



LAST TANGO IN NAPIER

... from the
makers of
eColenso



A group of members of the Colenso Society 2010–2019, Ann Collins, the late Tony Gates, Gordon Sylvester, Bev Park and Ian St George, transcribed all of Colenso’s extant works. It is a massive body of writing which should be more widely known and more easily accessible to Colenso scholars.

To that end it would be a fitting finale to this iteration of the Colenso Society to print the whole of Colenso’s writing in a set of volumes to be distributed to the Hocken, Alexander Turnbull, MTG Hawke’s Bay, Wairarapa Archive and Auckland Museum Libraries—hard copy and searchable electronic versions.

I have a quote for \$2521. The Society account has \$1183. Would you be prepared to “give a little” to cover the shortfall?

Either deposit a donation in “Colenso Society, ANZ 060507 0200714 00” with your name—or email istge@yahoo.co.nz with a promise. If you give too much I will refund the balance in proportion.

If you would like to buy a set of the seven volumes, please pre-order before 20 April by emailing istge@yahoo.co.nz and depositing \$285 (that includes shipping within New Zealand) in the Colenso Society account.

WHO WAS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE?



MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE,
"THE DAILY MIRROR'S
LITTLE NEW ZEALAND GIRL."



MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE,
"THE DAILY MIRROR'S
LITTLE NEW ZEALAND GIRL."

I am idly pondering the idea of a book on New Zealanders in offshore silent film and was chasing NZ actresses (on the Net you understand) and discovered Henriquette: for sale on eBay in February, these two postcards of "Miss Henriquette Maude, the Daily Mirror's Little New Zealand Girl".

I couldn't resist sharing....

But you are right. This has nothing whatever to do with Colenso, except that she claimed to have come from Napier.

The British Newspaper Archive has the *Daily Mirror* online only from 1914.

Who was she?

A
HALF PENNY
STAMP TO
BE PLACED
HERE.

Part 1.

Lecturette in
Semi-native girl
Costume.

ONLY THE ADDRESS TO BE
WRITTEN HERE

6 minutes.

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED
OR WRITTEN MATTER.

Permanent
address:

45 St Helen's Place
Bishopsgate
London E.C.

A
HALF PENNY
STAMP TO
BE PLACED
HERE.

Part II

Mexican Cowboy.
"Scena".

ONLY THE ADDRESS TO BE
WRITTEN HERE

6 minutes.

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED
OR WRITTEN MATTER.

Full Act
12 minutes.

Terms: £10:
Absolute Lowest £8.

She must have used these undated cards in her marketing—

Part I, a lecturette in semi-native girl costume lasting 6 minutes;

Part II, a Mexican cowboy "scena" of 6 minutes.

(Er, which is which?)

The full act 12 minutes—yours for £10—or if you really don't want to pay that, how about £8?

But who was she?

The *Auckland Star's* Special Correspondent
told its readers on 31 December 1906,

WHICH IS WHICH?

STRANGE STORY OF IMPERSONA- TION

A NEW ZEALAND GIRL'S ADVEN- TURES

(From our Special Correspondent)

LONDON, November 23.

From the lips of a New Zealand girl I have had this week an extraordinary story of hardship, adversity, and cruel imposture, of which she claims to have been the victim. She is Miss H. Maude-Smith, of Napier, 19 years of age, and a reciter by profession, her stage name being Henriquette Maude. Briefly, her story is that while travelling in America her luggage, money, and papers were stolen by a Californian girl, who came on to London with her ticket, adopted her name, and impersonated her in this country, while she herself was left stranded in America, and had a long and bitter fight with poverty, until she could earn enough to bring her across to London.

It so happens that the other "Miss Maude-Smith" came under my notice several months ago—in May last, I fancy. She wrote to give me particulars of her doings in America, stating that she was a Napier girl, and had gone to America as an elocutionist. My address had been supplied to her by Mr. (a wellknown Australian actor), and she thought the New Zealand papers might care to have some account of her experiences. She went on to tell me how she had toured in America with the English Opera Singers Quartette, how she had won a gold medal for elocution at San Francisco in competition with 500 reciters from all over the States, how President Roosevelt had presented the medal in person, and various other details of interest. As I had no reason to doubt the lady's bona fides, I wrote a paragraph embodying these details, and sent it on to New Zealand.

The sequel is supplied by the little 19-year-old reciter, who claims to be the real Miss Maude-Smith. She arrived in London a few weeks ago, and was interviewed last Monday by the "Daily Mirror," and told a story which, up to a certain point, was identical with the one given to me some months ago by the other girl. The point at which they diverged was, it seems, the point at which the two girls had parted

company in America. Puzzled by the discrepancies in the two accounts, I sought an interview with the new arrival. The explanation she gave was certainly remarkable. She states that the girl who wrote to me last May was not a New Zealander at all, but a native of Los Angeles, California. They had met at San Francisco, in the elocutionary competition, and had afterwards travelled eastwards together as far as Denver. The morning after they reached Denver the Californian girl absconded with Miss Maude-Smith's luggage—three trunks in all, containing her clothes, her stage costumes, her ticket for London, and, in fact, almost everything that she possessed. The little New Zealander was left stranded in a strange land, with nothing but the clothes she was wearing and a few silver coins. "If the proprietor of the hotel had not been very kind," she says, "I could not have recovered from this blow."

A hard struggle for existence followed. She worked her way by stages to Chicago, and then to New York, making a little money by giving lessons in reciting and in physical culture. But pupils were scarce, and her little store of money often ran dry. "I could not make enough money to live upon," she said. "For days I went without food. I have lived for three days on one nickel (2½d.). Three nights running

I slept on doorsteps in bitter cold, snowy weather. I had never seen snow before! When I arrived in New York it was after three in the morning, and I had only half a dollar in my pocket. That was not enough to get me a decent night's lodging, so I just spent the night in the waiting-room at the station. I did that scores of times in the course of my journey.

"In New York I fell ill, and had to go into hospital. Afterwards I got an engagement to play the part of Mary Lister in "The Marriage of William, Ashe," Mrs. Humphry Fard's play. When I had been in New York for five months I had enough money to bring me to London, but found London almost as bad as America. I arrived early in September, and could get nothing to do. When I had got to the last of my money I was given a trial performance at the London Music Hall in Shoreditch. That was last Saturday, and I have since been offered a trial at the Canterbury Music Hall, which I hope will lead to an engagement."

"It was only the other day," she added, "that I found I had been impersonated here in London. It is evident that the Californian girl not only travelled on my ticket, but she used my name over here as well as my luggage and money. The details she gave to you about her career were

really the details of my own career. It was I who won the competition in San Francisco, and received the gold medal from the hands of President Roosevelt. Unfortunately, the medal was in my trunk when it was stolen, so that it is now in the possession of my bogus 'double.' It was I, and not she, who appeared with the English Opera Singers. I left New Zealand in 1904, with only £10 in my pocket, determined to work my way to London as a reciter. My people did not want me to go at all, but my mind was set on it, and I went. I earned money by reciting on the steamers. I went to Honolulu, and then to Vancouver, where I appeared with the English Quartette. Afterwards I travelled about the States. At San Francisco I was almost penniless, and when I entered for the big competition the only preparation I could make in the way of toilet was to slip round behind an empty house and wash my face! I recited "Laska," and to my intense surprise I was adjudged the winner out of 500 competitors, and received the medal. It was then that I met the Californian girl, who afterwards robbed and impersonated me. After she disappeared I wrote to her mother at Los Angeles, asking her if she could tell me her daughter's whereabouts. I got a sad letter in reply from the mother, stating that her daughter

had run away from home with a Jewish man, and had not been heard of since. Where she is now I have no idea."

The story was picked up by newspapers around New Zealand. On 7 January 1907 the *Star* could advise,

Miss Henriquette Maude, the 19-year old New Zealand elocutionist whose experiences of "Toughing it" in America were recorded in a previous letter, has been engaged by Mr Adney Payne for the Syndicate Music-halls. Miss Daisy Davidson, another New Zealand artist, will appear under the same management, while Miss Joan Zeala has been engaged for the Criterion Sunday evening concerts.

"*Joan Zeala*"?! We also produced an actress named Zeala Sampson. There was another called Fanny Dango.

The *New Zealand Mail* then ran this on 16 January 1907,

STRANGE IMPERSONATION CASE WHO IS THE IMPOSTER?

Our London correspondent, writing under date of November 23rd, related a tale

of impersonation which set out that a New Zealand girl had told him an extraordinary story of hardship, adversity, and cruel imposture, of which she claimed to have been the victim. She was, she said, Miss H. Maude Smith, of Napier, nineteen years of age, and a reciter by profession, her stage name being Henriquette Maude. Briefly, her story was that while travelling in America her luggage, money, and papers were stolen by a Californian girl, who went on to London with her ticket, adopted her name, and impersonated her in that country, while she herself was left stranded in America, and had a long and bitter fight with poverty, until she could earn enough to bring her across to London.

The other Miss Maude Smith came under his notice in May last. She wrote to give him particulars of her doings in America, stating that she was a Napier girl, and had gone to America as an elocutionist. She went on to tell him how she had toured in America with the English Opera Singers Quartette, how she had won a gold medal for elocution at San Francisco in competition with five hundred reciters from all over the States, how President Roosevelt had presented the medal in person, and various other details of interest.

The sequel was supplied by the Little

nineteen-year-old reciter who claimed to be the real Miss Maude Smith. She arrived in London a few weeks ago, and was interviewed by the "Daily Mirror," and told a story which, up to a certain point, was identical with the one given to our correspondent some months ago by the other girl.

Now comes a sequel even more strange. A representative of the "Hawke's Bay Herald" has referred this latter story to Miss Maude Smith's relatives in Napier, who state that there is no truth whatever in the tale as set forth. Imposture and impersonation there certainly has been, but it has been on the part of the girl who now tells the plausible and pitiable tale of hardship and suffering. The real Miss H. Maude Smith arrived in London early in April last, and since that date her letters have arrived regularly from there, giving accounts of her experiences in the great city and in various parts of England, her family never having lost touch with her either in America or at Home. Her professional name, Kathleen Beresford-Maude, has appeared at different times in London for months past on cards or posters, samples of which have been sent out regularly. She has also referred to several New Zealand friends whom she has met in London. Furthermore, she has been stay-

ing with relatives at different times, and they in their letters have always spoken of her movements.

The *Wairarapa Age* of 25 January told its readers, "Miss Henriquette Maude, of Wellington, Miss Daisy Davidson, and Miss Bertha Bird, are among Australasians who have been engaged for concerts this season."

"*Bertha Bird*"?! but clearly the Masterton paper hadn't read the *NZ Mail* article, which had (?) separated the two young women, now in London, into

1. A Californian girl, stage name Henriquette Maude, the imposter with the tales of travel and hardship and
2. H Maude Smith of Hawke's Bay, stage name Kathleen Beresford-Maude, who did travel, but safely, in the US and Canada.

Records of the latter can be found in *Papers Past*: born 1880 to Emily and Robert (publican) Smith (married 1871), who named her Henrietta Maude; won prizes at school for proficiency, recitation and French; performed "dramatic recitation" at concerts in Napier; in 1904 received pupils "for Elocution, Voice Production, and Dramatic Art, at her Studio" in Hastings St— "Engagements accepted for At Homes, Concerts, etc."

In 1904 she appeared with other Napier dramatic students in Pinero's comedy *The Magistrate*. On 7 May 1906 the *Poverty Bay Herald* could report she was "earning reams of praise" in America,

Jas. Armstrong, of the New York Theatrical Exchange, says that she is at present appearing as Juliet in the Broadway Theatre, and has scored a tremendous success in the part. As a monologist she is unequalled, and her reputation has spread from end to end of the States. From Montreal: "The charming and gifted little actress from New Zealand appeared for the first time in Montreal. Her power and magnetism give promise of her becoming a second Bernhardt. Miss Maude Smith leaves shortly for Europe, where she will accept an engagement with Mr Beerbohm Tree."

Later in 1906 she was in London,

Miss H. Maude Smith, who has been for some time studying and rehearsing in Mr Beerholm Tree's academy in London, is now on tour with Mr F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company, having been included in the casts of "The Merchant of Venice," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Romeo and Juliet," and other plays. (*PBH* 6 Oct 1906).

The *Poverty Bay Herald* (the *Hawke's Bay Herald* for 1906-7 is not available on *Papers Past*) of 5 January 1907 tried to clarify matters,

A NAPIER ARTISTE.

(Special to Herald.)

NAPIER, this day.

Considerable interest has been aroused by a paragraph published in the London Daily Mail, and supplemented by references in the London letters of several New Zealand journals, concerning the doings of a Napier girl, Miss Maude Smith. She is pictured as having been robbed in America by a fellow-artiste, who not only appropriated her goods and chattels, but used her name and carried on an amazing scheme of impersonation. Meantime Miss Maude Smith was stranded in America with no friends. She is described as bravely working her way across the big continent to New York, sleeping at nights on doorsteps and in railway stations, and finally she reached London, "the goal of her ambition," and gained an engagement at the Canterbury Music Hall. All this makes a very nice story, but, unfortunately, it diverges widely from fact. Miss Maude Smith left Napier close on two years ago, and shortly after landing on American soil achieved distinction by winning President

Roosevelt's gold medal at San Francisco out of 500 competitors. Subsequently she appeared with a party of English opera singers, and then went to London, where she has resided for nearly a year. Letters received by her relatives here do not indicate any such trials as spoken of by the press correspondents, and she has certainly not been in want, for she has been amply financed by her family here and by relatives in England. When writing for the last mail, Miss Maude Smith was about to appear in the name part of a new play written by a well-known London playwright, and she enclosed letters received from Beerbohm Tree, Ellen Terry, and others, complimenting her on her work and wishing her success.

But what of our Californian friend, the talented and inventive "Henriquette Maude"?

The *Australian Star* of 5 January 1907 reported, "Henriquette Maude (a native of Wellington, and niece of actor Cyril Maude) has been secured by Adney Payne for the Syndicate Halls...."

Brisbane's *Telegraph*, apparently oblivious to the New Zealand clarifications, listened eagerly to her now even further embellished tales of hardship and woe,

Runaway Girl.

55,000 Miles Journey.

A venturesome New Zealand maid, the daughter of a judge, who calls herself Henriquette Maude, although it is not her real name, has just reached London after travelling 55,000 miles (says the London Daily Mail of 26th September.)

In a fit of pique she ran away from her home at Napier, and has not returned since. She had £10 in her pocket, and determined to see the world, earning her living as she went. That was in 1903. Since then she has travelled 55,000 miles.

Miss Maude, who speaks five languages, including Maori and Hindustani, is young and pretty and looks so charmingly fragile that one listened with amazement to her stories of the hardships she had undergone. In an interview she said: "My idea was that I could travel about, getting sufficient to live upon by giving entertainments from town to town."

The late Hon. Richard Seddon gave her his blessing and a jade stone charm, and away she went, first to Sydney. From there she went to the Fiji Islands, and then the winds of the world blew her where they listed. She dodged about among the Pacific dots, from island to island, living as she could.

Miss Maude visited Thursday Island, Samoa, Honolulu, and Tahiti, and at last got to Vancouver. There she joined a British company of opera singers, and went across Canada; entered the States, giving drawing-room monologues or any other society amusements that occurred to her versatile mind; and at last found herself in Portland, Oregon, on the Pacific side again.

At San Francisco she was one of 500 in a dramatic competition, and won the gold medal, which was presented to her by President Roosevelt. She went then to Los Angeles, and undertook a mad journey across the Texan deserts on foot. Her equipment was a revolver, a waterproof sheet, some oatmeal biscuits, a knapsack, and a water-flask. She was held up four times by footpads. Finally, her hardships became too much for her, and some cow-boys found her exhausted on the prairie and took her to a ranch. There she lay ill for three weeks, and when well her admiring boys made a round-up for dollars, and put her on the train for New Orleans. She then journeyed across the eastern States to New York, where she arrived with 2s., but a lot of pluck.

She is now relating her adventures and exhibiting photographs at a Loudon music hall.

In November 1908 Perth's *Daily News* offered more decoration to her story but did seem a tad suspicious,

Miss Henriquette Maude who is said to be from New Zealand, is shining in London, describing a trip, with pictures, of a tour of the world on £10. Also Miss Maude says she made a name for herself over the death of a jockey in a Melbourne Cup race. Miss Maude declares he was left uncared for whilst his horse was attended to, and that subsequently she toured the "district" reciting an original poem on the subject. Has anyone ever heard of it?

The *Sydney Sportsman* in January 1909,

Miss Henriquette Maude, of Napier, New Zealand, now on a tour round the world of five years, is at present in London with her scena "The Maori Chief."

The following month the *Sydney Sunday Times* carried Henriquette's latest flourishes,

Miss Henriquette Maude, who left Napier (N.Z.) five years ago, is appearing successfully in sketches in London. She had only a few pounds when she started. A love of adventure seems to have been implanted in the nature of this engaging little traveller. She was kidnapped soon after she was born. Her father, a New Zealand judge,

traced her to a Maori encampment. She has travelled Australia, Afghanistan, China, Africa, America, on trackless prairie, lonely veldt, or arid desert, entirely alone; carrying a revolver—which she has never had to use—and her golf cleek—her mascotte; and earning her living, by the way. A fragile figure and a soft voice scarcely reveal the will-power of the self-possessed little woman, about whom there is no suspicion of mannishness. She told the London 'Era' that her travels have been prompted by sheer curiosity to learn something that the man in the street knows nothing about, and to satiate a love of adventure. At San Francisco in a dramatic competition, entered by 500 people, she won a gold medal, which was presented to her by President Roosevelt. On her journey to Los Angeles, with her knapsack and two pairs of spare boots strapped on her back, she traversed the Texan desert. She was four times held up by footpads and eventually, from sheer weakness and exhaustion, due to want of nourishment and clean water, she had to stop. A party of Texas cowboys discovered her and took her to their ranch, where she was ill for nearly six weeks, being attended by an old Indian squaw, and treated medically by native methods. The admiration of the cowboys for her pluck and endurance re-

sulted in their sending her measurements to San Francisco and ordering the very suit of regulation moccasins and jumper in which she now appears on the stage.

Christchurch's *Press* of 13 March 1913 reported some further adornment of her history—and her super-saleswomanship,

Silvern Speech. The value of the silvern tongue as a business asset in the gentle art of salesmanship is indisputable. There is a certain amount of subtle psychology about salesmanship. Customers are liable to be pleasantly and unpleasantly affected by very small things, and a disagreeable manner or harsh voice in the person behind the counter may mean loss of custom. This is being insisted upon by an actress and elocutionist, Miss Henriquette Maude, who is herself the possessor of a charmingly soft and well-modulated voice. She has travelled through every part of the world; has studied magnetism with the yogis of India, was the only white woman to go through certain parts of Tibet, and can distinguish between the nations by the sounds of their voices. The voice, Miss Maude explains, is a fair indication of character, mental condition, and the state of one's health. "It is an unfortunate fact,"

she adds, "that in some shops the assistants do not seem to care very much whether the customers are finding pleasure in shopping, but roughly speaking, that spirit is found more among the smaller shops than in any of the large warehouses." Miss Maude's advice to shop-assistants includes method for making their voices magnetic and beautiful, and increasing their enthusiasm, politeness, and tact. Voice-cultivation for social as well as for business purposes is being widely taken up in London. The "Standard" says Miss Maude is teaching a number of society leaders the secrets of silvern speech, while one of the big firms of universal providers, Selfridge's, is said to be seriously entertaining the proposal to arrange for a regular series of lectures by her for the benefit of their employees. It is desired to cultivate among the assistants a definite "Selfridge" personality. Voice-culture and personal magnetism are to be studied, so that the result may be the distinctive charm of the super-salesman and the super-saleswoman.

Hmm. "Beguiled by a soft persuasive voice". I wonder if there is a lesson in there, somewhere....

The last we read of Henriquette is in the *Era* of 15 March 1913, entertaining the rich,

At the first of the series of lecture recitals given on Thursday afternoon at the Waldorf by Miss Henriquette Maude and Signor Belpassi, the lady greatly interested a distinguished audience in her brief chat on voice magnetism as applied to art and expressional culture. The almost complete neglect of the culture of the speaking voice in our schools is one of the most deplorable drawbacks in our educational system, and the majority of our boys and girls on going out into life have no pride in their heritage of Anglo-Saxon—the most expressive language in the world. Miss Maude also gave some character impressions from her repertoire, and recited with much elocutionary grace and power “The Story of a Faithful Soul.” Signor Belpassi played Beethoven's Sonata Pathetique and one of his own compositions with much charm of touch and command of technique; and Mr. Thornley Dodge's impression of what would be the treatment of a late arrival on passing down a row of occupied seats in the dress circle of a crowded theatre created amusement. The entertainment was under the patronage of H.H. Princess Irene de Avierlno Wiszniewska, Dora, Countess of Chesterfield, Lady Rushout, and Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen.



\$20 from the editor,
istge@yahoo.co.nz