

GUY MORRIS

KATHERINE MANSFIELD COLLECTOR

It is not the ordinary expectation of *The Turnbull Library Record* to chronicle biographies of notable friends, but in this instance the Friends of the Turnbull Library are intimately concerned. For it was in May, 1949, as he began to address members of the organization at the Library on the subject that had engrossed his last several years, that Guy Morris was suddenly taken ill.

Two days later he died, and literary circles in New Zealand cannot but realize the loss, the more so in that after these years of preparation, when he was ready to speak and write on the fruit of his studies, he was enjoined to silence by the Judge whom he, the justiciary could not gainsay.

The Library and its friends join in mourning his loss, and to his widow extend all sympathy and the goodwill that he attracted so fully in life.

The following appreciations by Mr Antony Alpers and by Mr P. A. Lawlor have been written especially for these pages:

'SIX FEET OF HONESTY AND DECENCY' IS HOW I SHOULD like to describe Guy Morris, the news of whose death reaches me, to my great sorrow, in England. He was what we call a typical New Zealander when we mean an ideal New Zealander—all gentleness and sensitivity under the rough exterior. He was not typical at all, in fact, but remarkable. And remarkable not only as a man but also, surely, among the race of Collectors. It is from the point of view of one who met him as a Collector that I want to draw an appreciative picture of him now—not without some desire to ease a conscience that tells me I accepted unlimited generosity from him and now cannot thank him in the way I intended.

In 1946 I decided to venture upon a biographical study of Katherine Mansfield, meaning to complete the work in England,