PREFACE

This exhibition of some fifty watercolours and drawings, together with a number of photographs, presents an individual's view of colonial Auckland. Seen through the eyes of the highly gifted man, Reverend John Kinder, we are able to share those aspects of the early capital which appealed to him as an artist and which shaped his life there during the second half of last century.

We wish to thank the owners of pictures who have so generously lent their works for this exhibition.

‘Kinder’s Auckland’ has been directed by Anne Kirker, Curator of Prints and Drawings.

Ernest Smith
Director

INTRODUCTION

When the Reverend John Kinder took the position of artist — recorder he did so with dedication and care. His meticulously handled watercolours, which describe familiar landmarks, are noted for their accuracy. Even in the most broadly treated works, subjects, which on this occasion relate to Auckland and its environs, are easily identified. This integrity of approach is a quality akin to the early topographers who painstakingly charted the New Zealand landscape during the settlement period; it also reveals the precise and disciplined nature of the man himself.

Kinder arrived in Auckland on the 17th October 1855 to take up the mastership of the new Church of England Grammar School. He was thirty-five years old. Previously he had lived in England, and as a student distinguished himself in law and mathematics, graduating with a Master of Arts from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1845. He turned, however, to the Church to pursue his career and in 1849 was ordained a priest.

Before coming to New Zealand Kinder had already expressed an interest in drawing and watercolour painting. He took lessons from the Royal Academist, Aaron Penley, in Southampton during 1835 and later, on a trip to Europe with his father, he developed this interest further by producing a series of sketches, many of which relate to ecclesiastical architecture.

In Auckland, Kinder continued to record the design and site of local churches in his sketchbook, especially those to which he was closely associated. He often used a camera, producing photographs which sometimes served as the basis for finished watercolours.

In spite of his prolific output, Kinder exhibited only four paintings during his lifetime. These were displayed with the Auckland Society of Artists, which he joined in 1869. Kinder’s rigorous and time-consuming work at St John’s Theological College, where he was appointed master in 1871, could well have prevented him from continuing his activities with the Society.

In 1881 Kinder left the College and bought ‘Woodcraft’ where he spent the remainder of his life in retirement, continuing to pursue his favourite pastimes of painting and gardening. He died in 1903, at the age of eighty-four.

In the history of colonial painting, John Kinder developed a style which makes his importance for New Zealand two-fold. Through an accurate approach to his subject a valuable record exists of Auckland and of areas outside this centre; and through his control of tone, colour and composition, works of considerable aesthetic merit were conceived.

Anne Kirker
Curator of Prints & Drawings

For a comprehensive guide to the life of John Kinder the following texts are recommended

1) ‘A brief account of my life by J. Kinder, M.A. and D.D. of Woodcroft, Remuera, in the neighbourhood of Auckland, 1900’. A photocopy of the original manuscript is in the Auckland Institute and Museum Library.


Catalogue of Watercolours and Drawings
This is arranged in categories according to subject.
Sight sizes are given, in millimetres, height before width.

1. Plan of Auckland c 1856
pen and watercolour 244 x 393
Both sides of the sheet have been used with some of the place
names written in mirror writing on the verso
Inscribed: Hold this up to the light. The Numbers refer to the
sketches showing the spot from which they were taken. The
arrow points in the direction of the centre of each view.
Lent by the Hocken Library.
The plan shows that part of Auckland district between Hobsons
Bay and Freemans Bay. Main roads are given and the position of
many private homes, and spots from which the numbered sketches
by the artist were painted. Several of these are included in this
exhibition, (Refer to cat. nos. 2, 13, 15, 16, 20 and possibly 14)

CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In 1855 Bishop Selwyn arrived in England on commission to find a
clergyman willing to undertake the mastership of a grammar
school to be established in the colony's capital, Auckland. Follow­
ing his interview with Selwyn, the Reverend John Kinder was
appointed to the position with the Bishop's following advice, “you
see, Mr Kinder, that in the colonies the great thing is to keep
moving — as in mathematics a point in moving generates a line, a
line generates a surface, and a surface generates a solid, so in the
colonies only keep moving and in time we arrive at
solidity."
Kinder's active public life, coupled with his numerous excursions
around New Zealand, later witnessed this attitude.
The site for the Church of England Grammar School was in
Parnell, near the ground now occupied by the Cathedral. A hand­
some stone house, still standing, was built for the Master on the
corner of Parnell Road and Ayr Street.

2. View from the Master’s House, Parnell Grammar School 1858
watercolour 260 x 752
Inscribed: North Head, Mr Burrowe's Rangitoto Cape Colville,
Mr Reader Wood’s, Orakei point (native settlement), House of
Mr Christmas, House of Mr S.A. Wood, Mt Wellington, Mr
Barry, Mt Hobson.
Inscribed on verso: First set No. 45 Semi-panoramic view taken
from the Master’s house attached to the Grammar School,
Auckland, N.Zd. — 1858 — looking over Hobsons Bay-- with Mt.
Hobson & the village of Remuera on the right — Rangi-toto and
the North Head of Auckland harbour on the left — S. Johns
College stands on the top of the ridge in the distance, just to the
right hand of the join in the paper. Cape Colville & the Howick
ranges in the extreme distance.
By slightly bending round the ends of the drawing, so as to
form about a third of the circumference of a circle, a more
correct impression of the view will be obtained —
Lent by the Hocken Library.
3. Church of England Grammar School from the Master’s Garden (page from a letter)
pen and ink 203 x 267
Inscribed: P.S. When you send a parcel please do include in it a couple of Sketching blocks, of rough drawing paper. 14 inches by 10. This is I believe the largest size, but one of them may be larger if sold. A pair of good compasses of white metal with moveable leg, and pen & pencil to fit would be very useful. They are to be had separate at the London shops, such as Reeves, at the same time get a small pair, some sheets of drawing paper, white and tinted, smooth and rough especially the latter. Some thin Bristol board, and about a dozen sheets of mounting board, about 20 inches by 15. a cake of Lake. a bottle of permanent white, and a few various sized camel hair brushes. A reel of the commonest blotting paper would be useful for pressing plants, and some good cartridge paper to keep them in afterwards
Also inscribed: GRAMMAR SCHOOL from the Master’s garden MT HOBSON ONE TREE HILL MT S. JOHN EPSOM ROAD MT EDEN
Lent by Miss S.P. McCurdie, Rotorua.

PARNELL AND TAURARUA

Kinder recalls in his journal (‘A brief account of my life . . . ’1900) that Parnell was the chief suburb at the time of his arrival in Auckland. At Taurarua, now known as Judges Bay, stood the homes of the Judge himself, Sir William Martin, and the Attorney-General, Mr William Swainson. St Stephens Chapel was built on a slope overlooking the bay.

4. St Mary’s Church, Parnell 1860
pencil with wash 247 x 349
Inscribed: S. Mary’s Church Parnell. 1860.
Lent by Mr N.L. Macky, Auckland.

5. Auckland from Mr Reader Wood’s Cottage Parnell. 1856
watercolour 200 x 317
Inscribed: Auckland – 1856 from Mr Reader Wood’s Parnell.
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/27

6. View from the Verandah of Mr Reader Wood’s Cottage 1856
watercolour 282 x 238
Inscribed: 1856 from Veranda of Mr. Reader Wood’s Cottage
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/29

7. View of the Harbour from Taurarua
watercolour 206 x 295
Inscribed: Taurarua
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/31
8. Taurarua 1856
watercolour 219 x 339
Inscribed: Taurarua. April 1856
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/26

9. St Stephens Chapel, Taurarua 1858
watercolour 219 x 333
Inscribed: S. Stephen's Chapel Taurarua Auckland J. Kinder
Jan 7 1858
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/32

10. St Stephens Chapel
watercolour 273 x 384
Lent by Mrs B. Williams, Auckland.

11. Taurarua 1865
watercolour 254 x 355
Inscribed: J.K. 1865.
Lent by Mr A.W. Tattersfield, Auckland.

12. Entrance to the Domain 1863
watercolour 247 x 193
Inscribed: Entrance to Domain. Auckland 1863
Lent by Mrs J.S. MacCormick, Auckland.

AUCKLAND CENTRAL

"The town of Auckland, when we first saw it (in 1857), appeared to us very small, and the main streets rather mean-looking thoroughfares..... The only stone buildings we saw were the soldiers' barracks..... The same stone was used for roadmaking, and proved very destructive to our shoes. There were no green fields to be seen anywhere, and the colour of the landscape reminded one of a Scotch moorland when the heather is in bloom."
(From Mrs Stack's Journals printed in 'Further Maoriland Adventures')

"Seen from the harbour, Auckland makes a considerable appearance, and suggests the idea of expansiveness. St. Paul's Church, with its neat spire, occupying a prominent position on the centre headland, is an ornamental feature. The Barracks, the Scotch Church, the Colonial Hospital, the Wesleyan Institution, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Windmill on the hill, with Mount Eden in the background, are the most prominent objects."
(From William Swainson's 'Auckland, and the Country Adjacent' 1853)

13. Auckland from the Verandah of Mr Keven's House 1855
wash 251 x 349
Inscribed on verso: No.1. Auckland from the Verandah of Mr Kevens House.
Lent by the Hocken Library.

14. Karangahape Road 1856
wash 247 x 352
Inscribed: Karangahape Road. Jany. 1856. J.K.
Inscribed on verso: Mr Keven's House ("S. Kevins") Karangahapé Road Auckland. Manukau ranges & Mt. Albert in the distance.
Lent by the Alexander Turnbull Library.

15. Auckland from Wakefield Street 1856
pen and ink 247 x 352
Inscribed: Auckland. N.Zd. from Wakefield St. Road July.7.1856
Inscribed on verso: No. 4 Auckland from the Wakefield St. Road.
Lent by the Hocken Library.

16. St Pauls Church from Jermyn Street 1856
wash 251 x 359
Inscribed: S.Pauls. Auckland. JK. March. 1856
Inscribed on verso: 5. St Pauls Church Auckland
Lent by the Hocken Library.
17. **Old St Pauls Church (Sketch) 1861**
   pencil 247 x 352
   Purchased by the Auckland City Council acc.no. 1968/30/5

18. **Old St Pauls Church 1861**
   watercolour 235 x 336
   Inscribed: *Old S.Pauls. Auckland. 1861.*
   Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/25

19. **Freemans Bay 1860**
   watercolour 225 x 333
   Inscribed: *Freemans Bay. Auckland. 1860*
   Presented by Mr H.A.Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/28

**MOUNTS AND HARBOURS**

"Mr Swainson took Emma, Fanny and myself to the Three Kings to see the Maori school there and the celebrated caves .... We jolted along the rough roads until we had passed Mount Eden, when we got out and walked along a narrow green lane, while the dray went round by the road. Suddenly we came in sight of distant blue wooded hills and the waters of Manukau Harbour, which reminded me of scenery on the Welsh coast. Close beside us rose the Three Kings hillocks, from which the place is named. In the small valley immediately below them we saw the school buildings and the master's house. Close to our right was the entrance to the caves......"

(From Mrs Stack’s Journals printed in ‘Further Maoriland Adventures’)

20. **Mr Forsaith’s House and Mt Eden c 1856**
   watercolour 254 x 355
   Inscribed on verso: 9. **Mr Forsaith’s House – and Mt Eden**
   Lent by the Hocken Library.
21. Three Kings Hills c 1856
   watercolour 254 x 354
   Unidentified sketch in watercolour on verso
   Inscribed on verso: 18. Three Kings Hills – nr Auckland. Wesleyan Maori School & Mt Albert in the Distance.
   Lent by the Hocken Library.

22. The Three Kings
   watercolour 114 x 352
   Inscribed: The Three Kings. Volcanic Crater Auckland
   Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/38

23. Mt Hobson and Khyber Pass from Carlton Gore Road
   watercolour 193 x 320
   Inscribed: Mt. Hobson & Khyber Pass Road from Carlton Road
   Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc. no. 1937/15/30

24. Manukau Harbour, Onehunga and Mt Mangarei 1856
   wash 254 x 355
   Inscribed: Manukau Harbour Onehunga & Mt Mangarei J. Kinder. 1856.
   Inscribed on verso: 25. Onehunga, the Manukau harbour and Mt Mangarei – from foot of One tree hill.
   Lent by Mrs J.L. Brabant, Auckland.

25. Onehunga, showing Manukau Harbour and Heads 1860
   watercolour 206 x 311
   Inscribed: Onehunga. 1860. Manukau and Heads
   Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc. no. 1937/15/37

26. One Tree Hill from the Windmill, Epsom 1861
   watercolour 241 x 343
   Lent by Mr N.L. Macky, Auckland.

WAIWERA

"We started on a still, warm morning after breakfast. Our first halt was at Waierera, fifteen miles off – an ambitious little watering place with a hot spring of its own, and a large handsome boarding house, where the Auckland people go to refresh themselves in sultry weather. We landed passengers on the shallow beach, horses and carts coming down for them into the water to the boats. A day or two could have been spent pleasantly there if we could have afforded them..." (From J.A. Froude's 'Oceana' 1886)
29. Waiwera 1877  
watercolour 168 x 339  
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/23

30. Waiwera 1877  
watercolour 247 x 346  
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/24

31. Waiwera Hotel 1877  
watercolour 206 x 352  
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/63

ST MARKS OLD CHURCH

The first building of St Marks was produced in 1847 to a design by the Reverend F. Thatcher. The framing was prepared at St Johns College by Bishop Selwyn's head carpenter and builder and it was erected on the Remuera site with the aid of students from the College. This small chapel served the district until 1859 when it was removed to a site at the corner of Bassett Road, and later it accommodated the fledgling Remuera Public School. The building was demolished in 1925. Kinder was minister of St Marks for three years.

32. St Marks Old Church  
pencil with wash 247 x 355  
Lent by Mr N.L. Macky, Auckland.

33. St Marks Old Church 1856  
watercolour 146 x 247  
Inscribed: S. Marks old Church. Remuera. 1856.  
Lent by St Marks Church

34. St Marks, Remuera 1857  
wash 209 x 330  
Inscribed: S. Mark's Remuera. 1857. J Kinder  
Lent by St Marks Church

35. St Marks 1857  
watercolour 152 x 247  
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/35

36. St Marks 1862  
watercolour 152 x 238  
Presented by Rev. William Beatty acc.no. 1923/4/1

ST JOHNS COLLEGE AND PUREWA

In 1871 Kinder received the mastership of St Johns Theological
College at Tamaki. This was the summit of his career, and he held the position for eight years, during which time the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him (1873). While master of the College Kinder did much to redeem the site from the neglect and squalor into which it had fallen and further enhanced the chapel by the addition of a small spire with gilt cross and by inserting stained glass windows. In 1880 Kinder resigned the mastership of the College following a dispute with the Board of Governors, and he was subsequently appointed examining chaplain.

37. The Chapel, St Johns College
wash 253 x 350
Inscribed on verso: 23. The chapel. S Johns College near Auckland
Lent by the Alexander Turnbull Library.

38. The Chapel, St Johns College
wash 244 x 349
watercolour on verso depicting Paihia and the Bay of Islands from Victoria
Lent by Mrs Vernon Brown, Auckland.

39. St Johns College
watercolour 203 x 343
Inscribed: S. John's Coll. Auckland
Lent by St Johns College

40. St Johns College
watercolour 200 x 343
Inscribed: S. John's College, Auckland
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/34

41. St Johns College 1875
watercolour 251 x 454
Inscribed: S. Johns College Auckland N.Z. 1875
Lent by St Johns College

42. St Johns College from the West
watercolour 254 x 181
Inscribed: S. John's Coll. from the West. J.K
Lent by Rev. M. Rountwaite, Auckland.

43. St Johns College from the West 1874
watercolour 251 x 187
Inscribed: S. John's College from the West. 1874
Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc.no. 1937/15/33

44. The Master's House, St Johns College 1877
watercolour 216 x 343
Inscribed: S. John's College Auckland. 1877.
Lent by St Johns College

45. St Johns College, North Side 1884
watercolour 140 x 209
Inscribed: S. John's College, N. side
Displayed in the original frame which bears a label on the backboard inscribed by the artist — To my dear Child. Fanny Nesta Kinder in memory of the years from 1872 to 1880 on her birthday Augt 16 1884 J. Kinder Woodcroft. Remuera.
Lent by Mrs T. W. McLaughlin, Auckland.

46. The Chapel, St Johns College 1884
watercolour 140 x 190
Inscribed: S. John's College. Chapel.
Display in the original frame which bears an identical label to that of the preceding work.
Lent by Mrs T.W. McLaughlin, Auckland.

47. St Johns College Chapel
watercolour 120 x 193
Inscribed on verso: For Mrs Selwyn/Lichfield/with kind regards from Doctor Kinder
Presented by Lady Spens acc.no. 1940/15/3
48. Purewa Creek from Orakei. S. John's College 1878
   wash 257 x 362
   Inscribed: Purewa Creek from Orakei S. John's College Jany.26. 1878
   Lent by Mrs J.L. Brabant, Auckland.
49. Purewa Creek, High Water 1878
   watercolour 206 x 327
   Inscribed: Purewa Creek. High water Jany 1878
   Presented by Mr H.A. Kinder acc. no. 1937/15/36

WOODCROFT

Following his resignation from St John's, Kinder purchased a property in Remuera, 'Woodcroft', where he eventually retired with his wife, Marianne Celia, and his daughter, Nessie. Later his son, Harry, took up residence there several years after Kinder's death.

50. Auckland from 'Woodcroft'
   watercolour 247 x 355
   Inscribed: J. Kinder
   Lent by Mrs J.N. Tattersfield, Auckland.

51. View from the Kinder Residence, Arney Road 1888
   watercolour 254 x 355
   Inscribed: J. Kinder. Aug. 16. 1888
   Lent by Mr Gus Fisher, Auckland.

52. 'Woodcroft'
   watercolour 295 x 463
   Lent by Mrs T.W. McLaughlin, Auckland.

A number of photographs taken by John Kinder have been included in the exhibition. These have been lent by the Hocken Library, University of Otago, and the Department of Architecture Library, University of Auckland. Reprints have been made of photographs held by the Auckland Institute and Museum.