



TAMAKI PAENGA HIRA

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM



## Nancy Bamford Research Grants

The Nancy Bamford Research Grants, formerly known as the Auckland War Memorial Museum Library Research Grants, were first offered to the Faculty of Arts in 2012. Since then, the offer to apply has been extended to applicants from across the University.

Nancy Richmond Bamford, an Auckland resident and local historian, was a life member of the Auckland Institute and Museum and a member of the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Federation of University Women. Nancy was a long-standing supporter of the Auckland Museum library and, on her death in 1996, a generous bequest was made from her estate to the Auckland War Memorial Museum, to be used for Library purposes.

Applications are invited from students enrolled in postgraduate research degrees for grants to support research conducted at the Auckland War Memorial Museum Library. The research will primarily use the documentary heritage resources of the Museum Library; manuscripts and archives, photographs, ephemera, maps, and publications including early newspapers. The Museum Library's resources support a wide range of study, but this year the Museum's priorities are likely to be of greatest application to those studying in:

- Faculty of Arts
- National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries
- Business School
  - Business History
  - Marketing and Communications
- History of Science
- Faculty of Science
  - Biological Sciences
  - Environmental Sciences
  - Geography

This year, **preference** will be given to students developing research interests which make *extensive use* of the following collections, all of which offer rich opportunities for masters and doctoral theses.

### ***1. Selected Manuscript Collections***

#### **(1) Ruth Ross papers (Ref. No. MS-1442)**

Ruth Miriam Ross (1920-1982) was an historian who was particularly known for her work involving the NZ Historic Places Trust, the Anglican Church, the Catholic Church, and the Melanesian Mission. Her primary research speciality was early Northland history. Compiled over the course of Ross' long career, the Ruth Ross collection comprises 124 boxes (12.8 linear shelf metres) of her detailed and wide-ranging research interests

and investigations. It also includes an extensive correspondence component featuring many well-known academics, private and public sector professionals, subject specialists and lay people. A paper-based finding aid is available, but it is more a quick reference guide than a comprehensive inventory. The six-page index accompanying the finding aid is a selective index only, but it offers dozens of potential research topics on New Zealand's early colonial history. Candidates need to be aware that much of the content is written in Ross' distinctive hand and can be challenging at times to decipher. (see also Mary Boyd's biography on [Ruth M. Ross](#))

**(2) Sir George Douglas Robb papers (Ref. No. MS-526)**

Sir George Douglas Robb, CMG (1899-1974) was a New Zealand surgeon, medical reformer, writer and Auckland University chancellor. Born in Auckland in 1899, and educated at Auckland Grammar School and the University of Otago (MB ChB), Robb was influential in the formation of the Auckland Medical School as part of the University of Auckland. An often polarising figure, Robb was regarded by many within New Zealand medical circles as a 'persistent dissenter' and a 'passionate reformer'. Robb's papers, which came to Auckland Museum in 1967, consist of 8 boxes (2.9 linear shelf metres) of both his private and professional correspondence, covering a period from 1945 to 1967, and other papers relating to Auckland University and Auckland University College, the Medical Research Council and other matters with which Robb was concerned from 1932 to 1967. The correspondence is arranged into folders chronologically and, consequently, is easily accessible, but the additional papers, which are contained inside a further 6 boxes (1.2 linear shelf metres), are completely unsorted and still in their original brown paper wrapping. There is no doubt that sensitive material will be present throughout the collection, but it is this material that could well provide some interesting angle for research. (See also Derek A. Dow's biography [Douglas Robb](#))

**(3) Barry Brickell papers (Ref. No. MS-2002-22)**

Barry Brickell (1935-2016) was a New Zealand-born potter who developed the Driving Creek Pottery in Coromandel with workshops and kilns where he and other potters worked. A lifelong rail and steam enthusiast, he also built a railway on the property and used it to retrieve exotic timber, transport native seedlings for reforestation and clay for use in his pottery. In his 1979 curriculum vitae, Brickell listed his interests as "*fire, steam, simple and basic machinery, botany (in particular NZ natives), landscape forms, geology, visual arts, civil engineering, railways, colonial and functional architecture and the form of things*". This collection of papers (2.7 linear shelf metres) illustrates Brickell's significant contribution to New Zealand's studio pottery movement over the course of three decades from the 1960s through to the 1980s. It contains correspondence from a number of significant artists such as Ralph Hotere, Theo Schoon and Len Castle, and even a postcard from Friedensreich Hundertwasser. The collection also includes correspondence, photographs and drawings reflecting Brickell's love of steam and railways. His involvement with conservation groups such as the Forest & Bird Protection Society and the Native Forest Action Council are also represented. Contracting archivist Mary Donald has arranged the collection and produced a detailed inventory of it; thus providing a quick and accessible way into the fascinating life and career of this most important artist.

## **2. Photographic Collections**

- **Sparrow Industrial Pictures, Barry McKay, Vahry Photography** - These large collections form the bulk of Auckland's industrial photography from 1950 to 2000. This work covers both architecture and workplaces, as well as advertising. The first two collections have limited indexes available but are arranged by client. The third has original registers with client details and job numbers.

Investigation of businesses over 50 years and/or locations, products and employees may be possible. Researchers may elect Auckland corporate histories or perhaps particular brands they wish to try and follow.

- **John Watt Beattie** - The Western Pacific as observed through the work of photographer John Watt Beattie. Though Beattie's work in this area is well known, the original negatives held at Auckland Museum offer a direct change to observe a large quantity of his work alongside resources such as his published listing and a transcript of his diary. When aligned with his diary it is possible to see his approach and investigate possible viewpoints. The sale of the negatives to Auckland Museum just before his other work was destroyed in a fire has left our collection in a unique position. Some investigation would be required to avoid repeating previous work in this area.
- **The role of women in the first century of New Zealand photography.** A series of studies of photographers such as **Elizabeth Pulman, Margaret Matilda White, Una Garlick** and **Amy Harper** would cover the early 1860s period up into the 1960s, covering a century of photography. Even just one of these photographers would make an excellent topic of study. Starting with a review of existing literature, the collections of some of these photographers can be examined alongside any surviving written material.
- **Photojournalism.** N.Z. Herald photographers **George Bourne, Arthur Breckon** and **Bill Beattie** are an interesting trio who feature regularly in the first half of the 20th century. Other photographers in this area worked freelance such as the slightly later **Tudor Collins**. Their work covers many events from this time and gives a glimpse at early photojournalism. The research may also focus on particular events covered by these early photojournalists.

### **3. The Ephemera Collection**

Topics drawing on the printed ephemera collection could include a focus on printing techniques in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including comparative studies across print forms; or aspects of New Zealand culture captured through ephemera.

- **Bookplates:**  
The Museum holds some 8000 bookplates from New Zealand and Australia, many by New Zealand artists. They have received little research attention since 1956.
- **Posters:**  
Subject strengths include War, Auckland, Protest, Conservation, to a lesser extent Education and Tourism.

Other research focussing on one or more of the following areas of research, aligned with the Museum's research interests, may also be considered:

- Auckland Studies
- Origins and evolution of biogeography of flora and fauna of New Zealand
- History and development of cultures
- Significance and meaning of collections associated with human history
- New Zealanders at war

Criteria:

1. Written applications will be considered by a committee consisting of representatives from The University of Auckland Museums and Cultural Heritage committee and the Auckland War Memorial Museum Library.
2. We advise applicants to seek the advice of their supervisor in preparing their application.
3. Applications should demonstrate that the applicants have investigated the resources available in the Auckland Museum's Documentary Heritage Collections
4. The application should contain the research expectations, an indicative list of the documentary heritage material to be consulted at the Museum Library, how the grant will support the research and a supporting letter from an academic supervisor.
5. Several grants up to the value of \$5,000 each will be awarded and may include one \$10,000 grant for doctoral research.
6. The grant is expected to be used within a twelve month period from acceptance, or from enrolment for the thesis component of the postgraduate degree.
7. The grant awardees will be required to present their research to an audience at Auckland War Memorial Museum, or by publication, which is to be notified to the Museum.
8. Support from the Nancy Bamford Research Grant and the Auckland War Memorial Museum Library should be acknowledged in any thesis or publication resulting from this grant.
9. Applications close **30 November 2016** and awardees will be notified by **21 December 2016**.
10. Successful applicants will be invited to present aspects of their research at the Museum in the second half of 2017.

Please submit applications by 5pm on Wednesday **30 November 2016** to:

**Attn. Jenny Long**

**Nancy Bamford Research Grants**

**Faculty of Arts Reception**

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