

THE HOCHSTETTER – HEAPHY CONTROVERSY

Some further information

In Newsletter 25 (Mason 2002) I discussed the controversy that arose in 1864 following Hochstetter's claim that Heaphy had used information from the former's map in compiling his own map of the Geology of Auckland. My article quoted from Auckland newspapers which, understandably, supported Heaphy and provided compelling evidence for their opinions.

Since my article was published two further items of information have come to my attention.

Firstly, I have noticed that Heinrich von Haast has something to say on the subject (Haast, 1948; 363-5). He quotes a letter from Hochstetter to his father on 20 November 1864 –

The last letters brought me Heaphy's despicable actions under the title "Major Heaphy and Dr. Hochstetter": lies from beginning to end. I have written a reply and sent it direct to the editor of The New Zealander. The position is most unpleasant to me, and if I had an inkling that Fischer had translated the text of to the Atlas, I should have asked him to suppress the sentence against Heaphy, for one has to guard oneself against a scandal with such kinds of people. He is not ashamed to lie in saying that I had not mentioned his name with the woodcuts and illustrations, notwithstanding that each one from his own hand bears his name. I shall send you a copy of my reply by next mail, but I hope that Fischer has replied already, from Auckland, against the personal calumnies.

I have searched the columns of The New Zealander from August 1864 until May 1865 and cannot find the reply that Hochstetter claims that he had sent to that newspaper. I would expect that such a letter would be given some prominence in the newspaper in view of the amount of space given to the earlier debate. It is significant that Heinrich makes no mention of it although Hochstetter was going to send a copy to his father by the next mail. Fischer had already replied on Hochstetter's behalf and he was on the defensive (Mason 2002, p.37).

The older Haast was not aware of the full reports in support of Heaphy that were published in the Auckland newspapers between 27 August and 10 September 1864 extracts from which are given in Mason 2002. His only knowledge of them came from The Lyttelton Times of 10 September which quoted a small portion of the editorial in the The New Zealander on 27 August 1864 making no mention of the comparison made of the two maps (Mason 2002, pp. 34 and 36).

So Haast Senior would have been unaware of the full facts of the case. He responded to the Lyttelton Times article with a letter to the editor over the pseudonym of 'Fair Play' (Haast 1948, p.364) –

DR. HOCHSTETTER AND MR. C. HEAPHY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LYTTELTON TIMES.

SIR,—In your last number you gave an extract from the *New Zealander* of the 27th of August, from which the reader might at first sight conclude that Dr. Hochstetter copied Mr. Heaphy's map. There is no doubt that as soon as Dr. Hochstetter is made aware of the correspondence concerning this affair, he will be able to defend himself successfully against such an accusation, and only the wish to prevent the public from forming too hasty a conclusion has induced me to state the following facts.

The letters of the secretary of the Mechanics' Institute of Auckland and of the other gentlemen prove nothing, except what Dr. Hochstetter states himself, *i.e.*, that Mr. Heaphy, in 1857, attempted to make a geological map of the neighbourhood of Auckland, in which he coloured the different small craters, but, as Dr. Hochstetter observes—"without possessing even the most elementary knowledge for making a geological survey."

Dr. Hochstetter, if I understand him rightly, complains that Mr. Heaphy has taken the geological *details* from his (the Doctor's) map, which was in Mr. Heaphy's official charge, and made use of them.

It is doubtful whether the writers of the letters in Auckland have sufficient knowledge of geology to judge how far Mr. Heaphy copied Dr. Hochstetter or how far Dr. Hochstetter copied Mr. Heaphy: both having had as ground plan for their work the official topographical maps of the district in question. But common sense might suggest that there is a great difference between the work of a geologist of well-deserved reputation and that of an amateur in geology, even admitting that the latter possesses some elementary knowledge.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,

FAIR PLAY.

Lyttelton, Sept. 10, 1864.

Heinrich von Haast concludes, with his usual filial loyalty and, therefore, support for Hochstetter by saying—

The whole record of Hochstetter's life is that of a man who was the soul of honour, modest as to his own work, but generous in his acknowledgment and praise of the work of others. He was, therefore, the last man in the world to be a plagiarist. Moreover, he was a skilled geologist, while Heaphy had no knowledge of that science. The verdict then must be judgment in Hochstetter's favour.

The second item of new information is that I have located a tracing of Heaphy's 1857 map in the Alexander Turnbull Library. The reference number for the tracing is Map. Coll.-832. 12 caq/ [ca.1858] / Acc. 3299-3300. It was originally part of the John White papers at the Library. The tracing is signed by L.B.Dickson

John White is best known for his Maori studies and in particular for his six volume The Ancient History of the Maori but in the early 1850's he had served under Heaphy as a Gold Commissioner (Anon. 1902 , p.442). Nothing is known of L.B.Dickson but he may have been connected to Elwin Brodie Dickson who was curator of the Auckland Museum from 1859-1864 (Park 1998).

The John White papers in the Alexander Turnbull Library make no mention of either Heaphy or Dickson.

The tracing is on a scale of 1:63,360 and covers the area from Mahurangi in the north to Manukau Heads in the South and from Manukau Heads in the west to Waiheke Island in the east. The tracing has no colouring or locality names so The New Zealander's comments on these cannot be checked (Mason 2002, p.34). The map was originally described as "Sketches of the geological formation of the Auckland District" (Mason, 2002, p.31) but the only geology transferred by Dickson to his tracing is that of the Auckland Volcanic Field (Fig. 2). Here it shows centres of eruption and the boundary lines between the various formations as mapped by Heaphy. The latter can be matched up with those of his 1860 map (see later). It also shows the Kumeu River which the Hochstetter map has "sinking into the earth" (Mason 2002, pp. 34-36).



Fig. 1. Detail from the west margin of Heaphy's 1857 map. Note the Kumeu River on the left and compare it with the detail from Hochstetter's later map on page 35 of Mason 2002. Although Hochstetter's map extends further to the west than Heaphy's his depiction of the Kumeu River ends in the same position.

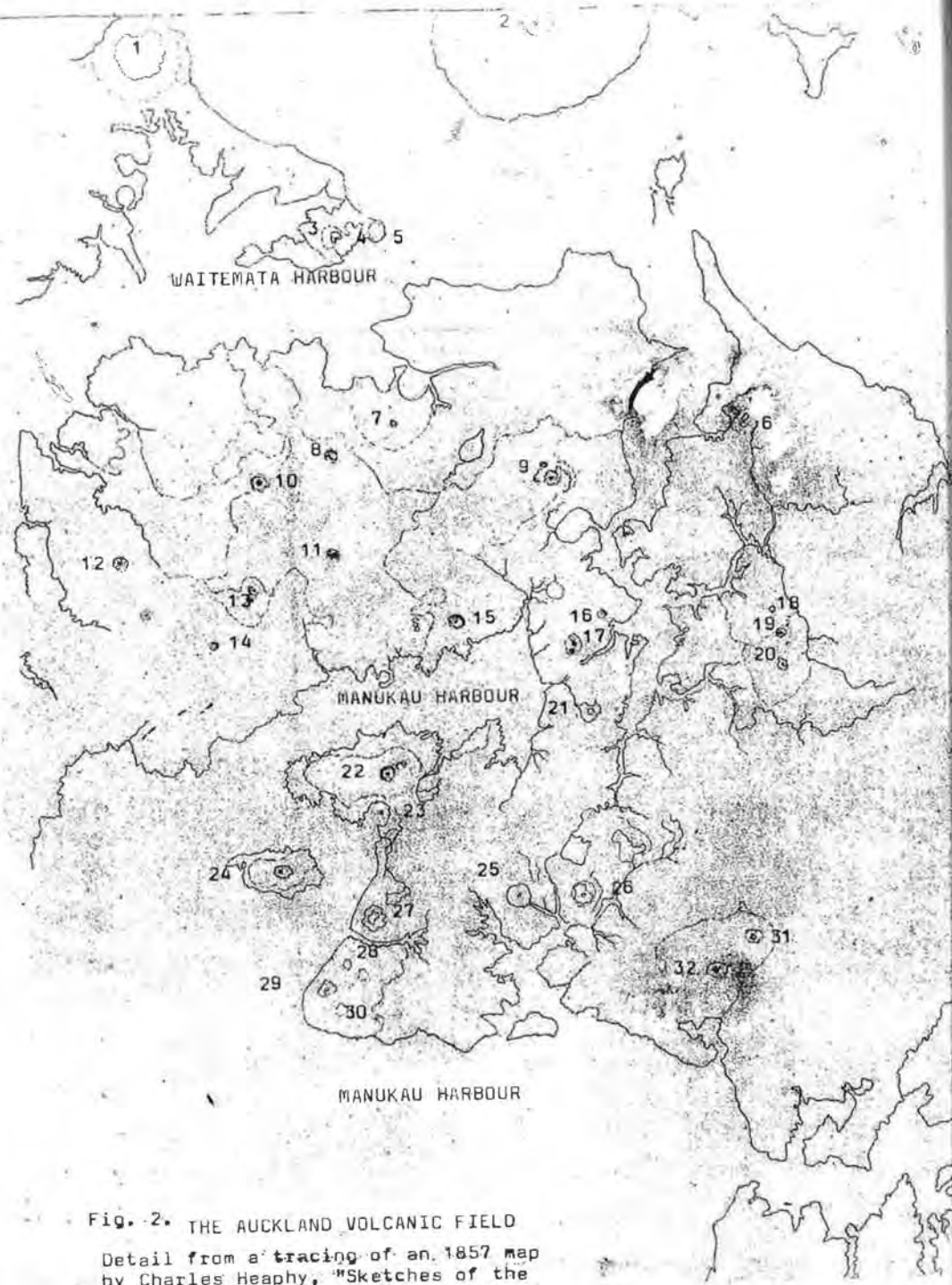


Fig. 2. THE AUCKLAND VOLCANIC FIELD
 Detail from a tracing of an 1857 map
 by Charles Heaphy, "Sketches of the
 geological formation of the Auckland
 District

It is unfortunate that Heaphy's original map is not available. In this article I can only refer to a photocopy of a tracing and it is not known how accurate that tracing is. For example the tracing does not show Brown's Island, with its obvious cone and crater, as a volcano. Again, while it appears to show Lake Pupuke as a centre it omits similar centres such as Onepoto and Orakei.

So, human error on the part of Dickson is an important factor but I have identified what appear to be 32 centres of eruption on the tracing compared with 48 identified by Kermode (1992, p.32) in the same area. I have numbered these on the Heaphy tracing opposite and comparing the tracing with the map on page 32 of Kermode 1992 I have identified them as –

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Pupuke | 17 Mt. Richmond |
| 2. Rangitoto | 18 Styaks Swamp |
| 3. Mt Victoria | 19 Green Hill |
| 4. Mt. Cambria | 20 Otara Hill |
| 5. North Head | 21 Robertson Hill |
| 6. Pigeon Mtn | 22 Mt. Mangere |
| 7. Little Rangitoto | 23 Mangere Lagoon |
| 8. Mt. Hobson | 24 Puketutu |
| 9. Mt. Wellington | 25 Pukaki |
| 10. Mt. Eden | 26 Crater Hill |
| 11. One Tree Hill | 27 Waitomokia |
| 12. Mt. Albert | 28 Pukeiti |
| 13. Three Kings | 29 Otuataua |
| 14. Mt. Roskill | 30 Maungataketake |
| 15. Mt. Smart | 31 Ash Hill |
| 16. McLennan Hills | 32 Manurewa |

The Auckland Volcanic Field portion of Heaphy's 1857 map was published in 1860 (Heaphy 1860) and is here reproduced in Fig. 3. It is described as "Geological Sketch-map of the Auckland District by C. Heaphy, 1857 (Corrected to Feb'y 1859)". In an addendum to Heaphy's paper the Editor of the Quarterly Journal says (Heaphy 1860, p. 251) -

"the central portion of a large Geological Sketch-map of Auckland and the surrounding district, constructed by Mr. C. Heaphy from actual survey in 1857, and corrected to February 1859.

The corrections here alluded to have arisen from observations made during the Progress of Dr. Hochstetter's geological survey of the Auckland District."

The corrections referred to by the Editor are not great. They consist of the addition of several new volcanic centres mainly those now submerged e.g. Onepoto, Orakei Basin, Panmure Basin etc which were probably identified by Hochstetter. Where they can be identified in the tracing Heaphy's 1857 formation boundaries line up closely with those in his 1860 map.

Certainly the facts do not substantiate Hochstetter's claim as reported in Mason 2002, p.32 that Heaphy's 1860 map was "a very incomplete copy of my observations and



Fig. 3. The Auckland Volcanic Field (Heaphy 1860)

Legend Opposite

Table of Signs (for both Maps.)

1		<i>Volcanic.</i>
2		<i>Basalt & Scoria.</i>
3		<i>Tufa & Tufaceous Clays.</i>
4		<i>Trachytic Breccia.</i>
5		<i>Porphyritic with quartz veins.</i>
6		<i>Black Conglomerate.</i>
7		<i>Tertiary.</i>
8		<i>Cretaceous.</i>
9		<i>Clay-slate and Wacké</i>

The Legend for Heaphy's map of the Auckland Volcanic Field (opposite). Heaphy's article also includes a map showing some of the geology of the North Island and the above Legend applies also to that map.

maps". Furthermore Hochstetter's statement that Heaphy's earlier work was done "without possessing even the most elementary knowledge necessary for making a Geological Survey" is also not correct. The discussions in Mason 2002 and herein show that if there was plagiarism, then Hochstetter was the culprit.

Hopefully, the story is not yet finished. Heaphy's 1857 map could still be in existence and may yet be located.

Acknowledgment :

I am grateful to Dave Small Curator, Cartographic Collection at the Alexander Turnbull Library who provided a copy of the tracing of Heaphy's 1857 map

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