

NEW ZEALAND
ILLUSTRATED



PICTORIAL BOOKS FROM THE VICTORIAN AGE



New Zealand Illustrated: Pictorial Books from The Victorian Age



There has been a notable absence of historical art on display in Christchurch since the earthquakes of February 2011 closed Christchurch Art Gallery. *New Zealand Illustrated* provides a small but welcome opportunity for Christchurch audiences to experience examples of colonial New Zealand art in the form of books. Christchurch City Libraries, alongside Christchurch Art Gallery's Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, holds many stunning Victorian books that relate to New Zealand.

The books in this exhibition are repositories of knowledge and contemporary information on New Zealand's landscape, tangata whenua, ornithology, and botany. The Victorians had a seemingly unquenchable thirst for knowledge as this exhibition highlights. The equivalent of today's home-entertainment centre, they might be the Victorian version of a Discovery Channel documentary, packed with information and lavishly illustrated. But perhaps of the most interest to readers back in

Right: Charles Barraud **Otira Gorge, West Coast Road**, chromolithograph from Charles Barraud *New Zealand Graphic and Descriptive*, London, 1877. Collection Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu. Presented by Richard and Anne Horsemann, 2012

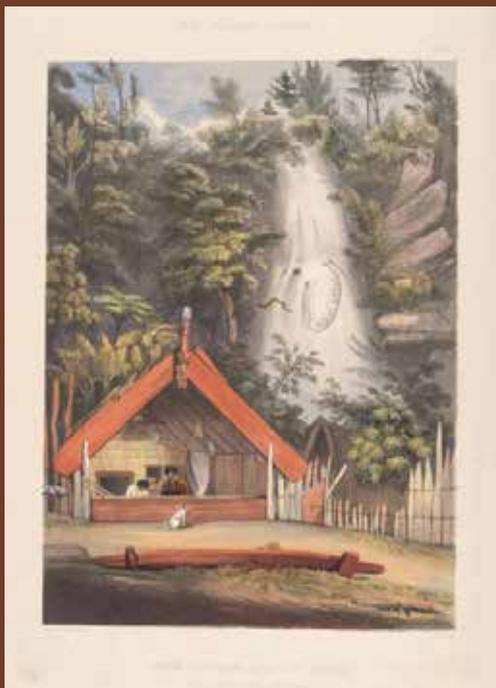


C. O. BARRAUD - DEL.

C. O. BARRAUD - DEL. PHOTOGRAPH BY G. H. HICKING - LONDON, N. Y.

F. DICKEN - LITH.

OTIRA GORGE . WEST COAST ROAD.



Above: George French Angus *The New Zealanders Illustrated*, London, 1847. Collection of Christchurch City Libraries Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

the old world, they demonstrated the opportunities the new land offered to prospective settlers by providing illustrations of colonial enterprise. This last point can be seen most explicitly in Edward Wakefield's *Illustrations to Adventure in New Zealand* (1845).

Two books stand out for the exquisite quality of their hand-painted lithographic illustrations: George French Angus's *The New Zealanders Illustrated* (1847) and Walter Buller's iconic *A History of the Birds of New Zealand* (1873). Angus's monumental volume, still in its original binding, provides an astonishing insight into Māori culture of the 1840s with numerous portraits, albeit highly stylised to European tastes, of Māori whom he met on his travels as well as illustrations of Māori carvings, tools and dwellings. The lithographs by Johannes Keulemans in Buller's *A History of the Birds of New Zealand* (the first edition is on display here) are breathtaking for their hand-tinting and attention to detail; the colours throughout seemingly shimmer in the light as you turn the pages of this beautifully designed and printed book.

Botanical artists Georgina Hetley, Sarah Featon and Emily Harris all published descriptive, illustrated volumes on New Zealand's unique botany towards the end of the nineteenth-century. Botany was seen as a suitable subject



for Victorian women artists, and Hetley, Heaton and Harris all contributed greatly to the knowledge and understanding of New Zealand's plant life. Harris perfectly matches her delicate illustrations with a more personal descriptive touch than the scientific approach of Hetley and Featon.

New Zealand Illustrated: Pictorial Books from the Victorian Age provides just a small selection of some of the gems held in the rare books collection of Christchurch City Libraries Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi.

Peter Vangioni
Curator, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

Left: Samuel Brees *Pictorial Illustrations of New Zealand*, London, 1848. Collection of Christchurch City Libraries Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

Right: John Gully *New Zealand Scenery*, Dunedin, 1877. Collection of Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, presented by Richard and Anne Horsemann 2012

Case 1

1.

George French Angus

The New Zealanders Illustrated

London, 1847

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

2.

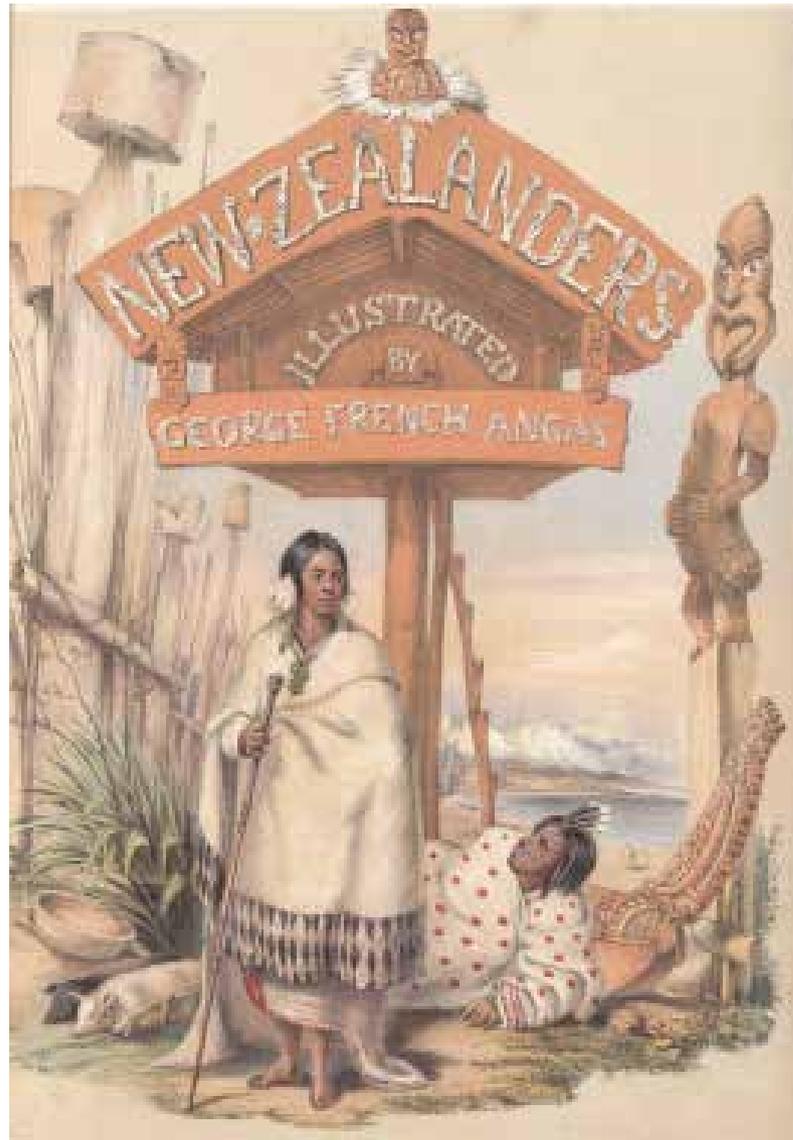
Samuel Brees

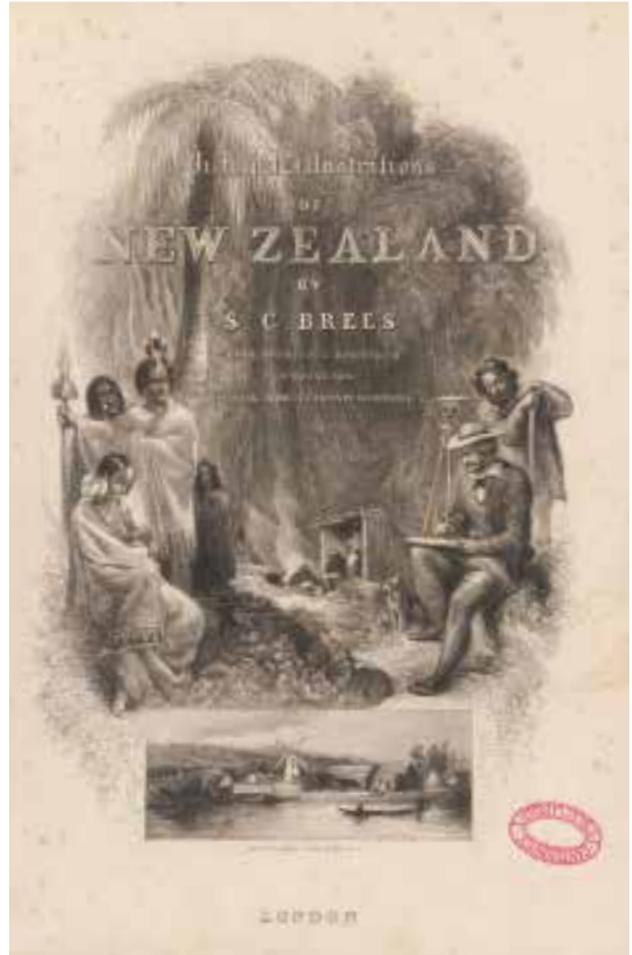
Pictorial Illustrations of New Zealand

London, 1848

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi





Case 2

3.

Charles Barraud

New Zealand Graphic and Descriptive

London, 1877

Collection of Christchurch Art Gallery

Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Peter Dunbar Collection,

Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives

4

John Gully

New Zealand Scenery

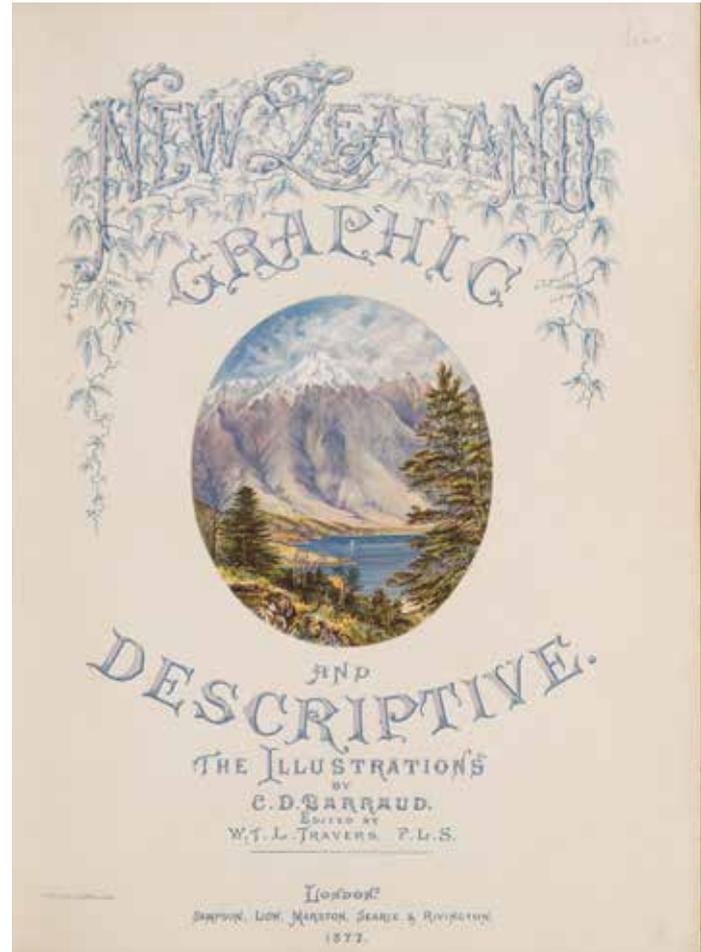
Dunedin, 1877

Collection of Christchurch Art Gallery

Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Robert and Barbara Stewart

Library and Archives, presented by Richard and

Anne Horsemann 2012





G. S. BARRIE, DEL.

W. B. BLANCHER, LITH.

W. B. BLANCHER, LITH.

LYTTELTON HARBOUR.

Case 3

5.

Edward Jerningham Wakefield

Illustrations to Adventure in New Zealand

London, 1845

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

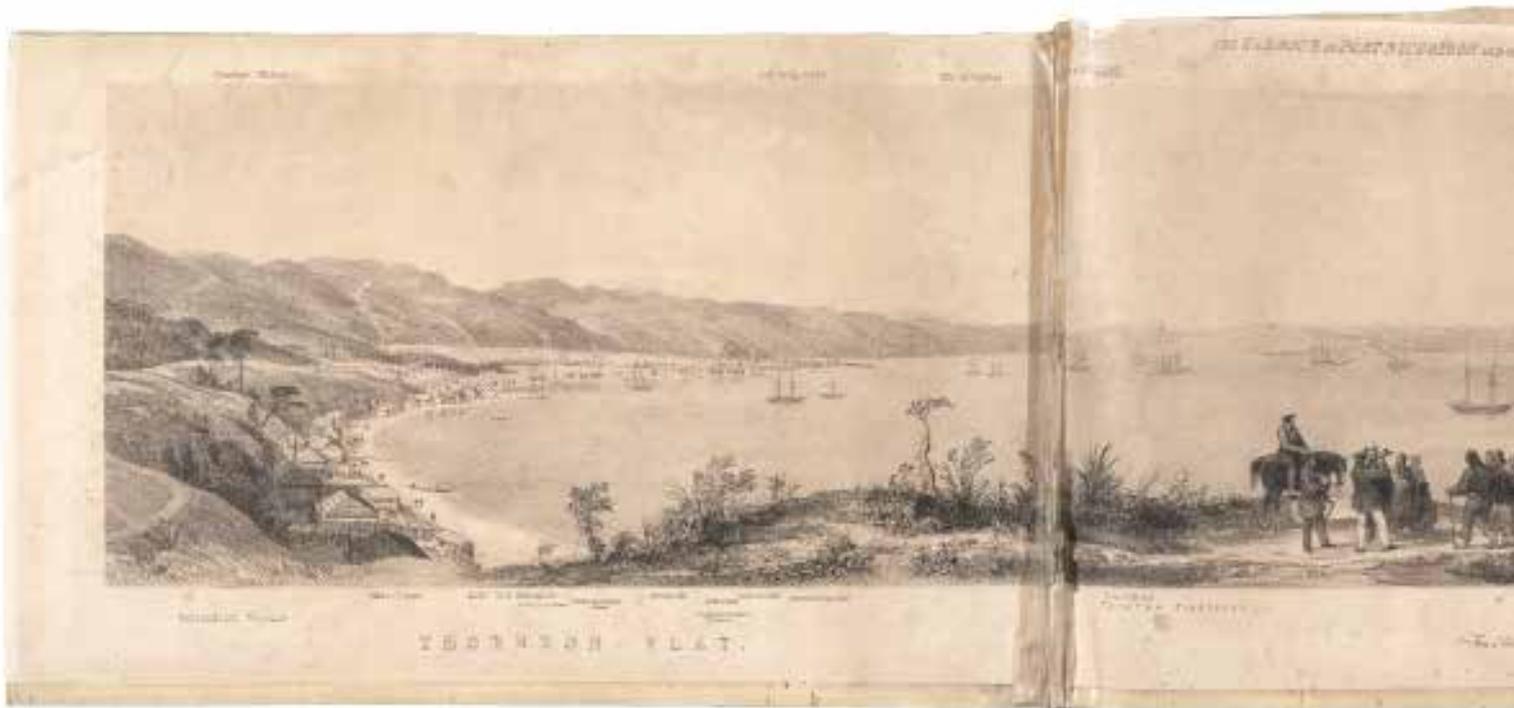
6.

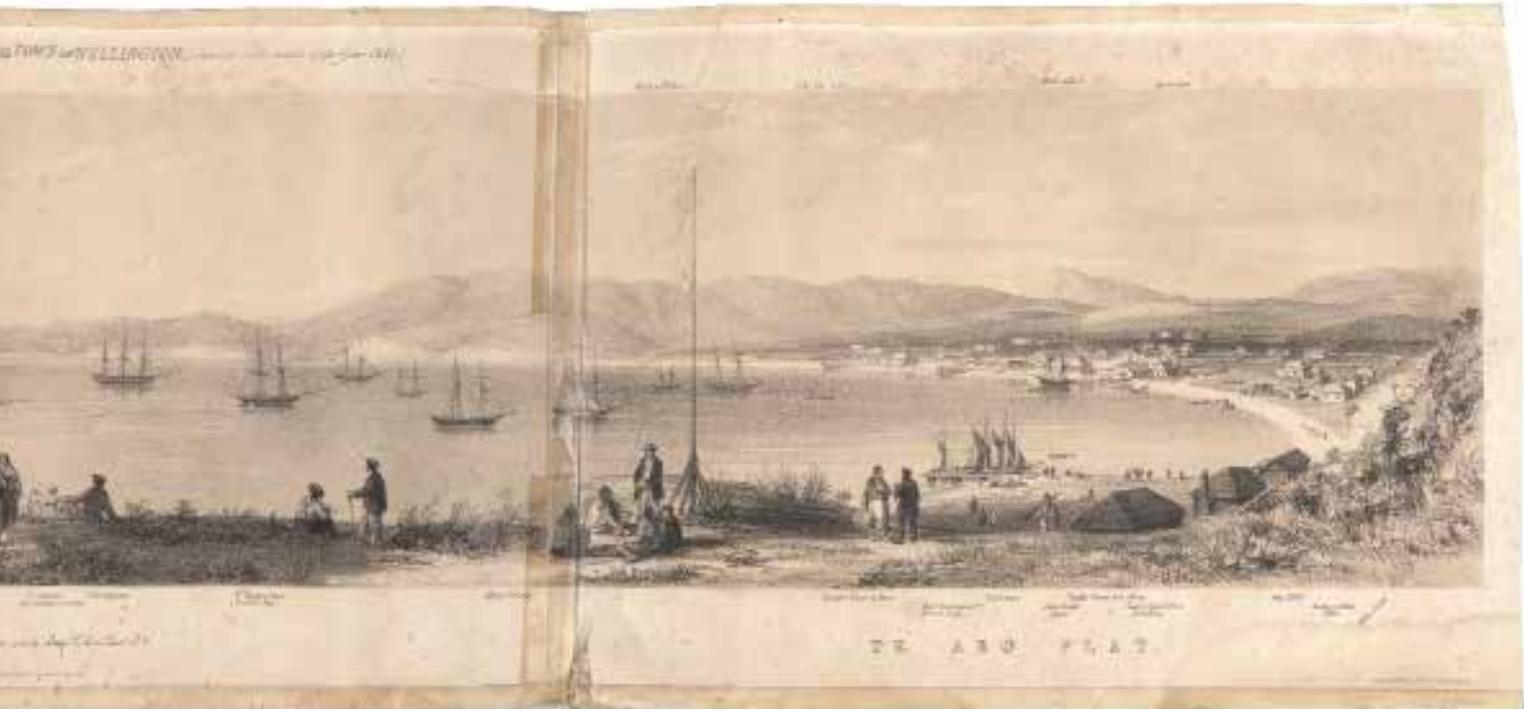
Edward Jerningham Wakefield

Adventure in New Zealand, from 1839 to 1844 with some account of the beginning of the British Colonization of the Islands

London, 1845

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi





WELLINGTON

TE ARO FLAT

Case 4

7.

Walter Buller

A History of the Birds of New Zealand

London, 1873

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi





GLAUCOPIS WILSONI.



GLAUCOPIS CIMERCA.

Case 4

8.

Emily Harris

New Zealand Flowers

Nelson, 1890

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

9.

Edward and Sarah Featon

The Art Album of New Zealand Flora

Wellington, 1889

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

10.

Georgina Hetley [Mrs Charles Hetley]

The Native Flowers of New Zealand (vol. 1)

London, 1888

Collection of Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi





28 October – 2 December 2013
Central Library Peterborough
A Christchurch Art Gallery
Outer Spaces Project

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TE PUNA O
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christchurchartgallery.org.nz

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Libraries
Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

Christchurch
City Council 