



WELCOME TO THE HOCKEN

FRIENDS OF THE HOCKEN COLLECTIONS : BULLETIN NUMBER 9 : SEPTEMBER 1994

Surveying the Hocken's Surveyors

Surveyors played a major, though generally unsung, role in the settlement and development of pakeha New Zealand. In European society, where land is owned individually rather than communally (as was the case in Maori New Zealand) the need to set the boundaries of properties, to lay out lines of communications and, of course, to know exactly the form and features of the land, was and is of paramount importance.

While the Hocken Library was acting as Otago-Southland repository for official archives, its holdings included several hundred cartons of Land and Survey Dept. material. Now that this material has been transferred to the Dunedin office of National Archives (which, incidentally, has upwards of 400 linear metres of land records), and the early New Zealand Company records relating to Dunedin are held in part at the Otago Early Settlers Museum, it would be easy to assume the Hocken might have little to offer in the field of surveying.

That is quite wrong. It has, for instance, the most complete run of the *New Zealand Surveyor* south of Wellington. It has such important primary manuscript documents as Frederick Tuckett's letters and Peter Proudfoot's 1850s diary. Complete runs of parliamentary and Otago Provincial Council journals carry a full range of annual published survey reports. And its printed book holdings included all significant works relating to surveying in New Zealand. In addition to its marvellous holding of J. Turnbull Thomson's paintings, it has important art by other notable surveyors and draughtsmen, such as Buchanan — though there has not been space to list these art works in this bulletin.

The Hocken, in fact, is as proud of its holdings in this field as the province of Otago — thanks largely to Thomson — is proud of its survey record. Major Palmer's 1875 report to central government, while scathing in its criticism of some provincial survey departments, praised the quality of work in Otago. In this, the 150th anniversary year of the first official European purchases of Otago land, it seems opportune to summarise the range of the Hocken Library's holdings and to remind the community of the library's active interest in this subject.

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see also entries under Survey Department reports

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- 'Pegs,' *N.Z. Surveyor*, 9: 284–285 (Dec. 1911). N.Z. timbers which are durable, doubtful and unsuitable.
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Periodicals

- Landscape*. No.1 (1959) – No.54 (1976); new series, No.1 (1977) – No.13 (1983). Hocken has Nos. 30, 32–38, 40–54; ns Nos 1–13. This was a staff magazine.
- N.Z. Survey Draughtsmen's Journal*. 1(1) (1947) – 2(12) (Sept. 1954). Hocken holds 1(1–3, 5–8); 2(10 & 12). Succeeded by:

N.Z. Draughtsmen's Journal. 2(13) (July 1955). Only one issue under this title, and held by Hocken.

Succeeded by:

N.Z. Draughtsmen. 1(1957) – today. Hocken holds 1(1–5, 7); 2(1–3); 3(1–3); 4(1) to 5(3); 6(1) on.

N.Z. Surveyor (at first titled *Journal of N.Z. Institute of Surveyors*). 1 (1889) – today. Hocken holds 1(1); 2(5); 4(1) – 9(4, 6–10, 12–13, 15–16); 10(1) – 11(1–5, 9–13); 12(1) – 34; No. 283 (Aug. 1993) on. This journal contains not only original papers from N.Z. surveyors (some listed here under various subject headings), but also articles reprinted from overseas sources.

Regulations

N.Z. Dept Lands & Survey. *Regulations for Conducting the Survey of Land in New Zealand; together with Land Transfer Survey Regulations, Index and Appendix*, Wellington, Govt Printer, 1897.

— *Regulations for Conducting the Survey of Land in New Zealand*, Wellington, Govt. Printer, 1908; also the 1925 ed.

N.Z. Survey Board. *Examination Rules Under the Surveyors Registration Act, 1928*, Wellington, 1934.

N.Z. Survey Dept. *Regulations and Instructions of the Survey Department of New Zealand*, 2nd ed., Wellington, Govt Printer, 1879; also 3rd ed., 1886.

'Regulations for the Examination of Surveyors under The Land Act, 1892,' *N.Z. Gazette*, 15: 398–400 (5 March 1896).

Survey Department Reports

PROVINCIAL: Survey reports were generally published in either the Provincial Gazettes or the Votes and Proceedings, the Hocken having a complete set of the Otago publications. Accounts of the field and office survey work undertaken make up the bulk of the reports. Though not part of departmental reports, of particular significance are the accounts by Thomson and McKerrow of their early reconnaissances:

McKerrow, James. 'Reconnaissance Survey of the Wanaka and Hawea Lake District,' *Otago Prov. Govt. Gaz.*, 5: 11–18 (23 July 1862).

Thomson, J.T. 'Report ... on the Reconnaissance [*sic*] Survey of the Southern Districts of Otago, Executed during the Months of January, February and March, 1857,' *Otago Prov. Govt. Gaz.*, 3: 256–275 (22 Sept. 1859).

NATIONAL: Annual reports of the Survey Dept (1877–1892), Lands and Survey Dept (1892–1987) and Dept of Survey and Land Information, DOSLI (1987 – on) are contained in the *Appendices to the Journals, House of Representatives (AJHR)*. These first appeared in the H papers (1878–80); thereafter in the C papers. Until the early 1900s the annual reports contained exhaustive information about the surveys and surveyors. Thus from 1879 to 1908 the field work of individual surveyors is listed. Additional survey material was published in *Records of the Survey of New Zealand*, vols 1–5 (1923/24 – 1927/28). Almost complete sets of all these papers are held by the Hocken. A limited number of technical papers are included in the reports, such as the following:

Adams, C.W. 'Report on the Difference of Longitude between Sydney Observatory, New South Wales, and Survey Observatory, Mount Cook, Wellington, New Zealand,' 1884, *Appendices*, C.1: 1–24.

'Longitude of New Zealand (Summary of Observations and Results),' 1902, C.1: 87–89.

'Measurement of Standard Chain', 1901, C.1: 158–159.

Neill, W.T. 'Corrections to be Applied to Field Measurements with Long Steel and Invar Tapes,' *Records*, 2:59–82 (1925/26).

In the 1880s and 1890s the papers contain numerous accounts of explorations which provide much geographic information about the areas concerned, as well as often

surveyors in the field. Reports from this period include the following:

Brodrick, T.N. 'Exploration of Route from Lake Ohau to Paringa,' 1897, C.1: 116–118

Cussen, Lawrence. 'Report on the Topographical Survey of the Tongariro Mountains,' 1891, C.1A: 36–38.

— [Report on Triangulation of King Country, North Island], 1884, C.1: Appendices 29–31.

— 'The Triangulation of the King Country, Auckland,' 1885, C.1A: Appendices 21–24; 1886, C.1A: Appendices 13–16.

Douglas, Charles E. 'The Fox Glacier,' 1898, C.1: 118–119.

— 'On the Westland Alps,' 1894, C.1: 71–75

— 'Report by Mr Douglas of Explorations Made along the Copland River,' 1893, C.1: 42–47.

— 'Report on Cook's River District,' 1896, C.1: 110–112.

Hall, John. 'Report of Exploration in the County of Fiord ...', 1883, C.2: 44–45

Hall, W.Y.H. 'Report on Country West of Lake Te Anau,' 1899, C.1: 136–137.

Mueller, Gerhard. 'Proposed Track from Canterbury to Westland via Mathias Pass,' 1881, C.4: 35–38.

— 'Reconnaissance Survey of the Clarke and Landsborough Country, Westland,' 1887, C.1: Appendices 12–13.

— 'Reconnaissance Survey of the Head-waters of Arawata and Waitatoto Rivers, Westland,' 1885, C.1A: Appendices 25–27.

— 'Reconnaissance Survey of the Head-waters of the Okuru, Actor and Burke Rivers, Westland,' 1890, C.5: 49–52.

— 'Report upon Reconnaissance Survey of Part of West Coast between Cascade Plateau and Jackson's River on the North, and Lake McKerrow and Hollyford on the South,' 1884, C.1: Appendices 73–74.

Skeet, H.M. 'The North-eastern Corner of Taranaki,' 1885, C.1A: Appendices 24–25.

— 'Reconnaissance Survey of Roads between Taranaki and the North Island Main Trunk Railway,' 1888, C.1A: Appendices 29–31.

Smith, S. Percy. 'Notes on the Present State of the Country Immediately Round the Site of the Eruption of Tarawera,' 1894, C.1: 81–83.

Strauchon, John. 'Exploration of the Southern Portion of Tautuku Forest,' 1885, C.1A: Appendices 27–28.

— 'Topographical Reconnaissance of Tautuku Forest,' 1886, C.1A: Appendices 16–18.

Weetman, Sidney. 'Reconnaissance Survey of New Routes to the Hermitage,' 1897, C.1: 118–119.

Wilmot, E.H. 'Exploration and Topographical Survey in Fiord County,' 1897, C.1: 119–121.

Two later reports of exploration are:

Preston, R.W. 'Exploration of Tutoko, Cleddau and Hollyford Valleys with a View to Finding a Return Track from Milford Sound to Lake Wakatipu,' *Records*, 1: 25–26 (1923/4).

— 'Exploration of Part of Quadrilateral Bounded by Sutherland Sound, the Arthur River, Milford Sound and the Tasman Sea,' *Records*, 1: 26–27 (1923/4).

Though not part of Survey Dept reports, the following significant papers should be noted:

'Conference of Chief Surveyors,' 1873, H.1: 14p. Report on state of N.Z. surveys.

Palmer, H.S. 'The State of the Surveys in New Zealand,' 1875, H.1, 33p. Often very critical.

Thomson, J.T. 'The Surveys of New Zealand,' 1877, H.17A: 19p.

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