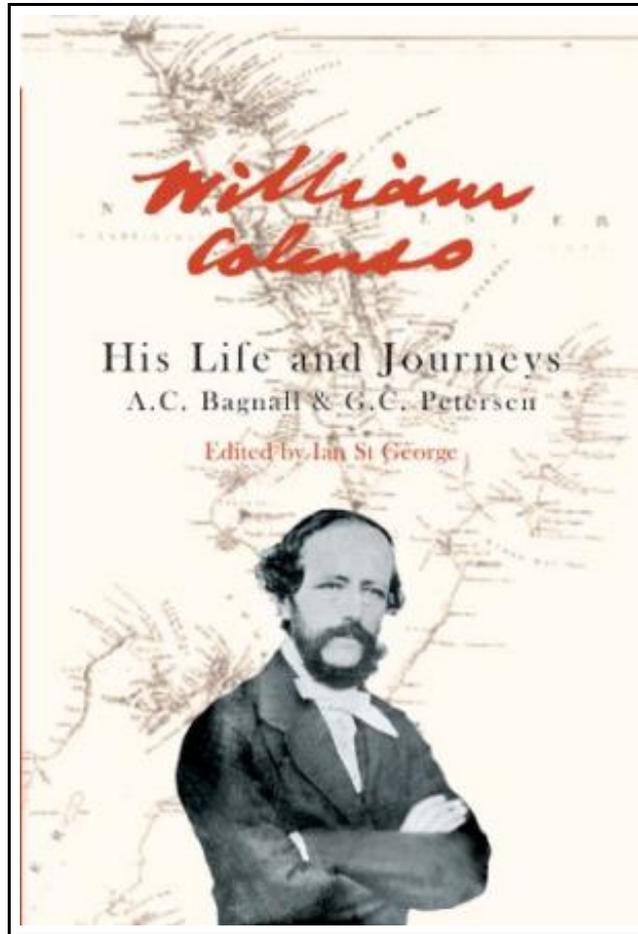


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Reviews

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Otago University Press, New Zealand, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Revised ed.. 224 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Born in the town of Penzance in Cornwall in 1811, William Colenso was perhaps the most interesting of New Zealand s early missionaries. As a Church Missionary Society printer, Colenso established the first printing press and, in 1837, printed the first book - 5,000 copies of the New Testament in Maori, to be followed later by 27,000 copies of the Book of Common Prayer, also in Maori. Colenso also printed many pamphlets and documents, including the Treaty of Waitangi. His Authentic and Genuine History of the Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi (1890) is regarded as the most reliable European account from the time. Throughout his life, he defended the rights and equality of Maori. Determined to expand the activities of the mission in New Zealand, William Colenso undertook major journeys, mainly on the east coast of the North Island. Always an enthusiastic plant collector, his scientific interests were reinforced and made more systematic by the visits of Charles Darwin in 1835, Allan Cunningham in 1838, and Joseph Dalton Hooker in 1841. Botanical studies accompanied his inland explorations. Colenso married in 1843 and was ordained as a deacon in 1844, after which he moved his family to the new mission in Hawkes Bay. His career in the church came to an end when an extramarital affair resulted in the birth of a son in 1851. Some years later, he emerged from the scandal to take up positions in (first) provincial and (later) national politics. At the end of his life, in 1894, he was re-admitted to the Anglican clergy. This book is the most thoroughly researched and comprehensive biography of this forceful individual. *** . .a riveting account..



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