

At Home in New Zealand: History, Houses, People. Edited by Barbara Brookes. Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2000. 256 pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN 1-877242-04-7.

THE SUBJECTS of house design and housing policy are reasonably well-trodden areas in New Zealand scholarship. *At Home in New Zealand: History, Houses, People*, edited by University of Otago historian Barbara Brookes, covers some familiar topics and introduces new ones to our views on houses, homes and the people that live within. Unlike most other published accounts in this area, the collection combines scholarship from a range of disciplines — history, art history, design, architecture, heritage, anthropology and literature. Interdisciplinarity is the strength of this work. The 13 essays, from the 1850s to the 1960s, draw varied connections between design or policy visions and everyday experiences, and between homes and people. Perhaps most importantly, the collection explores the relationships between the built house and life inside it, a connection often neglected in works focusing exclusively on one aspect of houses. Some essays could have made more of their historical context, and while I found the introduction engagingly personal, I would have liked it also to have explored the rich themes of the collection and drawn out some of the common elements — ideas about homes, gender and families, or the evident fascination of scholars in this area with the period between the late 1930s and the 1960s.

Housing design is a focus of several chapters. Ian Lochhead's 'At Home with the Past' examines the local variant of the gothic house, a design form popular here for 150 years. The idea of New Zealand distinctiveness is continued in 'Book, House, Home', where Justine Clark and Paul Walker discuss the work and ideas of post-war architects as expressed through the unpublished 'New Building in New Zealand'. Anna Petersen concentrates on the distinctiveness of interiors in her examination of the adoption of Maori art and design in middle-class Pakeha homes. The connections between inside and outside are picked up in Helen Leach's commentary on the mirroring of house and garden design. A cluster of essays moves the design focus to the state house. Ben Schrader considers the layout of state houses as part of the first Labour government's ideal of family suburbs. Gender and design form strong themes in this essay, and several others, notably Louise Shaw's 'A Woman's Place?', which discusses women's input into the ways that state houses were envisaged. Julia Gatley's 'Going Up Rather than Out', detailing the building of the high density state rental flats in Wellington and Auckland, notes New Zealanders' preference for the detached house and garden. It was a model we were keen to show to the world, as Robin Skinner argues in 'Home Away', an account of the state house replica exhibited at the 1950 Ideal Home Exhibition in London.

Perceptions about people and their houses form another theme. The essays by Margaret Tennant, and Penny Isaac and Erik Olssen focus on connections between the physical condition of houses and the morality of their inhabitants. Both essays draw attention to an enduring discursive construction of 'problem' homes and families, and how such constructions affect official policy. The importance of perception and identity, in this case of and by Maori women and families, is continued in Barbara Brookes' reading of the withdrawal of the 1964 publication *Washday at the Pa*. The ambiguities about the meaning of houses, and the implications of such ambiguities for their inhabitants, are analysed in several essays. Xanthe Howes and Paul Walker focus on the writings of one woman to explore the idea of homes as places of containment as well as opportunity; Lawrence Jones considers the work of several writers who struggled with their confining homes in their search for a place to call 'home'; Charlotte Macdonald examines the ambiguities about the meaning of homes for transient members and 'strangers' in her discussion of the disappearance of the domestic servant. The multiple approaches in this collection have brought out the complex meanings of house and home for New Zealanders.

It is to be hoped that essay collections on other topics may take a similarly broad perspective.

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The Rich List: Wealth and Enterprise in New Zealand 1820–2000. By Graeme Hunt. Reed Books, Auckland, 322 pp. NZ price: \$34.99. ISBN 0-7900-0740-1.

NAMING NEW ZEALAND'S wealthy always causes a stir. *National Business Review* editor-at-large and *The Rich List* author, Graeme Hunt, claims no *Rich List* has been published without protests from Methodist ministers, objections from those listed at their supposed wealth, or even complaints from a more immodest bunch who felt they should have been listed. But *The Rich List* in book form goes further than a biographical sketch of names and business interests. Beginning with some of New Zealand's early colonists, Hunt traces the development of enterprise in New Zealand and those who created the wealth of business.

Hunt divides 1820–2000 into six periods and from his research creates his own *Rich Lists*, listing the top ten individuals/families and their main sources of wealth for 1840, 1855, 1876, 1906, 1936, 1966, 1987, 1997 and 2000. The influences in each period are not new — the early shippers and whalers prior to 1840, followed by traders, merchants and runholders until the establishment of an infrastructure to support manufacturing and development towards the end of the nineteenth century. This in turn followed in the twentieth century with the creation of the welfare state and deregulated economy of the mid-1980s. What will interest and amuse are the individuals Hunt has uncovered who amassed wealth or contributed to the economic development of New Zealand.

Beginning with the pre-Treaty shippers and whalers, Hunt delves into the activities of the fiery whaler, Johnny Jones, and contemporaries, the Weller brothers. Traders also figure heavily in this early period including James Clendon, brewer Joel Polack and Gilbert Mair. In the post-Treaty period the foundations were laid by firms which would provide wealth for their founders and communities including the Nathans, the Levins and John Logan Campbell. Late nineteenth-century entrepreneurs like Hallenstein, Shacklock, Sir John Ross, William Gregg, John Anderson and Rich Hudson reveal the beginnings of an early manufacturing base with strong South Island roots. However, wool dominates the activities of the ultra-rich in both the 1876 and 1906 lists.

Topping the 1936 *Rich List* is brewer Ernest Davis, but the influence of consumer goods was also beginning to show. The Todd family, who with the Myers are perhaps the longest entrants on the *Rich List*, made their fortune in motor vehicles, as did the Gibbons family and Philip Seabrook.

Throughout *The Rich List* Hunt's interest in genealogy shows through. Having compiled his own family history some years earlier, he goes to some length to detail the spouses of the rich and the activities of their descendants at the same time revealing the connectedness of some of New Zealand's business élite.

Perhaps Hunt's greatest contribution to New Zealand business history is his ability to unravel the remnants of the 1987 sharemarket crash. Economists and accountants have looked at the sharemarket and its vagaries, yet the entrepreneurs themselves can be overlooked. Hunt redresses this imbalance as a significant portion of *The Rich List* is about the people who created and, in some cases, lost wealth in the 1987 crash. With