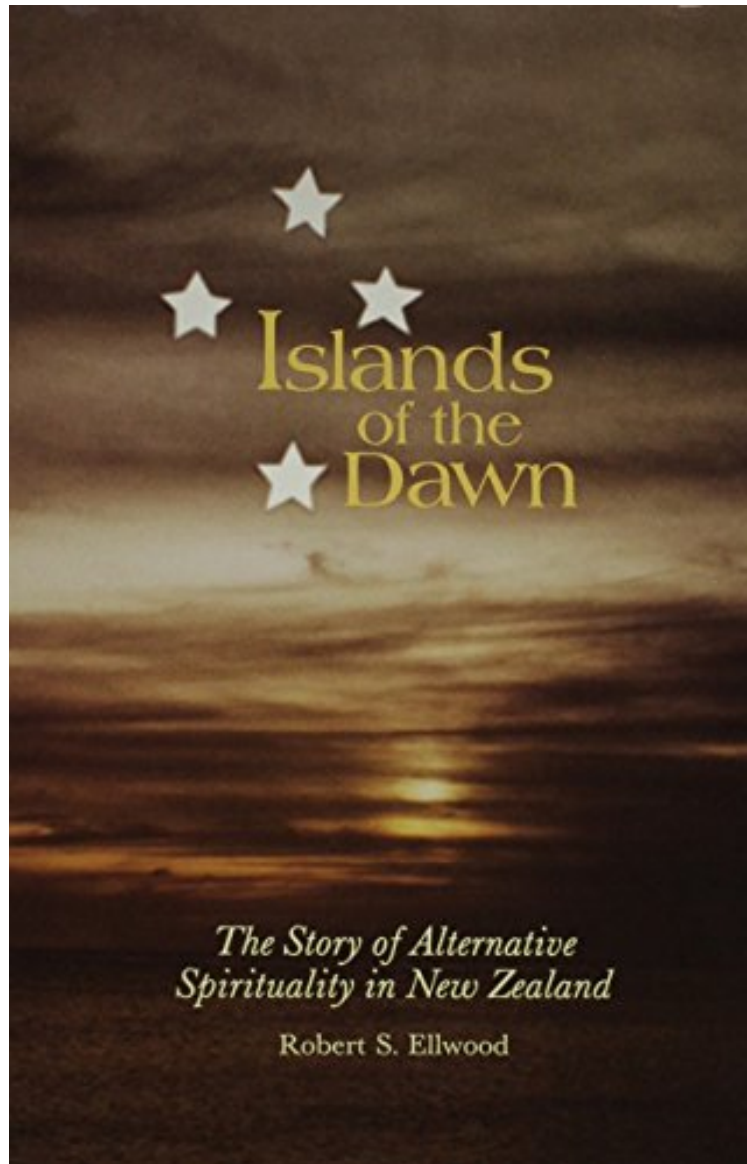


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## Islands of the Dawn: The Story of Alternative Spirituality in New Zealand

*Robert S. Ellwood*

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#3709977 in Books Univ of Hawaii Pr 1993-04-01 1993-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.55 x .95 x 6.40l, 1.15 #File Name: 0824814878288 pages | File size: 61.Mb

**Robert S. Ellwood : Islands of the Dawn: The Story of Alternative Spirituality in New Zealand** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islands of the Dawn: The Story of Alternative Spirituality in New Zealand:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Good source of info on spiritual and occult groups in NZ By G. Wilson Overall I found *Islands of the Dawn* to be a good introduction to some of the mainstream (and lesser known) Alternative Spiritualities in New Zealand. There is a great deal of information on Spiritualism, Theosophy and a whole chapter dedicated to The Golden Dawn. If you are interested in any of these three 'paths' - especially with respect to New Zealand - then as far as overviews go, you will not be disappointed. There is plenty more in this book though for people interested in reading about alternative spiritualities in New Zealand. Other groups and paths mentioned include Order of the Table Round, Builders of the Adytum, Anthroposophy, the Culdean Trust, Beeville, the OTO, and various Eastern Spiritualities. The author has done a great job of presenting background information on various groups and philosophies to give context to the New Zealand branches. This makes the book a good starting point for New Zealanders who want to learn more about alternative religious and esoteric groups without any prior background knowledge. Those interested in paganism, wicca or satanism are the only paths likely to be disappointed with this book as there is little written on them. Perhaps neo-pagan groups had hardly surfaced at this stage in time, and were harder to find. However, around the time of the authors travels in New Zealand and prior to the published date of the book there was the magazine "Magic Pentacle" being published listing various pagan groups, and at least 2 groups identifying themselves as Satanists were around (Order of the Left Hand Path, and Order of the Sword of Damocles). However some information on these groups may be available in a thesis written by a student at Victoria University who interviewed former members of the OLHP. I don't know if the thesis is publicly available however.

UFO cults, the Order of the Golden Dawn, Spiritualism, and Theosophy are among the cults of the 19th and 20th centuries described by Ellwood (religion, U. of Southern California). He also delves into why such alternative religions tend to flourish in places settled by the British. An appendix discus

From Library Journal Ellwood, a professor of religion, studies unconventional movements of Spiritualism, Theosophy, and Golden Dawn, among others, in New Zealand, especially during 19th-century immigration. The book covers a lot of New Zealand religious history that has not been previously documented in print; it also explores connections between culture and religious tradition. It will prove useful for those fascinated by occult religion, by New Zealand, and by sociology of religion. Recommended for large public and academic libraries. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Alternative spiritual movements have flourished throughout New Zealand's post-contact history, from little-known UFO cults and the exotic Order of the Golden Dawn to the popular and more widespread Spiritualism and Theosophy. *Islands of the Dawn* explores the history of these and other spiritual traditions during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This intriguing work, the first book-length treatment of the subject, raises a fundamental question: Why have unconventional spiritual movements flourished in nineteenth-century British settler communities? New Zealand typifies such a community with its immigration experience, the "do it yourself" spirit of pioneer society, a tradition of social reform, and a nostalgia for Victorian romanticism. A study of its new religious movements raises tantalizing answers and uncovers several fascinating but little-known episodes of New Zealand history. Of particular note are the tale of the secretive occult order that long flourished in Havelock North; an account of a grisly 1950s UFO encounter in Hamilton; and the life story of Elizabeth Harris-Roberts, the turn-of-the-century radical and apostle of spiritualism. *Islands of the Dawn* represents a significant contribution to the history of New Zealand and of new religious movements worldwide. Its lively and readable style will appeal to scholars and others interested in alternative religions.