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The Brisbane (Australia) History Group announces the publication of materials on Silvester Diggles, a nineteenth-century pioneer ornithologist, entomologist, astronomer and photographer. Originally from Merseyside in England, he arrived in Queensland in 1855 and was active in the local scientific community until his death twenty five years later. The Group has made available a CD with Manual (110 pp) or a boxed set of that Manual with a two-volume book of the CD. The work has been researched and written by Rod Fisher, an historian. For further information, please contact Brisbane History Group, P. O. Box 12, Kelvin Grove DC, Queensland 4059, Australia. Details are also available at: www.brisbanehistory.asn.au.

Linden Gillbank reminds members and readers that Richard Aitken and Michael Looker, eds. *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (2002) contains helpful information about botanists and natural history societies in Australia.

The new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, or “the new DNB,” as it is affectionately called, will include nearly 50,000 articles covering around 60,000 persons. Among those subjects will be more than a handful of marine scientists connected to the history of the Pacific, including Charles William Baillie (1844-1899), Edith Berkeley (1875-1963), and Thomas Wemyss Fulton (1855-1929). A generous number of men and women in the sciences previously overlooked are now included in this revised, updated and expanded version, totaling 60 volumes.

BOOK REVIEWS

Dr. David W. Forbes, ed. *Hawai’ian National Bibliography: 1780-1900. Volume III, 1851-1880*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2001. Pp. 752. Cloth: US\$120. ISBN 0-8248- 2503-9 and Forbes, ed. *Hawai’ian National Bibliography: 1780-1900. Volume IV, 1881-1900*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2003. Pp. 808. Cloth: US\$120. ISBN 0-8248-2636-1.

Reviews of Volumes I and II of Forbes’s *Hawai’ian National Bibliography* were published in previous issues of the *Bulletin of the Pacific Circle* [Ed.: please see Numbers 6 (December 2000) and 8 (December 2001)]. Volumes III and IV are now available and the series is complete. In addition to reviewing those last two volumes, this is a good opportunity to reflect back on

the bibliography as a whole and forward to how it could change the study of printed texts, both scientific and not, in Hawai'i.

Taken as a whole, there are over 2,500 printed pages and over 5,000 individual entries in the series. The four-volume set has a retail price of US\$440. The set has much that is appealing and useful. Beyond the vast scope of the project, the bibliography contains a considerable amount of interesting detail for many of the entries. However, precisely because the work is so comprehensive and detailed, it is important to always remember that this, like other ambitious bibliographies, has limits.

The entry list is not complete, people will always find works that "are not in Forbes," and there are evident biases not only in what was published in the first place, but also in what was included in the bibliography. There are no works in any Asian language, for example, and as the bibliographic entries become newer, there are relatively fewer works from non-English and non-Hawaiian sources. While this tendency may actually reflect a tendency in the literature, it may also arise from the way that Forbes relied on local archival and library sources to create the database.

Having just gone through the volumes to see what the University of Hawai'i research library does not have, one minor complaint is that the format of the bibliography makes it difficult to quickly tell whether an entry refers to a book, an article, or a single-paged flyer. The indexes get better with the later two volumes, but still some strange decisions were made. For instance, in the third volume, an article entitled *The Greatest Volcano in the World* (Forbes #2741) is listed twice—under the subjects "Kilauea" and "Mauna Loa"—but it is not listed under the more general heading of "Volcanoes." Another entry, a section in *The Geological Observer* (Forbes #1807), is put in the general "Volcanoes" category even though it also discusses Kilauea and Mauna Loa.

In the third volume, which runs from 1851 to 1880, the publications by the Kingdom of Hawai'i continue to be very common, as do the various religious reprints, church reports and the religious pamphlets produced by the missionaries. Writings about sugar become more common while writings about whaling becoming rarer. At least from the index, it appears that works about sugar and about whaling are roughly equal in the third volume, while in the second volume there is no entry for sugar at all.

The first guidebook published in Hawai'i that was specifically designed for tourists was published in 1875 (Forbes #3106). The book was written and

published by Henry Whitney, the editor of the *Hawaiian Gazette*.

Hawai'i also begins to become the setting for fiction and a topic for the American literati. *Kiana: A Tradition of Hawaii*, by James Jarves, was first published in 1857. Mark Twain's *Letters from the Sandwich Islands* appeared in 1866 and *Roughing It* was published in 1880. Forbes's focus here is on works of fiction that deal explicitly and in some detail with Hawai'i. What is then missing are the incidental references to Hawai'i in American and European literature of the time. Those ephemeral references would have been very difficult to find, but they are important for scholars and others interested in studying how the Sandwich Islands and Hawai'i became a commonplace reference, an icon, in American and European writings. I am reminded in this context of Edward Said's discussion in *Culture and Imperialism* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994) of the island of Antigua in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*. Said argues that Austen could take for granted that her readers knew where Antigua was and how it fit into their world, so that she could simply reference it and include it in her narrative without having to explain further (58). Perhaps Hawai'i was also taken for granted in European and American literature and thought?

As an aside, there could also be a corresponding interest in the absence of references to the Islands, such as in Jules Verne's popular *80 Days Around the World*, which included an American-owned paddle-wheel steamer sailing directly from Yokohama to San Francisco. First published in 1873, Verne's story unfolds during the previous year. It was only five years before that the Pacific Mail Steamship Company began operating a steamship route that went from Yokohama to San Francisco without stopping. For the first time in almost one hundred years, Hawai'i had no place in a story about westerners traveling around the world, and its absence is not only essential to the mathematics of the trip (only six largely uneventful days), but it also connects in interesting ways to the history of the Islands.

One of the confusing entries in the third volume is to Isabella Bird's *The Hawaiian Archipelago: Six Months Among the Palm Groves, Coral Reefs & Volcanoes of the Sandwich Islands* (Forbes #3070, first published in 1875). The bibliography also has an entry for the second edition of 1876 (Forbes #3110), which included an additional article on leprosy and lacked the folding map. However, given the work's importance, it would have been useful to provide more details on all of the different editions. Forbes lists the year of each

edition, but does not note whether there are variations in the content, format, the publisher, and so on. Incidentally, there is an entry in the fourth volume of the bibliography for the first American printing of Bird's book (Forbes #3349). This entry also refers the reader back to the 1876 entry, which is incorrectly given as #3310 instead of #3110.

In the fourth volume, covering 1881-1900, the topics covered by the text change significantly. The Hawaiian monarchy was overthrown in 1893, and much of the writing during this period connects to the political struggles between Hawaiians and Americans, or, perhaps more accurately, between monarchists and imperialists.

Another interesting development in the texts of Hawai'i that is evident in the fourth volume is the increased number of books published in the United States that have phrases such as "our Pacific possessions" in their titles, often along with some mention of the Philippines. Few if any of those titles refer explicitly to American imperialism or the American empire, suggesting that while American advocates of an imperial policy took Hawai'i as a prime topic, the opponents of that policy did not. Anyone proposing to study imperialist and anti-imperialist arguments in the 19th-century United States could thus find the bibliography a useful resource.

In fact, the bibliography would be useful for anyone who wanted to study the political uses of the printing press. That topic has been explored in some detail in the case of the Maori in works such as D. F. McKenzie's *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999). Publishing practices are driven by events and in turn help shape those events, and so a detailed list of books published in Hawai'i would be an invaluable beginning to a study of the printing press as a political, economic, and social tool, or weapon.

As a general resource, Forbes's *Hawaiian National Bibliography* could be put to many different uses. Its value as a set of reference books is clear and if anyone has the time and the inclination, a redone and comprehensive index of all four volumes would make such reference materials that much more accessible to specialists and non-specialists alike.

Unfortunately, there appears to be no plan to create a digital version of the bibliography, a version which could provide users with more powerful and discerning search tools. It would be useful to be able to search by author, title, year of publication, language, publisher, and so on. It would also be useful to

be able to search by keyword over the entire four-volume set.

In my review of the first volume, I suggested that the bibliography would be most useful for book collectors. That still may be true. However, after working through the bibliography, I can also imagine a digitizing project that took as its goal the entire print history of Hawai'i. There would be roughly 5,000 titles, which may amount to 500,000 single pages. While this total might seem daunting, a project like this could be done piecemeal by many people, all working from a shared list. A thousand volunteers finishing one page each day could have the project finished in less than two years.

In the end, what Forbes's *Hawaiian National Bibliography* provides us with is a sense of what is possible, or what might be done. Perhaps that is the most one can ask from any bibliography?

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Diego Armus, ed. *Disease in the History of Latin America: From Malaria to AIDS*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2003. Pp. vii + 326. Illus., index. Paper: US\$21.95. ISBN 0822330571.

In the introductory paragraphs of this collection of essays, the editor, Diego Armus, spells out the increasing importance of the growing field of history of medicine in a region where, as he muses, "fifteen years ago it would have been unthinkable to even imagine a book on history and disease in modern Latin America." In the last two decades, however, monographs of the histories of public health, technology and science have emerged to enrich and challenge ideas of nation formation, citizenship, race, and gender in Latin America. This volume contributes handsomely to that endeavor.

Eleven essays transport us to six different Latin American countries (Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Colombia) battling with illnesses—leprosy, hysteria, tuberculosis, hospitalism, Chagas' disease, mental illness, syphilis, malaria, hookworm, cholera and AIDS—that in the last two centuries disrupted official attempts to control and "modernize" each nation. By the sixth essay similarities in the approach to solving the problem, regardless of the disease or nation discussed, begin to emerge. Indeed, all chapters address the recurring belief that racial problems, poverty, and criminality could and should be "cured" with large doses of medicine and science.