

no longer reproducing themselves, and in another generation would be aged significantly in composition and beginning to decline numerically. Because of this demographic scenario Borrie sees New Zealand's economic development in the late 1930s, and by implication its immigration policy, at the crossroads. Unfortunately, this preoccupation is not clarified until the final (and most interesting) chapter of the book, where, for the first time, he provides justification for the purpose and chronological sweep of his work. Borrie argues the case for renewed immigration (as natural increase of the Pakeha population could no longer be relied upon to maintain population growth), the deliberate fostering of secondary and tertiary industries at the expense of the primary sector, and a search for new sources of immigrants: Britain, the traditional supplier, was itself in the throes of 'population scare', and could no longer be regarded as having a 'surplus population'. There is a brief suggestion that political refugees from middle Europe might provide the new generation of immigrant recruits.

Had this belated publication been justified on historiographical grounds, we would expect some form of editorial introduction: discussing the contemporary context in which Borrie wrote; explaining why his prognostications did not come to pass; asking questions and drawing generalizations from his evidence, and relating these to issues current in studies of international migration. Without a formal introduction (and indeed without even an index) to this work, Borrie's modest aim that its publication 'assist future scholars in the field' is unlikely to be fulfilled. As it stands the book provides a detailed descriptive overview of immigration policies and possibly a shortcut to the relevant primary sources, but it may also confirm existing prejudices that the outcomes of studying European migrations to New Zealand are predictable and boring. In view of exciting and innovative research currently underway at ANU's Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies, this achievement is disappointing.

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*The German Connection: New Zealand and German-speaking Europe in the Nineteenth Century.* Edited by James N. Bade. Oxford University Press, Auckland, 1993. 268 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 019-558-2837.

THE 1773 VISIT of Georg and Johann Forster to New Zealand is thought to have been the first direct contact between Germany and New Zealand. Having accompanied Cook as a scientist, Georg later built his career describing his observations in the 1777 classic, *Voyage Around the World*. Some 86 years after Georg's visit, two New Zealanders, Wiremu Toetoe Tumohe and Te Hemara Rerehau Paraone travelled to Austria. Returning to New Zealand with a printing press, a gift from the Austrian Emperor, they too set out on a publishing career, producing the King Movement newspaper, *Te Hokioi e Rere Atu Na*.

However, most interaction between New Zealand and German-speaking Europe was, in the years preceding the First World War, overwhelmingly one-way. German-speakers came to New Zealand to explore, settle, and further their scientific, artistic, business, and spiritual careers. This collection of 25 essays by 20 different authors seeks to illuminate some of the collective and individual contributions of those who came here as visitors and settlers. As the editor notes, the book could more properly be titled the German-speaking

Connection. This definition of German serves to include German-speaking Swiss, Austrians, Czechs and Poles but excludes Gottfried Lindauer, who, in spite of his name, spoke Czech and identified himself as such.

The experience of German settlers and visitors as a group has been largely neglected in New Zealand historiography. James Bade attributes this gap to a reluctance to write about the influence on New Zealand of people from countries which New Zealand regarded as enemy states for a considerable part of the first half of this century. New Zealanders bearing German accents or surnames suffered much persecution during this period, as did their few 'German' institutions. Although 1914 was chosen as the cut-off date for the book, some examples of later persecution are given: the bells in the German Protestant Church in Christchurch, a gift from the German government, were removed and melted down and reputedly sent to France for ammunition. The chapters of this book detail the integration and assimilation of the German settlers into the predominant Pakeha culture during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. A comprehensive study of their contrasting experience of the First World War is now required.

The challenge of dealing with the diverse range of activities of Germans in New Zealand is met by dividing the book into five sections. The first section, on German and Austrian interest in New Zealand and the South Pacific, places this area in the context of Great Power expansion and commercial rivalry. The three essays in this section give a fascinating outline of German territorial annexation in the South Pacific and the activity and impact of the many friendly German naval visits to New Zealand.

As a group who integrated and assimilated into Pakeha New Zealand (a quality for which they were favoured as immigrants) the scope of nineteenth-century German settlement in New Zealand has been obscured. Various chapters outline the different settlement schemes (both official and unofficial). Rhys Richards has contributed an excellent discussion of the Chatham Islands scheme, which ended with the ensnarement of the German Colonization Company in the adventurism of the New Zealand Company. The chapters on specific settlements and regions will provide valuable information for local historians.

The contributions of individual Germans to the arts and sciences and commercial enterprise in New Zealand are discussed largely within a biographical format. It is notable that while the businessmen discussed lived the remainder of their lives in New Zealand tending their businesses, most of the artists and scientists returned to Europe to continue their careers.

The frustrations and difficulties faced by the German missionaries make up the final section of the book. Finding on arrival that the British missionary societies had already staked their claims to most of New Zealand's heathen, the Germans were forced to the outer edges. One group went to the Chathams, another to Ruapuke Island. However, Catholic missionary activity caused the British to recognize their Protestant kin, and room was found for the German missionaries on the mainland.

It is almost inevitable that with the diversity of topics covered and the number of authors *The German Connection* is a little uneven in tone and disjointed in places. The traditional focus and organization of the sections and chapters has marginalized the experiences and contributions of many of those involved in *The German Connection*. With the exception of Margaret Sutherland's chapter on the missionary, Anna Dierks, and James Bade's on the Subritzky's of Houhora, the experiences of women are rarely mentioned. Similarly, some discussion of the lives of the immigrant children and those born here would have broadened the impact of this book.

However, such criticisms must not detract from the material of great value that is presented here. Clearly organized by topic and well referenced and indexed, *The German Connection* will be an excellent source for historians. The beautiful cover and plentiful

and well-produced illustrations will ensure the book appeals to the wide market it deserves.

In bringing together existing scholarships and the results of new research, *The German Connection* succeeds admirably in highlighting the lives of German-speakers in nineteenth-century New Zealand and their contributions to the development of this country.

SALLY MACLEAN

*The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*

*Windows on a Chinese Past.* By James Ng. Volumes 1 and 4, Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1993. 400 pp; 300 pp. NZ price: \$195.00 (Vol. 1); \$125.00 (Vol. 4). ISBN 0-908-774-56-7

JUST OCCASIONALLY in an academic career, an historian may be privileged to review a work of scholarship that is as much a joy to behold as it is an inspiration to read. James Ng's superb *Windows on a Chinese Past*, Volumes 1 and 4, magnificently produced by George Griffiths of Otago Heritage Books, represents for me the single most significant contribution to our knowledge and understanding of an ethnic minority people in New Zealand.

There is just so much to explore in these two volumes that the decision to produce Volumes 2 and 3 at a later date can only ensure that this work receives the attention that it so richly deserves. The photographic reproduction of the detailed notebook compiled by the Reverend Alexander Don in his capacity as Presbyterian Missioner to the Chinese goldminers of Otago and Southland has ensured that this meticulous and unique bi-lingual collection of information about the 3500 men with whom Don was associated during the years 1896-1913 will never again run the risk of disappearing without trace. (The mixed fortunes of the original black notebook should be compulsory reading for all librarians-in-training.) Comprehensive cross-referencing in the index means that students and genealogists alike can mine this remarkable resource for its insights into the occupations, illnesses, origins and education of a substantial group of Chinese migrants. The columns (from p.50 onwards) which list the 'Years from China' and 'Times returned' are poignant confirmation of the personal cost of separation, portrayed so vividly in 'Illustrious Energy', the recent New Zealand-made film on the Chinese goldminers of Otago. Mobility throughout the colony, financial enterprise, poll tax payments and opium fines, family relationships and causes of death: the data base possibilities are obvious but so too is the teaching potential of the individual pages. A reviewer can only hope that teachers of the nineteenth-century New Zealand option at seventh form will be able to purchase these two volumes despite the constraints of school library budgets.

The dustjacket for Volume I opens with the proud statement: 'Never again will the Chinese contribution to New Zealand and its goldfields history be submerged for lack of recorded evidence'. The claim is justified. Readers who are impatient of the evocative and more leisurely insights into the cultural background of the Chinese miners can omit Part I if they must and move to mine the photographic, documentary and contemporary evidence contained in the six detailed chapters of Part II. Tables provide information on age groups, arrivals and departures, earnings, imports, exports, occupations and gender balance. Endpapers and the maps within the text ensure that readers can always locate geographical references mentioned in the text and within Don's diary. The footnotes to