

## Featon's *Waikato War* a bibliographical note

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Since its publication in 1879 John Featon's *The Waikato War 1863-4* has received little critical or bibliographical notice. The latter (in so far as it is the concern of this note) is perhaps the more surprising because there are several puzzling aspects in its publishing history as recorded in the copies so far sighted.

Davis<sup>1</sup> does not record it; Collier<sup>2</sup> enters it under John *Heaton*, and had apparently not seen a copy because it is a skeleton entry—the title is not ruled off in accordance with his practice, nor is the publisher's name (one of the cruxes) given. The collation is noted as "Pp. 100. [With portrait of Rewi.]".

Hocken's entry<sup>3</sup> is accurate for the issue it describes—that "Printed and Published for the Proprietor by John Henry Field, Albert St." with collation "8vo. Pp. 100. Chiefly double columns. Portrait of Rewi and sketch-map of Waikato district." As the Turnbull Library copy which matches this description bears Dr Hocken's bookplate and (twice) signature, it would seem to be an identical (if not the same) copy. Page 1 (unnumbered) is the title (verso blank) and p. 2-3 (unnumbered) the Preface; the text from p. 5 (unnumbered) to 24 is printed in single column, the rest in double columns.

There is, however, another more common issue with the imprint "Auckland; Printed and Published for the Proprietor by J. D. Wickham, Free Lance General Printing Office, Vulcan Lane." The immediately noticeable differences are:

1. Reset title page.
2. Additional folded frontispiece (portrait of Tawhiao).
3. Text is all in double columns, the text proper beginning on p. 11 (unnumbered) and preceded by two leaves of title and Preface.
4. Dark blackish blue ribbed morocco grain cloth boards with trimmed edges.

Some explanation for the two issues is provided by the earliest form which publication took—four monthly parts, No. 1 published by Field and Nos. 2-4 by Wickham. Each issue included a title page with the relevant publisher's imprint, the only difference being that that for No. 3 had the misprint "Waikata". No. 1 (up to p. 24) printed in single column, included the portrait of Rewi and a