



DOM FELICE VAGGIOLI wrote this autobiography between 1909 and 1911, after the publication in Italy of his *History of New Zealand and Its Inhabitants*. One of the first Benedictine monks to be sent to New Zealand, he arrived in 1879 and returned home in 1887, having worked in Gisborne, Auckland and the Coromandel.

The manuscript remained in the archives of Vaggioli's monastery and was never published. It was found by John Crockett while researching the background to his translation of the *History*. Its New Zealand section is published here for the first time, with an essay by historian Rory Sweetman.

'A Deserter's Adventures' is Vaggioli's title, as he was a conscientious objector, or 'draft-dodger', as a young monk and so termed himself 'a deserter'. This is typical of the individual who emerges from these pages: always questioning, and always applying a strong sense of justice and fine logic to the many dilemmas he found himself in as a missionary priest in New Zealand.

ISBN 1-877276-11-1



University of Otago Press