

Reviews (Books)

The First Migration: Māori Origins 3000BC–AD1450. By Atholl Anderson. Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2016. 164pp. NZ price: ebook \$4.99; print \$14.99. ISBN: 9780947492793.

Haerenga: Early Māori Journeys Across the Globe. By Vincent O'Malley. Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2015. 168pp. NZ price: ebook \$4.99; print \$14.99. ISBN: 9780908321193.

Bridget Williams Books has recently published two books on Māori and mobility in its BWB Texts ebook/print format: Atholl Anderson's *The First Migration* on who first came to New Zealand and when, and Vincent O'Malley's *Haerenga* on Māori overseas travel from 1769 to 1884. These are relatively short volumes of about 20,000 words each, and despite a loosely shared theme they are very different in their style and content.

Anderson's *The First Migration* is composed of two chapters, which were previously published as the opening chapters of the award-winning *Tangata Whenua*. Notwithstanding that they originally sat within a larger project, they fit together well as a smaller unit. The origin of Māori and how they got here has been a topic of discussion for travellers, ethnologists and scientists almost since the advent of Europeans to New Zealand, resulting in a range of theories. The first chapter discusses these ideas, but is primarily concerned with pulling together multiple strands of the most recent and compelling scientific evidence from archaeology, linguistics and genetics to trace the movement of humans from Asia into the Pacific, the emergence of Polynesians from within the wider grouping of Austronesians, and their eventual landfall in Aotearoa. Anderson skillfully presents and cross-references the evidence to convincingly argue that Polynesians did not possess the technology to undertake long oceanic voyages against prevailing winds. Climatic conditions allowed a window of opportunity for a population of up to 200 people in perhaps three or four canoes, possibly from several different islands, to settle successfully in New Zealand.

In the second chapter Anderson turns to traditional Māori knowledge in order to corroborate the scientific argument of the first chapter. In particular he argues persuasively for the validity of whakapapa as a scientific tool (notwithstanding its misuse historically by ethnologists of the past) when cross-referenced to other traditions that can be applied to dating Polynesian arrival in New Zealand. Rather than traditional and scientific knowledge sitting at odds with each other, the former confirms that these intrepid explorers reached here about 20 generations ago, from the late thirteenth to late fourteenth centuries, during the window of climatic possibility identified by science. From these newcomers, Māori emerged as a cultural group in New Zealand, and an offshoot as Moriori on the Chatham Islands.

Most BWB Texts are 'commissioned as short digital-first works', although, as noted above, *The First Migration* first appeared as part of the larger *Tangata Whenua*. The latter is made up of 15 chapters, originally published as a lavishly illustrated and beautiful volume for \$99.99, then in an un-illustrated but still high-quality production for \$49.99. In contrast the BWB paperbacks are cheaply reproduced, with plain generic covers and minimal attention to style. Although a good buy as an ebook at \$4.99, these two chapters in print for \$14.99 may be low priced, but not necessarily value for money.

Haerenga takes up the story of Māori voyages from Ranginui, who was captured by early French explorers in 1769 and died three months later off the coast of Chile, to King Tāwhiao and his party who travelled to London in 1884 in order to petition the Queen over Treaty breaches. This volume contains six main chapters, the first four of which predate official British colonization. It is principally organized around short biographical accounts of individuals who travelled for a variety of reasons: after being duplicitously kidnapped, for employment, to see the world, or on trade or diplomatic missions. The structure of this book, with its emphasis on named people, is perhaps its greatest weakness. Most of the travels have been already reasonably well covered by New Zealand historians, and although most of the subjects get at least a few pages each, in telling the stories minimal room is left for a deeper analysis of Māori mobility. While the structure works best for the very early contact period when those named were most likely all the Māori travellers of their period, O'Malley has restricted himself to a number of better-known travel accounts for the later periods. There is thus little discussion of women such as the girls at Marsden's Parramatta school, the large number of working-class Māori sailors, such as the five Te Arawa whom Hoani Hīpango met in London, or those who settled overseas, such as the small but thriving Māori community at The Rocks in Sydney. The book also ignores Southern Ngāi Tahu (who had extensive contact with Pākehā prior to the Treaty) with significant voyagers such as Taiaroa and Tūhawaiki travelling to Sydney in the late 1830s to sell land and acquire goods.

Despite its faults, the book has two features to recommend it. O'Malley has assembled in one volume a number of notable accounts of Māori travellers, and where he has the information to hand, he reproduces what they thought of their destinations and their experiences, thus ensuring an indigenous perspective on these journeys.

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Dumont d'Urville, Explorer and Polymath. By Edward Duyker. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2014. 664pp. NZ price: \$70.00. ISBN: 9781877578700.

Dumont d'Urville, or, to give him his full name, Jules-Sébastien-César Dumont d'Urville, was a nineteenth-century French naval explorer who has been neglected in New Zealand and Australia. The author of this recent biography, Edward Duyker, complains that d'Urville is missing from *An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand* (1966), *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* (1991–) and the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (1966–) (p.14). By contrast, the French government remembers him well. The French Antarctic base bears d'Urville's name, and the authors of two English biographies on d'Urville — Duyker and John Dunmore — have been awarded ranks in the *Ordre des Palmes Académiques*. d'Urville's contemporaries might have been surprised to see such official recognition; to them he was best known as the author of a popular and often reprinted work on exploration: *Voyage Pittoresque autour du monde* (1834–1835).

Though he was gifted at self-publicity, d'Urville was not particularly important in the history of nineteenth-century exploration. He was not accompanied on his