

  The
Colenso
Society's
Newsletter
COLENSO

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Peter Wells' William Colenso

A New Zealand Book Month event

The Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery
present award-winning New Zealand
author Peter Wells, who will talk
on writing his book
*The Hungry Heart:
Journeys with William Colenso*

Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 5.30pm
Ormond Chapel, Napier Terrace

Cost: \$10 for general public, \$5 for friends of HB MAG
Limited numbers, bookings are essential by Friday 23 March 2012

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Carnell, cartoons and Colenso

CONUNDRUM 1: who drew the cartoons Samuel Carnell photographed?

There is a series of cards in the Alexander Turnbull Library, photographs by Samuel Carnell of political cartoons. Samuel Carnell 1832–1920 arrived in Napier in 1869 as manager of Swan & Wrigglesworth; purchased the Napier photography business of George Henry Swan in 1870; was MP for Napier 1889-1896, 7th Mayor of Napier 1904-1907. He famously took photographs of Ngati Kahungungu up to 1906, and he took portrait photographs of Hawke's Bay notables, including William Colenso.

Presumably Carnell photographed these cartoons because they appealed to him, but he does not reveal who drew them. I can find no contemporary publication containing them, so perhaps they were unpublished. Who drew them? Colenso referred to GT Fannin's satirical sketches in one letter, so he is a possibility, but his writing (as judged from letters to McLean) does not match the handwriting on any of the cartoons.

But in a letter to McLean 3 May 1870 Fannin wrote, "I suppose you have heard that Mr.

Cartoon 1. "Shows two men (a big gent and a small one) with slogan underneath – 'Big gent (Donald McLean) 'Well the next thing to be done is to get some troops sent here.' Small gent 'Oh, now let us be off or all this cold and swamp will half kill me with rheumatism if I stay longer.'"

This shows McLean and figure B from Cartoon 2 with a theodolite. The plan held by B says "Township". Is B JD Ormond? As Provincial treasurer in 1861 Ormond proposed draining Napier's swamps, and leasing the Ahuriri Plains for close settlement. Was he a small man? His photograph in the medallion chair would suggest so.



Koch has been engaged to draw caricatures for the Wellington Punch during the sitting of the next General Assembly....” so probably Augustus Koch drew cartoons in Hawke’s Bay before 1870.

Cartoon 2. Sir Donald McLean dressed as a woman—slogan reads “Madam McLean... ‘Now the lazy Jacky must not be a naughty boy, but show the ladies and gentlemen how prettily he can dance & play at soldiers’”.

This presumably tries to equate Maori uprisings with drawing-room entertainment: the NZ wars in Hawke’s Bay were 1866-69. Shown are five pakeha figures and an armed Maori caricature with a couple of dead toy soldiers: who are the pakeha? Lets call them L to R: “A” (full blackbeard), “B” (JD Ormond?), certainly McLean, probably (aloof) Colenso, “C” (a tiny balding man). Are these James Wood, Ormond, McLean and Colenso? who then is “C”? McLean was provincial superintendent 1863-69 and appears to be in charge. Perhaps these were members of McLean’s provincial council.



Wood



Ormond



McLean

Cartoon 3. Justice is a fragile and unstable humpty dumpty supported precariously by McLean and figure D, each showing their hands are empty to indicate they are not involved (yeah right); the scales are held by justice but pulled by F on the left (a lawyer—Lascelles?) and B on the right (Ormond?) both gowned. Justice, it seems, is influenced by politicians and lawyers.

Koch annotated his drawings like this, and his handwriting is variable.

See the Augustus Koch drawing below. I think the cartoon is also his work.



Many of Koch's known illustrations are annotated in his longhand.

Cartoon 4. A child watches two old women fighting: one of the women is figure F; the “excited youngster” says, "Go it ya cripples, go it old six & eight pence, now the old Soda Water, take the change out of un". Is this a caricature of justice being done in Hawke’s Bay? Is the figure on the right the lawyer Lascelles? Is it wigs that are being torn off? Is the figure on the left another lawyer? Or the judge? Is it the judge in Cartoons 3 and 5? What does the slogan mean? (6/8 is 1/3 of a £).



Cartoon 5. The humpty dumpty judge figure from Cartoon 3 sits precariously on a column, holding the flag of justice at the finishing line; in the lead is figure E on the shoulders of figure F (Lascelles?). Behind them is figure G, riding a dead bull towed by figure B (Ormond?). F is saying to B, “git on d—n sir, *** dont yer be a beating *** in agin un. Ketel ***** trip un up, do summat. what ***** use on yer? (** = illegible or trimmed off). Is the race for justice hampered by a load of bull? What does “Ketel” mean? Kettle? If Cartoon 3 is by Augustus Koch, so is this.



Cartoon 6. This appears to be a meeting, perhaps of the Provincial Council: McLean is 4th L; Colenso (?) is speaking and the little figure from #1 is bottom right in the balloon-back chair, and Figure A from Fig. 2 (?Wood) is below McLean, recording the meeting, as he (reporter and editor of the *Herald*) should be doing. Bottom left is perhaps Ormond. A figure at top left appears to be arguing with Colenso, and the Speaker holds up his hand for silence. The Provincial Council meetings were reported—eg, in 1864: “The Council met at 3 o'clock. Present, — the Speaker, Messrs. McLean, Ormond, Smith, Russell, Fitzgerald, Tuke, Tiffen, Curling, Rhodes, Kennedy. Absent, — Messrs. Edwards, Colenso, Bousfield, Dolbel.”



Cartoon 7. At the races, perhaps by a different hand, and only a few faces appear to be caricatures.



Samuel Carnell was himself caricatured in *Fred Rayner's sketch book of 50 caricatures: "things you see when your [sic] out without your gun" in Napier, Hastings & Waipawa: Frederick Richard Rayner, caricaturist, lithography Brown, Thomson, Wellington.* Is that (to the judge's right) he in cartoon 3?



Of most interest to us, of course, are the possible depictions of Colenso: details from Cartoons 2 (left below) and 7 (right) are shown: you be the judge.



CONUNDRUM 2: who is Dr S?

In a letter from Napier dated October 17th 1897, Colenso wrote

“...your former letter was a very good one, open confiding friendly, but with one uncertain element in it re the future—“Paulo post futurum” if you will—and what you had therein told me, re that situation in G.P.O., rather upset me, it being so unexpected & you so well-fitted for that very office : however I joined you in looking up—daring to hope for the best, and entertained thoughts of writing to Dr. S. in your behalf—but I was not sure of his now possessing rule over the P.O., & feared his passing it on to someone of his Co. (neither friendly towards me; nor to you, remembg. the cartoons of last summer) but I waited until I should hear from you again, & now that has come: Laus Deo! I am vastly pleased with your cheerful tone, also that things generally are showing so well—favourable: may such continue and increase.”

Harding was looking for work after the demise of “Typo” and the Govt Printer job was filled late in 1896—was that the work he was so well-fitted for? Who was Dr S.? I cant find any connection between Colenso’s friend, Napier’s Dr Spencer and printing. Was Dr S. Samuel Costall? Sydney Shep told me that Samuel Costall eventually resigned as

Government Printer in 1896 after a Royal Commission investigated some shady employment issues, including blocking union employees, trying to overturn overtime provisions, and falsification of wages.

But more importantly, what were these cartoons that showed both Harding and Colenso in poor light in the summer of 1897? I have consulted Ian Grant of Masterton, “Honorary Professor of Cartoons”, and he could solve neither conundrum A nor B. But he emailed,

“I doubt that the (Carnell) cartoons were actually published. With the rarest exception the earliest cartoons were in the ‘profusion of Punches’ that appeared briefly between the early 1860s and 1880s. I’ve seen copies of all the ones still extant in whole or part and while the art has varied widely in style and skill, the accompanying captions have always been typeset.

“As the cartoons relate to events and people in Hawke’s Bay, where there was no *Punch*, I do wonder whether they were experiments or privately circulated cartoons by Augustus Koch prior to him cartooning for *Wellington Punch*. He certainly had strong Hawke’s Bay associations, being the chief draughtsman there in, I understand, the early 1860s.

“I’ve had other confirmation that Koch cartooned for *Wellington Punch* in 1868.... (and) there are cartoons not dissimilar to those photographed by Carnell – all, though, with typeset captions. I see that Koch did habitually write under various drawings, etc in the Turnbull collection. So perhaps these are unpublished examples of Koch flexing his cartooning muscles... or perhaps not.

“Regarding the 1897 cartoons, there would have been several possibilities. The *Observer* and *NZ Graphic* ran a great many cartoons, as you’ll be aware, and the *Weekly Press* (Chch) and *Otago Witness* (Dunedin) ran some. There were a few magazines carrying political cartoons in the 1890s: *X-Rays*, *Guardian*, *Forward!*, and *Critic*....

“Of course, at that time a little sketching was – before widespread photography – indulged in by many of the better educated wanting to capture something of the new and strange land they’d journeyed to.”



eColenso is a free email Newsletter published irregularly by the Colenso Society. Please forward to anyone interested. Back issues are at <http://www.colensostudy.id.au/>.

The editor invites contributions on any matter relating to the life and work of the Rev. William Colenso FLS FRS.

Such contributions should be emailed to Ian St George (istge@yahoo.co.nz). The cover is based on a design by American art nouveau designer Will. Bradley.



“EARLY PRINTED BOOKS.”

SIR,—In your paper of yesterday, under the heading of “Napier Municipal Council,” you state, that at the meeting of the Council on last Wednesday night, a letter from the Sydney Exhibition Commissioners was read, containing a list of awards to Exhibitors in this district; and that among them you have—

“W. Colenso, *Early Printed Books and Gazette*; fourth degree of merit.”

As this sentence—“Early Printed Books”—does not inform your readers as to what those Books were, (and as some, by their enquiries, have already supposed them to mean ancient European ones,) I send you the list of them, hereto annexed, taken from the “Official Catalogue,” by which you will know they were *all* our own home work, being *the first printed in New Zealand*. Perhaps you may kindly find room for the said little list, together with this letter, in a corner of your paper.

If I had more time to spare and you space, I should be tempted to say a little on the relative awards of “merit,” as published by you; if only to point out the great value in the eyes of those Sydney Jurors of “a picture of sea-weed” over No. 1 of my little lot! Our Colonial Jurors, however, at the N.Z. Exhibition in 1865, did not think so.—I am, &c.,

WM. COLENZO,

Napier, July 23, 1880.

LIST OF BOOKS.

New Testament, printed in Maori in New Zealand, 1837. First copy of New Testament printed in Southern Hemisphere (edition 5000 copies).

Prayer (Church of England), with Psalms, Rubrics, and 39 Articles, printed in Maori in New Zealand, 1839.

Early public papers, viz., (1) First Government *Gazette*, 1840; (2) first English placard, 1836; (3) first English circular, 1835; (4) first English prospectus, 1839; (5) first English proclamation, 1840; (6) second English proclamation, 1840; (7) third English proclamation, 1840; (8) fourth English proclamation, 1840; (9) treaty of Waitangi in Maori; (10) statement of confederate chiefs, 1835.

First book printed in New Zealand (Epistle to Ephesians and Philippians), February, 1835.

First English book printed in New Zealand, 1836.

First English sermon printed in New Zealand (Bishop Selwyn), 1842.

Two Maori almanacs, 1840 and 1843.

Letter from the Right Hon. Viscount Goderich to the chiefs of New Zealand.

Address from James Busby, Esq., British Resident, to the native chiefs (both printed in Sydney, 1833).

Account of *phorbium tenax*, by J. Murray, F.S.A., F.L.S., printed on paper made from its fibre, 1838.

All of these books printed in New Zealand were composited by the exhibitor, and some were written, bound and translated by him.

List of a few small Articles put up for the Sydney Exhibition, and sent this day to the kind care of Dr. Hector, F.L.S., &c.

-
1. the ancient Asiatic Bell.
 2. a framed & glazed plate of the same.
 3. New Testament, 8vo. in Maori, printed in N.Z., 1837:
first copy of the N. T. printed in the Southern Hemisphere. (Edition of 5000 copies)
 4. Prayer Book of Ch. of England, in Maori, printed in N.Z. 1839.
 5. Lot of early Public Papers:—*viz.*:—
 1. The *first* Government Gazette, A.D., 1840.
 2. The *first* English placard, 1836.
 3. The *first* English Circular 1835.
 4. The *first* English Prospectus 1839.
 5. The *first* English Proclamation 1840.
 6. The *second* Ditto Ditto 1840.
 7. The *third* Ditto Ditto 1840.
 8. The *fourth* Ditto Ditto 1840.
 9. The Treaty of Waitangi in Maori 1840.
 10. The Statement from Confederate Chiefs 1835
 6. The *first* Book printed in N.Z. (Ep. to Eph. & Phil.) 1835. (Feby.)
 7. The *first* English Book printed in N.Z. 1836.
 8. The *first* English Sermon printed in N.Z. (Dr. Selwyn) 1842.
 9. (2) Specimens of early Maori Almanacs, 1840, & 1843.
 - 10.(1) a letter from Rt. Hon. Viscount Goderich to Chiefs of N.Z., 1832,
 (Eng. & Maori.)—and
 (2) first address from James Busby, Esq., the British Resident, to Native Chiefs
 of N.Z.,—in Maori and English: both printed together at Sydney, 1833.
 11. An account of the *Phormium tenax*, by J. Murray, F.L.A., F.L.S.,
 &c, &c. Printed on paper made from its fibre, A.D. 1838.
 12. Specimens of Paper made from *Phormium tenax*, before 1838.

W. Colenso,
Exhibitor.

Napier, Hawke's Bay,
 May 27th, 1879.

N.B. *All* the Books &c printed in N. Zealand were *wholly Composed* by the exhibitor; some, also, wholly, or in part, written & translated by him, who also *Bound* the bound ones. W.C.

[Museum of New Zealand—Te Papa Tongarewa MU000094/004/0164.]

French words in Māori

Colenso wrote from Dannevirke on 13 July 1892, in reply to an enquiry from William Gordon of New Plymouth,

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 30th. ulto. addressed to me at Napier has found me here—last week. I was far too busy then, in writing by Eng. Mail leaving today, to attend to your request: but I do so now.—

1. As to the term—“Miere” for honey: I find this word in common use here among the Maoris for that article, though, I confess I never before heard it so-called; but I do not know its derivation, neither can these Maoris enlighten me: I will however make further enquiries. I cannot suppose it came from the English—Mead.

My online etymological dictionary gives, as the origin for the English word “mead”, Sanskrit madhu = “sweet, sweet drink, wine, honey” and Greek methy = “wine”; but there was no honey in New Zealand before the Europeans came here, so this Māori word “miere” must surely have come more directly via the French Roman Catholic missionaries’ “miel”. Interesting it was in use in Taranaki and Hawke’s Bay.

Colenso wrote to RC Gunn in 1850, “I have long ago clean forgot all the little French I once knew.”

At the Bay of Islands the French under Bishop Pompallier were known to local Māori as Te Iwi Wiwi because they kept saying (agreeably), “Oui, oui.” I wonder what other French words were adopted by Māori.

A Hebrew word in Māori

In a letter dated 28 September 1897 to William Gordon of New Plymouth, Colenso wrote,

Re your question on the word “ture” = law: it is not a Maori word. At the time of our (the Missionaries) early translations, 60–80 years ago, we found several words for which there was no equivalent in Maori,—as gold, silver, money, sheep, corn, peach, King, temple, hour, law, &c., &c. Some, however, could be well used and printed as the Maoris would pronounce the English word in common use, and not be misunderstood; but this word law was not of that class. So we fell back (for Bible rendering) on the Hebrew word for law—TORAH (in Rom. characters): but TORA being an objectionable Maori word it was altered to ture: and so, after times, when this Country was Colonized, the word (being now well understood by the Maories) was retained and fixed for law.

He wrote again on 20 October,

In all translations into barbarous and little-known languages—especially names of things, &c., utterly unknown, there must necessarily be an introduction of new words, coined or fabricated for the purpose. This, however, should be very

carefully done, and only adopted, as a “dernier resort”, after mature consideration. It has long been a source of great grief to me, to see how the proper copious & euphonious Maori language has been and is broken-up and superseded by unneeded unmeaning and vicious introduction of new words (gibberish!)—especially by translators & interpreters (so called!) in the Government Service!

The water of weariness

In his *In memoriam* Colenso described his journey up what is now known as Colenso Spur from the Makaroro river,

“As we were now leaving the river and entering into the dense mountain forest, I travelled with my pocket compass in my hand, having taken bearings occasionally during the day in the river, where also, we had, at times, seen for a few moments the sun peering down through the trees. It was of no use now (as it then seemed to us in our happy ignorance) to think of drawing-back, although had we known clearly what was before us we should certainly have done so,—therefore we persevered and kept on steadily in as straight a course as we could until 6 p.m., when, it being nearly dark, we halted in the forest, not knowing where we were; but believing we had not much further to go to gain the wished-for summit. I immediately sent two of my companions to seek for water, which we had greatly needed for the last three hours, and fortunately they found some in a declivity in the side of the spur not very far off. This spring, I afterwards learned, is called Te Wai-o-kongenge—fit name!”

Tony Gates emailed recently, “A friend Chris just returned from Colenso Spur, where he sat at the bushline with his wife. He shot two small deer right next to the track, near the “razorbacks” that Colenso mentions, so he was very pleased, and his wife carried some venison for him. I had been there one year ago with Chris, and we saw six deer in the same place, shot two. Sort of “sustainable harvest”. More importantly though, Chris and I discovered Te Wai o Kongenge ‘The Waters of Weariness’ (known later as Te Whare o Hinekiri)—I mean re-discovered this water source—last year. We found what I believe to be the closest water to the track, at the large flat area half way up. It's pretty obvious really, it's shown on the map and GPS, and it is a little creek seepage set in Nothofagus forest close to the track—but not obvious unless you really know your bush. With DoC, we may be able to install an information sign here—it's a pretty dry ridge.”

You will recall the verses by Trevor Crabtree published in *eColenso* 1 (9), December 2010:

High in the Ruahines
Off a steep and narrow trail
Two thousand feet above a stream
Lies waiting, Colenso's Grail.

Waiting for eager, thirsting lips
To drink from it once more—
To taste again the cold, clear spring
Like wine, from the mountains core.

Aides memoire in the Bush

It is surprising how the bush (or one's memory) changes in a year. You find an interesting plant, and you mark the spot in your memory so you can find your way back next year when it is flowering, or so you can tell others where to find it. You go back the next year and nothing looks familiar. It is as if you had never been there, and you wonder if you are in the right place after all.

Nowadays when people find an interesting plant they take a GPS reading.

Bruce Hamlin wrote that most of Colenso's herbarium specimens bear, "pencil annotations, usually with some sort of locality reference. Many of the references are fanciful names which had some meaning to Colenso." Peter Wells wrote that "The 'localities' are frequently of the nature of personal reminders...."

Indeed they are, and if that is true of his herbarium labels, it is more so of his personal botanical diaries. Colenso had sought flowering specimens of a *Gastrodia* orchid ever since his Bay of Islands days. In his description of *Gastrodia leucopetalata* (which he found "In dark forests on the eastern slopes of the Ruahine mountain range, 1850–52; and in similar spots in the Seventy-mile Bush, between Norsewood and Danneverke, County of Waipawa, 1884–85," he noted,

"I have long known this plant, (for upwards of thirty years,) but have never obtained good flowering specimens until this summer (January, 1885). I had, however, always suspected it to be a distinct species from the known endemic one (G. Cunninghamii, Hook. fil.), although the specimens I had detected in the woods in autumn travelling were always long past flowering. Having again met with it in those woods near Norsewood in April, 1884—but, as before, too late!—I marked those spots, and in visiting them again in January, 1885, (almost purposely,) I was rewarded with finding a few in flower on the top of two racemes, not, however, so many as I could wish, and in localities some miles apart."

His notebook at Te Papa records the localities of his discoveries in enough detail to help him find his way back:

"Norsewood, March 16, 1884. Top Loranthus Hill, near praying-tree a high dead stump, white lichen at base, in front and near a stone, a fine Gastrodia...."

"Norsewood, March 31st/84. Found 2 fine Gastrodia today up in 'Burdock' wood to the left of first open oasis beyond Antenaria-and-snail tree...."

"1885. Jany. 9. Norsewood. In wood, near Mill, found 4 Gastrodia, growing near each other, 3 past flowering, the 4th. nearly so—with 2–3 fair flowers on top."

One of these directions *is* intelligible (the Mill at Norsewood was near the end of Ngamoko Rd and the start of the Apati track) and are of great help to people looking in Type localities for Colenso's plants. I was there on 5 January 2012, but alas, did not find the *Gastrodia*.

Bethunes at Webb's

is proud to present the C L Thomas Collection of rare books and related materials. The Collection was begun by Thomas, a Napier pharmacist, at the beginning of the twentieth century and was subsequently extended by his son and daughter-in-law. In addition to a profusion of New Zealand classics, the Collection features an important group of items relating to William Colenso, including books and pamphlets, manuscript diaries and papers, a collecting tin and a handsome dissecting microscope.



A dissecting microscope sent by Joseph Dalton Hooker to William Colenso in 1885 at the latter's request. London : Ross, c1885. A most significant artefact. Est. \$5,000.

Contact: Francis McWhannell
bethunes@webbs.co.nz
+64 21 232 6032.

[Full circle: on 28 November 1853, Colenso wrote to R. Vidal, asking (of a parcel of books), "please send them to my Agents at Wellington, Messrs. Bethune & Hunter...."—ed.]



Can you type?
will you type?
please?

The Colenso Project is looking for willing workers to help transcribe Colenso's longhand into Microsoft Word.

If you would be willing to help Ann Collins, Gordon Sylvester and Ian St George in this task, please email istge@yahoo.co.nz.