

Bagnall's editorship the 'Notes on manuscript accessions. A selective list of acquisitions' from January to June and from July to December 1975 occupied twenty and twenty-three pages respectively. In the last issue a further sixteen pages were also devoted to the manuscript holdings in the article by Michael Hoare which analysed 'Turnbull Library manuscript holdings in the history of New Zealand science: a review'. This article itself is both a tribute to the organisation and accessibility of the manuscripts collection as well as a remarkable comment on its author's capacity to research and assess source material in a 'foreign' country with incredible speed.

From an editorial viewpoint the allocation of 39 pages in a 68-page journal would suggest that the institutional pulse beats most strongly in the manuscript collection, although in financial terms its acquisition may be less costly than books and periodicals or the graphic resource collections. If this collection's growth rate continues the future editors of the *Record* will have no problem of choice—manuscript acquisitions and an occasional list from art and map collections will soon fill each number. Given this possibility one is the more grateful for the content under A. G. Bagnall's editorship which analysed source material and printed extracts from diaries and journals ranging from the description of an unknown settler to unpublished stories and extracts deciphered from Katherine Mansfield's nearly illegible originals.

Experts in rarefied fields discuss and elucidate over such a range as where exactly was the Beauchamp house described in 'At the Bay', how to discuss and describe the various editions of Heaphy lithographs or look at a Carmelite Book of Hours and recognize the T. J. Wise forgeries at the Turnbull.

The editor called on a variety of contributors; researchers using the Library, his own staff, visiting scholars and those resident in the English Department of the Victoria University of Wellington. Few issues did not have the lift of his own wide knowledge and succinct wit. He saw clearly that between the reading public and the scholar the librarian is mediator. His own activities as editor of the retrospective *New Zealand National Bibliography* and as local historian, his ability to write in informative and pungent prose make him—to use a term of his own—a 'second-mile mediator'. In this role, A. G. Bagnall's article on the 'Sources for local history in the National Collections' (v. 5 (n.s.) (2)) is a fine example. In describing the qualities needed to be a local historian he also puts his finger on the very qualities which made him an outstanding mediator and editor—the power of recall, the capacity to see interrelationship, to write an intelligible prose. 'Accuracy and orderliness', yes, but also along with qualities of historical geographer and psychologist 'with a broadly based understanding of human motives