Influences of the Chinese

The two books and 16 pamphlets that W.H. Trimble listed under the heading ‘Chinese Question’ in his 1912 Catalogue of the Hocken Library hardly did justice to the impact the Chinese had made in New Zealand in the previous half-century. With their numbers in Otago alone approaching a peak of about 4,500, their effect on the province’s economy and society was profound at the time and is still evident today.

Since Trimble’s day, the world-wide influence of the Chinese Empire has greatly expanded, and the literature on China has expanded with it — as the current tally of over 2400 entries in the main University Library’s on-line list clearly shows.

The Hocken’s own much smaller collection deals more specifically with New Zealand-Chinese relations. Within the collection, no publication better covers the whole topic of contact between New Zealand and China than Dr James Ng’s Windows on a Chinese Past (1993–99), a 1525-page, four-volume work of meticulous scholarship, which offers the researcher entry into virtually every aspect of Chinese migration and settlement in New Zealand.

Interesting Sources

Before sampling the more common Hocken holdings, the researcher might like information on a few of the unique sources of Chinese material which the Library holds:

Records of the New Zealand Chinese Association, Otago-Southland branch: 65 boxes of widely varied material — school readers, financial records, teaching aids, photographs, periodicals, miscellaneous papers (even clothing catalogues!) — virtually all of it in Chinese script and still to be listed.

Benjamin Wong Tape, miscellaneous papers 1875–1926: birth and marriage certificates, testimonials, photos, medals.

Connie Anderson Papers, 1927–1971: include an almost complete set of diaries (MS-1063) for the period 1928 to 1941 when, as Connie Hopkinson, she worked as a trained nurse for the Presbyterian Church Missionary Society in Foochow.


Dunedin City Baptist Church Records, 1863–1996: the substantial records (96-116) cover such organisations within the church as the Chinese Mission, the operation of the Church’s Chinese Sunday School Class from the late 1890s until 1913, and the re-establishment of a Chinese congregation in the 1980s.


G.H. McNeur and McNeur Family Papers, 1813–1992 (ARC 038): these papers cover two generations of family involvement in mission work in China. They include G.H. McNeur’s diaries and notes from 1890 to 1951; substantial papers relating to the evangelist Leung Ah Faat, papers relating to Dr Robert Morrison; correspondence, drafts of articles, miscellaneous notebooks, photographs and publications.

G.N. Jeffery Scrapbooks… 1912–1985: an extensive collection of newspaper clippings relating to Central Otago and Roxburgh (AG-590), including some notes on the Chinese.

Hancock Family Papers, 1879–1950s: J.H. Hancock was mayor of Dunedin, 1893–1894. His daughter, Annie, joined the New Zealand Presbyterian Mission in China in 1912 as a teacher in 1912. Apart from a study break to take a Diploma in Psychology at the Berkeley University of California, 1926–1928, she remained in China until the 1930s.
MS-1065 (3 boxes) includes letters, notebooks and photo albums relating to her time in China.

Lesley James McKay, Papers 1925–1996: (96-144-19) Chinese Goldminers at Round Hill, correspondence, draft of a talk, newspaper cuttings: (96-197-10) papers on the Chinese New Year Festival, Queenstown 1992, and on Chinese goldmining.

Mallard Family: Papers re Policing in Central Otago, 1860–1872: correspondence (95-151-4) relating to the arrest and detention of Che Chong of Moa Flat, 1872, and Che Chong’s countersuit for wrongful arrest.

Peter Chandler Research Papers, 1840–1989: correspondence with James Ng (MS-1270 4-6-13) relating to mining and the Chinese, together with other scattered references and maps.


Yue H. Jackson: My Reminiscences from September 1890 to September 1917: microfilm of a 46p typescript by a notable mixed-race community leader, who was born in Roxburgh but spent most of his life with the Chinese.

THESES

Most Otago University theses are held in the main University Library or in separate departmental thesis collections. Among the Chinese-related theses held in the Hocken are:


Ng, Eva. ‘The “Yellow Peril” — myth or reality (1878–1881)’, long essay, BA Hons, 1972.


Smith, Janine. ‘Lye Bow’, history assignment on the Alexandra market gardener, providing both background and specific information (Misc-MS-1168).


BOOKS

Books relating to China and the Chinese can be readily checked out on the Hocken Library’s computerised display system. The following list does not pretend to be exhaustive:

Mining


Hall-Jones, J. Goldfields of the South, Craig, Invercargill, 1982.


Missionaries

Barton, H.H. George Hunter McNeur, a pioneer missionary in South China, Presbyterian Bookroom, Christchurch, 1955.


Davies, H. The Story of the Canton Villages Mission..., Foreign Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church of NZ, 1916

Dalzell, M. New Zealanders in Republican China 1912–1949, New Zealand Asia Institute, 1995

Dinneen, Alice Not of Gennesareth: romance and adventure in China, Reed, Dunedin, 1933

Don, A. Annual Inland Tour among Chinese in Otago — and similar titles, irregularly, 1890–1912: also Memories of the Golden Road: a History of the Presbyterian Church in Central Otago, Reed, 1936; Opening of the Chinese Church, Dunedin, 1897, Under Six Flags: being notes on Chinese in Samoa, Hawaii, United States, British Columbia, Japan and China, 1898.


Loane, M.L. The Story of the China Inland Mission

McNeur, G.H. The Chinese in Our Midst, Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Union, 1951–52; The Church and the Chinese in New Zealand, Presbyterian Bookroom, Christchurch, 1951; Feeling the Way in the Canton Villages, Otago Daily Times, 1902; Gospel Gleams in the Canton Villages, Foreign Missions Committee, Presbyterian Church, 1907; New Zealand and China, Presbyterian General Assembly, Dunedin, 1926; Viewing and Visiting in the Canton Villages, Otago Daily Times, Dunedin, 1903.

Mawson, W. The Story of the Canton Villages Mission of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, Foreign Missions Committee, 1926.


Ng, James. The Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and the Chinese, Presbyterian Historical Society, Dunedin, 1988.

China and its history

Chan, H.D.M. China, Reform and Revolution — background papers on Chinese History 1850–1949, Massey University Dept of History, Palmerston North, 1973


Chinese in NZ


Drabble, D.A. Life and Times of Chew Chong, Author, 1996.

Fong, Ng Bickleen. The Chinese in New Zealand: a study in assimilation, Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong, 1959.

Hanlon, A.C. Random Recollections, ODT and Witness, Dunedin, 1939


Tod, Frank. Lionel Terry, the Making of a Madman, Otago Foundation Books, Dunedin, 1977.


Wilson, Sarah The King of the Chinese, Lands End Publications, Lower Hutt, 1996.

New Zealanders in China


Garland, Margaret Journey to New China, Caxton Press, China, 1954


Petersen, G.M. Two Chinas and a Half: diary of Gordon M. Petersen, the Author, Christchurch, 1983.

Spencer, Barbara M. China 30 Years On, the Author, Whangarei, 1979.

Alley, Rewi

This remarkable New Zealander, who went to Shanghai in 1927 for a brief visit, devoted the rest of his life to China’s cause.


Chapple, G. Rewi Alley of China, Sceptre NZ, Auckland, 1989
International Relations and Politics


Modern immigration issues


Miscellaneous

Alloo, W. *NZ Bowlers’ Annual*, ODT, Dunedin, 1906–07

King, N.M. *50 Chinese Dishes for New Zealand*, 1958

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Otago newspapers, those from the goldfields in particular, carried plenty of news and comment about the Chinese. Nearly all these papers are available at the Hocken. So, too, are the files of the *Otago Witness*, with its magnificent photographic coverage, and some other illustrated weeklies. The *Outlook* carried regular reports from Alexander Don on his mission activity among the Chinese.

The annual almanacs and directories are essential references. The Hocken also holds *The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register for British and Foreign India, China and Australasia* for the period 1823–1841.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Pictures Collection contains two groups of works of Chinese significance. The sketchbooks of the surveyor J.T. Thomson, relating to his time in Singapore, include some lively drawings of Chinese buildings and workmen. The Collection holds seven works of Greta Graetzer, who settled in Dunedin after spending the years of World War 2 working and painting in China. Other works include a 19th century study of a Chinese junk at Amoy, by John Gilfillan; Charlton Edgar’s ‘Chinese Boy’ (1958); and drawings of Chinese activities in Andrew Hamilton’s sketchbook of goldrush Otago.

The Hocken also holds works by New Zealand-Chinese painters such as Brent Wong and Sing Tai Wong. The book collection contains several exhibition catalogues, including:

Humphreys-Davies, G. *Chinese Art in New Zealand*, 1937.


PHOTOGRAPHS

The Hocken’s holdings in this field are considerable, but are often scattered among general collections of deposited material, for example in the massive archive of the Otago-Southland branch of the New Zealand Chinese Association.

Featured in the Hocken’s portraits collection are Wu Chung-Lwen, Chu Chen Fun, the Sew Hoy family and the Ng family. Sorted under the heading ‘Chinese in New Zealand’ are portraits of Cranky Joe of Waitahuna, Sam Chew Lain of Lawrence, a range of street scenes in Chinese settlements, an anti-Chinese poster dated 1881 from Riverton, and sketches of a Chinese ‘gambling den’.

Photographic collections grouped by goldrush site often contain Chinese material. For example, photographs grouped under the ‘Nokomai’ heading include pictures of Choie Sew Hoy’s hydraulic elevator at Star Beach.

Recently donated material is still being accessioned. Dr James Ng has begun to make available to the Hocken much of the photographic material appearing in *Windows on a Chinese Past*.

GOVERNMENTAL PAPERS

Reports on Chinese issues, sometimes of considerable significance, are to be found in both the *AJHR* and the Otago Provincial papers, and may be well worth