

edition) is fairly well known but his hitherto unknown pamphlet *A voyage from England to New Zealand in letters from Mr Thomas Bevan . . . and another new settler . . .* (London, 1842) was of great interest. The two letters in it from a disillusioned colonist Henry Wouldon, describing the tribulations of Wellington in 1841 are in striking contrast to the Company's propaganda series *Letters from settlers and labouring immigrants . . .* (London, 1843). Again, by free association Wellington in 1841 takes us to Lucett's *Rovings in the Pacific* (1851) where there is an intriguing chapter giving an impression of Port Nicholson which it must have been difficult for loyal Wellingtonians to stomach. It is a rare Pacific book quite properly catalogued by librarians in Pacific voyaging and shelved accordingly but the chapters on Wellington and Hokianga only a bibliographer can bring out. Many such books are known only by one or two copies and hence are as rare as manuscript. And one waits for years for something to turn up. It was almost twelve years from when I first read in the *Rangitikei Advocate* extracts from A. H. Murray's *Report of Wellington-Auckland Main Trunk Railway . . . 1882* until I saw a copy tucked in the middle of a Report of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce for that year in a bound volume of something else handed to me by the Manager of Levin and Co.

Theses

Local historians are often unaware of the existence of theses on their area. There has been during the past twenty years a greater selection of national themes, usually political to the exclusion of purely local surveys. To the extent that it has meant the end of the rather crude outline which done properly would be quite beyond the range in time and depth of a master's thesis this development is a good thing. However one hopes that the history departments will be able to encourage students to undertake work on a local theme in perhaps a more circumscribed area while at least covering it adequately beyond need of immediate repetition. We are still evolving a policy of thesis acquisition nationally having regard to the fact that such work is copyright and copies are automatically on deposit in the appropriate University Library. My own view is that there should be a grand central repository where most of such work is held in microform for consultation. We are most of us centralists, for some the centre is Dunedin, for far more Auckland. Wellington is of course the geographic centre!

Newspapers

I cannot exaggerate the importance of newspaper searching to the local historian, nor should one be less than cautious in evaluating one's findings. My wife who is disarmingly objective in her assessments has