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Vincent O’Malley holds a B.A.(Hons) in History from the University of Canterbury and completed his Ph.D. at Victoria University of Wellington in 2004. He is the author of Agents of Autonomy: Maori Committees in the Nineteenth Century (1998) and has previously contributed to the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, New Zealand Journal of History, and various other publications. As a professional historian engaged in the claims process since 1993, he has researched and written extensively on the historical relationship between Māori and the Crown and has presented evidence to the Waitangi Tribunal on these issues on many occasions. He is currently a director of the Wellington-based research consultancy HistoryWorks.

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Upcoming JPS Issues Available via EBSCO

Recent issues of the JPS will soon be available through the EBSCO Publishing (USA) database aggregator, which is one of the largest providers of electronic journals worldwide. The JPS will be included in both its SocIndex database and its newest offering Academic Search® Complete, which will initially provide a collections of 5,318 full-text journals.
JPS Online

A major project to digitise the first 100 volumes of the JPS is underway in a collaborative project between the Society and the Library at The University of Auckland. Eleven volumes (1-3, 5, 7-14) are now online at http://www.jps.auckland.ac.nz/ in both facsimile and fully searchable text.

New Edition of Ngā Mōteatea Completed

July 2007 will mark the completion of the Polynesian Society’s largest and most sustained project when Part IV of the new edition of Ngā Mōteatea is launched on the 19th. This volume is in one significant respect a new publication; the original edition did not provide English translations of the collected waiata while the new one does. Professor Emeritus Hirini Moko Mead has both composed exquisite translations and provided additional annotations, which bring Part IV in line with the other three. The Polynesian Society is most grateful to Professor Mead for undertaking the task and to Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga for providing funding for it.

New technology has made it possible to add something to all the volumes: CDs of some of the songs being sung. The songs were drawn from the holdings of the Archive of Māori and Pacific Music at the University of Auckland, largely collected by Dr Mervyn McLean and selected by him.

The Ngā Mōteatea was being contemplated by the Society’s Council for at least ten years before the project was actually launched in 2002. Five years later it is complete, right on schedule, thanks to the diligence of the managing editor, Jenifer Curnow, the assistance of the commissioning editor, Margaret Mutu, and the dedication of co-editor, Jane McRae and sub-editors. The Society is extremely grateful for funding and other support received from the Arts Council and Te Vaka Toi of Creative New Zealand, and from the Lilburn Trust, the Arts Faculty of the University of Auckland and Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, without which the project would never have been launched, much less completed.

Whereas the Society could find the people and funds to prepare the new edition, sole publication of a handsome new edition was well beyond its expertise and resources. The Director of Auckland University Press, Elizabeth Caffin, had also been contemplating a new edition of Ngā Mōteatea for some years and was eager to collaborate. The result is four volumes whose elegance is truly worthy of this Aoteroa/New Zealand “national treasure”.