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REVIEWS

Crosby, R D, *The Musket Wars: A history of inter-iwi conflict*. Reed, Auckland, 1999.

At first glance this is an impressive book - nearly 400 pages long, plenty of intelligible, informative maps, chronological summaries at the start of each chapter - which brings together the multiplicity of wars, battles, campaigns, occupations and migrations which followed the introduction of the musket (and the potato) into New Zealand. The text is well written and easy to read.

The book is mostly narrative and this is its strength. One is immediately impressed by how many wars were happening in the years between 1808 and 1845, and by their geographical extent. Each story has to be kept astonishingly brief to fit all of them in. The Waikato defeat of Te Rauparaha and the Ngati Toa near Kawhia for example, which is worth a full chapter to itself in any Waikato history book, has been boiled down to just two terse pages of a 25 page chapter which deals with the events of just one year - 1821.

Sadly narrative is not balanced by analysis. There is little discussion of how or why the wars started, how many people or how much territory was affected, of how strategy and tactics developed over the 47 years, or what lessons were learned from these Maori wars and applied in the Pakeha wars which followed. The intriguing idea that the introduction of the easily produced and transportable potato might have been an important factor in facilitating the wars is only fleetingly developed in a short appendix on logistics and tactics.

There is a reasonably respectable-looking bibliography at the back, but as far as I can tell (an admission that I haven't read the entire book!) there is not a single reference in the main text to it. This book is a footnote-free zone.

Imagination seems to be one of the sources of narrative, signalled by such language as "the rhythmic chanting of the ... paddlers **must have reached** a terrible crescendo" and "the haka . . . **would have been** thunderous and chilling".

Archaeologists will mostly be disappointed with the book, if my reading of all the stories about the region I know best - the Waikato - is any indication. Those intelligible, informative-looking maps turn out to be not particularly accurate, and incorporate quite a few topographic and nomenclatural errors. Some examples follow.

The Waikato/Ngati Toa confrontation at Kawhia has been well written up in a number of works, based on diverse sources which mostly tally with one another, and which are quite specific about locations. Crosby gets a lot the locational stuff wrong. He describes Te Totara and Te Arawi as the principal pa of the Ngati Toa. Te Totara (R15/169) in fact does have an internal defended area of 4200 square metres and probably a couple of thousand tons of shell midden, and was definitely a principal pa. Te Arawi (R15/198), however, is a precarious-looking little refuge perched on a spectacular headland exposed to all the gales of the Tasman Sea, with an internal defensible area of 250 square metres, one of several refuges used briefly by Ngati Toa after their defeat. It definitely was not a principal pa. Crosby describes Pouewe as a Ngati Koata pa, and his map locates it south of Motungaio pa. There was in fact no pa called Pouewe, only a stream, a valley and possibly an undefended settlement, which were and are located to the **north** of Motungaio pa (R15/178).

The Ngapuhi attack on Waikato at Matakītiki pa (S15/2) on the Waipa River in 1822 has been related in several works which are often at variance with one another. Crosby seems to have steered a sensible course between these various accounts, ignoring both the silly suggestion by Leslie Kelly that the Waikatos had never heard of muskets, and therefore panicked when confronted with them, and the equally silly claim by Fin Phillips that Matakītiki was ill-suited to a defence against muskets. Both these works are in Crosby's bibliography. Missing from the bibliography, however, is what is probably the best-considered and best-informed account of all, by E H Schnackenberg (never, as far as I know, published, and available only in galley proofs!). Crosby's map of the pa

is a disappointment - it appears to be copied, without acknowledgement, from a sketch map done by Kelly in 1930, the gross defects of which are immediately apparent if it is compared against a vertical air photo. A look at the 1:50 000 topo map would have shown that the Ngapuhi camping on the west bank of the Waipa must have been about 400 m away from the pa rather than 100 m as claimed, and they were at a lower altitude, so that they could not have fired their muskets **into the pa from** their camp, as Crosby claims.

When Matakītaki fell the Ngapuhi chased the Waikatos to Mangauika pa. Crosby's map and text show Manguika (sic) pa located east of Matakītaki on the Mangapiko river. In fact Mangauika pa (S15/169) is south of Matakītaki and on the Mangauika river - as Pei Te Hurinui Jones (cited in Crosby's bibliography) said it was.

Many readers of "The Musket Wars" will regard these criticisms as nitpicking. To some extent I agree. But my point is that these mistakes need not have been made. The correct information is all sitting in the NZAA's site record files, waiting to be used. If it had been used it would have reduced the opportunities for misinterpreting the historical accounts.

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Archaeological Site Recording in New Zealand. New Zealand Archaeological Association Monograph No. 23, 1999. Available from the Association, \$15.00, members price \$10.00, both plus post and packaging.

A new edition of the old site recording handbook of the Association (Daniels, 1979) has been long awaited. While the name has changed and there is a lot of new content, there is a lot of content which has survived from the handbook as well.

How does it work as a guide to new and old recorders and what does it say, less directly, about the state of the discipline in 1999?

The mechanics of surveying are covered with Bruce McFadgen's contribution on plan and section surveying continuing from the old. There is an addition on the use of Global Positioning System instruments for location - which is somewhat in contrast. Not a tool for the uninitiated if the required accuracy is to be achieved. However there is no assistance here for a beginner on

representing topography in plan form. The last edition included a couple of typical description forms with plans. No such help here. Helping the more sophisticated should not be at the expense of some basics.

Aidan Challis's contribution to the last edition of the handbook, on research design has persisted in this edition with little change to the concepts espoused. The references cited on methodology and analysis are almost all either theses of offshore studies. It is disappointing that a country with a wealth of field archaeology has not in the interregnum produced much more in the way of published work on systematic approaches to field evidence.

The coverage of different sorts of Maori sites is comprehensive and a good introduction to this field. Many of the illustrations have been redrawn from the old handbook and are easier to read. The operation of the site recording scheme is covered in quite sufficient detail for an ordinary recorder. However with many now having access to PC's some advice on obtaining templates of the site record form would not have gone amiss. The existence of other electronic data bases is briefly skirted. Not many large surveys would proceed without some use of such a data base. Some advice on how to get these to work in with the paper based site recording system might have been a help as well.

The handbook advocates much prior research to going into the field and comprehensive writing up of reports on surveys. Good professional practice no doubt, but it would be a shame if it discouraged anyone from just recording what they happen to visit. A site record unsupported by a survey report and a lot of research into its context may have less value than one with that support, but it is a lot more valuable than no record at all. A site can always be put into context later as a developing researcher becomes more aware of the other evidence.

It is not a comprehensive guide to New Zealand field archaeology, but nor does it seek to be. The well illustrated section on historical archaeology by Nigel Prickett comes close to that within its very limited space, but the illustrations in the Maori section looks to have been seduced by the wealth of oblique aeriels of pa which now exist. Not many of us see sites from that perspective. Gordon Ell's recent book (Ell 1998) is a good start for the beginner to look at alongside this guide, and hardly an aerial to be seen.

More for fun I went back to the first handbook (Golson and Green 1958). Compared to this it had much more information on the mechanics of map

reading and locating yourself and the like, nothing on historical archaeology and little enough on research design. Some of the advice – using hard pencils in the field for instance, has survived the decades. NZMS 1 maps then cost 3/4, aerial photos 11/10 and a prismatic compass at £7.10.00 might have been an investment. Yes there has been a lot of change.

The new book has much higher publication values than the old handbook, with a colour photo on the cover and a much more readable type and layout than the old.

Worth \$10? – certainly.

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***Managing the Historic Rural Landscape*, ed. Jane Grenville. (Issues in Heritage Management.) London, Routledge (in association with English Heritage), 1999. Paperback, £16.99**

***Managing Historic Sites and Buildings: Reconciling Presentation and Preservation*. Ed. Gill Chitty and David Baker. (Issues in Heritage Management.) London, Routledge (in association with English Heritage), 1999. Paperback, £16.99**

***Unravelling the Landscape: an Inquisitive Approach to Archaeology*. Ed. Mark Bowden. Stroud, Tempus, 1999. Paperback, £19.99**

Each of these books is an important contribution, internationally, to key heritage management subjects: the first two on the ethical issues and compromises involved in managing and restoring historic places, buildings, sites and landscapes; the third on archaeological heritage description and documentation.

They are all testimony to excellence in English heritage management from which New Zealand has already adopted so much.

The English Heritage-sponsored series 'Issues in Heritage Management' commences with *Managing the Historic Rural Landscape*. In New Zealand over the last two decades we have virtually caused to disappear wonderful historic landscapes by afforestation and the rage for kiwifruit development. I have a benign view towards Pinus but the closing off of whole lowland landscapes by interminable, tall, characterless shelter belts has been a disaster. It could be argued that we simply closed off a countryside of rude buildings and shelter slapped down without much reason and dairy pasture but there were still to be seen many pā and an older pattern of vegetation going back 50 or even 500 years. Would, then, that we had a landscape consciousness that has prevailed in the UK.

Having said that, this volume is not as relevant as the others to be reviewed. The statutes covering reserve and park management and the general planning law (including the EEC aspects which must be a bit like having a raft of programmes and law governed by Australia) are very different from ours. Only a very technical reading could take out points that might be made use of in our statutory environment.

The paper by Ian Barnes on the Salisbury Plain Training Area contains many useful insights on managing access to historic areas such as the design of fencelines and shrubland areas. Part IV of the work is a useful update on the debate about nature versus culture in conservation programmes. However, it still exhibits the 'cultural cringe' whereby historical experts are expected to be sensitive about nature conservation in the course of historical conservation programmes but the reverse does not apply. I have been told that the National Trust and English Heritage are bigger players in terms of overall land management area than is English Nature, and that therefore a more conscientious approach is need by the historical or cultural property owners. From my observation (Jones, 1998) I don't accept that, so this gulf between history and nature is still a wide one.

Managing Historic Sites and Buildings is a useful complement to the Berry and Brown (1994, 1995) volumes which are more site-specific or recount specific techniques for site conservation. The work opens with the World Heritage archaeological sites Avebury and Hadrian's Wall. The authors discuss the long history of scholarly interest in and public demands on these places, and the

history of reconstruction and current developments in conservation on management planning. The following chapters allow for very wide reflections on current conservation practice: from Wigmore Castle, conserved as a ruin, to Stokesbury Castle (actually a Medieval manor house) that has had some 500 years of conservation by conscientious owners leading up to its passing to English Heritage in 1984. The challenge to the current public managers is to continue that conscious use of past building technologies and to assist, but not dominate, the various ways in which the place that contributed to or pricked historical consciousness. Pride of place at Stokesbury is given to a reflective communication of 1905 by novelist Henry James.

The chapter on churches and cathedrals contain much wise observation on the overwhelming public demand for these relatively small spaces (which is generally applicable to New Zealand's house museums), and the compromises need between the worshipping community (the locals attending church) and visitor facilities. Ingenuity knows no bounds in these matters, and is fuelled by reasonable incomes from visitors' pockets in the form of entrance fees.

Ironbridge Gorge (another World Heritage Site) faces a period of renewal after its pioneering successes of three decades ago, and this chapter casts a steely look on the promises of re-enactment. The authors find it lacking at Blist's Hill open air museum (where a period fun fair is sited next to a blast furnace). They prefer the modern ceramic manufacturing associated with the abandoned historical factories in this World Heritage precinct. This is a view with which I concur, having visited these factories – where, amongst other things, there are original sales specimen rooms with every kind of nineteenth-century China that one gets in New Zealand archaeological sites.

Mark Bowden's volume is a long overdue contribution to publishing the recording practices of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, now no more since its merger with English Heritage. The most recent publication in this area that I can trace is by the old Ordnance Survey (1973). Bowden does more than codify current English practice, although I would say the title is misleading and a little too grand. He appears to have been the lead writer of the work, on earthwork survey, while a few other staff of the former Royal Commission have written on aerial survey, geophysical survey, 'special landscapes' (intertidal, woodland and industrial, parks and gardens) and finally buildings. Bowden's two chapters, the supporting Part III (on reporting) and the appendices on drawing conventions are the strongest.

It is a pity that the material has appeared too late to have been referred to in our own new edition of the Site Recording Handbook. It is an excellent summary of current English practice directly relevant to our kind of archaeological landscape. An intrinsic activity of the discipline is the creation and duration of records – to standards that allow others – now or in the future – to reinterpret the evidence in different ways (p.76).

English Heritage practice now favours the use of total stations for placement of controls (a large complex site might have 20 accurately controlled survey marks) while the 'soft detail' is filled with tape and compass – and the result is depicted with hachures. In Bowden's view, the total station is not a complete answer to survey needs. Although it has merit for plotting and copying, it is an unstable and often unreliable digital medium and is 'aesthetically challenged', i.e., incapable of recording and presenting the finer nuances of earthworks. There is no substitute for experienced and careful judgement of earthwork features. It is easy to lose track of details at larger scales in a way that one can't with a plane table.

There is much sound detail and challenging discussion in these chapters. A typical example is the notes on incorporation of existing excavation results into area surveys – problems include poor locational precision, small area size and the 'physically and conceptually narrow focus' of excavation work.

The chapters on aerial and geophysical survey are least satisfactory. There is no proper coverage of current interpretation of English aerial photography, where again they lead the world. Recourse will have to continue to be made to D.R. Wilson's (1983) excellent study, alas now long out of print. Landscape analysis based on AP is also weak – there are now a numbered country-wide (or wider) syntheses of AP evidence mapped at 1:2500 scale which 'unravel' quite extraordinary Neolithic to Iron Age settlement systems. Bowden's hard hitting style of analysis of earthwork survey methods is missing in the sections on geophysics. Although basic field materials are well described, the material is unrewarding and a more detailed analysis of post-processing analysis including the recent merging of geophysical data with cropmark data would have been warranted. Throughout the work there is little description of analytical or mapping software packages.

There is much in these three books for heritage management professionals to learn from. It is written entirely by practising managers – unlike New Zealand's most recent contribution (Hall and McArthur, 1993)- and it shows. The works

are succinct, they assume a general framework of professional knowledge (Bowden excepted), and go straight to the heart of professional concerns about, and decision-making for, landscape conservation, the heritage tourist 'infrastructure' and most important of all, fundamental recording practices.

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