

REVIEWS

J. Birmingham, I. Jack and D. Jeans, *Industrial archaeology in Australia—Rural industry*, Heinemann, Australia, 1983; pp.191, \$39.95.

This book, the second of three proposed volumes, contains much information of value to the local historian, industrial heritage enthusiast, historical archaeologist and others interested in industrial history and heritage matters. However, on first flipping through the book, the reviewer was led to ask 'at whom is this book aimed?' The introductory chapter contains the answer. This chapter which includes an interesting, if somewhat dated, discussion of the framework within which industrial heritage can be studied, also contains 'Some Practical Guidelines', a set of do's and don'ts for the instant industrial archaeologist. This clearly establishes the book primarily as a guide to several industries and technologies for the interested amateur, placing the book more in the mould of British industrial archaeology than in that of the American (and one might think increasingly Australian) approach to historical archaeology.

This is not necessarily a criticism of the book, indeed historical archaeology in this country runs the risk of isolating its aims, methods and practitioners from the general community, and more popularisation of aims and results of research is needed if the subject is to retain the attention of the public and politician alike. For its stated audience this book is an admirable addition to a very scarce literature base. To the authors' credit, the text is not written in a wildly populist way, although one might question the basis of the nationalistic assumptions which creep in at times. One might enter into a discussion (mercifully, too long to enter into here!) as to whether the title 'Industrial heritage' might have been more appropriate than 'Industrial archaeology', as several of the chapters have precious little to do with archaeology, and similarly the sub-title 'Rural industry' does not appear to be directly related to the contents of the volume. Indeed, it can be argued that industrial archaeology should not be distinguished as a separate discipline, but should be located, both in its theoretical context and subject matter, firmly within the discipline of historical archaeology.

This book attempts, with varying degrees of success, a multi-disciplinary approach to its subject. The input of history, geography and archaeology, reflecting the authors' own specialities, is both explicitly referred to and clearly seen in the text. However, the nature of these inputs again leads me to feel that the volume falls more into the field of industrial history and heritage than that of archaeology. The relevance of the contributions to the central theme varies considerably. The discussion, for example, of the changing human landscape of the Braidwood area (pp.15-17) is stimulating and useful stuff, but in other places the hand of the geographer lies more heavily, such as in the discussion of the useful concepts of 'occupances' and 'linkages', without calling for due caution in its use by literal-minded readers. The use of the cane industry model (p.18) might lead the local investigator to ignore things not part of the dominant 'occupance' nor associated with its 'linkages', such as the local timber industry, ship-building industry, pastoralism or meat-canning industry in the same district.

The introductory chapter as a whole, however, will prove useful and stimulating to the reader. Similarly Chapter 5, on sources, will be a god-send to many active and would-be researchers. Jack's chapter on flour mills is a useful overview of the distribution of mill remains and the historical geography of milling, while Birmingham's chapter on clay industries provides a good general background to the spread and evolution of these industries. Perhaps the least successful chapter, both in its lack of 'fit' in the book as a whole, and in its internal inaccuracies, is that on 'Building industries—

materials and style'. The 'styles' section would appear, to this reviewer at least, to be out of place in this volume, and to contain inaccuracies. The 'building materials' part of this chapter, while more in keeping with the book's theme, also contains statements which are overly simplistic or just incorrect. These include attributing the 'few' log buildings in Australia to American miners (p.96), claiming slabs were set vertically in New South Wales slab buildings but more often horizontally in Victoria (p.98), suggesting that clapboards and weatherboards are different cladding techniques when in fact they are synonymous (p.98), and lumping all forms of half-timbered earth-walled buildings together as 'wattle and daub' when in fact true wattle and daub is very rare in Australia (pp.100-101).

These comments emphasize the major drawback of the book from the point of view of its use by practitioners in the archaeological or any other specialised field. That is, that none of the chapters represents a definitive statement of its topic. They are of necessity, given their length, generalized overviews only, with little theoretical content, and are therefore in many respects shallow in their approach. The book will certainly be used as a starting point for research, as an instantly available first reference, but it will not be seen as a basic text.

While the book would appear to be well referenced, closer examination shows some unfortunate gaps. The authors cited in the text of the introductory chapter are not referenced, so that the reader may never know who B.W. Higman, Culican, or Otto (pp.20,26) may be, or what they wrote. Other references would not be available to the reader even if he or she looked for them, as in the chapter on clay industries at least three of the references listed on page 93, as being in the *Occasional Papers of the Australian Society for Historical Archaeology*, have to my knowledge never been published.

In terms of book production, the volume is an impressive publication. The text is clear and the photographs are of high quality and on the whole are well captioned. Unfortunately for the authors, the presentation is marred slightly by poor proof reading and occasional lapses into atrocious layout (e.g. p.91). There is a handful of notable typographic errors, at least one repeated line, and Jean's transport chapter suffers serious date reversals and obvious mistakes, such as one which proves that we have all been wrong about Queensland, which was advanced enough to have a coastal railway by 1824! (p.140). The one effort in this same chapter to give a metric conversion for imperial rail gauges gets the sum wrong (p.146). However, the most serious shortcoming in a book of this nature is the absence of an index, an unforgivable omission which will, one hopes, be reconsidered before the next volume is published.

While from an archaeologist's point of view there are weaknesses in *Industrial archaeology in Australia*, it is nevertheless a worthwhile companion to the first volume in this series, and this reviewer for one looks forward to the third volume. It is, for some of its topics, the only modern published source of information, and as such will be referred to by professional and non-professional alike. In dealing with the sites and processes somewhat outside the scope of most books published in the current spate of 'heritage' volumes, and in doing so with much well researched detail, this book helps fill a major gap in the appreciation of our past. For this reason it is recommended reading for anyone interested in the field of industrial history and heritage.

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G. Aplin, S. Riley and R. Cardew (eds), *Proceedings of the Cultural Heritage Conference: The future of our past, the preservation of our cultural heritage; held at the Department of Geography, University of Sydney, 17 October 1981*, Geographical Society of New South Wales, n.d.; pp.65, \$5.00.

It may seem a little tardy to be reviewing the papers of a conference which took place in 1981. However, both the National Trust and Historic Houses Trust are still struggling to produce the papers of even earlier seminars, and other organizations, which an instinct for self-preservation forbids me naming, have probably given up trying. The problem is that, in the field of cultural heritage, developments have been sufficiently rapid to make most papers unexciting in two years, obsolete in three and antediluvian in five. By contrast these papers were published within a year of the conference and have worn well.

The publication is a model production of its type. Modest in size and production, clean in layout, convenient and, thanks to its editors, with a minimum of irritating typographical errors. Had the source and date of the photographs been included it would have been a nonpareil.

The conference was clearly well planned. Dennis Jeans' opening talk on the cultural landscape was particularly apposite. He emphasised interdisciplinary and contextual aspects and illustrated his point by interpreting the evolution of the town of Braidwood in terms of the development of its district. His text is scholarly, clear and pleasantly readable and not without a gentle irony, as when he notes that 'even to see a barn as a "rhematic indigent qualisign" is an advance on our practice of viewing buildings in isolation' (p.8).

Bob Irving advances good reasons for keeping our cultural heritage and suggests certain yardsticks for determining significance. He then outlines the nature of conservation work as recommended in the *Burra Charter* of Australian ICOMOS.

Zula Nittim reviews our urban situation. As ever, she is a socially aware and sensible observer of historical phenomena and poses the problem of gentrification in inner suburbs and consequent displacement of existing low income inhabitants. She finds a partial solution in a range of government actions.

Dr. Nittim mentions one of the more successful interventions of government in the acquisition of the Glebe Estate and notes its uncertain future as a result of the philosophy of the then government. It is a point Athol Munday reserves as the sting in the tail of his account of the rehabilitation of the Estate.

The convenors (mischievously?) kept till last the two gentlemen who probably have the best knowledge of heritage legislation in the state—John Whitehouse, of the Department of Environment and Planning, and Peter James, the Executive Director of the National Trust. This pair are thus enabled to run a sort of desynchronized legal three-legged race which I found enthralling.

The 'overview' provided by the right leg (Whitehouse) is compulsory reading for all persons who are slightly hazy about, but interested in, heritage legislation in New South Wales. Bearing in mind the complexity of the subject it is probably as well honed, succinct and useful an explanation as it is possible to get. However those who may also wish to know how that legislation can be administered in practice should turn at once to the left or sinister leg. Here Peter James gives an equally skilful and succinct account of the Trust's role in 'keeping the government honest'. The nicely-tempered balance of his message does little to reduce the impact of his resumé of the sad stories of the Treasury site, Rural Bank, Parramatta Park and Abbotsford.

It is only the coincidence of juxtaposition that causes James to play King Stork to Whitehouse's King Log. His talk is really about the work of the National Trust. In this respect it is certainly the frankest and most perceptive article on that curious and necessary organization that I have read.

Those readers who regret missing this conference as much as I do, may obtain a copy of the papers from P.O. Box 328, North Ryde, N.S.W. 2113.

James Semple Kerr

M. Pearson and H. Temple (eds), *Historical archaeology and conservation philosophy: Papers from the Historical Archaeology Session ANZAAS Congress, Sydney 1982*, Heritage Council of N.S.W., 1983; pp.vi, 106, \$7.50.

This volume examines a number of issues in the contract and public scene of historical archaeology. As such, it falls into the plethora of publications available on which is now commonly called 'Cultural Resource Management'. The papers included here were first presented at a session of ANZAAS 1982, concerned with conservation philosophy in historical archaeology. No archaeological conference is complete without at least one session convened under the aegis of 'C.R.M.', it being *de rigueur* to joust with questions of publication rights, ownership of data, assessment of significance, and many other things of this nature. Such debate normally generates a degree of heat but seemingly not a lot of light in view of the fact that the same old questions raise their heads time after time with resolution nowhere in sight. It is worth noting that of the eleven articles in the volume, only four have been written by people who we could properly consider to be 'public' archaeologists, whose prime concern is the management of archaeological sites. The maxim of the Nobel Laureate, Arno Penzias, appears to have hit home: 'I am happily too busy doing science to have time to worry about philosophizing about it'.

A wide range of issues are canvassed in the papers presented here. Further debate at conferences is warranted, though I wonder where such papers would rank in Higginbotham's order of publication merit (see his paper in the volume under review).

The first contribution, by Murray, considers why historical archaeologists have had problems justifying not only the conservation of the data base, but also their own existence as a discipline separate from historical geography, architectural history etc. In the first case, he suggests that historical archaeologists need to carefully assess the medium and context used in attempting to convey the importance of preserving historic sites and artefacts (pp.4-5). In the second case, he argues that historical archaeologists need to adopt the adage: 'archaeology is anthropology or it is nothing'.

The problems of interdisciplinary conflict in historical studies are further developed in the paper by Lewis. Specifically, he questions the need for historical archaeologists' involvement in the conservation process, when competent historical architects are available. He sees the archaeologists' role as that of skilled ditch-diggers at the beck and call of those who should really be controlling the show. However, one can understand his position to some extent, given one of his experiences with historical archaeologists (pp.23-4).

Morrison and Spratt's paper on some aspects of the Port Arthur project examines the complementary roles of conservators, geologists, architects and historical archaeologists in a conservation/restoration project. Once again, the historical archaeologist is relegated to the position of over-trained labourer digging holes to verify an engineer's report. It seems as though historical archaeologists are incapable of designing research strategies aimed at resolving peculiarly archaeological problems.

Birmingham's contribution considers the different levels of information/knowledge contained in the industrial heritage of Australia. She identifies three functional levels in this record:

1. It can provide a 'feel', or experience, of the period to the visitor.

2. It can serve as a more formal educational facility for the public 'by means of informative . . . presentation'.
3. The site can offer research potential for the resolution of a particular question of technological development.

Birmingham suggests that a working party should be set up in New South Wales to establish priorities in site conservation, so that we can ensure it is possible to depict the history of labour in the state through these standing remains.

Cremin appeals to prehistoric archaeologists to examine modern industrial developments when attempting to understand past technologies. If this occurs, Cremin believes that industrial archaeology will truly be part of, and relevant to, mainstream archaeology. I was surprised to find no reference to Rathje and the Tucson Garbage Project in this paper, though the argument is similar and the results of such an approach are likely to be as useful as Rathje's.

Ritchie and Donnachie present potted reviews of what is taking place in industrial archaeology in New Zealand and England respectively. For all Donnachie's assertion that as long as we are dealing with material remains it is archaeology, I for one would welcome further debate on whether it is archaeology or technological history.

Marsh's paper on the conservation of small remains basically follows Birmingham. Marsh's *relics*, *working models*, and *artefacts* equate with Birmingham's levels 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Imashev appeals to historical archaeologists to include trained conservators in their field team. He boldly states that if facilities for preservation and storage of recovered artefacts are inadequate, then the archaeological project should not be commenced. All archaeologists are aware that they are undertaking 'the unrepeatable experiment' and that material should be adequately recorded in the field and stored so that it may be referred to at a later date, but since when has archaeology's primary function been to provide museums with collections of artefacts, and since when has a policy been developed that if a museum does not want the material no archaeological work should be undertaken?

Higginbotham examines the questions of funding, responsibility for publication and scale of excavation that should be undertaken: problems that often confront an archaeologist engaged in contract work. On the publication front Higginbotham suggests '... it would be useful if the consultant under contract facilitated publication by submitting reports that complied with the editorial requirements of professional journals' (p.89). Apart from the fact that contract reports are written for very different purposes to academic papers, which journal's editorial policy should be followed? Different journals have very different formats and requirements. The volume concludes with a paper by Crosby consisting of an annotated flow chart on the bureaucratic procedures involved in heritage projects.

As noted before, I am not sure how many more volumes on 'C.R.M.' the archaeological community can cope with. If more are going to be produced, then at least a reasonable standard of presentation should be achieved. In this book there are typographic errors, references missing from bibliographies, incorrect journal titles in bibliographies, tables not labelled, figures missing, photographs presented that are not tied into the text and an inconsistent referencing system. The editors could also have exercised more rigour in relation to some contributors' expression. There are a number of not-so-clear sentences throughout the volume.

If you are into 'C.R.M.', I suppose you would want this volume. Check with your accountant to see if you can claim it as a conference expense.

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G. Thornton, *New Zealand's industrial heritage*, A.H. & A.W. Reed Ltd., Wellington, 1982; pp.192, plates 185, NZ\$29.95.

In the author's words, 'the aim of this work is to trace the history of various industries and their structures with reference to the forms of building construction and especially the more interesting examples' (p.4). The author, recently retired, an architect by profession, is a longstanding member of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, and currently Deputy Chairman of that august body. Given his longstanding interest in New Zealand industrial heritage, he was uniquely placed to attempt this ambitious project.

The author has elected to survey in some detail 29 major aspects of the industrial heritage. These include such diverse topics as ship building, sheep farming, gold mining, brick making, rope, boot and shoe manufacture, communications (lighthouses, bridges, railways, time-ball stations and livery stables) and sash and door factories. The chapters are not arranged in any particular order or sequence and there is no obvious connection between chapters. Each chapter is exceptionally well illustrated, generally with relevant well chosen plates of structures that are still extant. Whilst the book is a fascinating visual record of a fine cross-section of New Zealand's early industrial sites, the same record also serves to highlight the very sad state of the industrial heritage; machinery in once proud buildings, long since abandoned, fallen into disrepair and disappearing through neglect.

The author follows a similar pattern for most of his chapters. Each industry is briefly introduced, its first appearance in New Zealand is discussed and its growth and spread is traced to around 1910. In general he focuses attention on the person responsible for introducing each industry or some particular technological innovation, on the places where the industries were paramount, and on the dates of introduction. Very little technological information is given, there are few anecdotes and, with the exception of a very broad and brief contextual statement in the introductory chapter, in most cases no attempt is made to set the industries in any social or economic context. Each chapter is carefully footnoted and at the end of the book there is a comprehensive list of references, a very brief glossary, a fairly comprehensive index and a chronological table of industrial buildings associated with some of the major industries. Maps of the North and South Islands on the inside of the front and rear covers show sites listed in the text, but the place names in the key are not in alphabetical order which makes it difficult to locate the sites quickly.

Despite the book's strengths, I am not at all sure that the author has achieved what he set out to do. Thornton has adopted a simplistic view of history and how it is written and his approach involves little more than cataloguing events. Throughout the text I kept asking 'why?' Why did this happen? Why did the owners build their factories in this or that place? What impact did it have on local industry? Where did they get their materials? Who did they sell their products to? and so on. It was frustrating to be continually denied analytical comment. The biggest single fault of Thornton's work is his failure to give his data proper context. Whilst it would not be practical in a work of this nature to present too much detail, some further treatment is desirable, if for no other reason than to illustrate that the author is aware of the importance and impact of these industries on the development of New Zealand society locally, nationally and internationally.

Thornton's special interest is in building construction and this is supposed to be the connecting thread throughout his book. However, with few exceptions, mainly in the chapters which deal directly with buildings, where the author is clearly in his element, and to a lesser extent in chapters dealing with gold mining and water-wheels, this treatment of buildings and building construction is very uneven and superficial.

My other major point of criticism is that the text is so devoid of detail that unless one was already familiar with most of the industries discussed, the text could become rather meaningless. There is only one instance in the book where there is a line illustration to show how a particular machine worked; this illustrates the principal types of water-wheels. The water-wheel was one of the key technological innovations and it would have been better to introduce and describe this device early on, rather than wait till Chapter 9 where it is treated only cursorily. Whilst most of the plates have been well chosen and are informative, there are some which might have been left out without detracting from the work, or else accompanied by more informative captions.

Given Thornton's rather superficial treatment of his subjects, some of the omissions are perplexing. In his introduction he excludes consideration of sealing and whaling (two of the earliest industries in the country), on the grounds that 'they require virtually no buildings other than humble cottages and crude storage shelters'. The sealing and whaling industries were by far the most important formative industries and warrant considerable attention both by historians and by industrial archaeologists. Indeed, the first farming, trading and shipping networks and the subsequent patterns of settlement in New Zealand were directly related to the development of these two industries. Whilst it is true that no freestanding buildings directly associated with the sealing and whaling industries survive today, and that many of them were certainly crude, illustrations and descriptions have survived, as have archaeological manifestations. Again, the buildings were often no worse than many of the first homesteads and outbuildings that Thornton frequently alludes to in his book. In any case, as Thornton seems to concede, it is not just the buildings that are important; it is the machinery, the artefacts and the activities that went on both inside and outside them. Another omission is a study of roads and railways. Whilst these are not buildings or architectural elements in their own right, they certainly deserve to be included in any survey of the industrial heritage.

However, in spite of these limitations, Thornton has still been able to demonstrate the very impressive achievements of 19th century New Zealand industry and the degree of adaptation and inventiveness that prevailed in that era, in a country disadvantaged by isolation and by a relatively small population. New Zealand achieved a world-wide reputation for gold-mining dredges; its mines, towns and cities were amongst the first in the world to utilise electricity; small remote towns such as Oturehua produced brilliant men such as Ernest Hayes, who invented parallel wire strainers that were sold throughout the world. New Zealand foundries produced metals to make heavy machinery, first class locomotives, pumps and engines. New Zealand also proved to be a paradise for the aspiring entrepreneur. For example, Michael O'Brien, boot-maker, rose from humble beginnings, in the remote township of Greymouth in 1866, to become the owner of the largest boot-making factory in New Zealand, a factory which is still operating in Christchurch today. It is also apparent that both the national and provincial governments were keen to promote local industries, and incentives in the form of prizes for successful entrepreneurs were not uncommon during the 19th century.

Finally, when reflecting on the merits of this work, I wondered what sort of audience it would appeal to. It is not an historical work, but it may be useful as a starting point for historical studies, because it certainly does contain valuable reference material. Nor is it a primer for the industrial archaeologist, as it does not contain sufficient technical details, although it will be a useful starting point for some forms of study. Nor is it likely to have a broad appeal. It is rather tedious to read and it is not very informative about the technological or the historical processes which were involved in these industries. The redeeming feature is the plates, which have an appeal in

themselves. I am left with the impression that Thornton has produced a book which needed to be written at this time, by someone like himself with a life-time interest in the subject, for the purpose of producing a starting point for others. Indeed he concedes this in his epilogue (p.164).

Nevertheless, this work, the first attempt to survey New Zealand's industrial heritage, is a courageous effort and the publishers A.H. & A.W. Reed & Company, well-known for their heavy investment in books which deal with New Zealand and which have been written by New Zealand authors, are equally courageous for printing it. If it does nothing else, it draws attention to a neglected aspect of the cultural heritage. It is a pioneering reference work, which, I believe, can provide the basis for writing more searching analytical and thought-provoking works on this vital and fascinating aspect of New Zealand's cultural heritage.

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A.C. Begg and N.C. Begg, *The world of John Boulton: including an account of sealing and whaling in Australia and New Zealand*, Whitcoulls Publishers Ltd., Christchurch, New Zealand, 1979; pp.329, plates 133, figures 30.

H. Morton, *The whale's wake*, University of Otago Press, Dunedin, 1982; pp.396, plates 13.

F. Tod, *Whaling in southern waters, New Zealand*, Tablet Co. Ltd., 1982; pp.158, plates 92.

It is well-established that the sealing and whaling industries played a significant role in early colonial history. Initially it was the sealer who found his way to the remote islands of Bass Strait, to Kangaroo Island, to Phillip Island in Westernport Victoria, and to Fiordland and Foveaux Straits in New Zealand. These largely illiterate pioneers left their mark: they slaughtered the seal populations and, in Australia, the coastal and island kangaroo populations; they abducted indigenous women, and in Australia they played a tragic role in the decimation of native populations. The sealing industry collapsed between 1815 and 1825 because there were insufficient seals left to sustain the industry, but bay and shore-based whaling succeeded it and the slaughter continued. Shore-based whaling heralded the beginning of permanent colonisation in many areas, particularly in southern New Zealand. Shore-based whaling died to a flicker in the 1840s, by which time colonisation of the southern shores of Australia and New Zealand was well in hand.

Unfortunately much detail is lacking on both the sealing and whaling period, particularly the former. The men in the trade were often from illiterate, violent and itinerant backgrounds, so that few of them took the trouble to keep journals or write of their experiences later in life. The recent unearthing of a hitherto unknown and most informative journal which covers the period 1823-1829, written by a highly literate observer who participated in both the sealing and whaling industries in Australia and New Zealand, is therefore a significant event. The Reverend James Boulton of Bridport, Dorset, a direct descendant of John Boulton (the subject of *The world of John Boulton*) came across the journal amongst his family papers and was perceptive enough to recognise its importance. Called 'Journal of a Rambler', a copy was lodged at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand, and is the focus of this most detailed and informative book.

John Boulton and his brother arrived in Hobart as free colonists in 1823. Unlike his brother, who had a passion for the land and was destined to become a large and respectable landowner in the new colony, John, who was only 24 years old at the time, was unsettled. He had a yen to see the Pacific and the world, and for the next few years that is exactly what he did.

Having no money or trade behind him, but saddled with the graces of a gentleman, he tried to bury his middle-class background when he joined a sealing expedition that exposed him to extraordinary adventures in Bass Strait. During 1823–1824 he visited Preservation and King Islands and Lady Julia Percy Island off Port Fairy on the Victorian coast and was marooned on Phillip Island in Westernport, where he nearly starved to death. Fed up with sealing, in 1825 he was back in Hobart and later Sydney, looking for a means of reaching the Pacific Islands.

Desperate financial circumstances forced him to take a job on a pilot boat, at the convict settlement of Port Macquarie in New South Wales, where he was able to observe and describe the Aboriginal population, the convicts and their masters and the settlement itself.

In March 1826 he was sealing again, this time in Fiordland, New Zealand, with a crew from the Hawkesbury under the command of the very experienced and well-known Captain John Kent. His experiences on this trip, as described in his journal, give a graphic idea of the dangers of the industry and of the characters and personalities of those involved in it. At Open Bay, on the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand, his party was attacked by Maoris, and they only escaped after one of the crew had been killed. A seven-month stay in Dusky Sound followed, where Boulton recovered one of Cook's medals (these were given to Maoris by Cook) left behind by one of the *Endeavour* party in 1773 on Anchor Island.

Leaving Dusky Sound, his crew made its way to Foveaux Strait, where he became involved with Maori people, learning their language and cohabiting with them. During his journeys around Foveaux Strait—to Stewart and Ruapuke Islands—he met and was entertained by some of the most historic personalities of the time: the Chiefs Tuhawaiki (Bloody Jack), Taiaroa, and Karetai. He was befriended by Jack Price, one of the first European settlers in the Strait, and has left us a detailed description of Pahia, an important Maori village situated near the present township of Riverton. But his most significant legacy from this part of his journey is his detailed observations on the southern Maori, which are related to us in Appendix A of the book. The Begg brothers convincingly demonstrate that these firsthand observations, which include a list of key Maori personalities living in the Straits at the time, as well as notes on vocabulary and song, are the most important and reliable that are available on the southern Maori.

After this sojourn in New Zealand, we next find Boulton back in Hobart where, in 1828, he made application for the job as conciliator of Aborigines, arguing that his experience with the Maoris in New Zealand more than equipped him for the job. It is now history that Lieutenant-Governor Arthur gave the job to George Augustus Robinson. When he failed to acquire the job of his choice, Boulton's restless spirit emerged once again, and in 1829 we find him bay-whaling off the coast of Tasmania.

The full journal is not reproduced in this book but we are treated to long excerpts which are graphic and detailed and we are given considerable insight into Boulton's character and the personalities who were associated with him. In planning this book, the Beggs have followed a successful formula used in their two previous books, *Dusky Bay* and *Port Preservation*; they have reviewed the historical evidence in each of the areas visited by Boulton, intermixing the nitty-gritty with well-chosen and interesting anecdotes. These include not only little-known historical and anthropological facts, but a corpus of biological information on whales, elephant seals and fur seals. The authors then transfer to the present and describe their personal impressions of each of the areas which they have visited whilst writing the book.

The text is well written, accurately and adequately documented. Moreover the treatment is sensitive and interest is heightened with sound historical perspective. Illustrations are well chosen, suitably captioned and are informative. The

three appendices contain a mine of information including part of Robert Murray's journal, currently held in the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts, which describes the colony of New South Wales under Lieutenant-Governor Arthur Phillip in 1792. A comprehensive index completes a well-balanced, interesting and informative volume, which is absolutely essential reading for history and archaeology students specialising in sealing and whaling. Nor is there any doubt that this volume will have considerable appeal for the layman. This book has one other attraction for the student of Australian and New Zealand history: it demonstrates quite neatly that many of the unsung pioneers of New Zealand and Australia were one and the same.

The whale's wake is a comprehensive history of whaling in New Zealand, an excellent companion to McNab's scholarly rendition, *Old whaling days*, published in 1913. It is well presented and researched. The author has hunted through the libraries of the world for every titbit of information about whaling in Australia and New Zealand, he has read the official documentation and has thoroughly searched pictorial collections. Consequently the book is 'based almost entirely on material coming directly from . . . unpublished ships' logs and journals supplemented by published first hand accounts' (p.345). Indeed, Morton has ferreted out some 350 relevant logs that contain varying degrees of useful information.

The author deals with whaling essentially within a chronological context, but in 22 chapters covers every aspect of the subject. The industry, as it developed in Australia and New Zealand, is traced from 1792 with the initiation of deep-sea whaling essentially by British whalers, to the start of bay-whaling and shore-based whaling in late 1820s, through the demise of the British whaling industry in the Pacific in the 1830s with a corresponding increase in dominance of colonial and American whalers, to the failure of bay-whaling and shore-based whaling in New Zealand in the early 1840s, to the time when the industry was completely dominated by the deep-sea American whalers in the late 1840s.

Morton carefully illustrates how colonial, British and international politics influenced the changes in fortune of the industry. Thus the subsidised British whalers, fearful of competition from the colonials and Americans, lobbied hard to ensure that whale products imported in non-British ships were heavily taxed, to ensure their profits and dominance of the trade. The colonial lobby countered by claiming that it had the right to exploit what it saw as a valuable, local resource for the good of the colony rather than for the benefit of Britain and the owners of the British whaling fleet. Both the British and colonial whalers had to lobby hard to fight the suffocating monopoly held by the East India Company over British trade east of the Cape of Good Hope, a region that included both Australia and New Zealand. Very gradually Britain relaxed its regulations, and from 1823, when crippling import duties were dropped, the local industry blossomed at the expense of the British whaling fleet in the Pacific.

The author discusses, at some length, the different species of whale, their migratory habits, their relative economic merits, the methods and equipment normally employed to take these great mammals, the methods of rendering them, and the products that the whalers got from them. Moreover, from the odd bits of information that have survived, he is able to project a good picture of the men who captained and manned the ships, and the conditions under which they worked. It is clear that it was a hard life; ships were often at sea for years on end, with very few landfalls during that time. Discipline was harsh, food was at best monotonous, work was dangerous, and there was the constant fear of shipboard disease, especially scurvy, which could result in death. A significant number of Maori people worked on whaling ships from all nations, and Morton is able to demonstrate that they made good sailors and were often preferred to European sailors. These early maritime

flirtations between Maori and Pakeha were extremely important for the long-term relations between the two groups. Such experience provided the mechanisms by which many potentially influential Maori became worldly; they learnt English, and more important, they were able to glean something of the psychological, economic, technological and social aspects of Pakeha culture. This transitional period of contact between whalers and Maori helped to prepare the Maori for the more significant changes that were to come later. Thus Maori agriculture adapted to meet the demands of a constant stream of whalers landing on the shores of New Zealand and requiring food. As Morton points out, 'whaling partially created European agriculture in New Zealand' (p.314).

Morton displays considerable perception in his treatment of this aspect of the whaling story. Changes in Maori culture are carefully explained in terms of the complex set of interrelationships which existed between the Maori, missionary and whaler. However, adaptation was not all one-sided. With the advent of bay-whaling, some whalers transferred their operations to the shore, so they were forced to reach accommodations with their indigenous hosts. Inter-marriage was common, binding Pakeha and Maori together often to mutual advantage. As whaling disappeared from the shores of New Zealand, many of these shore-based whalers turned their hand to other trades and industries which were to become important in the subsequent history of colonisation. In this way, farming became an important activity at Hawkes Bay, Waikouaiti, Riverton, and Kaikoura.

In 1850 whaling in New Zealand was over, but by this time the Treaty of Waitangi had been signed by the major Maori chiefs, New Zealand was a British possession and colonisation had started in earnest. The whaling period had provided an important respite for the Maori people, since it had given them sufficient time to adapt, and unlike most indigenous cultures which suffered from the colonial experience, a readily identifiable culture has survived, changed it is true, but one that is recognisably Maori.

The whale's wake is a commendable publication and does great credit to Harry Morton. He has clearly demonstrated that whaling and the whalers played a significant role in

establishing the modern state of New Zealand. Yet in spite of the apparent wealth of information available about whaling, the author is at pains to indicate that there are still glaring gaps in our detailed knowledge of the industry; British Pacific whaling (p.313) is one such example. This book will no doubt become a basic text for the study of early colonial history, historical archaeology and Maori history. Students will be assisted by a comprehensive bibliography and index.

Whaling in southern waters is concerned essentially with the shore-based whaling stations established from Banks Peninsula to Bluff, on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand, between 1832 and 1850. The book is written in anecdotal style with plenty of quotations but there is no analysis. Personalities come and go in the text and there is no real attempt to evaluate them or to place whaling stations in historical perspective. Moreover, in places the text is rather staccato and it is sometimes difficult to follow the author's thread. Having worked our way through a maze of juicy titbits about each major whaling station, we are led expectantly to a chapter boldly headed 'Decline in whaling trade' which unfortunately turns out to be more of the same, essentially a commentary on the failure of the Weller Brothers Station at Otakou. I note, in passing, that the station at Preservation Inlet, the first whaling station established in southern New Zealand, is not treated at all by the author. Perhaps this is because A.C. and N.C. Begg have treated this station so well in their book *Port Preservation*.

I find it hard to be kind to an author who treats potentially excellent data so uncritically. The best that can be said of his book is that it does have a grand array of plates, a list of pre-1848 Otago settlers and visitors at Otago from 1831-1847 (Chapter 9) and there are quotations in the text and extracts from journals and appendices that might be useful to students of the whaling industry. I would advise Tod to read Harry Morton to find out about whaling, and the Beggs' books for hints on style and presentation of historical material in a critical but popular format.

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