

Island Bay cottage in the summer. A quiet place then and a veritable paradise for children . . . ' A little further on in the article she states 'I vaguely remember Christmas at the Bay . . . ' The children's main pastimes seem to have been shrimping in the rock pools and pretending they were sea gardens. There were no sandhills or at least no mention of them. Taking our cue from Marion Ruddick's recollection of Kathleen's age it is clear from Beauchamp's *Reminiscences* . . .<sup>3</sup> that the return to New Zealand would have been in November 1898, which is confirmed by the listing of both parties in the vessel's passenger list.<sup>4</sup>

But the point is that at least in 1898-9 the family spent a holiday at Island Bay. The reference to 'their cottage' implies possibly a more enduring association than a single season. Nevertheless we are equally clear that 'Day's Bay' in the widest sense of the term as the eastern bays of the Harbour served by the Day's Bay ferries was the setting. Middleton Murry always understood that this was the case, although of course he had no personal knowledge of the area.<sup>5</sup>

Which brings us to the final, probably decisive reference. In a letter dated 10.7.1921 to J. C. Squire, editor of the *London Mercury* in which *At the Bay* was first published, Katherine Mansfield writes: ' . . . I am delighted that you care to publish my story. I feel very lucky. I hope you like it. For a week after it had gone I was lost. Perhaps that sounds absurd about *one* short story, but to have been back to the Bay after 21 years - no less - was a joy.'<sup>6</sup>

The quite precise reference to '21 years - no less' which takes one back to 1900 will be noted. If she had meant Day's Bay in the strict geographical sense of the area today she could only have said fourteen years.<sup>7</sup> Island Bay is clearly another childhood locale but only one possible reference in the story could refer to it. Nineteen hundred would seem finally to rule out Day's Bay and to date firmly Sir Harold's recollection of Muritai which was after all the starting point of the whole enquiry.

*A final comment by Mrs. Morris will be published in the October issue.*

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Deeds Register 121/650.

<sup>2</sup>Deeds Register 135/552.

<sup>3</sup>Beauchamp, Sir H. *Reminiscences and recollections*, 1937, p. 65-6.

<sup>4</sup>*New Zealand Times*, 15 November 1898.

<sup>5</sup>Mansfield, Katherine. *Letters* . . . edited by J. Middleton Murry. London, 1951. Footnote to p. 56.

<sup>6</sup>The Library of Stanford University has recently kindly copied its own typed copy of this letter for Mrs Scott to whom I am indebted for this most important reference.

<sup>7</sup>See note 2 to Mrs Morris's article.