

young man he had some training as draughtsman in an engineering workshop. He came to New Zealand in 1852 and took up land in Taranaki, the setting for his earliest paintings here. Not a physically strong man, he gave up farming for clerical work in New Plymouth. He settled in Nelson in 1860 with his family.⁸ H. F. Von Haast first describes Gully as 'giving drawing lessons at Nelson College'⁹ which he did until 1863 when he was appointed draughtsman under J. C. Richmond in the Nelson Survey Office. By 1865, three paintings are listed in the official catalogue of the New Zealand Exhibition by 'John Gully, Esq. artist & exhibitor.'

In the Haast MS papers in the Turnbull Library are a number of letters from Gully to Haast, dating from 1863 to 1886. In the earliest one we find the first evidence that Gully had worked from sketches made in the field by Haast: 'I have been to Lake Roto Iti with Richmond and can testify to the correctness of the outline you gave me to copy when I first came to Nelson.'¹⁰ This must refer to sketches made by Haast soon after he was appointed by the Nelson Provincial Government to make a topographic and geological inspection of the western districts of the Nelson Province in a survey expedition with James Burnett and two Maori labourers from 8 January to 28 August 1860.¹¹

So Haast knew, in the first year of their acquaintance, that John Gully could interpret his accurate survey panoramas; and must have trusted the artist's eye for atmosphere, his knowledge of South Island landscape forms and his technical competence as a watercolourist before asking him to illustrate the lecture to the Royal Geographical Society. But did Gully see the glaciers himself? Or were all these watercolours also made from Haast's own sketches? When did Gully paint them? If they are copies from Haast's own survey drawings how accurate is Gully's work? Why does Von Haast's son and biographer refer to these paintings on the walls of Latimer House, Christchurch (Haast's new home in 1881)?¹²

The most important result of setting out to answer some of these questions was the examination of MS Papers 37 in the Library. The collection contains about 150 drawings in pencil, ink and watercolour by Haast himself.¹³ The earliest dated drawing is 14 January 1860—'Wairau Range'. The group covers Haast's surveys in central Nelson, the Grey and Buller watersheds, and the Southern Alps from their Canterbury approaches from 1860 until March 1864. There is another considerable group in June 1865 around the Franz Josef Glacier, Lakes Taylor and Sumner and the Teremakau. The latest watercolours are dated March-April 1866. They are 'Ramsay & Lyall Glaciers from Mein's Knob', 'Towards sources of Rakaia & glaciers from Griffith's hut' and 'Brownings Pass from first Creek above junction of Stewart'