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CANTERBURY
HISTORY
FOUNDATION

Newsletter
November 2007

Inspiring Festival

The Festival of History on Saturday, 8 September was clearly a success. Professor John Cookson and Alan Hayward, assisting on behalf of the Foundation, were the organisers. John Cookson reports:

These were some of the comments from those who attended the School of History's Festival of History. "We had a wonderful day. So much effort when your academic lives are so busy, and all aimed at making our day so stimulating." "We thoroughly enjoyed the day, and meeting some new people. Amazing how many really interesting folk there are in Christchurch." "May this become an annual event!"

The campus venue also drew praise, especially as people were able to enjoy lunch and teas in a sheltered lawn setting in fine early spring weather.

An audience of over a hundred heard presentations on an assortment of topics with no unifying theme; the day began with the Reformation of the sixteenth century and ended with the Cold War of the twentieth century. But such an eclectic mix representing the teaching and research specialisations within the History School was much appreciated.

The Festival was well supported by sponsors. The caterers, Celcius Kitchen, made a generous donation, as did the History Foundation. The University Bookshop provided book gifts for the presenters. The University helped with publicity and with the registration process.

The event was modelled on the highly successful Cambridge History Festival in England, though necessarily less ambitious and less grand. But the School was sufficiently encouraged to think of making the Festival a regular event, probably biennial. As it happens, 2009 will be the centenary of Sir James Hight's appointment as Professor of History at Canterbury, which might count as the real beginning of the History Department cum School. Wait and see!

Collapse of Hazard Press

Many readers, authors, and people in the book trade have been dismayed at the closing of Hazard Press, a prolific and respected Christchurch publisher over the last two decades.

The company was put into liquidation by its shareholders on 12 September. Hazard Press, under the direction of Quentin Wilson, highly rated editor and designer, produced about 400 titles, some of them commissioned works and many by Canterbury historians and fiction writers.

Speaking for the liquidators (Insolvency Management Ltd), Mr Graeme Walker, told the Foundation newsletter that "although many authors have lost money, all have told me of the high regard they have for Quentin Wilson."

Authors are unsecured creditors in respect of outstanding royalties but retain copyright to their works and can submit them for publication elsewhere. The company's book stocks are now its main assets. The liquidators propose to enable authors to buy remaining copies of their books at modest prices so that they can arrange further sales on their own account.

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University of Canterbury, ph 03 364 2104

Help for WEA history

The Canterbury Workers' Educational Association is planning a history to mark its centenary in 2015 and the association needs a researcher to do some of the preliminary work.

The research assistant's tasks will include identifying and describing archival material, reviewing the WEA photographic collection for

selection and scanning onto disks, and preparing a book proposal.

Applications will close on 20 November and anyone interested may seek the job description from the Canterbury WEA at 59 Gloucester Street, or PO Box 1796, Christchurch; phone (03) 366 0285; email: cwea@xtra.co.nz.

History awards presentation—invitation

Wednesday 5 December has been set for the University of Canterbury School of History's first awards ceremony. The Vice-Chancellor is expected to attend and parents and friends of students receiving prizes and scholarships this year will be invited.

Foundation members who would like to share in the occasion will be welcome, but should inform the School's administrator, Mrs Judy Robertson, that they wish to attend. The event will be at 5.30pm in the foyer of the North Arts Lecture Theatres, west of the History building. Refreshments will be served after the formal business. Mrs Robertson's phone number is 364 2104.

This will also be the first year on which two new awards are acknowledged. The Edward Gibbon Wakefield Doctoral Scholarship, offered every third year, is for study at Christ Church, Oxford. It has been founded by Priscilla Wakefield Mitchell

of Devon in memory of her great great uncle. It also remembers her grandfather, Charles Marcus Wakefield, one of Canterbury's early surveyors, and her brother, Edward Roger Wakefield, killed in World War 2.

The second new award is the Gerald Hunt Prize for the best honours research essay in History 480. Mr Hunt's endowment also provides for costs entailed by the ceremony.

Among other awards made within the School are the two Victoria League Prizes for top students in 300-level courses; the Neville Phillips Memorial Prize for second-year students majoring in History; the Sir James Hight Memorial Prize for excellence in completing a Master's degree; the Canterbury History Foundation post-graduate travel award; the New Zealand Founders' Society Scholarship to assist research; and the John Connal Scholarship for level 300 and honours students.

Wine-tasting cancelled

Our wine-tasting evening set for 28 September was called off. Ticket orders were insufficient to ensure a worth-while event.



CHA Presidential Address

The Canterbury Historical Association will hold its annual general meeting on Tuesday 13 November. This will be followed by Professor Peter Hempenstall's presidential address.

All are welcome at CHA meetings. The AGM will begin at 7.30pm in the A5 lecture room (south of the History building.)

Addington history — so far

The 2006 Community Historian, Dr John Wilson, gave a stock-taking account of progress with his history of Addington to the October meeting of the Canterbury Historical Association. He expects to finish his book next year.

To one of the best-attended meetings of the association in recent years he spoke on two main themes: first, the Addington of institutions which have served the whole of Christchurch, two of which – the railway workshops and the harness-racing course – meant nationwide recognition of the suburb; and second, the Addington where people lived and worked.

Suburban Addington, though never an administrative area, acquired its special characteristics through a mix of small industries and large (coach building, flour milling and electrical gear), through its generation of industrial and political leaders, and particularly its stable population and community institutions.

Dr Wilson proposes to undertake a sample survey of Macauley Street to trace the changing occupational profile of its people, and he expects to find that, as in other suburban surveys, houses changed hands more in the last 15 years of the 20th century than they had in the previous 70 years.

"I am inclining," he said, "to a view that will emphasise the importance of Addington's life of local community identifications and activities over specifically class-based identifications and activities. Addington was a working-class community, but life in Addington was never dominated by individuals who adopted an exclusive, militant working-class identity.

"So the book on Addington will give considerable attention to local institutions such as churches, schools, lodges, sporting clubs, and the library."

Unlike any other Christchurch suburb, Addington was rich in facilities that served the whole city and the region beyond. As well as the rail workshops and raceway it had the saleyards, showground, prison, military barracks, the city's second largest cemetery, and the 1863 immigration barracks later taken over and still used by the Salvation Army for city-wide social services.

Concluding with a summary of events in the last quarter of the 20th century, Dr Wilson noted that a rush of changes in Addington reflected widespread changes in the economy, including loss of

industries or their shifting to the fringes of the city.

"The transformation of the workshops site is probably the most striking physical manifestation of change in the wider city through the past two decades. In what seems the blink of an eye, a place where things were made, or maintained, by physical labour has become a place where things, made mostly overseas, are sold."

Dr Wilson said that the history he had been asked to write by the Addington Neighbourhood Association was part of an effort to help Addington "recover" from the disruption it had suffered through the last 30 years or so.

He discussed the writing of history for groups with agendas, often not articulated clearly, beyond the discovery of historical truth. "The Association wants a history that will sustain, or recreate, a sense of community in Addington, helping older residents to make sense of the changes the suburb has gone through and encouraging newcomers to identify with the area."

Dr Wilson said he was confident that the history he was producing would meet the standards of historical scholarship and still be palatable and useful to those in the Addington community who wanted Addington of the future to more closely resemble the suburb of the first two-thirds of the 20th century.

Diary Dates Invitations

13 November — CHA Presidential Address
(see page 2)

15 November — NZIIA book launch
(see page 4 and flier)

5 December — Awards Ceremony
(see page 2)

For Foundation details and exchange of
information for research work:

www.chf.org.nz

Books to look out for

Emeritus Professor David McIntyre's book for the centenary of New Zealand's formal transition from colonial status was launched in Wellington on 26 September, the anniversary of the proclaiming of the change. ***Dominion of New Zealand: Statesmen and Status, 1907-1945*** is already in the bookshops, but will enjoy a local launch on Thursday, 15 November.

The New Zealand Institute of International Affairs has published the book and its Christchurch branch will host the launch at the University of Canterbury Staff Club. A notice about the book and an invitation to the launch accompanies this newsletter.

Anna Rogers, author and book editor, has added to Reed Publishing's illustrated history series. This year it is Canterbury's turn after a book on the West Coast, also by Anna Rogers, and earlier publications about Taranaki and Central Otago and the Queenstown Lakes District.

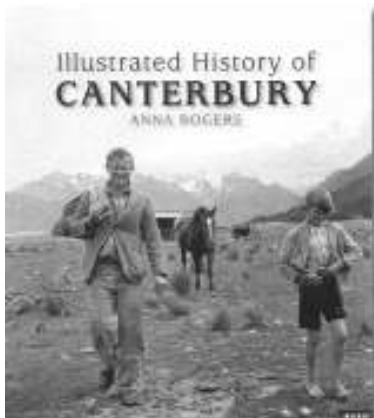
The Canterbury book (180 pages) tells the story briskly from pre-European times. Pictures from many sources illuminate a lively text which is likely to be accepted as a popular but sound and remarkably broad-ranging introduction to the region's history. ***Illustrated History of Canterbury*** reaches into many parts of our social, sporting, industrial, political and farming life. It also

captures the character and mood of Canterbury over the decades of development.

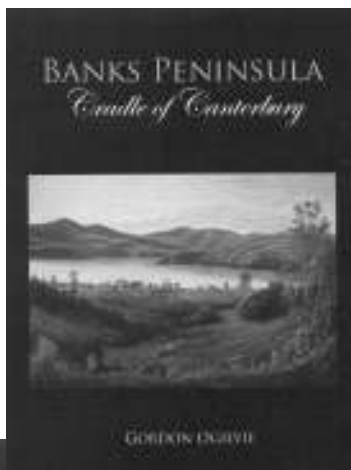
Gordon Ogilvie's award-winning ***Banks Peninsula; Cradle of Canterbury*** has been out or print for more than 20 years. A new publishing partnership, Philip King and Brian Phillips, has produced a revised edition for the same price (\$60) as the last sold for in 1993. Phillips and King and the production team have done a fine job in reviving this much-sought-after book. The 280-page hardback, with a complimentary map of the Peninsula, may be ordered from the University Bookshop.

Recently published is Dr Katie Pickles' book, ***Transnational Outrage: the death and commemoration of Edith Cavell***. Dr Pickles teaches New Zealand and feminist history in the School of History. This book is on the world-wide reaction to the execution of Nurse Cavell in 1915 when working in a Belgian Red Cross hospital. It has been published by Palgrave Macmillan; RRP in NZ \$165. See special price on flier.

Another lecturer, Dr Chris Jones, has produced a book on the place of emperors and popes in the century before the Hundred Years War. ***Eclipse of Empire?*** is subtitled "Perceptions of the Western Empire and its rulers in Late-Medieval France".



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