

# eColenso

ISSN 1179-8351

*eColenso* is the free email publication of the Colenso Society, 32 Hawkestone St, Thorndon, Wellington 6011: please forward it to interested others. Contributions should be emailed to the editor, Ian St George, [istge@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:istge@yahoo.co.nz).

Past issues are at [www.colensostudy.id.au/Newletter%20Masthead.htm](http://www.colensostudy.id.au/Newletter%20Masthead.htm).

Volume 8 number 1 January 2017

## Contents

- 2 Ian Cairns: Waitangi mission site redevelopment
  - 3 The printer's printer
  - 15 A book of technical interest...
  - 16 Colenso & Harding
  - 17 "D. Blair lith."
  - 21 Ancient tide lore...
- Supplement: Ancient tide-lore and tales of the sea.**



# To the editor (16 December) ,

Dear Sir

Colenso society members may not know that developments are under way at Waitangi, Hawke's Bay, that will greatly enhance the public's knowledge of Colenso's many contributions to science and the settlement of the region. The concept of the Project can be found on <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Regional-Parks-and-spaces/Waitangi-RP-Estuary-Enhancement-vision.pdf>.

There are 11 elements to the Waitangi Regional Park Estuary Enhancement Project that is being managed by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC). HBRC would like our input on: element 8 Interpretive Signage; element 9 the selection of plants for the whole project and the William Colenso memorial garden in particular and element 10: the finalisation of the design for the Colenso Memorial.

Ian Cairns is resident in Napier and has offered to attend planning meetings that the Council will schedule for 2017 & 2018. If you would like to be kept briefed on meeting agendas, express your opinions, and be kept aware of decisions as they are made, please contact [ianjamescairns@gmail.com](mailto:ianjamescairns@gmail.com)

Dr Elizabeth Pishief is a local archaeologist and heritage consultant. Ian and Elizabeth are jointly preparing a paper reviewing everything that is known about: the site of the Mission Station, the Mission House and other buildings; the Te Awapuni Pa and the Maori Chapel. This article is expected to be ready for publication early next year.

Yours etc

Ian Cairns  
mobile 027 279 8017

# The printer's printer

Queen Victoria celebrated the Golden Jubilee marking 50 years of her reign on 20 and 21 June 1887. Colenso wrote *Fifty years ago in New Zealand* as his own “Jubilee Paper” in 1887, marking also 50 years since he printed the New Testament in te reo at the Bay of Islands. His Jubilee paper would be published by Coupland Harding in 1888.

Some doctors are “doctors’ doctors”, to whom colleagues go because of a reputation for clinical skill, good communication, professional probity and so on. Doctors are the worst patients, so though it’s an honour it is also something of a hospital pass. Being a printer’s printer, as Harding found, could be difficult too.

Printers are perfectionists. They are control freaks. They like things neat and tidy. And William Colenso was as fussy as the best of them. A sizeable correspondence around the printing of *Fifty years ago*, itself the story of the origins of printing in New Zealand, was collected by the young printer and has survived (ATL MS-0586), bound in a small volume, mostly undated, and not in chronological order. A few other relevant letters are in ATL MS-Copy-Micro-0485-1.

Colenso was consistently formal in his salutation, each letter beginning, “Mr. Harding. My dear Sir,” and ending “W. Colenso”.

## Harding

I have relied heavily, in this section, on D. F. McKenzie. “Harding, Robert Coupland”, from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 30-Oct-2012. <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/2h13/harding-robert-coupland>].

After closing his father’s newspaper in 1874 Harding decided to concentrate on job printing. In 1876 he imported American type into

New Zealand and in 1877 the first German type. He was a successful designer of borders, one of which was rapidly adopted worldwide.

Harding’s *Almanac* received high praise: “one of the best-printed and best-compiled works of its class in the colony”; “as a specimen of typography, no book yet printed in New Zealand can be said to have come anything near it”. Of one edition the London *Printers’ Register* wrote that it was “A model book in point of typography”; another commentator remarked, “There is a master’s hand in it”.

It was in his remarkable typographic journal *Typo*, however, that Harding’s interests found their fullest expression. He began it in 1887, and wrote most issues himself, often composing his articles directly at case, a method which he was said to have used with perfect ease. It received instant praise internationally. In Paris, London and St Louis its judicious ornamentation in headings and initials was noted with pleasure, and the originality and sprightliness of its contents were paid the compliment of frequent reprinting in English and German trade papers.

Design, principles, system and judgement set the standard for the form and contents of *Typo*. But Harding’s aesthetic sense was always exercised within the firmly defined demands of practical printing. On *Typo*’s third birthday he noted that he had also provided “a fairly complete record from month to month of the typographical and literary history of our own colony”. He took some credit for the journal’s role in establishing the Master Printers’ Associations in the main centres in 1889–90, and the New Zealand Institute of Journalists in 1891. He was among the first to press for a national copyright deposit for New Zealand publications.

Although the *Daily Telegraph* had printed his earlier booklets *Three Literary Papers* in 1883 and *In Memoriam* in 1884, it was to this talented printer that his old friend (the other printer) William Colenso turned for his Jubilee Paper about the mission press at Paihia. The booklet would see the light of day on 15 September 1888: *Fifty years ago in New Zealand; a commemoration; a Jubilee paper; a retrospect; a plain and true story*. R.C. Harding, Napier. 49pages.

## The letters

Colenso read his Jubilee paper before the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute on Monday 17 October 1887. On Wednesday 19th he wrote to Harding,

I was rather surprised to see such a very long report of our paper in "Evg. N."—and, an almost "Typo" view of it! I thought too, that, "D.T." might have said a little more. Following out your suggestion re the sketch of Paihia (as it was 50 yrs. ago, &c)—to have a lithog of it appended to my Paper (i.e. If Editor & Board consent to it being pubd. in vol. XX!)—I spoke to Secy. Hamilton yesterday about it, & for him to write to Sir James Hector, &c.—As you are one of the Council—perhaps you might say a timely word to H. I have also, offered to meet the expense of same—if needed.<sup>1</sup>

He would submit the paper to the Editorial Board of the *Transactions*. On 20 October he wrote to Harding,

I said today, to a friend,—that if our irresponsible Board of Directors at head-quarters should refuse to admit this Paper into (say) vol. XX, (as they did "In Memoriam,") that I should get it printed here, & "call on all really good printers in N.Z. to support me."—

On 12 November Colenso wrote to Henry Hill in similar vein,

I have my doubts as to the irresponsible Board at Wgn. publishing it in vol. XX "Trans.", (judging from the past, & who they are,) but even if so, it shall be printed here at Napier, with additions.

It was turned down for publication in the *Trans.* (see fig.1 opposite), for on 7 February 1888 Colenso was making arrangements with Harding,

Two things I would say to you now. I think we should get in, somewhere, 2 of your nice & eminently suitable cuts—the trio, Schaeffer, Faust, & Gutt.,<sup>2</sup> & the one in end of "Report," '88.

I am arranging w. Blair<sup>3</sup> for a lith. of Paihia from the old sketch—as that place is now no more! B. can do it, & I believe well. ...

P.S. As 2 heads are frequently better than 1, (tho', on t'other hand, "too many cooks spoil the prose")—if in going on w. the work, any thing as amendts. or improvs. occurs to you—"make a note of it" & forwd. to W.C.—

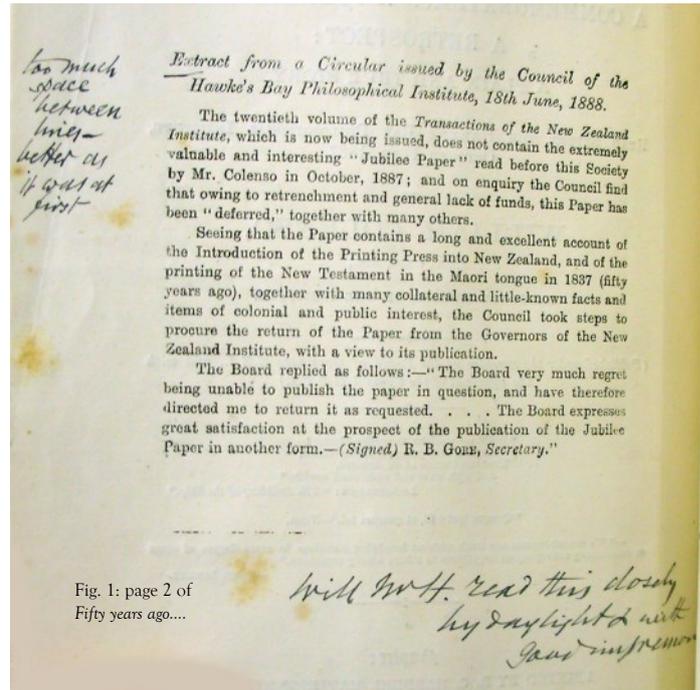


Fig. 1: page 2 of  
Fifty years ago....

On 23 June he wrote twice to Harding,

I note what you say for 300 copies:—this no. would be far in excess for “Address” (as I take it),—so, I ask, what would be your price per p. for 200 copies? and:—what per page for size, &c, as in “In Memoriam”?—

...and again (referring to the copy returned from the *Trans.* editor),

I send you some more “copy”, (this part of that from Wellington, so, as I could not write in ink on it, I have added a little in separate slips,)—and will get on with more.—

By midjune Harding was also printing *Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute Anniversary address by the President, William Colenso.* (R.C. Harding, Napier 1888. 35p). Colenso wrote on 29 June,

I suppose you noticed the torn & defaced title page?—

I was again in town today (from an early hour until nearly 1 o’clock) & returned fagged: I did think on you, & of calling, but could not. On my return I found your clean and excellent proofs! (last night I was wading through the 1st. proof of my L. in “D.T.” this evg., & the great contrast was striking, and I endeavoured to read yours w. copy this afternoon though wild with pain—teeth & both jaws, severe rheumatism—every now & then laying down pen & jumping up!<sup>4</sup> I had, however, made up the packet of “proof” for you—before your brother kindly called.—Should your trained & practical eye notice any word—stop—&c—that could be amended—notice same in margin.

Let me have proofs, &c—as early & constantly as you well can—I hope to get away inland, in a few days, seeking rest—ease from pain.

But then this: 1 July to Harding,

My Dear Sir

Before I retire to bed, I will write to you, & so get you off my mind.—

I cannot help thinking (or, rather, feeling) that you have scarcely dealt fairly with me in this matter of printing for me—I mean particularly, your not noticing my enquiry of Saturday 23rd. June: and my reasons for feeling this the more acutely are,—you, being a Member of our Council (as well as Secy.)<sup>5</sup>—your knowing, that it was absolutely needful the Address should be printed quickly—if at all,—our conversation about it, and our being so friendly, & thinking alike on many matters.—

It is 3 wks. tomorrow since that address was given—and it ought to have been well advanced in the printing by this (I don’t say, by you). I have already had 2 enquiries about it! and what can I say?—or think? If Peacock were still at D.T., & not over busy, I should certainly had gone thither.—

Your not replying, has given room for many, & not very pleasant thoughts: as I cannot divine the reason.—

Every day of last week I had expected to hear from, or see, you. And certainly I should have called early in the week, but for our Council meeting—on Wednesday 3 p.m.—(arranged on My. or Ty.)—believing you would be sure to be there. While waiting for a quorum I told Hill & Ham., that your non-appearance (so unusual) was, no doubt, owing to the advent of Mr. Glover—with, or for, whom, you, no doubt, were busy.

On Saty. night, I saw in D.T. your country occupations this day.—

I do not intend to go to town for some days—being far too busy here. So, (unless you do not wish to have the job of printing, or cannot get on with it quickly.) I should like to see you here,

to arrange about it: I cannot be kept waiting any longer.—I am very very sorry at this sad loss of time.—

The next letter is dated only “Monday nt.”,

Proofs from you to hand, thanks—also for remarks: you may see I have adopted them.

I send “last sheet of copy” (as requested), also a lot more of that Ms. I think we are getting on slowly! much wish you would oil your wheels there below.—

“Tuesday, 8pm”,

Having just sent off to Post your copies of “Address”—I write a few lines to you.—

1. Re paper in hand:—I purpose adding (say) 2 lines in Title p., —thus—

published under auspices of Board N.Z.I., and Council H.B.Ph.Inst.

this I will write out & send to you by (say) tomorrow night.

2. Also: at back of Title, the quotation from Gore’s letter, which you have in the circular—only I must see the Letter (or Letters) again, to be sure.—

3. When you send up more of “Address”—or proof—give me Hardcastle’s address. (Wedy. mg.—also, Peacock’s address in Australia, if you know it.)

4. I have sent a copy to each of our 3 Editors<sup>6</sup>—also 1 to Ed. of “Bush Advocate”—so look out for squalls! Should I send one to “Waipawa Mail”?—to “Woodville Examr.”?

5. I have omitted you—but I shall address one in due course.

6. I may tell you—that this Address is not offered for sale: but a

copy may, perhaps, be had through you—1/- ea.—I only mention this, should anyone apply in your shop,—& if any one does so here, or outside, I shall send such to you.—

I hope to put up a lot more tomorrow on receipt from you.

Friday 27 July (the night of the 1888 annual meeting of the Athenæum)

Thanks many for promptness. I prefer the green tint for Cover. Had no thought you would have been so quick on me w. Cover—as I had intended to see you first, to point out, a line on top I should like to have inserted. (See enclosure\*): you may remember, the late one of Hooker’s reply was, also, done after that manner.—

If you could well look up tomorrow night—or on Monday any hour, I should be obliged. (Tonight I have to attend the Annual Meeting of Athenæum.

\*For Title

(after—Hon. Mr. of Just.)

(Published under the auspices of the Board of Governors N.Z.I., and with the approval of the Council H.B.P.I.)

Just look at Titles (& Covers) of “3 Lity. Papers”—& at “In Memoriam.”

By Saturday 28 July the *Address* was finished. Colenso to Harding,

I have to thank you for a few complete copies to hand (this evening) of my “Address” printed by you:—and to thank you, for the manner & attention in which you have executed this little work. I send you, enclosed, a chq. for the amount of your bill, furnished.

I shall send this to P.O. tomorrow evening, so that you may get it early on Monday: and I will thank you to call early (as convenient) that day to receive Ms. of “Jubilee Paper”—now ready.



Fig.2: Harding's printing premises, Hastings Street, Napier, 1883; National Library Reference Number: PAColl-1761-04. Photographer unknown. Man, woman & dog unknown.

The same day Colenso wrote to Sir George Grey,

My object is to bring to your notice the enclosed Circular (written for our members), and remembering your kind and valued approval of my Ruahine ("In Memoriam") tract, a few years ago, to ask you, to become a Subscriber: the Ms. is now in the printer's hands.

And as my "Presidential Address" has this day been printed here (by request), I send you a copy with this, which please, do me the honour of accepting. I hope you may find time to look into it,—particularly at pages 27, 28, & 29.

6 August to Harding,

This afternoon 2 slips of proof arrived—but not the corrected ones returned to you, so I have not gone over these, please let me have them.

8 August to Harding,

I hasten to send you the Proofs you have furnished me. I would that the page (& last) one was better—clearer & cleaner—I can scarcely make it out, indeed should have to decline to read it as a last proof had I not the far better impression in slips by me. And this great fault in book work (see especially p.3)—is very conspicuous in too many pps. of the "Address"—owing to dirty back sheets, or bad ink—or to what? or is your brother near-sighted? or working them off in imperfect light? I did hope from yr. note of Tuesday to have seen more proofs of the work—

A note dated "Thursday mg.",

Herewith proofs—I have detected 2-3 little-grave (or grave-little) errors, which I should have been sorry for if not timely noticed: The Cover will do very well only better—i.e. stouter—paper—the same as you put to Reports 1888. I saw Blair again yesterday he has 3 plates (!) nearly ready—I told him you will

be quite ready next week &c.

"Thursday evg."

Could you easily obtain for me a copy of "Evg. News" of August 3rd? None at Craig's—nor at the office....

And send up w. proof tomorrow.

"Friday night late"

I have been hindered by a person unexpectedly calling & remaining some time. However I send you a good lot—to go on with: you will note, that in 2 or 3 places, marked, the Notes are in the former Ms., some you already have & some I now send.

I trust to send you all the remainder on Monday. I think there will be a short Note (in Brevier<sup>7</sup>) to be added to what I now send.

Will send slip early tomorrow re placing 3 plates.

I am vexed at error in Title—fearing, it has been so printed.

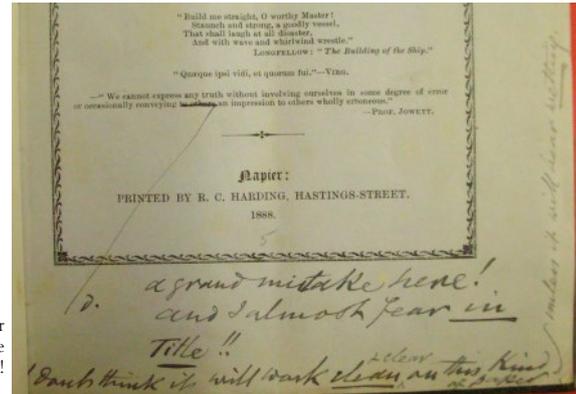


Fig.3: an error in the Title page!

“Wednesday”

Am sorry you were so far behind: hope no accident happened in Pg. Office—to retard.

I send a lot more of copy and I have still the last note to supply—this I can make long (or, rather, give in full), or short but I much wish to know first, how you may be off for space, &c.—

Let me hear from you re same—with next proof.

“Thursday evg”

To be in time—I stop my writing Home & turn to you.—

On opening your roll, I naturally took up the little book—and I received a shock—I felt upset,—

Afterwards I read your note, & that has been of a little service. I return this copy (wish I had never seen it!)

1. look at back of 3 plate!
2. do— pp. 42, 43,—46, 47, &c

I fear there will be too much of this. I say nothing of p.49, & of Title—as against white paper between it & plate 1.

I do not see anything in pps. 1, 2, & 49, to correct, save per-  
haps alteration of a thick lead—in p.2.

But the plates must be set in better—i.e. their outer fore margins to correspond w. that of type—not less; much more can be cut off their back.—

Plate 3, had better be placed to face p.32.—

Why is such an enormous awl used? & why (in this copy) in so far from back?—& then again left.—

I thought you mentioned to me about placing a bit of tissue paper between plate & type—I do not like this, neither its large

(full) size: it would look neater if size of plate—or type.

I think a longer line at end, as your imprimn. would look neater.

P.25 is horridly dirty & black—over against p.24, so nicely printed:—in putting the ½ sheets together, this should be attended to—the book will look all the better for it.

If detaining the issue a week or a fortnight, so that the ink may dry, would be advisable I agree to it.—

I trust my dr Sir you will see that my free remarks are made for your benefit as well as mine.

“Friday night”,

Herewith “Copy”—Notes for Appx. I worked hard yesterday & got them ready to send down this mg.—afterwards I recollected this day, and so retained them.—

You will see what I have written—some in a hurry! bad “copy” but, I hope, legible.—

If you are quite disengaged tomorrow (Saty.) night run up—or, say, on Monday night, suit yourself: as soon now we must think for advts.—title, &c.—

“Saty. 2pm”

Thanks for note:—I, too, had been wondering—what Remora had stuck to the keel of our ship!

I did venture to hope I should see a proof of next ½ sheet before Saty. Night.

I return the slip of fresh matter unread (save to add K.C.S.I.—as the line would well take it): the addition you mention will go in last of all as an Addendum.

“Monday morning”

On 2nd. thoughts (and still not feeling very well) I think it better not to send you any Appx. copy at present: I have several pages clearly copied, but it will be better to remain with me until all is ready, or nearly so—in a day or two,—to prevent repetition, and overrunning after in type....

Re quot. from Apocrypha:—more likely taken from Luther’s transl.—which, I believe, the Danes use.—

The next letter is dated only “Wednesday night”,

VII—Thunder & Lightning! time

It is wonderful (almost), that you should have again sent me a corrected & worked-off copy—& that I should have detected that error immy.—before I looked over the other matter. I thank you much for your note, & also for your very correct view re the title—as to reprinting it correctly. And I write now to say (under these fresh & unforeseen calamities!) Do not trouble yourself or your good Father about copies for me to send per this S.F. Mail....

That “sticks” in last page also had very nearly been overlooked by me: I only noticed it on 2nd (aye 6th) reading!!!—....

I have endeavoured to settle re 3 plates—their places, though not wholly pleased with that assigned to No. 3: but it must do.

Instructions for placing plates.—

No. 1. full view of outer anchorage Bay of Islands from hill

behind Paihia, with Russell in front,—to face Title

No. 2. Paihia M. Station with the boat in front,—to face page 8.

No. 3. Inner anchorage from Nihonui (a headland ½ way between Paihia and Waitangi)—to face page 39.

Thurs. Thank you also for this better coloured paper.

An undated note,

I was very pleased to see proof of 3rd ½ sheet—and hasten to send it back corrected. I much fear I shall not see another this week. Please tell your “P’s devil”<sup>8</sup>—to shut our gates when he comes & goes; great row here today—horses getting out and causing mischief! This was not the first time with him (so they say), & Bob<sup>9</sup>—if he had known of his coming—would have been on the look-out &c &c &c

A note dated only “3pm”

Thanks for note, &c, and for kind attention to last proof for press: I quite agree with you in your remarks: I can still add a few lines, as pointed out on proofs, if required.—

I send copy sufficient for your 2 pages to make up the 4th. ½-sheet.

“Thursday night”

Thanks for proof of Addendum, which I return w. this. I also send the Note! Which, I fear (from its size) you will scarcely welcome: it has caused me some trouble, endeav. to condense it, & have well-nigh spoiled it! I have written it out 3 times. I fear, now, that w. addendum it will make over 2 pages:—but we must get it in if possible,—or, still further, curtail it!

Perhaps omitting leads for both, if absolutely necessary, may do.—

Undated,

Had the Note better come-in—with a cut-off line, between last line of Addendum & my name ?

“4pm”,

I trust you & yours there in Hastings Street have spent a better (warmer) day that I have here.—

I detected an error—after I had folded up your proof: I have also made an alteration as an amendment.

A letter dated only “Friday mg” refers to the 25 August 1888 issue of *Typo*, so must follow that,

But I do not care for (nor wish to see) “Jub. P.” today—so don’t hurry them. I shall not send any out by this S.F. Mail.<sup>10</sup> I omitted in my haste yesterday to mention—let the back of the little book be done up square & near (like those from Wgn. &c) & not bunched & loose: & very little paste be used.

1 September,

When with you this morn. I forgot to mention—notes in a smaller type—of course such would not occur in every page but we may take pp. 14, 15, in vol. XIV<sup>11</sup> as a kind of specimen; some p’s. would have more (?) some less.—

Then there must be 2 clean proofs & 2 devises:—no broken letters to pass (as I should like to send some copies Home):—all additions (in way of corrections) to be charged.—

“Monday evg 6th.”

Thanks for note of 4th & for enclosures—to hand this mg.—next week I hope to see you....

This afternoon 2 slips of proof arrived—but not the corrected ones returned to you, so I have not gone over these, please let me have them.

“Friday night” (?7th—by now they were marketing the booklet to the newspapers),

I will thank you to write down the names &c of those “Weeklies”, you thought should have a copy of our Book sent to them:—my man shall call for it in the mg.—

I did not visit “D.T.” (again) this mg., when in town. I was also

steering for your Cove, when Hamilton hove in sight under N. & Close’s verandah—& so I crossed to him & walked to Athenæum. I handed an advt. to D. so look out early in mg. & visit E.N., & in the event of your agreeing, do you pay him, & I repay you.<sup>12</sup>

“Saty. Evg”

Having arrived at end of copy (in hand) “Jub. P.”—I must congratulate you: all being well you shall have copy of “Appendix” on Monday mg.—I thank you for marginal remarks, & hope have profited by them, (continue to suggest such.) The P.S. must be omitted—though it will hardly come in well at end of Appx.—we shall see. The German trio block<sup>2</sup> would have been highly suitable here—at end, after quorn. from “Typog.” I did think of adding a few more lines on top of 2nd slip—after “want.” (or thereabouts) to show, that as the Mission did not use Arms, powder, shot, caps, &c,—which were all sold at the stores—we not unfrequently suffered thereby.

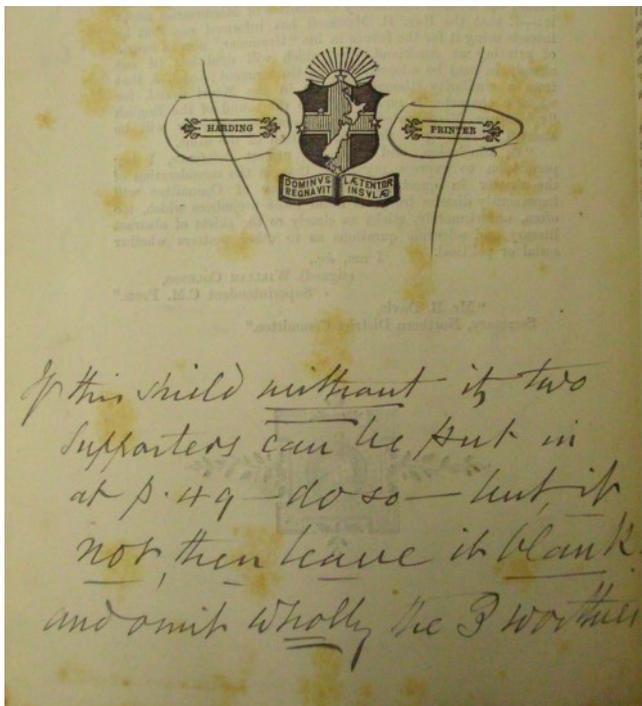
17 September,

If you can conveniently let me have (say)  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen (or 1 dozen) copies more this mg. to send off to England—I will thank you.

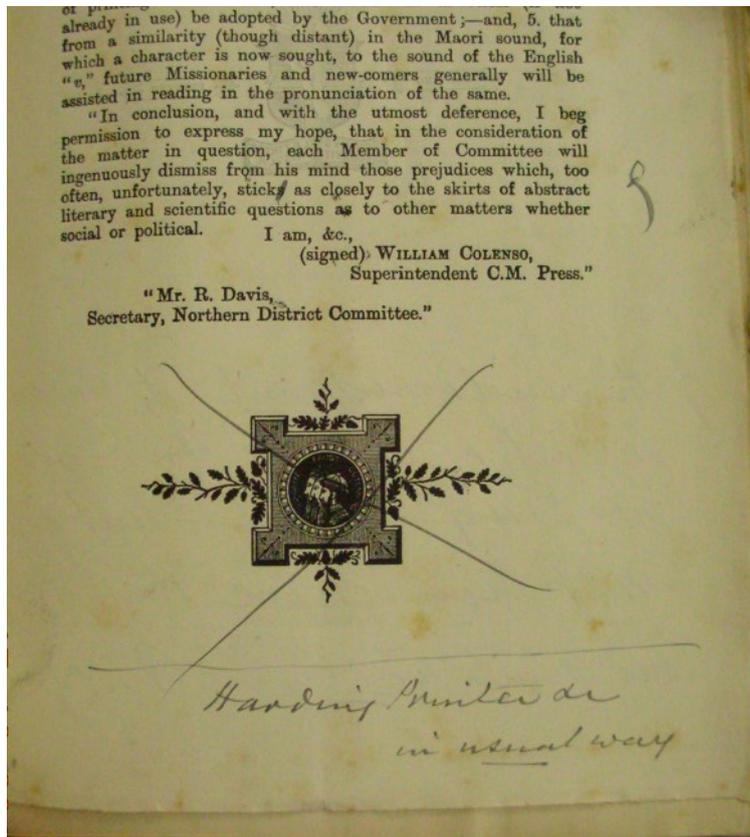
Were you a wee bit surprised at not seeing our advt. in D.T.? On Saty. mg. early Pallot<sup>13</sup> sent up a boy, w. a memo. contg. clipping from H. & asking for authority, &c.—I wrote underneath—“Yes, on the terms I offered”—W.C.

—Which did not please!—I fancy, they were a wee bit “riled”, when they saw it in E.N. Should I send a copy to Ed. E.N.? I sent one to Ed. Herald....

P.S. I posted copies on Saturday to all the Papers you had written down, except Whanganui Taranaki, & P. opinion Dunedin—also sent a copy to our friend of the “N. Luminary.”<sup>14</sup>



Figs 4 & 5: decoration for the last page. The block showing the “3 worthies” (printing pioneers Gutenberg, Schoeffer and Fust) was not used.



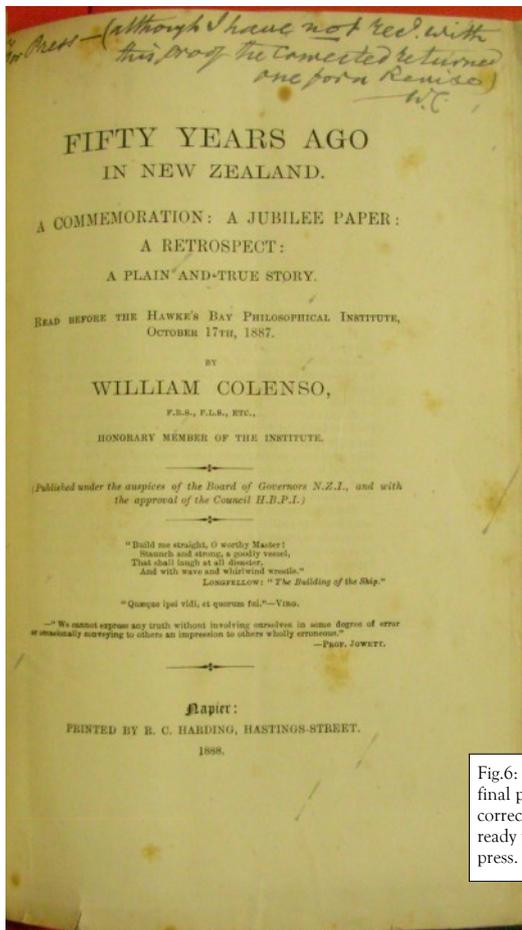


Fig.6: the final proof, corrected and ready for the press.

The next day, 18th,

I have recd. yr. note containing memo. of no. of Books issued—and, as I am not going to town today, & possibly not tomorrow—I write a line.

1. In your passing Craig's—ask, if he wants any more, just now, & if so, supply: ditto to Hamilton who, I believe, requires more.
2. Supply your own shop.
3. Put up (say) 250—in lots of 50, & keep by you for the time.
4. When job completed—let me have account of same, that I may pay you.
5. Perhaps you could run up some fine evening this week, & bring acct. w. you.—

1 October to Harding,

I have recd. 2 copies of N.Z. Herald which gives 2 columns of quotn. from our book (early portion) with scarcely any remark. I purpose writing a note this aftn. to Dinwiddie, re his sticking advt. (so early, too!) in 1st. page.—

“Thursday evg”

Just a line to say,—I recd. a note from a gent. (a J.P.) at Wgn. this morning, saying, he had seen in the Evg. Post, of 17th. a notice of our pamphlet, & coolly asking me to send him a copy, because he is greatly interested in all such old N.Z. matters!!

I have replied briefly, saying, they are for sale at Craig's, & enclosing copy of circular.

“Friday. evg.”

Just a note to let you know—I am so pleased w. the notice of yr. “Typo”, that I have posted a copy “Jub. P.” to Ed., “N.Z. Metht.” Xt.Ch.

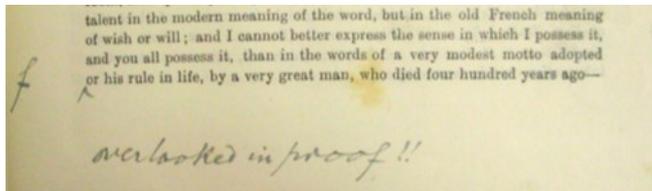
JUST PUBLISHED,  
**"FIFTY YEARS AGO IN NEW ZEALAND; a Jubilee Paper; a Plain and True Story."**

By W. COLENSO, F.R.S., F.L.S., &C.

Published under the auspices of the Board of Governors of the New Zealand Institute, and with the approval of the Council of the H.B. Ph. Institute.

Giving an account of the Introduction of the Printing Press into New Zealand and of the first printing; of the printing of the Maori New Testament, in 1837; of the gradual formation of the written Maori language, &c., &c. With an APPENDIX, containing many strange and interesting events that happened before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, in 1840. Illustrated with 3 plates of Landscape Sketches.

Subscribers will obtain their Copies from the Hon. Secretary, Mr A. HAMILTON. A portion of the remaining Copies are now on Sale at the Shop of Mr J. W. CRAIG, Bookseller, Hastings-street, at 4s each. 44



Notes

1. The *Evening News and Hawke's Bay Advertiser*, J Hornsby editor. The *Daily Telegraph*, Managing-director and founding editor, Richard Halkett Lord.
2. This refers to a print block showing Gutenberg, Faust (Fust) and Schoeffer (Schoffler), the fathers of western letterpress printing. Harding's block appears similar to that manufactured by the L. Johnson Type Foundry, Philadelphia (below), Gutenberg's name similarly misspelt.
3. David Blair, artist and lithographer: see paper in this issue, next page.
4. Colenso apparently suffered from trigeminal neuralgia.
5. In fact Hamilton was then honorary secretary of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute.
6. That is, the editors of the Napier papers *Daily Telegraph*, *Evening News* and *Hawke's Bay Herald*.
7. A size of type approximately 8-point, between minion and bourgeois.
8. Printer's Devil: a person, usually a boy serving as an apprentice, who ran errands in a printing office.
9. Robert Anderson, Colenso's manservant.
10. The mail to England via San Francisco.
11. That is, of the *Transactions*.
12. "D.T." is the *Daily Telegraph*; Augustus Hamilton; Neal & Close, Napier Grocers and wine and spirits merchants; "D" is Peter Dinwiddie, editor of the *Hawke's Bay Herald*; "E.N." is the *Evening News*.
13. Alfred Pallot was at that time Manager of the *Daily Telegraph*.
14. *New Zealand Public Opinion, Sportsman and Saturday Advertiser*, 1875-1893, Dunedin. The *North-ern Luminary* (Francis Mackenzie, proprietor), Kawakawa, established in 1879.

◀ *Hawke's Bay Herald* 15 October 1888



Fig.7: whoops.

Fig.8: "The three worthies"

# A book with technical interest of no common order

Colenso habitually sent newspapers and other items of interests with his regular letters to his sons Latimer and Willie and his sister Emily in England. He wrote in his diary (24 March 1891), "... posted letters to Lat(imer). W (illie). Emily & papers to L(atimer). & W(illie)., also, no. XXI. vol. II of "Monthly Review," to each: & to W(illie)., photo of Winkelmann's sch(ool)., & his last letter."

Charles Winkelmann had been teaching at Te Aute from 1877 and was a member of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, so he and Willie (who would have been 26 in 1877) may have met. In 1891 Winkelmann was teaching in the Hokianga.

"Monthly Review" probably referred to *Typo: a Monthly Newspaper and Literary Review*. The 29 September 1888 issue (vol II, No. 21, p.81) contained an editorial by Coupland Harding,

Printers, all the world over, will be interested to know that Mr Colenso's "Jubilee" paper on the introduction of the Press into this country, of which we gave a short abstract last November, has now been published in pamphlet form. Not only has this book a technical interest of no common order, but it contains particulars, unrecorded elsewhere, relative to the fixing of the orthography of the native language, and, in the form of an appendix, numerous striking and characteristic anecdotes of life among the Maori tribes in what the late Judge Maning called "the good old times, before governors and laws and taxes were invented." Most of the pioneer settlers have passed away; few have left any valuable record of their early experiences; but our first printer is with us still, and has perhaps as rich and varied an experience to draw upon as any man living. A close and accurate observer, and possessing the valuable habit of making and preserving precise notes of all matters of interest from day to day, his reminiscences are beyond comparison more valuable than the average tales of the early colonists, with the inevitable inaccura-

cies arising from defective recollection and unconscious embellishment. Mr Colenso is as ready with pencil as with pen, and possesses a fine collection of sketches of the New Zealand of half-a-century ago—a land known to us now only by tradition! Three of these, representing localities in the Bay of Islands specially referred to in the book—including the pretty little mission station of Paihia, where the Maori New Testament was printed — are reproduced in the pamphlet, greatly adding to its interest and value. They have been transferred to stone by Mr D. Blair, of Napier, and reflect much credit upon him both as artist and lithographer.





*Colenso and Harding*

# "D. Blair lith."

The three illustrations in William Colenso's booklet *Fifty years ago in New Zealand* are labelled "D. Blair lith." and indeed there is an undated (but clearly sent during the printing of the booklet in 1888) note from Colenso to Coupland Harding in which he wrote,

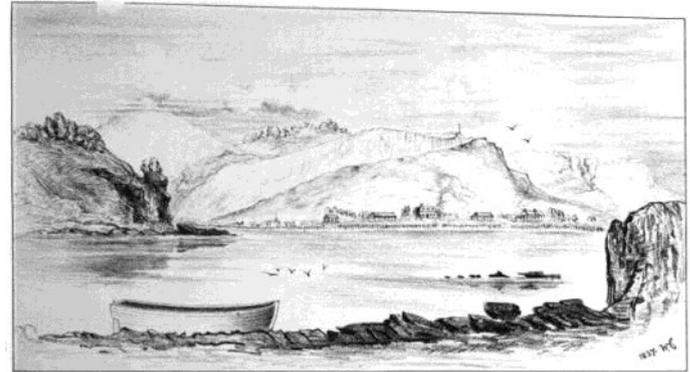
*I am arranging w. Blair for a lith. of Paihia from the old sketch—as that place is now no more! B. can do it, & I believe well.*

He wrote to David Balfour on 14 August 1888,

*"Jubilee Paper" is printing,—16 pages (only) completed this day. I have arranged with Blair (a clever artist we have here) to have 3 Lith Views—copies of my old sketches—to illustrate it.*

The *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* (Wellington Provincial District), 1897 tells us something of Blair,

Mr. David Blair, F.L.S., the Headmaster of the Wanganui Technical School, was born in Dundee, in 1852. He was educated at Birkenhead, Liverpool, and studied at the School of Art in the same locality, winning a scholarship of £50 per year, which entitled him to a course of instruction at Kensington School, London. During the third year's tenure of his scholarship, Mr. Blair accepted the appointment of botanical draftsman at the British Museum, and while holding the latter appointment also accepted the positions of headmaster of the Islington School and examiner at Kensington. These he held until leaving for New Zealand about 1881. He came per ship



H.B. HERALD LITHO.

Paihia from the west Motucurangi.  
*The house under the two birds, where the N.Z. was printed.*

D. Blair del.

▲ David Blair's lithograph.

▼ Colenso's drawing.

Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tāū-rangi, 6417.



“Lusitania” to Melbourne, having been selected by Sir Julius Vogel and Mr. Kennaway, Agent-General, out of sixty-seven applicants for the headmastership of the Christchurch School of Art, a position which he held for about six years. He then joined the Education Department of the general Government in Wellington and travelled to different centres of the Colony lecturing to teachers. For some months he was in Invercargill giving a course of lectures on drawing and science, for which purpose he had a set of Professor Bickerton's apparatus.\* He subsequently lectured in Timaru, Napier, and Wanganui. After a short holiday trip to Australia, Mr. Blair received an offer of the Ballarat School of Art, but declined the same, preferring to accept his present appointment, which he has held since 1892.

Blair was one of the botanical artists who contributed to Kirk's *Forest flora*. Kirk stated in the preface that most "of the drawings were made by draughtsmen of the Survey Department and a few by Mr D. Blair and Mr A. Hamilton". In fact Blair and Hamilton contributed twenty-six plates. The most outstanding plates in the book are those by Boscawen and Blair (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-SamEarl-t1-body1-d13.html>).

There is more information about Blair at [http://www.artsandcraftsnz.co.nz/uploads/9/8/3/5/9835758/artsandcraftsnz\\_anncallhoun\\_2015.pdf](http://www.artsandcraftsnz.co.nz/uploads/9/8/3/5/9835758/artsandcraftsnz_anncallhoun_2015.pdf).

He had enjoyed considerable success in London before emigrating: he became a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1878 and made over three hundred coloured plates for Robert Bentley's four volume *Medicinal Plants* (Henry Trimen 1880) as well as botanical illustrations for other works; he was a very competent botanical artist (see next two pages).

---

\* Bickerton, Alexander William 1842-1929: scientist, university professor, eccentric. For more on this fascinating character see <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2b23/bickerton-alexander-william>. I can find no reference to "Bickerton's apparatus".



Blair's drawing and lithography for Kirk's *Forest flora of New Zealand*

"D. Blair F.L.S. drew and engraved this from the dried plant".

*Cinchona officinalis*: one of several *Cinchona* species used for the production of quinine.

*Mucuna pruriens*: used in tribal communities as an antagonist for various snake-bites. Dried leaves are sometimes smoked. Used in Ayurvedic medicine for diseases including Parkinson's disease.



## Notices.



UNDER THE APPROVAL OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,  
WELLINGTON.

### SPECIAL ART CLASSES.

Instruction will be commenced on SATURDAY, February 18th, in the Public School, Napier. At the end of the course examinations will be held and Government Certificate awarded.

### SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ART.

It is proposed to establish a School of Science and Art in Napier (probably under the Board of Education) similar to those at Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and which will be affiliated to the Science and Art Department, London, so that Students may compete for prizes and medals at the Annual National Competition, London.

In addition to the usual Morning and Evening Classes for Drawing and Painting in all branches, Technical Evening Classes will be held for artisans and others for Mechanical Drawing and Building Construction, including the scientific principles connected with Engineering and Architecture.

Further particulars will be shortly announced.

DAVID BLAIR,

Art Master, National Art Training School,  
South Kensington, London, and Art  
Examiner Education Department,  
Wellington, New Zealand. 541

Hawke's Bay Herald, 6 February 1888.



*Myristica fragrans*: the main source of the spices nutmeg and mace

ANCIENT TIDE-LORE AND TALES OF THE SEA, FROM THE TWO ENDS OF THE WORLD: ALSO, SOME MAORI STORIES. By W. Colenso, F.R.S., F.L.S., &c.

UNDER this title Mr. Colenso has put into pamphlet form a paper he read recently before the Institute at Napier. Mr. Colenso deserves all honour as the man who has contributed by far the most to our knowledge of the Maoris in all their relations. He was in New Zealand before it became a colony, and travelled over a large part of the North Island, knowing some districts intimately. He took a deep interest in the natives, in their language, their proverbs, their traditions, and their songs. He was also a student of natural science, and has contributed greatly to our knowledge of the plants and birds of New Zealand. He has had splendid opportunities, and he has not neglected them, as many others have done. He has taken much trouble in the recording of his early recollections and of his early explorations, and we venture to say that many years hence the papers from his pen which have been printed in the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute will be esteemed as of priceless value, as being the observations of an able man who had opportunities which are not now to be had. In the present paper Mr. Colenso treats of the cause of the tides, telling what was the old Maori notion on the subject; and then shows what ideas on the subject were entertained by ancient writers on the subject, such as Aristotle and Pliny. Section II. is "Of the Sounding of the Sea," comparing the ideas of the Maoris with those prevalent in Cornwall. The infinite variety of the sounding of the sea must have struck anyone who has lived for any time within sound of the waves. It will be found that the noise completely changes with the least shift of wind. Often during a calm big waves will come in, showing that it is blowing hard far away at sea, and sending rollers far beyond the circuit of the cyclone. We quote a passage :—

Ancient tide-lore and tales of the sea, from the two ends of the world : also, some highly curious, ancient and legendary little-known East Coast Maori stories translated with explanatory notes on the same.  
William Colenso 1889.  
R.C. Harding, Napier, 48p.

Colenso read this paper before the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute on 15 August, 1887. It is republished herewith as a supplement.

As with his "Jubilee" paper, he would have liked it published in the *Transactions*, but again perceived editorial policy as being against the inclusion of his literary quotations.

Harding started printing it in January 1889 and it was published in May. Colenso wrote on 19 August 1889 to Harding, pleased with an Auckland *Herald* review, but disappointed that the Napier papers had taken no notice of it,

I have recd. a very good letter from a "Wm. Berry" ("N.Z. Herald").... He also speaks highly of our "Tide-Lore"—a smart (too good) review of it is in the "N.Z. Herald".... It is strange that such should be written, &c.—there! while here, at N., although advd.—no notice taken.—

It is published as a supplement to this issue of *eColenso*.

The south side of Hawke's Bay is one continuous unbroken shore, the sea beach level without rocks and mostly covered with shingle, extending in an easy curve for many miles from Ahuriri (now Napier) on towards Cape Kidnappers. In former years I often had "to plod my weary way" on foot over this long, stony beach, in going to and returning from visiting the small, scattered Maori villages many miles distant from my abode at Waitangi; and we (myself and party of Maori baggage-bearers) not unfrequently did so by night, especially if moonlight, on account of the coolness of the night air and there being no fresh water to be had, which in the hot days of summer was very much needed. At that time there were no roads nor pathways; therefore, we often kept on the beach near the sea. New Zealanders always used to travel in single file and in strict silence, and, of course, we did so. Sometimes that peculiar sound of "the calling from the sea" was heard; and on other occasions a still more aberrant one, viz., of a long, continuous, unbroken semi-metallic sounding, tingling, weird-like wail, which took some time (a few minutes, perhaps) to exhaust itself in the distance; when, after a short time, it would strike up again, and in the stillness of the night could be heard a long way off, coming on steadily towards us (or the place where we were), and then, on reaching us, going off towards the Cape, dying gradually away in the most attenuated melancholy sound imaginable.

. . . I never could find out whether that diagonal musical wave was caused by a current along the shore, or by the tide, or by a wind at a distance. At such times my travelling party, if straggling, would be sure to keep close together; indeed, quicken their paces and huddle up with a run! (*Sauve qui peut!*) averting their faces from the sea while the wave and sound were passing by; for the Maoris never liked to hear it, having many old superstitious stories and notions concerning it (of the banisher and kelpie class); some of them have served vividly to remind me of Tregougle and his shrieking on our Cornish shores. I have known some of my Maori Christian domestics, even at the mission station, to come cowering to me in a state of alarm at a late hour on a very still summer's night, with their sleeping garments half-shrouded over their heads and ears, when those peculiar tingling, melancholy, wailing sounds have been louder and clearer than usual, affirming they could not sleep on account of it; and, verily, the countenances of some of them indicated great terror.

The paper is mostly occupied by Maori stories connected with the sea, of which there are a great number. The largest number of the Maoris lived close by the sea, they derived a great part of their sustenance from it, and they naturally spent a considerable amount of time on it in their canoes. Translations are given by Mr. Colenso of "The Priest Kao and the Pet Whale," "Waihuka and Tutemouano," "Paikca and Ruatapu." He also gives the ancient stories of dolphins carrying men through the sea from ancient history. Mr. Colenso has the advantage over most of those who have become Maori scholars in having a mind thoroughly furnished with historical and classical knowledge.

◀ NZ Herald review 10 August 1889

Harding's advertisement in *Typo* ▼

## Ancient Tide-Lore and Tales of the Sea.

BY W. COLENZO, F.R.S., F.L.S., ETC.

.....

This book contains many interesting Maori traditional stories and fables concerning the Ocean and the cause of its Tides, with striking parallels from ancient mythology and modern superstitions.

.....

Price, 2s 6d. Postage, inland, 2d; beyond the colony, 3d.

.....

R. COUPLAND HARDING

Printer and Publisher, Napier, New Zealand.

The *Cornish Telegraph* of 20 January 1887 reported a meeting of the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society, when

The Rev. S. Rundle read a paper on the 'Canting Heraldry of Cornwall'.... (and) gave some account of a Roman coin.... Mr. J. Ralfe read an interesting paper on the fungi infesting the garden celery .... Mr. Tregelles read a paper from Mr. Atmore entitled 'Notes on the Lepidoptora of Cornwall' .... Mr. T. H. Cornish gave some account of a specimen of 'White's thrush' which has recently been shot in Scilly. —The only other paper was from the Rev. W. Colenso, of New Zealand, and treated on ancient Maori legend of the seas. Votes of thanks to the authors of the various papers concluded the proceedings.

That paper has been lost but Colenso may have discarded the Cornish material—familiar to Cornish listeners—from his booklet and sent the Māori part home to Penzance.