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# Amassing Treasures for All Times: Sir George Grey, Colonial Bookman and Collector

*Donald Jackson Kerr*

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**Donald Jackson Kerr : Amassing Treasures for All Times: Sir George Grey, Colonial Bookman and Collector**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amassing Treasures for All Times: Sir George Grey, Colonial Bookman and Collector:

Sir George Grey, governor of New Zealand, South Australia, and the Cape Colony, was an outstanding British colonial statesman in the 19th century. Brilliant and inscrutable, Grey, who was in contact with key Victorians from Darwin to Whately throughout his life, played a central role in overseeing the development of British colonies into politically autonomous entities. Less well-known of Grey is that he was also an obsessive collector of rare books and artefacts, which he selflessly bequeathed to the people he governed. This study, written by a former librarian of the Auckland Grey Collection, sheds desperately needed light on the genius and magnanimity of an increasingly controversial figure, demonstrating the complex humanity underlying his apparent remoteness. It is the first study on Grey of its kind.

About the AuthorDonald Jackson Kerr is special collections librarian at the University of Otago, New Zealand. His doctoral thesis, from which this book is partly drawn, looked at Grey's strategies as a collector of rare books in the

colonies he governed, and at the network of associations which he established with many of the prominent booksellers of his times. Dr. Kerr was formerly rare books librarian at the Auckland Public Library, which houses New Zealand's Grey Collection. He is the editor of *Enduring Legacy: Charles Brasch, Patron, Poet, Collector* and the author of *The Smell of Powder*, a book on the history of dueling in New Zealand.