



WELCOME TO THE HOCKEN

Friends of the Hocken Collections

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## Hocken Photographs Collection

**F**ROM small beginnings 90 years ago, the Hocken Photographs Collection is currently estimated to contain around two million prints and negatives and is ranked amongst the foremost in New Zealand. Dr Hocken's original bequest of two albums containing Maori-related material and of a small number of portraits of notable pakeha men, has grown over the years to include examples of many of New Zealand's most important 19th and 20th century photographers such as John Kinder, Herbert Deveril, George Chance and Christine Webster, and to hold definitive collections in certain aspects of the nation's history. The emphasis is on Otago and Southland but the Collection ranges all over New Zealand, 19th century Australia, Antarctica, Melanesia and the Pacific.

*Once upon a time . . . Children have a story read to them in the lee of a sheltering haycock in the early 1900s. [photo by Dr J. Fitzgerald, from the Hocken Library Photographs Collection, Fitzgerald Collection c/n E2930/75].*

The Photographs Collection has assumed more of an identity of its own at the Hocken since the numbers of photographs expanded exponentially from the early 1970s. This growth has been mainly due to the generosity

of private donors and an increasing awareness of the value of photographs and their need for preservation.

Photographs were previously housed with the Archives and Manuscripts Collection and, in-

deed, large quantities of photographs remain within that section of the Library. With the move to the new building in 1998, however, the decision was made to group the Photographs and Pictures Collections together. The storage requirements are different but, seen together at close quarters, they form a rich and varied pictorial resource.

#### READER ACCESS

Those Friends who have visited the Pictorial Collections section on the second floor of the new Hocken Library will already be acquainted with the Reader Access File of copy prints which provides easy access to around 9,000 photographic images of popular subjects. A number of these file prints are copied from originals held in private hands or else situated in small provincial museums around Otago. The File, as well as being a way of advertising the photographs' existence, reduces to a minimum the handling of those original photographs in highest demand. The prints are indexed by subject and location and are generally available for reproduction through the Hocken Library's Copy Service (see later in this Bulletin).

Also readily available in the Pictorial Collections Reading Room are volumes of the *Otago Witness Illustrated* (1899–1928; the concluding volumes are held elsewhere in the Library), *Auckland Weekly News* (1900–1942), and the Hocken Portraits and Shipping Files so popular with genealogists. The main aim of this bulletin, however, is to reveal what lies behind closed doors in the Hocken Photographs store-room and vault by giving an outline of the range of photographic formats contained within the Collection and a rough guide as to their subjects.

#### SPECIAL FORMATS

With the exception of the calotype, the Hocken holds examples of all the main early forms of photography. A good teaching selection of daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and tintypes reveal how portrait photographers provided mementoes, first for the well-to-do and then for the average mining family on the Otago goldfields around the mid-19th century. For a range of examples see accession no. P97-120 and the

Marion Scott Estate (P97-032).

#### Albums

An album of photographs was once an essential item on every fashionable Victorian drawing-room table. The Hocken holds over 500, many derived from the old Dunedin Public Library Collection and dating from the late 19th century when photographers first had the technical means to capture the dramatic and varied New Zealand landscape and document the progress of civilization within the towns. Treasures include albums nos 334 and 336 by James Bragge on Wellington and the Wairarapa; no.10 by J.W. Allen showing Dunedin in 1867–69; no.54 by the Rosshavet Whaling Company documenting its whaling operations in Antarctica; no.97 by the Northwood Brothers recording kauri logging in Omahuta in 1913.

#### Postcards

The Hocken holds a significant number of postcards, many of which have been copied for the Reader Access File. Those from F.G. Radcliffe, Muir & Moodie and the Aotearoa Series are particularly valued as a record of New Zealand during the first quarter of the 20th century.

#### Cinefilm

Most of the cinefilm, although housed in the negative vault, is accessioned as part of the Archives and Manuscripts Department of the Hocken Library. An exception is the George Thorn Collection (P94-006) of 16mm film (and transparencies) relating to New Zealand rowing teams.

#### PRINTS AND NEGATIVES

##### Dunedin and its environs

Prints and negatives of Dunedin come from a wide variety of sources but some major holdings include those under the names of De Maus, Burton Brothers, F.A. Coxhead, Meluish, Frost, Esquilant, H.J. Gill, Hart, Campbell & Co., J. Iles, Morris, Wrigglesworth & Binns, Zenith Studios, C. Patillo, as well as more recent images in the Lance Blackman Collection (P99-023) and Alan Palmer Collection (P00-011).

##### 20th century studio photographers

The Hocken has become the main repository

for 20th century studio photographers based in Dunedin with a strong Otago link. Generally

these photographers specialise in individual

*Whaling in the Southern Ocean. A dramatic photograph of harpoon-gunned and moored catches from the Rosshavet Whaling Company 1923–24.* [Hocken Library Photographs Collection, Album 54, No.44 c/n E1894/17].

portraits, school groups, sports teams, bands and weddings. Collections include E.A. Phillips (P68-001); George Wilkes (P97-016); C.E. Merrie (P97-055); Campbell Studios (P86-021); Ritchies Studios (P98-080); Franz Barta (P97-156); Geddes (P97-084); M. Kershaw (P64-003); McRobie (P86-025); Mike Clark Collection (P99-029, on deposit).

### **20th century press photography**

Press photography provides the researcher with a great range of subjects. Most importantly the Hocken has accumulated a very large Otago Daily Times Collection of prints and negatives, the Evening Star Collection and the Otago Witness Collection (P79-008) of glass plate negatives. See also P99-068 Guy Morris Collection (P99-068); Ben Pearse Collection (P99-053), Allied Press Collection (P81-011).

### **South Island regional**

The Hocken is most fortunate to hold the definitive collection of prints and negatives by George Chance which concentrates on the South Island landscape in a pictorial manner during the 1920s and 1930s. Other major collections with related material include H.S. Tily Collection (P78-014 & P97-155) dating from

1940s–1950s; Fitzgerald Collection (P98-085) showing late nineteenth century family life in South Otago; A.W. Bathgate Collection (P75-001), early 1900s; La Trobe Collection (P98-079) of scenic spots c.1910; P.B. Gow Collection (P83-019), 1946–65; F.P. Eade Collection (P00-032) of deerstalking in the Otago and Canterbury high country c.1915; Claude Burgess Collection (P00-025) of Lake Wakatipu c.1907; John Sinclair Collection (P91-009) of Ashburton and rural Southland, Otago and Canterbury; Basil De Lambert Collection (P97-042) of Kurow, Manapouri, Moeraki in early 1900s, Henderson and Hunter Collection (P79-013) of real estate photographs, 1950s–1970s; T.R. Coull Collection (P98-125) of Burton Brothers, Muir & Moodie, and NZ Government Publicity photographs from all over New Zealand.

### **Shipping and transport in New Zealand**

Thanks to the passion and generosity of a few male donors, the Hocken has a particularly extensive collection of shipping and transport photographs and negatives. Notable amongst these on ships are the I.J. Farquhar Collection (P00-021); Mallard Estate Collection (P95-027); P.L. Moore Collection (P72-005). Buses

are concentrated in Peter Bennie Collection (P92-023); Basil Horwood Collection (P93-

003); Alan Smith Collection (P00-040). The Campbell Studios Collection (P86-021)

*'UB' Loco at Dunedin. Weight 58 tons, height 49 ft 2 in, bunker 4 tons, tank capacity 1660 gallons [E310 Railways]*

includes some commercial photographs of trucks. The G.C. Ditchfield Collection (P00-015 & P00-041) covers trams, cable cars and trains. Large railway holdings are also located in the R.H. Wilton Collection (P83-021); J.A. Dangerfield Collection (P99-006); Joe McNamara Collection (P00-001).

#### HOCKEN COPY SERVICE

The Hocken Library offers reproductions of its photographic holdings to the public. A range of formats is available including computer scans, copy photographs, transparencies, laser prints and photocopies. Applicants may request reproductions on the forms provided. All orders are subject to Library approval and, apart from the overnight photocopying service of copy prints from the Reader Access File, orders normally take about two weeks to be processed.

Researchers must respect any restrictions placed on the use of these images and comply with the provisions of the 1994 Copyright Act.

A price list with further details is available at the Pictorial Collections reference desk or from e-mail address:

photos.hocken@library.otago.ac.nz.

#### SOME USEFUL REFERENCES

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- Garrity, T., 'Kinder at the Hocken: A Complete Catalogue of the Paintings, Drawings and Photographs by John Kinder (1819–1903) in the Hocken Library', Dunedin, 1986.
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*Written for the Friends of the Hocken Collections, by Anna Petersen, Assistant Curator  
(Photographs), edited by George Griffiths and designed by Gary Blackman, November 2000.*