

Editor's introduction

This issue of the journal begins with two articles based upon very different performative contexts, those of the law court and concert venue. The investigation by John O'Leary into the libel trial *Bryce v Rusden* of 1886 explains Rusden's determination to persist with a faulty account of a massacre during the military invasion of Taranaki in 1868 through careful consideration of his personal experiences of race and class in Australia. Remaining in the 1880s, but in a very different context, Philip Jane examines the impact and significance of the 'eclectic repertoire' played at concerts during the 1882 International Exhibition in Christchurch.

Studies of the built environment are under-represented in New Zealand historiography, so the following article by Kristyn Harman on the place and cultural meanings of raupō dwellings in colonial New Zealand is particularly welcome. Staying with the theme of craft and construction but moving into the twentieth-century, D Wood explores the personal career of Carin Wilson. Of both Māori and Pākehā descent, Wilson is one of New Zealand's most significant designers and makers of studio furniture.

Two contrasting accounts of religious faith in nineteenth and twentieth-century New Zealand complete the articles for this issue. Kirstine Moffat first examines the reading tastes of the Evangelical Anglican missionary Alfred Nesbit Brown and his family, preserved in the library at The Elms in Tauranga. Then Geoff Troughton explores changing patterns of Christian identity in the context of international scholarly debates over secularization and religious change in the modern world.

The journal ends with the book review section, and as editor may I express my gratitude to both the book and anonymous peer reviewers whose thoughtful perspectives strengthen the content of the journal and enrich our cultural debate.

The second issue of the journal for 2014 will be published in December and consist of two parts: the first a collection of articles around the theme of 'rethinking war', and the second an open section on a variety of subjects.