

Remaking the Tasman World. By Philippa Mein Smith, Peter Hempenstall and Shaun Goldfinch. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, 2009. 296pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 978-1877257-62-9.

IN THE FINAL PAGES OF *REMAKING THE TASMAN WORLD* two comments are made that are helpful in defining the scope of the book and should have perhaps appeared in the first pages. The first is that the purpose of the book is 'to take seriously the history of New Zealand's most important and extensive relationship — with Australia' (p.219); and the second is a definition of 'inner Australasia' as encompassing 'much of the east coast of Australia and the whole of the New Zealand archipelago' (p.217). I had found myself throughout the book feeling frustrated by key aspects of the Tasman world being defined by New Zealand preoccupations, as well as by the representation of 'Australia' as a homogenous lump, as if somehow federation had erased its vast regional differences. Clarifying both the viewpoint and regional bias of this book (towards the eastern coast of Australia, south of Brisbane) at the beginning would have nipped these two frustrations in the bud.

This is a study which aims to demonstrate that the connections and ties established in the nineteenth century survived the hardening of national boundaries in the twentieth. By and large it is successful in showing that migration for work, the search for broader markets and artistic horizons, as well as travel for sport and entertainment, continued and strengthened alongside policy developments, especially the bundle of arrangements usually involving the label 'Closer'. The expected topics of trade, defence, sport and social policy are the subjects of chapters, along with the broader ranging 'Living Together' and 'Learning Together'. Some chapters have an unexpected focus, particularly Stuart McMillan's on defence which is almost exclusively about the post-1985 defence relationship. General readers and undergraduates at whom the book is aimed will, I think, find the complete absence of a discussion of World War I puzzling. Historians will feel that this leaves the major plank of the Tasman myth untouched.

Parts of the book, usually appearing in the wider-ranging chapters, are insightful and useful, and hint at future research directions. Examples include the exploration in chapter 1 of the Tasman world as a map of systems, and the all too brief glimpses in chapter 3 of the shared culture of gambling, circuses and other shows. The outlining of tensions between states over the trade in fruit and vegetables leads to an intriguing but again brief discussion of 'how engagement with New Zealand obliged adjustments to the federal system in Australia' (p.103). I wanted more of this kind of analysis.

I struggled with other aspects of this book. In some parts the choice of focus closed down rather than opened up discussion. This was most obvious in the chapter on sport which centred on rugby union and rugby league, cricket and netball. It was consequently an account of New Zealand preoccupations rather than of the Tasman world in which the majority of occupants followed horse racing, boxing and Victorian rules football. Perhaps more fruitful analysis of the sporting relationship could be had through the examination of the Sydney-based *Referee* which reported provincial New Zealand cricket results as well as cycling, athletics and rough-riding competitions featuring Australians and New Zealanders.

I was irritated by what I thought a disproportionate engagement with journalist Paul Kelly's notion of 'the Australian Settlement' from the introduction to his book about the 1980s. Mentioned in three chapters, it struck a defensive note and credited Kelly with more gravitas than was merited. I also found the glib reiteration of old generalizations disappointing, particularly the paragraph on the pillars of nation-building citing the common 'bleeding of Anzacs in war' as well as a rather tired line on women's political representation. The absence of a discussion of white women's suffrage in the region was surprising given the strength of comparative historiography in the area, especially

by Patricia Grimshaw. And, at the risk of sounding defensive myself, to suggest that 'a different gender dynamic was at work than in Australia because New Zealand's pioneer mythology allowed room for mother figures and aunts to become women leaders' (p.144) might take Joan Kirner and Carmen Lawrence (not to mention generations of feminist historians) a little by surprise.

The authors describe this book as, in part, 'a sequel' to Denoon, Mein Smith and Wyndham's *History of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands* (p.257). In fact, this book is part of a historiography which has been developing for nearly 40 years in which nationalist myths and separate historiographies have been posited against the persistent evidence of supra-national relationships. Through it all, historians like Geoffrey Bolton have been arguing for a more regional approach to 'Australian' history; indeed he is cited doing just that on page 208 of this book. The analysis of school textbooks in 'Learning Together', while lively and interesting, was a section that raised both questions of localism and of connections with other dominions. Were Canadian textbooks a similar mix of generic imperial content with local interspersions? Alan Atkinson's work on the way geography was taught in South Australia compared with Victoria suggests that pedagogic differences shaped the world view of the states' inhabitants, and so I expected a more nuanced analysis here. In other sections, looking outward rather than inward, I wondered about a wider range of exchanges: given the shipping links between Auckland and San Francisco or Durban, the rise of cinema and the wireless, what was the broader set of cultural influences on the Tasman world in the twentieth century? Overall, the persistence of the authors of *Remaking the Tasman World* in attempting to marry the national historiographies is useful for reminding us of the stubbornness of 'national' preoccupations even in the face of both trans-national and more localized developments in history writing. The emergence of studies that see Darwin as being strongly linked to Singapore (as in the work of Claire Lowrie) or of Western Australia as part of an 'Indian Ocean world' move us in those directions, just as the localized histories produced by the Waitangi Tribunal process are breaking up the national historiography of New Zealand. All in all, now the Tasman world has been 're-made' it is time for these trends towards more local and more global analyses to move the discussion of the Tasman world to new territories.

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Gaining a Foothold: Historical Records of Otago's Eastern Coast, 1770–1839. By Ian Church (general editor). Friends of the Hocken Collections, Dunedin, 2007. 467pp. NZ price: \$120.00. ISBN 978-0-473-10145-9.

NEW ZEALAND'S CONTACT HISTORY IS RICH AND DIVERSE, but tracing the people, events and experiences of those decades is complicated by the difficulty of locating that past in the textual archive. *Gaining a Foothold* offers a rich array of historical records for students and scholars of the early contact period. While the collection locates itself on Otago's eastern coast, many of the sources in fact detail moments of encounter and interaction in the wider southern regions of New Zealand. The work of compiling this impressive set of documents lies in the hands of a number of people, who, in combination, represent a wealth of knowledge about Otago's early history, amongst them Ian Church (the general editor), Peter Entwisle, George Griffiths, Rhys Richards and Gordon Parsonson.

As a collection of documents, this compilation does not offer a radical revision of Otago's early contact history, nor is it framed by analytical concerns. The goal of the