London, 1889.

Bentley, E.L. The settlers’ guide to N.Z. 1893.


Clayden, A. A popular handbook to N.Z. London, 1885.


Matthew, P. Emigration fields: North America, the Cape, Australia and N.Z.: describing these countries and giving a comparative view of the advantages they present to British settlers. Edinburgh, 1839.


Smith, S. The settlers’ new home: or, whether to go and whither, being a guide to emigrants in the selection of a settlement and the preliminary details of the voyage . . . in two parts. London, 1850.

Terry, C. N.Z.: its advantages and prospects as a British colony.


More recent and official publications of this kind include:


N.Z. Immigration Division. Living in N.Z., Wellington [1972?].


Pamphlets and Articles
The Library holds many pamphlets and separately printed articles on the subject of immigration. Examples are:
Barnett, A.A. Information for emigrants proceeding to N.Z. London [1874].
Bohn, F. ‘The immigration problem across the Pacific: how Australia and N.Z. have solved the problem for themselves and marvel at the American attitude’, in American Federationist 30, 1923.
Capper, H. Where to emigrate and how. London, 1850.
Handbook of information for emigrants to N.Z., Australia, Canada, the United States, British Columbia and the Red River settlements. Glasgow, 1870.
Hursthouse, C.F. Emigration fields contrasted—the diggings—practical hints on emigration to N.Z. London, 1853.
Stead, G.G. Immigration and N.Z.’s progress. [Dunedin], 1890.
Stones, W. N.Z., the land of promise and its resources. [London, 1862] (5th ed).

Immigration Policy
Immigration policy has been the subject of extensive debate, some passionate and analytical, some polemic and emotive. The debate on Asian immigration during the 1996 election was of the latter tradition. Discussion of immigration matters has carried on practically since the beginnings of European settlement. The Library contains material of both kinds relating to matters of policy, including a much relating to Asian immigration and to the development of the nation. A report on the subject of immigration policy, proceedings. Wellington, 1974.
N.Z. University Students Association. Whom shall we admit? Proposals for a controlled culturally diverse and assisted immigration policy. Wellington [1965?].
Northey, R.J. & Lythe, B. How white is our immigration policy? [Auckland, 1972].
Polson, W.J. A suggested immigration policy. [Wanganui, 1925].
Walsh, F.P. How many immigrants? Serious situation is developing in the nation. A report on the subject of N.Z.’s immigration policy by the president of the N.Z. Federation of Labour. [Wellington, 1959?]
Walshaw, R.S. Migration to and from the British Isles: problems and policies. London, [1941].

Theses and Postgraduate Essays
The Library holds theses, dissertations and long essays on historical aspects of immigration, most of them containing useful bibliographies:
1945'. University of Otago, 1981.

Other scholarly accounts include:

Holdings on immigration from the Pacific Islands include: Amnesty Aroha. Submission to government. 1976 [concerning overstayers].

General Works
Among general works held by the Library are:
Drummond, Alison. Married and gone to N.Z. Being extracts from the writings of women pioneers, Hamilton, 1960.
Hazell, W. The Australasian colonies: emigration and colonisation, 1887.

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