

The Mantell Papers are replete in scientific correspondence between Walter and Gideon and a Scrapbook (originally qMS 1810-1840) of circa 300 pages containing many zoological drawings by William Swainson (now under E295/Art). Correspondents represented in the Mantell Papers include J. L. R. Agassiz, C. Babbage, the Brogniarts, Robert Brown, William Buckland, J. D. Dana, Humphrey Davy, W. M. Fitton, Davies Gilbert, W. J. Hooker, Roderick Murchison, Richard Owen, J. Sowerby and H. E. Strickland. W. B. D. Mantell's New Zealand correspondents include John Buchanan, Buller, Colenso, J. C. Crawford, Featherston, H. O. Forbes, J. von Haast, O. Hadfield, James Hector, Alexander McKay, and others. Quite apart from correspondents overseas and Walter's other letters, reports and journals (e.g. MS Papers 940 and MS 1847) these papers form the starting point for any serious study of the interaction between workers in anthropology and the geological sciences in New Zealand from 1840s to 1890s. As a bonus of plenty in an already replete cornucopia of scientific historiography the Mantell Papers also contain William Swainson correspondence from sources like J. G. Children, Allan Cunningham, John Gould, R. H. Schomburgk, A. Sinclair, S. Stutchbury (1828-53), an important supplement to Swainson correspondence held in the Linnean Society of London. To my knowledge the Mantell holdings must rank as one of, if not the most comprehensive, original nineteenth century collections relating to the history of science in Britain and Australasia in any Australasian repository.

Scientists rarely work successfully in isolation—perhaps this was Swainson's dilemma?—and New Zealand's were no exception. The massive corpus of correspondence and interaction between individuals in the Australasian colonies, some of it reviewed here, shows that we can speak confidently now of a continuous informal association *within New Zealand* science from 1830s onwards as a part of the region's science. In 1837 Sir John Franklin formed the Tasmanian Natural History Society which became the rallying point in its excellent *Journal* for the Australasian scientific community in 1840s and in 1851 it was taken as the obvious model for the New Zealand Society formed under Sir George Grey in Wellington (MS Papers 121), a most remarkable early manifestation of the determination to institutionalise science.¹⁷

In 1852 the Auckland Museum was started and throughout the 1850s there emerged a greater awareness among the scattered workers and embryonic scientific communities in mechanics' institutes, libraries and collections that science could be an important part of improvement and development. Visiting ships again brought British (and American) scientists to New Zealand (e.g. Horatio Hale manuscripts, qMS 1839-40 and MS 1840) and some like J. D. Hooker (qMS 1868-70) became seminal influences on the country's science (see also Micro MS Coll 10,