



# WELCOME TO THE HOCKEN

FRIENDS OF THE HOCKEN COLLECTIONS : BULLETIN NUMBER 5 : JULY 1993

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## Mirrors of the earth: a guide to Hocken maps

Dr Hocken's primary interest, besides manuscripts, was in the printed word, so books, pamphlets and periodicals were collected with enthusiasm. In collecting maps, however, Hocken was far more selective, concentrating on acquiring samples of the earliest maps dealing with the country and its settlement, but largely ignoring the maps commonly available during his lifetime in Dunedin.

As a result, when the Library's map collection was catalogued in 1912, fewer than 80 maps were recorded. The acquisition policy followed by the Library over the next few decades still generally continued to ignore maps, for even by 1936 fewer than 150 were catalogued.

Indeed, until the 1960s it appears that additions to the map collection were largely by gift with the occasional purchase of historically significant items. But in the 1960s a policy of active collection began, with the aim of including modern map series and miscellaneous maps, as well as obtaining out-of-print items whenever possible. Today, the Map Collection includes over 12,500 items, while many other useful maps are included in other areas of the Library, such as printed official papers, or as part of archival holdings.

making assumptions and using doubtful information. The Library's 'New County Map of New Zealand ...', published in New York in 1891, shows railways supposedly built between Greymouth and Nelson, and Rotorua and Tauranga!

### Information provided by maps

Maps are but one source of information and should be used in conjunction with other printed, archival or visual material. Maps may provide useful data on such topics as:

- Changes in landscape, including changes in shorelines;
- Location of buildings of former times;
- Development of, and changes in, roads, railways and tracks;
- Former place-names;
- Cadastral information, such as boundaries of properties. Maps may sometimes include the names of property owners;
- Location of earlier Maori settlements;
- Urban expansion;
- Goldmining, timber-milling and other past resource development.

But be warned! Maps may mislead as well as inform, and particular care must be exercised in using maps published overseas during the 19th century, as many cartographers were not above

*Part of a sale plan of freehold land and cottages, Caversham, dated during the 1870s–80s. The Hocken map collection contains numerous such sale plans for Dunedin.*

### Using the Collections

1. The Library Assistant in charge of maps works part-time — every morning except Thursday. Other Library staff will assist readers with map inquiries, but if major research using maps is being undertaken, initial contact should be made with the map librarian.
2. The Map Collection is housed on the ground floor of the Hocken Library, and the current map

librarian (July 1993) is Karen Crow. She may be phoned at [03] 479-8377.

3. As with the other Hocken Collections, the map cabinets are closed to the general public, so it is not possible to browse through them in search of relevant material. The maps are basically arranged area by area, rather than by topics, so that all maps on a particular topic are not necessarily located together. Potential users are therefore recommended to contact the map librarian *before* visiting the Library and advise their area or topic of interest. This will allow relevant maps to be sorted out in advance, from different storage areas if necessary, and will save the inquirer's time.

4. As with all Hocken material, users are asked to handle maps with great care, as many older items are rare and/or fragile. Users should never fold maps, nor write notes on paper placed on top of them. In some instances readers will be required to use photo-copies rather than originals.

## Major holdings

**Pre-1840 maps:** A number of 17th, 18th and early 19th century maps are held which show New Zealand within a hemisphere, or as part of a wider geographic area (such as America). Some of these maps are reproductions. After James Cook's first visit in 1769-70, his map of the country was widely copied, and British, French and Italian versions are included in the collection. There are also examples of maps of New Zealand published in the 1830s and 1840s which show the changing state of knowledge about New Zealand's geography.

**New Zealand Company maps:** Dr Hocken acquired a number of maps showing the early New Zealand Company settlements of Wellington, New Plymouth, Nelson and Otago. Early maps of Canterbury, however, are often bound into publications and information about these is obtainable from the map librarian.

**Cadastral maps:** Early cadastral information is included on the sheets of Survey Districts first published more than a century ago, usually at a scale of 1 inch to 1 mile (1:63,360). Examples of these maps are held for the whole country, though the coverage is not complete. More detailed information is given on maps of Blocks within the Survey Districts, which were published for Otago from the 1860s onwards, though survey dates may be as early as the latter half of the 1840s. These Block maps are usually at a scale of 1 inch to 20 chains (1:15,840). Both these series often include

some topographical information. Coverage is primarily of Otago-Southland.

There are also a few cadastral maps which apply to Maori reserves, such as that published in 1893 covering 'Blocks A, B & C Taieri Native Reserve' which in this instance also includes a table listing names of owners and the size of areas held.

NZMS 177 cadastral maps (1:63,360), the sheets of which cover the same area as the equivalent topographic maps (NZMS 1), are held for most parts of New Zealand, but the current cadastral maps (NZMS 261) are held only for Otago-Southland.

**Topographic maps:** New Zealand-wide coverage is held of NZMS 1, although not all editions of every sheet have yet been obtained. First publication of NZMS 1 was in 1939. Current metric topographic maps (Info Series 260) at a scale of 1:50,000 are held for all New Zealand.

**Land Settlement maps:** A good collection is held of land settlement maps for the Otago and Southland land districts. These large-scale maps, issued particularly from the 1880s to the late 1930s, show specific pastoral leases being offered for lease, lands offered under lease-in-perpetuity, estates subdivided under the Lands for Settlement Acts and Land Act 1908, and lands for sale and lease to discharged soldiers after World War I. Data on these maps may include land conditions (e.g. swamp, bush, pasture, ploughed land), water races, hedges and fences, buildings, neighbouring owners or occupiers. On a number of the maps, manuscript annotations provide the names of successful applicants.

**Town Plans:** There are four major sources of town plans: those published by some of the provincial governments; those published by the former Lands & Survey Dept. (now DOSLI); those published by municipalities; and those published by private companies. The Hocken is strong in 19th century town plans published by the survey departments of the Otago Provincial Council and Central Government. These are listed in R.P. Hargreaves, *Nineteenth Century Otago and Southland Town Plans*, Hocken Library Publication No.3, 1968, and *Supplement*, Hocken Library Publication No.5, 1971. Recent street plans, published as NZMS 271, are held for towns throughout New Zealand.

The Hocken also holds a limited number of street maps published by individual municipalities, such as that issued by the Mornington Borough Council in 1877. Privately published town plans are primarily those which first

*Detail from map 'Diocese of New Zealand' published by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 1841.*

appeared in directories such as Harnett's in the 1860s, or Wise's or Stone's from the 1880s onwards. These may show, as in the case of Dunedin, municipality and ward boundaries, and selected public buildings.

**Sale Plans:** The Hocken has a large collection of sale plans dealing with property subdivisions in the greater Dunedin area, plus some fewer examples from elsewhere in Otago. Besides basic cadastral information, buildings are also at times included, and occasionally the names of occupiers of neighbouring properties. Some sale plans have manuscript additions listing names of purchasers and prices paid.

**Road maps:** Road maps, particularly those published by oil companies and Automobile Associations, are held for all areas of New Zealand. These date mostly from the 1930s.

**Farm Location maps:** Usually prepared by local service organisations, these maps give the names of farm occupiers (who may or may not also be owners) in many rural areas, particularly of the South Island. Otago examples include the Taieri (1966 and 1986), North Otago (1971) and the Maniototo. *Farmfind* rural location maps which cover the whole of Otago were published in book form (1990).

**Geological maps:** A scattering of early geological maps at varying scales are held, along with a good coverage of recent ones issued by the N.Z. Geological Survey. Note that the various Geological Survey Bulletins also contain many maps, and these are available from the 5th floor Reference Desk.

**Hydrographic Charts:** The Hocken has a good selection of early charts published by the British

Hydrographic Service, covering most of the New Zealand coastline. These are listed in R.P.Hargreaves, *Nineteenth Century British Hydrographic Charts of New Zealand*, Hocken Library Publication No. 4, 1969. There are also a number of non-official charts published in New Zealand or Australia, such as that of Tryphena Harbour (Great Barrier Island) dated in the 1840s.

First and later editions of charts published by the Hydrographic Branch, N.Z. Navy, are also held for all the country, as are also the Coastal and Lake Series charts of the N.Z. Oceanographic Institute, which show bathymetry.

It is important to note that while hydrographic data is updated to the last date printed on hydrographic charts, the land information generally is not. This is particularly true of 19th century charts published by the British Hydrographic Office.

**Miscellaneous maps:** Many maps are held which do not belong to any series. Examples include 'Plan of Part of the Town of Wellington Showing the Proposed Harbour Improvements' (1851), 'West Coast Gold Fields with the Roads from Nelson and Canterbury' (c.1864), 'Declared Main Highways' (1927), 'Pastoral Runs of the South Island (1966, revised ed. 1976), and maps of tourist areas dating from the end of the 19th century to the present.

**Vertical Air Photographs:** The Map Library holds superseded large-scale (1:1200) air photographs of Dunedin City which were flown in 1947.

**Atlases:** A selection of early maps and charts up to the 1850s are included in Peter Maling's *Early Charts of New Zealand*, Wellington, 1969. Researchers will find Alan McRobie's *New Zealand Electoral Atlas*, Wellington, 1989, and Brian Marshall's *Atlas of New Zealand Boundaries*, Auckland, 1986, of value. The two-volume *Plans of Land Purchases in the North Island of New Zealand*, 1878, attributed to Henry Turton, contains over 500 plans dealing with Maori land sales. For those interested in transport history, John Yonge's *New Zealand Railway and Tramway Atlas*, 3rd ed., 1985, provides much detailed information. These atlases are available on request on the 5th floor.

**Maps in AJHR:** Maps contained in parliamentary papers, particularly the *Appendices to the Journals, House of Representatives*, should not be

ignored. A complete file of these papers is held in the Hocken (5th floor), but some of the maps included are also filed separately in the Map Collection. Besides many miscellaneous maps, there are valuable series which record changes from year to year. Thus the growing railway network is shown annually on maps included in D.1 from 1871 to 1931, and 1936 to 1939.

Shipwrecks were mapped annually from 1871 to 1922 (in H papers, except for the first two years). Land tenure maps are to be found in C.1 for 1903-1910, with a further map included in 1916.

A preliminary chronological listing of these maps from 1861 to 1907 is contained in R.P.Hargreaves, *Maps in the Appendices to the Journals, House of Representatives*, published in two parts, 1968. As these are not indexed, a more useful approach is by means of two related articles: 'Maps in Nineteenth Century N.Z. Parliamentary Papers', in *N.Z. Libraries*, v.26(7), August 1963; and 'Maps in N.Z. Parliamentary Papers 1900-1964', *N.Z. Libraries*, v.30(5), October 1967.

Official Otago Provincial Council publications also contain some maps, and these are listed in R.P.Hargreaves, *Maps in New Zealand Provincial Council Papers*, Hocken Library Publication No.2, 1964. While the Hocken's holdings of the Otago Provincial Papers are complete, those of other Councils are limited.

British parliamentary papers through to the 1870s held in the Hocken also include a number of maps dealing with New Zealand. These are listed in R.P.Hargreaves, *Maps of New Zealand Appearing in British Parliamentary Papers*, Hocken Library Publication No.1, 1962.

**Other Dunedin map collections:** An extensive collection of historical maps of Otago and Southland is held in the Otago Early Settlers' Museum; and inquirers will find historically significant Crown Grant and Land Office maps for Otago and Southland in the Dunedin Regional Office of National Archives, 556 George Street. Smaller collections of historical maps are held at the Dunedin Public Library and in the Dunedin City Council Archives.

## Reminder to users

When wishing to consult maps at the Hocken Library, contact the map librarian if at all possible *before* you make your visit. This will save you valuable time.