

upturned boat. This, his culminating and largest wooden church, shows creative spatial emphasis with in-depth feeling for local timbers.

*A Dream of Spires* results from thorough scholarly research of Mountfort's well-known and lesser-known designs. Ian Lochhead has written a comprehensive, well-structured, profusely illustrated (if mainly black and white), clearly written book, which is exemplary in its referencing. The publishing too is a quality production. The book constitutes a veritable archive on Mountfort. Yet I wonder whether it is not just a little too formal and lengthy for a wider audience. Lochhead's own enthusiasm and Mountfort's driving architectural spirit do not always shine through. Nor do alternative views on Mountfort's work. While Lochhead has always been strongly against the moving of St Mary's across Parnell Road in the 1980s, he does not mention here Professor Toy's concept of the multi-generation sequence linking to Thatcher's Selwyn Library (even though the link across St Stephen's Avenue has not yet been completed).

Architects are concerned with spatial conceptions, rhythms, materials, scale, structure, proportions, and aesthetic articulation. There is idea, integrity, and wholeness, with details being secondary means. It is a pleasure to see someone other than an art historian write about New Zealand architecture, someone who recognizes that architecture is about more than a comparison of surface styles and unrelated historic details. It is quite untrue to think that nineteenth-century architecture in New Zealand was just copied from England. Ian Lochhead's *A Dream of Spires* offers such an understanding of one architect. I encourage all to enjoy Lochhead's quality book.

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*A Policeman's Paradise? Policing a Stable Society 1918–1945.* By Graeme Dunstall. Dunmore Press in association with the Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, Palmerston North, 1999. 528 pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN 0-86469-356-7.

*A POLICEMAN'S PARADISE?* is the fourth book in a series of five dealing with the history of New Zealand policing. The previous three were written by Richard Hill. This penultimate volume, by Graeme Dunstall, covers the inter-war and Second World War era. The period was a distinctively stable one in the history of policing, but it was, nonetheless, one in which significant changes in the logistics and organization of police work took place.

Although police numbers relative to the population remained stable during these years, rates of violent crime generally declined while property offending increased. The influx of firearms following the First World War, then the Depression of the 1930s and the onset of the Second World War, all had significant effects on policing priorities and methods during this period. Advances such as the acquisition of the first police motor vehicles in 1918–1919, the formation of the Police Association in 1936, the recruitment of the first women constables in 1941 and the development of radio communications in the mid-1940s, also impacted on policing style and efficiency.

Dunstall divides his text into three sections. Following a comprehensive introductory chapter, which sets the context of the book, the first section, 'Continuities', deals with the adjustment period that followed the First World War and perceived problems, such as those presented by the influx of ex-military firearms combined with fears of socialist insurrection. 'Patterns of Policing', the second and largest section, covers specific topics such as the policing of gambling and liquor laws, petty corruption arising from selective application of these laws, the increasing importance of detective work, the differences between urban and country police work, and the continuing surveillance of political activists between 1919 and 1935. The final section, 'Transitions', discusses the period

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1936–1945 and surveys such interesting fields as the role of the police in the detention of war objectors, the control of aliens, and the policing of visiting American troops. The book concludes that the New Zealand population was relatively docile and easily controlled in the inter-war years, and to that extent perhaps New Zealand was, indeed, a ‘policeman’s paradise’.

This book has been many years in the making. The depth and breadth of research behind it is impressive. Apart from a vast range of documentary sources, both published and unpublished, there is also evidence of extensive interviewing of over 100 respondents with first-hand experience of this era. The chapters contain a total of 129 pages of footnotes, there are a number of useful graphs and figures, and 122 photographs. The quality of presentation is such that I was unable to find in it a single typographical error.

*A Policeman’s Paradise?* is a highly informative and analytical history of the New Zealand police over a 27-year period. Because of the meticulous detail offered in every chapter the book moves slowly and at times the reading is hard going. But as an historical record it gives the impression of complete accuracy and thoroughness, careful research and consummate authority. It is an important and enlightening contribution to an area of New Zealand history that has hitherto been largely unknown. Ending in 1945, at the dawn of a new era in New Zealand history, the book leaves the reader in eager anticipation of the completion of the fifth volume.

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