

chant, leaning back with his hands resting lightly upon the stick in front of his paunch as he apparently lays down the law.

The Te Aro view has one immediately obvious discrepancy. The house on the beach, second to the left from Willis Street, has only three windows instead of four. In the Nelson print it is more difficult to pick out positive variations; the simplest clue is the oars of the boat to the left of the flag-staff, which are depicted much more clearly than in the original issue, where they are rather indistinct. I have not sighted a re-engraved Egmont view since nearly twenty years ago, before I began investigations.

All the issues from the second plates are on much thicker and softer paper than were the first issues. Although this paper tears and creases readily, they are usually in much better condition and newer looking than the earlier prints; and do not seem susceptible to foxing as those are.

Fourth and Fifth Issues?

A fourth (?) issue gives quite a different impression, although all captioning remains unchanged. Although the prints look a little brighter, the colouring is paler and softer than in the initial forgeries. A probable fifth issue may possibly be no more than copies of the fourth, coloured in modern times. They are coloured very brightly indeed, almost garishly. The key feature is the noticeable yellowness of the Maori cloaks in both the Thorndon and Nelson views, while in these and also in the Te Aro view there is a slight yellowness to the sails of the ships that is quite lacking in the apparent fourth issue, where they are more inclined to an off-white.

Without any real evidence to support my supposition, for some time I have surmised that the first re-engraved issue might have been made in 1890, on the jubilee of the settlement of Wellington. And that, just possibly, the fifth issue first appeared in 1940: the latter certainly seems to have come to light since World War II. A Wellington collector tells me that he heard in London that some time this century early plates had been discovered, or possibly new ones made, and more copies run off. This could link with a Christchurch collector having also been told some years ago that a dealer in Australia had a large stock of Heaphy lithographs.

Certainly about five or so years ago I saw at least four of the 'modern' Thorndons and two Te Aro views that had been purchased in Australia within about a year by different people at prices of 40 guineas or more each. The Library acquired a similar Nelson in quite recent years.

One other thing is certain. Overseas and New Zealand experience proves that whenever a reprint or facsimile of an early book or print is issued as such, prices for the original issues rise. More people become aware of the item in question, and purchasers of the recent version seek