

SOME SOURCES FOR A HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND BOTANY

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The following books and papers are just a few common sources of information about the history of New Zealand botany which I have in my own library and some were displayed at the talk, "Towards a history of New Zealand botany" to the Canterbury Botanical Society on 1 July 1988. This brief list of sources was compiled on the suggestion of Mrs Valerie Lovis.

1. New Zealand's formal science commenced with Cook, Banks, and Solander in 1769 and J. C. Beaglehole's journals of Cook "The Journals of Captain James Cook on His voyages of Discovery" (Volumes I to III, 1955-1967) and Volumes I and II of "The *Endeavour* Journal of Joseph Banks 1768-1771" (1962) are of course seminal publications. A number of biographies of Joseph Banks (the father of New Zealand botany) have been published and I have in my library the following: "Sir Joseph Banks K. B., P. R. S.: The Autocrat of the Philosophers" by H. C. Cameron (1952) and two recent studies, "Sir Joseph Banks: 18th Century Explorer, Botanist and Entrepreneur": by Charles Lyte (1980) and "Joseph Banks: A Life" by Patrick O'Brian (1987). In addition there is "The Banks Letters" edited by W. R. Dawson (1958).

Volumes I to IV of "The Resolution Journal of Johann Reinhold Forster" (1982) edited by Michael E. Hoare is also a seminal publication relating to the history of New Zealand botany. Hoare's "The Tactless Philosopher: Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-98)" (1976) is a companion volume.

2. As well as publications relating to Cook, Banks, Solander, and the Fosters, books on the participants in the early era in botanical exploration in New Zealand include the following biographical studies: "Ernest Dieffenbach: Rebel and Humanist" by Gerda E. Bell (1976), "Williams Colenso" by A. G. Bagnall and G. C. Petersen (1948) and "The Life and Times of Sir Julius von Haast" by H. F. von Haast (1948). The later Cockayne era has been covered in my publications including "The Life and Correspondence of Leonard Cockayne" (1983).

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A useful overall account of botanical discovery in New Zealand is given in Rewa Glen's (pseudonym for Marguerite Maude Johnson) "The Botanical Explorers of New Zealand" (1950). Another useful account of the history of botanical discovery is provided in W. R. B. Oliver's two small publications for Secondary School Students, "Botanical Discovery in New Zealand" (Post-Primary School Bulletins: "The Visiting Botanists" (undated) and "The Resident Botanists" (1951)).

3. The history of New Zealand botany up to 1905 was covered by T. F. Cheeseman in the introduction to the first edition of his *Manual* (1906) and the period 1905 to 1924 was covered in the second edition (1925). L. Cockayne also surveyed the history of New Zealand botany in the first (1921) and second (1928) editions of "The Vegetation of New Zealand".

4. There are many separate essays which help build the primary source for the history of our botany. These especially include obituary notices such as those for notable recent botanists in the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* and elsewhere including *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand* for Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Second-tier publications such as *Botany Division Newsletter* also provide biographical information about botanists. There is a good coverage of botanists, including some of the lesser known, in the science gallery section of New Zealand's Nature Heritage series (1974-76).

5. Local histories in New Zealand can also provide useful information for the history of botany, especially biographical information. For example, Dick Scott's "Seven Lives on Salt River" (1987) contains the only biographical account of Ellen W. Blackwell of "Plants of New Zealand" fame.

6. The history of botany in Canterbury is surveyed in an important paper by E. J. Godley, "A century of botany in Canterbury" (*Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand (General) 1*: 243-266, 1967). Aspects of the history of botany in Canterbury are also included in "Natural History of Canterbury" (1927).

7. Another primary source for the history of botany are letters and especially the Cockayne letters which have been summarized and annotated in the *New Zealand Journal of Botany 17*: 389-416, 1979; *ibid. 18*: 405-432, 1980.

8. Sir Charles Fleming's recent history of the Royal Society of

N. Z. "Science, Settlers, and Scholars" (1987), contains some data relevant to the history of our botany. Elements of the history of botany are also recorded in papers presented at the first History of Science in New Zealand Conference in Wellington in 1983, "In Search of New Zealand's Scientific Heritage" (1984).

9. The progress and in some cases the stifling of botany in New Zealand has been influenced by political and administrative decisions. It is sometimes difficult to obtain information on the history of these decisions and a search of official files may be required. Some decisions which have influenced government-sponsored botany are recorded in J. D. Atkinson's "DSIR's First Fifty Years" (1976). As an example of the tenor of political decisions which have affected applied science in general in New Zealand, G. McLauchlan's biography of C. P. McMeekan (1982) can be cited, but in this case the topic is animal science not botany. In applied botany the biography of noted mycologist and plant disease specialist G. H. Cunningham in *Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of The Royal Society 10: 15-37, 1964* illustrates the ramifications of political decisions in government-sponsored applied botany.

10. A reliable source of biographical information on some of our notable botanists is A. H. McLintock's "An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand" (Volumes 1 to 3, 1966), still the most authoritative encyclopaedia about New Zealand. Some of the standard biographical studies on New Zealand scientists also provide some data on botanists, e.g. "New Zealanders and Science" by S. H. Jenkinson (1940).

11. Some aspects of the history of botany including applied botany are referred to in "Science in New Zealand" (1957) edited by F. R. Callaghan. An outline of the history of government-sponsored botany in D.S.I.R. is covered in J. D. Atkinson's "D.S.I.R.'s First Fifty Years" (1976). An important account of New Zealand botany during the period 1926-76 was given by Lucy Moore in *New Zealand Journal of Botany 14: 1-7, 1976*. An example of a detailed account of a brief period in our botany is Lucy's summary of the period 1953-57 in *Proceedings of the 9th Pacific Science Congress* (1962).

12. A chronology of notable events in New Zealand botany which is in the course of preparation will form a framework for the history of botany. My definition of botany agrees with that given by Lucy Moore (*New Zealand Journal of Botany 14: 1, 1976*) and includes all aspects of plant science both basic and applied. Thus any history of our botany will need to include all these facets, not just an account of the early botanical exploration which has been

the favoured topic in the history of our botany up to now. I have extracted the botany and botanical science items from the chronology of important events in New Zealand science ("The New Zealand Book of Events", edited by Bryce Fraser, 1986). These will form a basis for a greatly expanded chronology of important events in New Zealand botany from 1769.

13. The Index Botanicorum Novae Zelandiae was established at Botany Division in 1985 as a resource for information about New Zealand botanists and it provides a repository for material relating to New Zealand botany from many sources including newspaper reports. The Index complements the resources of the Library and Herbarium.

Eric Godley reminded me of the significance of herbaria for the history of botany, especially in relation to botanical exploration. B. G. Hamlin used this resource in his important accounts of the botanical journeys of D. Petrie ((1958) and T. Kirk (1965) published in *Records of the Dominion Museum*.

Acknowledgement

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