

JOHN BARR CLARKE HOYTE

1835 - 1913

Lake Taupo - View of the Southern Shore

Watercolour 30 x 53

Signed

25,000 - 35,000

Provenance:

Private Collection, Waikato

Exhibited:

Lake Taupo Museum & Art Gallery *Matariki Exhibition* 2006

Illustrated:

Pages 74 & 75 *"Landscape Paintings of New Zealand. A Journey from North to South"*

Christopher Johnstone, Godwit Press 2006

It is generally accepted that Hoyte did not visit every location depicted in his paintings and that he used a variety of sources, sometimes resulting in less than the "truthful views" for which Gully once praised him. This view of Lake Taupo is an example because, while an attractive and charming painting, it was based on a colour lithograph after a drawing by Ferdinand von Hochstetter in the latter's "New Zealand, its physical geography, geology and natural history" (1867). It is the same composition as Hochstetter's illustration "Lake Taupo, view of the southern shore", although Hoyte has embellished the foreground rocks, framed the scene with vegetation and reduced the number of waka and Maori figures.

However, Hoyte has also given Lake Taupo an additional island! His unfamiliarity with the actual topography led him to misread the dome-shaped Motuoapa Peninsula on the south-eastern shore of the lake as an island. Even if Hoyte did not notice that the lithograph of Hochstetter's paintings shows the low-lying land joining the bluff on the peninsula and the shore, he should have read the key printed below the illustration, which names both the peninsula and the solitary island of Motutaiko.

Lake Taupo, the largest lake in New Zealand, was formed 1900 years ago in one of the worlds biggest recorded volcanic eruptions. The view depicted by Hoyte is from the near present day township of Taupo, looking south-west, with Mount Tongariro and Mount Ngauruhoe in eruption and snow-covered Mount Ruapehu beyond at the far left.

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