

their work often has to do with other areas or periods; and strange also, because their work is often based on Maori oral traditions which Wilson decries at many points in his book.

As a Pakeha writing about Maori topics he is often in rather deep water, showing a surprising lack of caution in these days when militant Maori reviewers lie in wait for the unguarded Pakeha 'expert'. It is not that there is any lack of sympathy or respect for the Maori in this book; indeed due credit is given for many Maori achievements and innovations; but still, the judgements and the selection of evidence are made from the outside. Wilson's problem is compounded by the nature of the evidence he uses — the writings of the first Europeans in New Zealand, reacting sometimes with shock and horror to an unfamiliar culture. He is not alone in finding this a difficulty.

Nonetheless, with his passion for worrying away at any problem encountered, he tackles some controversial subjects: the reasons for Maori warfare and whether Maori warriors were brave or not; whether homosexuality was present before European influence; abortion and infanticide, especially in relation to the children born of Maori mothers and Pakeha fathers; cruelty towards children and slaves; Maori eagerness to sell their land to Europeans in the 1830s and 1840s. Nobody could say of Wilson, as he himself says of Marsden and Shortland, that they were 'adept at ignoring the unseemly facts of life'. The candour of the detached patrician pervades this book. The crimes, follies and vices of Europeans get equal attention. For example, he blames most of the conflicts which occurred on the ignorance and ill manners of lower class Europeans and he condemns the arrogance of many missionaries. It is perhaps therefore a merit that in such a book neither Maori nor European is given a glossy treatment.

It is a pity that in revising this book he did not make more use of relevant university theses related to his topic. He cites only two theses (by Lila Hamilton and R. P. Wigglesworth). It might have been a very different book if he had made full use of the theses by Kathleen Shawcross, Dorothy Ulrich, Angela Ballara, or Wigglesworth's doctoral thesis, to name only a few. The same unawareness of relevant university research characterized another recent significant work on a similar topic, Jack Lee's *'I have named it the Bay of Islands . . .'* University history departments need to give serious thought to why there is this barrier between their own research and that of gifted non-university writers like Wilson and Lee, for each group has much to offer the other.

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Early New Zealand Botanical Art. By F. Bruce Sampson. Reed Methuen, Auckland, 1985. 142 pp. illus. N.Z. price: \$39.95.

ALMOST 150 YEARS are covered in this presentation of New Zealand botanical illustration, from the time of Cook's first Pacific voyage in 1769 to the publication of Thomas Cheeseman's *Illustrations of the New Zealand Flora* in 1914. The selection is limited to early artists whose works have appeared in published form. Dr Sampson, Reader in Botany at Victoria University, has brought a botanist's eye to the

selection of the illustrations. All have been chosen for their accuracy in depicting native New Zealand plants and are representative of the better examples of each artist's work. In addition, a balance is sought between the familiar and less well-known plants.

The first six chapters survey the visiting artists associated with the voyages of Pacific exploration in the 18th and 19th centuries, while the remaining nine cover resident artists, or artists who, like Matilda Smith or John Fitch, were employed by resident New Zealand botanists to work from specimens.

To set the illustrations in context, Dr Sampson outlines the aims and principal events of the voyages. Only the first two of Cook's voyages are dealt with: the third made no significant contribution to the study or illustration of New Zealand botany. Artists and botanists alike are discussed, so there is a brief outline of the life and achievements of Parkinson, Banks and Solander for the first voyage, and of the Forsters, father and son, for the second. The presentation here, as throughout the book, is straightforward. It is not designed to be an exposition of new theories — the treatment is factual, not interpretative; the information is intended to provide a background and is often of an anecdotal nature.

The chapters dealing with the French voyages are useful to the English reader, who may not have such ready access to the important research carried out on these voyages (they serve, too, as an interesting contrast with present-day French activity in the Pacific!). The three voyages of J. S. C. Dumont d'Urville were followed by detailed published accounts with superb volumes of plates, which were major contributions to the study of New Zealand natural history. A full chapter is devoted to Etienne Raoul, the surgeon on board the Nanto-Bordelaise Company's vessel, *L'Aube*, in 1840–1841. Raoul was also an informed botanist and made the first major study of the flora of the east of the South Island.

The famous English periodical, *The Botanical Magazine*, commonly known as *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* after its founder, William Curtis, has been an important source for the illustration of New Zealand plants from its inception in 1787 until its recent cessation. It is discussed here at some length, followed by a consideration of the work of two major figures in the history of New Zealand botany, Sir Joseph and Sir William Hooker, both of whom were editors of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, in addition to their posts as Directors of Kew Gardens. Of particular significance to this country was Sir Joseph's *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage* (1850, 1852), which exemplifies the high artistic standards demanded by both men.

The remaining sections of the book cover artists or botanists who were New Zealand residents, five of them women. The first resident botanical artist, and one of the most accomplished, was Martha King, five of whose paintings were reproduced as lithographs in E. J. Wakefield's *Illustrations to Adventure in New Zealand* (1845). A brief account of Fanny Osborne's paintings is followed by a closer study of the surveyor, John Buchanan who, like so many other 19th-century surveyors, spread his considerable talents and energies over a wide range of activities, including geology, palaeontology, landscape painting, and the collecting and sketching of botanical specimens. His major contribution to botanical studies, *The Indigenous Grasses of New Zealand* (1878–1880), is also interesting for the process, known as nature printing, used to produce the illustrations. The clear descriptions of this and other printing techniques are useful to the general reader.

The paintings and publications of Georgina Hetley, Sarah Featon and Emily Harris are assessed, and the final chapters examine the more scientific publications of three important botanists. Henry Field's own drawings were reproduced for his

The Ferns of New Zealand (1890). Thomas Kirk's *The Forest Flora of New Zealand* (1899) was illustrated with drawings by various artists of the Survey Department, notably Hugh McKean, Hugh Boscawen, David Blair and Augustus Hamilton. Like Kirk, Thomas Cheeseman did not himself do the drawings for his *Illustrations of the New Zealand Flora* (1914), but Cheeseman's demands could not be satisfied in this country and he selected Matilda Smith of the Royal Herbarium at Kew to prepare drawings, which were then lithographed by John Nugent Fitch. *The Illustrations* provides an appropriate cut-off point, as nothing comparable was to be published for a number of years, and photography would become the principal means of illustrating botanical works from this time on.

The text is aimed at the general reader rather than the specialist in botany, art or history. Dr Sampson's information comes chiefly from existing published sources, which he acknowledges fully. One error arising from inaccurate unpublished source material should be mentioned. Thomas Frederic Cheeseman did not marry Ellen Cawkwell, as stated on page 124. Ellen was in fact his mother: he married Rose Keating. There is also an inconsistency in the form of name used to refer to Dumont d'Urville. Although Dr Sampson explains that this form is in fact the explorer's correct surname, he himself uses the incorrect form D'Urville.

The forty-eight full-page plates (thirty in colour) are as close as possible to facsimile size and are amply annotated with botanical and common name, a description of the species, and other relevant details. The design of the book, with plates arranged in groups, means that plates do not always appear in the chapter to which they relate. However, the book is not lengthy enough for this to be a major problem. The quality of reproductions is high and works in a variety of media, including water-colour, engravings, lithographs and chromolithographs, are illustrated. The colour reproduction is praiseworthy for its accuracy — often a problem in the case of delicate watercolours or hand-colouring. A select bibliography leads the reader to more specialised works and there is an adequate index, which covers botanical and common names of plant species, thereby making a glossary unnecessary.

The overall design is attractive, with a clear type-face and generous margins. While not a work of original scholarship, this book is very useful in collecting and summarizing information from a variety of scattered sources and presenting it in an assimilable fashion. The price keeps it within the range of a number of readers to whom it may appeal on various counts.

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The Amuri: A County History. By W. J. Gardner. The Amuri County Council, Culverden, 1983 (2nd edn). 492 pp. N.Z. price: \$35.00.

THE AMURI COUNTY has made a fortunate choice of historian, a local son with a deep affinity for his region, who also happens to be a leading New Zealand historian with a special interest in regional history. And Gardner has been fortunate in his region which, as he notes (p.475) 'has what must rank among the best natural county boundaries in New Zealand', and which has sustained a small population (3061 in 1981)