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Papers on all aspects of astronomical history are considered, including studies that place the evolution of astronomy in political, economic and cultural contexts. Papers on astronomical heritage may deal with historic telescopes and observatories, conservation projects (including the conversion of historic observatories into museums of astronomy), and historical or industrial archaeological investigations of astronomical sites and buildings. All papers are refereed prior to publication. There are no page charges, and *in lieu* of reprints authors are sent a pdf or Word camera-ready version of their paper so that they can generate their own reprints on demand.

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The views and opinions expressed in this Journal are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Editorial Board.

COVER IMAGE

This is a chromolithograph by A.D. Willis from a painting by the well-known British-born New Zealand artist Charles Blomfield of Mount Tarawera in full eruption late on the night of 9–10 June 1886. Mount Tarawera is a 1111-m high volcano in the centre of the North Island near the well-known city of Rotorua, a major geothermal tourist attraction. Blomfield did not see the eruption himself, which killed about 120 people, but based his painting on eye-witness accounts. Most of those who died were Māoris living in settlements on or near the shores of Lake Tarawera, and some years later the ethnologist Elsdon Best was told that about the time of the eruption a comet was visible in the sky, just as a comet also was seen before the siege of Te Tapiri Pa in 1865, which also was associated with Māori fatalities. On pages 521–535 in this issue of JAHH, Wayne Orchiston and John Drummond identify the comets associated with these two catastrophies. Since the Māori traditionally identified comets with death and destruction, Orchiston and Drummond also examine accounts of other impressive naked-eye comets that were seen in southern skies during the New Zealand Wars of 1860–1872 and the infamous Parihaka Campaign in 1881 to see how many of them also were associated with disasters.