



Some Bookplates in the Hocken Collections

'Knowing I lov'd my books...'
Prospero in 'The Tempest'

Bookplates are often called *Ex Libris* because they commonly bear these words, meaning in Latin *From the books* [of so-and-so]. They are the mark of a book lover, one who wishes to show pride in ownership and link his name with this valued book even to posterity. An autograph signature would do this, but bookplates can add dignity, visual delight and insight into personality. They can be small works of art and fine craftsmanship, or mere amateur efforts, but all are ideal collectables.

Leaving aside Pat Lawlor's earlier Beltane Book Bureau pamphlets, the first substantial book about New Zealand bookplates appeared only in 2001 — *In Another Dimension: Auckland Bookplates 1920–1960* by Ian Thwaites (Puriri Press, Auckland). Ian, formerly Librarian at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, is currently president of the Auckland Ex Libris Society. This is a fine scholarly book, but restricted to Auckland artists in the period of greatest activity and enthusiasm. Some other artists are given brief mention, but this just serves to point out the need to cover the wider New Zealand field and broaden the scope to include bookplates used in New Zealand, or by expatriates, or even by persons (especially historical figures) with strong New Zealand connections. Having collected armorial bookplates myself for forty years, I offered to help and the extended hunt was on!

Librarians of all kinds, while sympathetic, are generally unaware of their holdings of bookplates, and many libraries no longer even add a bookplate to their new acquisitions. Two world wars dealt severely with such niceties for two generations of potential book lovers vanished. Books became less precious as they increasingly poured from the presses, and artists found that designing bookplates was an uneconomical use of their talents.

Just in the last few years acquisition cataloguers at the University of Otago have been instructed to include a notice about bookplates already existing in pre-owned books. These can be found in the on-line catalogues by typing *bookplate* in the Search panel. Of course the entries are still few, as the old collections have not been re-catalogued.



A Hilda Wiseman design for Dr Morris Watt. The Hocken has his collection of bookplates of medical men.

Notable collections of earlier bookplate collectors are to be found in most major libraries. Auckland Public Library has the 1000+ personal collection of Miss Hilda Wiseman (1894–1982). She was the most prolific of the New Zealand bookplate artists, with 133 listed in Thwaites, mostly linocuts.

Auckland War Memorial Library has the largest collection, 7000+ in the collection of Percy Neville Barnett (1881–1953) the expatriate who was at the centre of a group of wealthy Sydney businessmen collectors. This library also has its own collection of New Zealand bookplates, swelled by 200+ plates

from the collection of Johannes Carl Andersen (1885–1965), formerly Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library and president of the New Zealand Ex Libris Society from 1930.

The greater part of the Johannes Andersen collection, however, especially his mounted collection, is held at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. The Turnbull also holds the quickly amassed collection, 5000+, of David Graham (1885–1965) donated in 1963 and contained in more than forty cardboard boxes.

Christchurch libraries are ‘cultural deserts’ for bookplate collectors, but there is one important private collection in the Christchurch area, so eventually the city may ‘redeem’ itself.

Dunedin Public Library has the books of A.H.Reed, himself a member of the Ex Libris Society, and a card catalogue lists the bookplates to be found in the books he bequeathed. A bibliophile by nature, he would never consider removing any bookplates from his books. The good collection of Dr Morris Watt (1892–1973) is split. The Dunedin Public Library has his mounted plates, in two folders, ‘Armorials and General’, acquired from his family through George Griffiths. Dr Watt was a correspondent of Neville Barnett and most of these plates are choice items by the best bookplate artists. The Hocken has his collection of bookplates of medical men, splendidly housed in a de luxe stamp album. I was given some 200 of his old armorials, in mixed condition, and his copy of Neville Barnett’s *Australian Bookplates*. These will rejoin his collection in the Hocken in due course.

Dr Watt’s own bookplates are in his books; the first by Hilda Wiseman, which shows simply his arms as in his 1947 grant from the Lord Lyon King of Arms, along with the Rod of Aesculapius. The second, a much more elaborate design by Mrs Katherine Chart, Herald Painter to the Lord Lyon, exists in two versions; large, printed in red on grey paper, and small in black and white (shown here).

Two bookplates in the Watt album deserve notice, both by Mabel Hill (Mrs John McIndoe, 1872–1956), who was born in Auckland, studied under James Nairn in Wellington and lectured there. In 1896 she went to Paris. When in Dunedin in 1898 she married John McIndoe, the printer, who built a large studio for her at their home in Macandrew Road. Her husband died in 1916, but she painted and taught in Dunedin until 1926, when she went to America and spent long periods abroad, returning briefly to Dunedin between trips. After spending the World War 2 years in Dunedin she settled in England near her second son, the plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe, and continued painting. In 1944 her design was accepted for a bookplate for the Medical School Library for books purchased from a fund subscribed by medical graduates to commemorate their eminent teachers, Professors D.W.Carmalt Jones and F.Fitchett upon their retirement. The original drawing is framed in the Medical School Library.



The second bookplate illustrated here was designed for Sir Archibald McIndoe. Most of Mabel Hill's output was produced overseas and remains abroad, so it is difficult to find other bookplates she may have produced. She did produce a nice plate for D.E. Theomin of Olveston in 1925, showing a galleon approaching the gateway towers of a fortified port, obviously based on the armorial bearings of Bristol where Theomin was born.

Dr Thomas Morland Hocken's own bookplate should perhaps have been discussed first, as it appears in some of his own books. It has a typical earlier 19th century 'spade' shield, nicely engraved but artistically weak. These 19th century armorials were produced in their tens of thousands by heraldic stationers and are of interest to collectors only for their owners and their heraldry.

There is quite a story behind Dr Hocken's arms (see *Heraldry* by Bedingfeld & Gwynne-Jones; Brompton Books, Greenwich, 1995). John Hockin, a Devonshire clergyman, in 1764 obtained a grant from the College of Arms explicitly commemorating an incident in the time of Queen Anne, in which his father, Thomas Hockin, single-handedly drove off a landing party from a French privateer in the Bristol Channel intent on raiding *Godrevey* the family estate. Under fire from the longboat, Thomas vigorously fired back from behind a rock and forced their withdrawal. The motto *Hoc in loco Deus rupes* backs up the story and confirms the spelling 'Hockin'. The shield painted on the grant shows the English lion and Hockin's gun on the red top half, with a wavy shoreline separating the blue (sea) in the bottom strewn with French fleurs-de-lys in disarray. Dr Hocken's bookplate has the lion and gun central and the fleurs-de-lys over the whole shield and in neat array.

The Hocken Library has used his bookplate with different inscriptions for all the books in its collections, and in 1994 had a new drawing made as close as possible for new printings.

A nice little book, *Traditions and Superstitions of the New Zealanders*, has the bookplate of its author and original owner, Edward Shortland (1812–1893), explorer, Maori scholar and brother of Willoughby Shortland, Private Secretary to Governor Hobson. Dr Hocken's bookplate, as its later owner, is on the inside cover. Shortland's plate on the flyleaf has its motto scroll empty, suggesting that both the Shortland and the Hocken arms were 'lifted' from Sir Bernard Burke's *The General Armory*, first published in 1842. This gives no motto for Shortland, and the blason given for Hockin could be interpreted as in the bookplate.

The Godward Collection of books on New Zealand and Pacific history is quite rich in bookplates, mostly those of their original owners and mainly British.

R. Bruce Godward (1916–1992) was born in Invercargill, his father Ernest Robert Godward (1869–1936) having been a young London apprentice workshop engineer who ran away



to sea and eventually settled in Invercargill as a bicycle maker and inventor. He became wealthy through his development of the carburettor and a lady's hair clip. He was athletic, artistic and a book collector. His son Bruce studied art, trained as a teacher, and in 1949 went overseas and became an art psychotherapist, working in English hospitals until 1982 when motor neuron disease forced him home to Invercargill. He had travelled extensively in Europe and had been collecting books on Pacific history for forty years. Many of his books were handsomely rebound (often in lower-cost countries like Portugal and the Baltic states, some with the prices of the rebinding pencilled inside the cover). Very few have his own bookplate (by Rita Angus, but uninitialled) which sadly he did not like. In London Bruce must have patronised the New Zealand collector and expatriate director of the Redfern Gallery, Sir Rex Nan Kivell (1898–1977), an intriguing character whose story requires much unravelling. Correspondence in the Hocken shows they were on friendly terms, with Bruce helping to find items for Rex's famous collection, held in Canberra since 1957. Nan Kivell's most attractive bookplate appears in *A Narrative of a Nine Months' Residence in New Zealand in 1827* by Augustus Earle (1793–1835), draughtsman on the *Beagle*, (London, 1832). There is no indication of the artist's identity on the plate, but it is very 'South-west Pacific'. A 17th century galleon, its forward cannon belching and 'stirring up troubled waters', is off a volcanic island and dominates a chart of New Holland and New Zealand (with the names of the great explorers). On the left is a Maori ancestor pole above a pile of books by the pioneer authors. Most intriguing is the main book on whose back cover is a simple dignified coat of arms; not Nankivill of St Ween, Cornwall, 1620, and not identifiable in British or French armorials. It is suggested that these arms may go with the assumed noble name 'de Charembac'.



A Melanesian scene, possibly New Guinean, dominates the bookplate of James Edge-Partington (1854–1939) a British anthropologist and member of the Polynesian Society, who made a three-year voyage around the Pacific, contacting local peoples and collecting artefacts. He published a three-volume *Album of Weapons, Tools, Ornaments, Articles of Dress... of Natives of the Pacific Islands* in 1890, 1895 and in 1898 after a second voyage. Dr Hocken corresponded with him on friendly terms. His great collection was acquired by the Auckland War Memorial Museum. In the bookplate a prominent panel has his full arms, not very clear, but with the Partington arms (three red arrowheads on gold) overlapping a separate shield which could be for Edge, or for his wife. There are several books with this plate in the Godward Collection.

In *State Experiments in Australia and New Zealand* by William Pember Reeves (2 vols, London, 1902) is the evocative bookplate of Charles



and Mary Trevelyan, with their impaled arms (Trevelyan, Bell) over a gateway. He was Rt Hon. Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan (1870–1958), eldest brother of George Macaulay Trevelyan, Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge. Charles himself wrote *Letters from the Central Pacific* in 1895. He succeeded as 3rd Baronet in 1928. There appears to be an artist's monogram on the gateway, to the right, an S with W and B within the curves. This could be for William Strang, R.A. (1859–1960), although the date 1857–8 is too early both for him and for the baronetcy (1874).



There are over forty old armorials from private English libraries. An example of an early 'modern' style armorial may explain a little heraldry. Thomas Bowman Whytehead (1840–1907) of Fulford, Yorkshire, was a solicitor and Clerk to the Dean and Chapter of York. He was the son of William Whytehead and Francis Westell, heiress of her father Rev. John Westell of Risby. So Thomas's shield shows his arms on the left (dexter) side, which are Whytehead quartered with Westell. These are impaled with his wife's arms. She was Caroline Foster Drought from Kildare. Her arms are also quartered; Drought (a green chevron on gold between three red wolves' heads) quartering Freeland (an ermines chevron on white between three red stars). The Freeland arms would have been inherited through some previous heraldic heiress wife. The colours are indicated by the hatchings. Thomas probably designed this bookplate himself, his initials being very evident. The design is good with the wolf crest properly attached to the wreath around a practical medieval helmet.

There is a strong New Zealand connection with several of the old British plates — Englishmen who were directors of the New Zealand Company.

Sir William Molesworth (1810–1855) 8th Baronet, of Pencarrow, Cornwall, was a director of the New Zealand Association in 1837, which became in 1839 the New Zealand Company, and also a director of the Plymouth Company in 1840 and the West of England Board in 1841. His younger brother Francis Alexander Molesworth was a Wellington pioneer, taking up land in the Hutt and supplying cattle and horses. He was injured while tree felling and returned to England where he died in 1846 (*A View of the Art of Colonization*, ed. by Edward Gibbon Wakefield; London, 1849).

Captain Sir William Symonds, R.N. was also a director of the N.Z. Land Company in 1839. His plate is unusual in showing his crest, a dolphin within a circlet with his motto, and with his knight's helmet with its mantling. The crest should be on the helmet (*The Naval Chronicle for 1810*, Vol. 24; London).

Charles Bowyer Adderley, M.P., of Hains Hall, Warwickshire was a member of the Canterbury Association in 1849. His arms have four different quarters, and are impaled with his wife's arms



Sir William Molesworth.



Sir William Symonds.



Hains Hall, Warwickshire.



Thomas Sumner Cooks.

(Extracts from *Letters of John Robert Godley to C.B. Adderley*; London, 1863)

Thomas Somers Cocks, M.P. was also a member of the Canterbury Association in 1849. His arms have three different quarters, while his wife has two, but with the senior quarter already quartered (*Letters from America* by John Robert Godley; London, 1844)

Beyond the extensive Godward Collection there are numerous smaller donated collections of books, and the Hocken's own acquisitions – some with bookplates of interest.

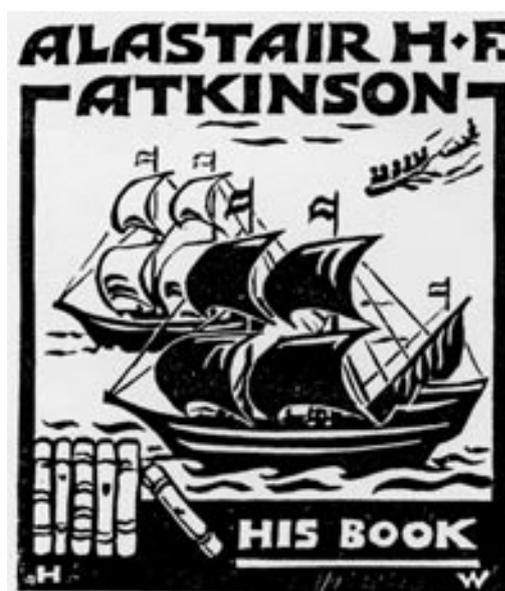
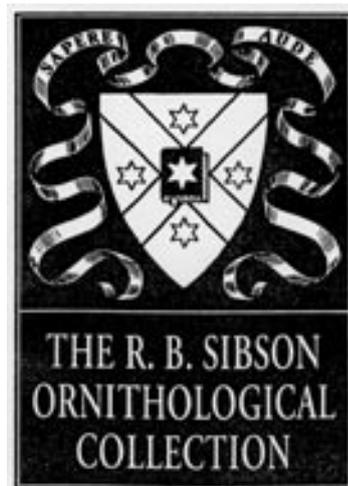
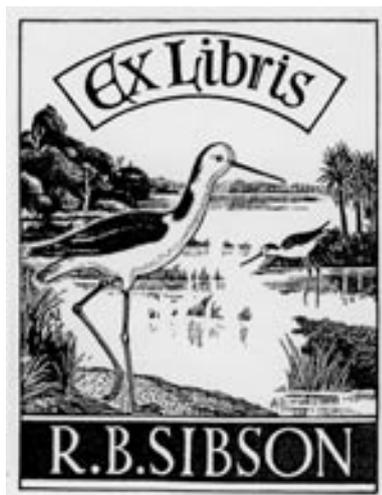
Richard Broadley Sibson (1911–1994), M.A.(Oxon) emigrated to New Zealand from England in 1939, and became Classics master at King's College, Auckland, lecturing also at Auckland University. A member of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand for over 50 years, he was its president 1952–54 and 1980–83, and editor of its magazine *Notornis*. His fine bookplate by Arthur Cecil Hipwell (1894–1964), his friend and colleague, shows wading birds. Sibson's collection of books was graced by a version of the attractive 1948 design of Reynolds Stone for the University of Otago Library. (It was disappointing to find that Reynolds Stone used this design, with different arms and motto for the University Library, Liverpool.)

Maori motifs were commonly used by pakeha until recently, and two examples are given here.

Stanley E. Chapman, Dargaville book collector, had his attractive plate drawn by Arthur Cates, member of the Ex Libris Society and fellow Dargaville resident. Arthur moved to Orewa and gave the original drawing to the Auckland War Memorial Museum Library in 1978 (*Life and Recollections of a New Zealand Colonist by Himself*, Vol.1; London 1866)

William Henry De Luen, of Mt Eden, Auckland. This plate, printed in dark grey-green, could have been drawn by the owner himself, as there are no artist's initials (inside the cover of *Life and Travels of John Ledyard*; London, 1828). The bookplate of a later owner, Alastair Herbert Finlay Atkinson (1906–1975), is on the fly leaf. He was an Auckland accountant, interested in the early voyages to New Zealand and this is expressed in the 1952 linocut designed for him by Hilda Wiseman (1894–1982), foundation secretary of the Auckland branch of the Ex Libris Society in 1930.

In *Narrative of a Tour through Hawaii* by William Ellis (4th ed.; London, 1828) there is a somewhat perplexing, old-looking pictorial-symbolic bookplate, printed in pale blue, of the Gibraltar Garrison Library. Against an outline of 'The Rock' are books, a lyre, a mural crown, caduceus, flag and a floral branch – very Victorian. Under this on the plate is the name of Major-General Sir Alexander J. Godley (1867–1957) GCB, KMG. He was the nephew of John Robert Godley of Christchurch, and a British Regular Officer, who was G.O.C New Zealand Military Forces and created the Territorials



before World War 1. He later commanded the 1st New Zealand Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli, and the New Zealand Division on the Western Front as Corps Commander II ANZAC, and later as XXII Corps Commander (but was not popular with the troops). From 1928 to 1933, before his retirement, he served as Governor of Gibraltar, and he probably donated books to the Garrison Library and with those identifying plates.

Arthur Paul Harper was born in 1865, great-nephew of H.J.C. Harper (1804–1903), first Bishop of Christchurch and later Primate of New Zealand. Both have the old version of the Harper arms (Quarterly; Harper, Strachey, Roberts), very familiar in Christchurch Cathedral and in the stained glass of St Mary's Church, Timaru. In 1899 Arthur married Marion Campbell, of Christchurch, whose Campbell arms are placed (in pretence) in the centre of his shield, showing that she is a heraldic heiress. Both were keen mountaineers (*The Conquest of Mt Cook* by Freda Du Faur; London, 1915)

The Hocken holds on loan the *Ledger Book of Expenditures* of James Fulton (1830–1891) MLC, of *Ravenscliffe*, West Taieri, who married in 1852 Catherine Valpy. It opens in 1859 and records every purchase and notes the number of bales of wool produced. A fascinating document, it is made more so by the many lively sketches of farm life made on the insides of front and back covers, probably by James himself. It has the bookplate of the youngest son of James and Catherine, Robert Valpy Fulton (1865–1924) MD, a very prominent Dunedin doctor. This armorial bookplate has the arms used in the family and which were confirmed in 1897 by Ulster King of Arms in Dublin to John Fulton of *The Downs*, Outram.

In the University Registry building, in the stained glass above the grand stairway, are the coats of arms of the University Council members of 1879 (Bathgate, Cutten, Stuart, Hyde Harris, Cargill, Burns, Chapman, Williams and Chetham-Strode). Surprisingly, only one of these turns up in a bookplate in the Hocken, although those of Hyde Harris and Justice Joshua Williams can be found in books in the University Law Library. Justice Henry Chapman's charming little spade plate with festoons of flowers can be found in some of the books presented to the Hocken in his lifetime.

Of passing interest are five different bookplates in books of the New Plymouth 'character' Fred Burdett Butler (1904?–1982). He was a strange little man of mixed origins, who lived on the main street of New Plymouth in a house filled with books, and claimed to have everything relating to Taranaki, though his collection was later found to fall short of his claims. He founded the New Plymouth Historical Society, and although he was not a member of the Ex Libris Society, he did have good bookplates made for him by local artists. Bernard Aris (1887–1977) the 'Man mad on Mountains' produced at least four of them in 1927. The most



attractive is the tall kauri tree plate, found in the *Piraki Log, or the Diary of Captain Hempleman* by 'the present owner' (Oxford, 1910) which copy has the autograph of H. Guthrie-Smith, 1925.

An imaginative one, also by Aris, could have been called 'In Davy Jones' Locker', (*History of Whangamomona County*, ed. by James Garcia, New Plymouth, 1940). A man reading under a tree in the countryside appears to be later, and bears the artist's name, 'Smart' (*Pioneer Pages* [newspaper cuttings] prepared from the family papers of Miss A.L. Ruddock [HB OEG/L]). A curious point is that three of these bookplates have the notice 'For Reference: Not to be taken from this room', which suggests that Butler was at some stage using his books as a reading or lending library.



The fourth is a small engraved plate showing a shelf with books, an inkwell and quill (*The Pacific* by Stanley Rogers, George Harrap, 1931).

In *New Zealand from Tasman to Massey* by Miss N.E. Coad, is an armorial bookplate with arms obviously made up by someone with little knowledge of, or feeling for, heraldry. The shield has a quarter in the wrong corner, showing the Southern Cross. The helmet has mantling, but no wreath and crest, and the motto scroll bears the word 'Resurgam', usually found on hatchments to dead armigers to express the hope of resurrection. Also on the scroll is the date, 1922, and the artist's initials, ARR — Arthur R. Richards of Auckland. Fred Butler certainly deserves to be the subject of lively research.

Written for the Friends of the Hocken Collections, PO Box 6336, Dunedin, by Jim McCready, edited by George Griffiths and designed by Gary Blackman.