

Editor's Introduction

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In this issue of the journal we include articles that encompass social, literary and political history. The Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi continues to attract scholarly debate, and we begin with Paul Moon's evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of 'originalism' as an interpretative approach to the Treaty. This is followed by Avril Bell's interesting discussion of the ways in which the ontologies of Māori and European worlds come together in public spaces, drawing upon a specific case study from Kaitaia. We then move to another example of public representation, this time in the national sphere. Paul Christoffel adds to the debate over the history of the New Zealand flag with a new analysis of the New Zealand Ensign Act of 1901. Moving to the history of political parties, the recent centenary of the Labour Party has stimulated renewed interest in its past. John Horrocks' article on the role of the Auckland beer baron Sir Ernest Davis draws our attention to the relationship between the early Labour Party and the liquor industry.

In November 2016 the Stout Centre, in conjunction with the National Library, held a conference on 'The New Zealand polymath: Colenso and his contemporaries', and in this and the following issue of the journal we will be publishing articles from this conference. The first is Rosi Crane's study of the zoological endeavours of Josephine Gordon Rich, contextualising her contribution within the conventional trajectory of women's lives in late nineteenth-century New Zealand and Australia. In the final article 'Lessons from the Dodo', Anna Boswell explores the cultural implications of a hoax played by F.E. Maning on the Auckland Institute and Museum in 1879.