

distinguishes this volume from the often disappointing, lacklustre offerings which characterize this genre at present. It is not surprising that *Pacific Journeys* is well edited, since there were four editors for this relatively slim volume, only one of whom made a written contribution. Titles and chapter headings are notoriously hard to police. It is a pity that Owens's essay carries the spelling 'Whanganui' in the title, but 'Wanganui' throughout the body of the essay. To be fair, however, this is a very attractively presented and well-balanced volume which will appeal to a wide readership among people with an interest in the Pacific, both Anglophone and Francophone.

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East by South: China in the Australasian Imagination. Edited by Charles Ferrall, Paul Millar and Keren Smith. Victoria University Press, Wellington, 2005. 439 pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN 0-86473-491-3.

THIS TIMELY NEW WORK considers the influence of China and Chinese people on culture and society in New Zealand and Australia. The book is elegantly presented, with a stunning cover depicting a sculpture by New Zealand artist Neil Dawson of a dragon (the symbol of China) emerging from an egg made of silver ferns (the symbol of New Zealand). Overall, the book is articulate and thought provoking, with essays covering a wide range of fields including literature, history, fashion, furniture and popular culture. As Charles Ferrell writes in the introduction, attitudes towards China and Chinese people in New Zealand and Australia have frequently swung from Sinophobia to Sinophilia and have had a significant impact on both countries.

For this reader a number of chapters particularly stood out. Duncan Campbell's elegantly written, observant contribution to the volume focuses on the topic of Chinoiserie in the former Wellington residence (now a museum) of New Zealand writer Katherine Mansfield. This beautifully restored mansion is, to those with an eye for Chinese aesthetics, as much a shrine to the writer's early life, as it is an archive of late Victorian/Edwardian Chinoiserie. In the essay Campbell also traces mentions of Chinese people and China-related matters which appear in Mansfield's writings. Campbell utilizes his observation of Chinese influences in Mansfield's life to consider the overall theme of the book: the role that China has played in the Australasian imagination. Campbell argues that 'Both [Sinophobia and Sinophilia] equally are forms of intercultural dissonance that cause the over-inscribed surfaces of both the Chinese living here and the objects in the "Chinese" style that we made use of in our daily lives to become ciphers for our own twinned desires and fears, thus masking us from the commonality of our humanity' (p.182).

Jane Stafford's essay discusses the travel writing of another New Zealand writer with a China connection, Robin Hyde. In a long overdue study, Stafford compares Hyde's travel writing and war correspondence on China in the late 1930s with that of her contemporaries, Peter Fleming, W.H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, James Bertram and Agnes Smedley. Stafford gives a close, witty reading of the works of these well-known authors. Hyde's war correspondence is among her best work and in many ways much more convincing and human than that of her contemporaries. Stafford gives us a detailed analysis of the various aspects of Hyde's writing on China and compares it very favourably with that of her much more famous peers. However, somewhat oddly, Stafford concludes by warning us that there is a 'danger' that Hyde's work is now being over-celebrated by some critics, writing, she claims, from the perspective of 'Feminist triumphalism, a Foucauldian rehabilitation of madness, and a neo-romantic cult of the disordered genius' (p.212).

I was surprised to find my own research the focus of one of the essays in the book, Dugal McKinnon's piece on Rewi Alley. I will take the liberty given me, as an invited reviewer of this book, to reply to the criticism raised in that essay. Though the topic of McKinnon's essay is New Zealand ethnomusicologist Jack Body's 1998 opera on Alley, McKinnon devotes considerable attention to analyzing what for New Zealand reviewers was the most topical aspect of my 2002 book *Friend of China — The Myth of Rewi Alley* (Routledge Curzon), Alley's homosexuality. McKinnon critiques my depiction of Alley's sexuality as 'speculation, based on circumstantial and anecdotal evidence' (p.264). McKinnon instead quotes favourably from journalist/writer Geoff Chapple's March 2003 *New Zealand Listener* review of my book which claimed (without producing any evidence) that Alley was not in fact homosexual and also slanderously and cruelly attacked one of the key sources of my work on Alley, Courtney Archer. McKinnon interviewed Chapple to discuss the controversy over the book, but did not bother to interview me. For the record, I would like to state that the following interviewees all told me in the course of my research on Alley that they knew from personal observations and conversations with Alley that he was homosexual: Joy Alley (Alley's sister); Rod Alley and David Somerset (Alley's nephews); Courtney Archer, Nyrene Masson, Bob Spencer, Max Wilkinson (all worked with Alley at Shandan); Peter Townsend, Mavis Yan (worked in the co-operative movement with Alley). Due to reasons of space in the writing of the book I could only cite a limited number of quotes from these sources. But all interviewees' names were listed in the bibliography. After the controversy over the book erupted in the media, one of my interviewees publicly stated that Alley was not homosexual. She later told me in private that she had done so under pressure from members of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society.

China has long loomed large in the New Zealand and Australian imagination and been the subject of many historical and contemporary controversies. China has had an unusually strong impact on both countries and continues to do so. For China, in both Australia and New Zealand, has frequently been seen as the 'Other' which has had a key role in shaping the national identity of these two, relatively young nations. This role has been under-studied and misunderstood and, as such, this new volume of essays is a welcome contribution to greater knowledge of New Zealand-China, Australia-China relations, and the history and culture of Australia and New Zealand.

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Southeast Asia and New Zealand: A History of Regional and Bilateral Relations. Edited by Anthony L. Smith. Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies/New Zealand Institute of International Affairs in association with Victoria University Press, Wellington 2005. 392 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 0-86473-519-7.

THIS BOOK IS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL REVIEW of the history of New Zealand's relations with the 11 countries of Southeast Asia. Successive *New Zealand in World Affairs* survey volumes have usually had just one or two chapters devoted to Southeast Asia. Editor Anthony Smith and his collaborators are to be congratulated on seeing such an unwieldy project — 12 countries, 11 contributors — through to completion.

An introduction by Smith is complemented by a chapter examining the relationship of New Zealand with the region as a whole, including with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Two other thematic chapters look at defence and at trade and investment. The remaining nine chapters look at bilateral relations, if we include in that formulation the chapters devoted to the Cambodian recognition issue, 1978–1990, and