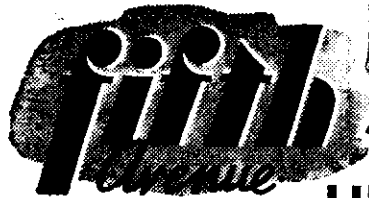


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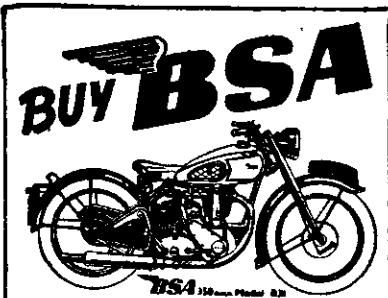


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## REMINISCENCES OF A JOURNALIST

Autobiographical  
Talks Series by  
Alan Mulgan



Spencer Digby photograph

ALAN MULGAN

A NUMBER of reminiscence talks have been broadcast by the NZBS, but a series of a new kind is to start shortly. This is *The Making of a New Zealander*, an autobiographical series by Alan Mulgan, New Zealand author and journalist, who retired last year from the position of Supervisor of Talks for the NZBS.

The title of this series points to one of its two main themes. Alan Mulgan was born and partly brought up in the colourful Ulster settlement in Kati-Kati, Bay of Plenty, where his elders were all immigrants, and the ties with the homeland were made all the stronger by the conditions of the times. He was educated in Auckland in the 'nineties, before there was a substantial sense of nationalism in this country.

He traces his own development from those days when little attention was given to New Zealand history, or to the cultivation of national roots, to the present day, when the country has found a fair measure of self-expression. This is the intellectual and spiritual progress of a New Zealander who can look back more than half a century.

The second theme is the changes Alan Mulgan has seen in the political, economic and social life, particularly social. He remembers such things as the reign of the chaperone, the trailing skirt, the telephone a rarity, main roads made impassable by mud, 30 hours by the quickest route from Auckland to Wellington (two trains and a steamer), and a week of six long days for many shop assistants.

After describing his life in Kati-Kati, where the Orangemen paraded on the Twelfth, he recalls Auckland of 50 years ago, including years at the Grammar School—an Auckland isolated to a degree hard to realise to-day, dependent largely on timber, gold and gum, and without pre-vision of the wealth that was to flow from the dairy cow.

He has some interesting things to say about journalism in Auckland, then in Christchurch and back again to Auckland; his adventure in broadcasting in middle-age; a visit to England, and the writing of books. He will talk about writing in general, and the development of the New Zealand spirit in letters during the last generation. These reminiscences will be to some extent localised, but the speaker has seen most of New Zealand, and the talks will be given against a background of national conditions, achievement and character.

"Between Two Worlds," "When Auckland was Growing Up," "Mud and Little Ships," "Spartan Schooldays," "Plunge into Life," "His First Top Hat," "Canterbury Conflicts" are titles that suggest that the talks will be human. For a man who has been a journalist and a supervisor of broadcasts, and written a variety of books, may be presumed to find his fellows interesting. And he can hardly have been what he's been and seen what he's seen without encountering some good stories.

The first station to broadcast *The Making of a New Zealander* will be IYA. The talks will start at 7.0 p.m. on Monday, July 21, and will be heard on succeeding Mondays at the same time.

## BBC Symphony Tours Continent

THE BBC Symphony Orchestra has just finished a 10-day tour of the Continent. This is the second time it has toured outside Britain since its formation in 1936 and as on the 1936 tour all the concerts were conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. The Orchestra gave a series of concerts in Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, and Scheveningen.

The tour opened with a public concert in Paris at the Theatre des Champs Elysées on June 18. When the programme ended the audience rose to its feet with an enthusiasm rare for a sophisticated Parisian audience and recalled Sir Adrian Boult again and again until he gave an encore. On the following day the whole Orchestra was invited to a civic reception at which the Vice-President of the Paris Municipal Council, Jean Marin, who was throughout the war a commentator in the BBC's French Service, gave a toast to the Orchestra—"To the fact that we are all in Paris in Spring instead of in

Maida Vale in the blitz" (in the early days of the war the BBC French Service operated from studios in Maida Vale, London).

In Brussels the Orchestra opened with a studio concert followed by a public concert at the Palais des Beaux-Arts. The final stage of the tour was a visit to Holland, where the Orchestra gave a public concert at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, before finishing its tour at Scheveningen with a concert at the Kurzaal attended by Queen Wilhelmina. In addition to the familiar classics, the programmes included representative British works as well as music by composers of the countries visited.

It was a point of special interest to members of the Orchestra that they were visiting countries to whose tortured and oppressed peoples they had broadcast so often during the war. Music-lovers on the Continent were equally interested to meet the Orchestra that had heartened them in the dark days.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, JULY 18