

CHINESE RESTAURANTS IN N.Z. NEWSPAPERS

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Many of New Zealand's early newspapers were established to push personal agendas, or to promote particular interest groups. As such they often showed clear political bias. But, no matter whether they were conservative or liberal, all New Zealand newspapers of the 19th and early 20th century promoted the opinions of white Europeans. Looking back it is now fully recognised that those opinions, disseminated through print, inflicted cruelty and much harm to Chinese and other non-European immigrants.

Because one might expect Asian xenophobia to extend to all aspects of Chinese social life, in this paper, I have used an online newspaper archive, to examine how Chinese food and restaurants were portrayed in New Zealand newspapers between 1840 and 1960.

I looked at this in two ways. Firstly I attempted to retrieve any articles and advertisements from the New Zealand online resource *Paperspast*, that related to the actuality or perception of Chinese food and eating, both in New Zealand and overseas. This broad review was done in order to inform the observations made from the second part of the study. A selection of these articles is given after this paper. The choice is necessarily subjective, but limitations of space do not allow me to print all material that was of possible value. Arranged and read chronologically, however, it clearly shows the changing perceptions and final embrace of Chinese food in New Zealand.

In the second part of the study, in order to quantitatively analyse the portrayal of Chinese restaurants, I retrieved articles and advertisements



Grand dining room of the Chinese Restaurant, Dupont Street, San Francisco.

PHOTOGRAPHER: I.W. TABER

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