

Portrait of J. C. Beaglehole, O.M.

The Turnbull Library has made one of its most happy acquisitions in this oil portrait, done by our liveliest figure painter, Evelyn Page, of New Zealand's distinguished scholar and world authority on James Cook and the exploration of the Pacific.

It is a portrait painted this year from memory and drawings and photographs. It is a richly coloured real presence. When the painter was chided for making the figure almost larger than life she replied, 'But he *was* larger than most lives'—and, it is possible to add, the portrait has more life than most.

During the years of editing Cook's *Journals* and writing the *Life* when Professor J. C. Beaglehole used this Library's exhaustive holdings of published material he was given the rare privilege of being allowed the free run of Turnbull's stacks. It was, he felt, *his* Library and he made good use of it. He also endowed it. He gave all his collection of photocopies of Cook manuscripts from around the world and has left to it all his own papers and manuscripts in this field. It is therefore most fitting that the Library should have John Beaglehole's portrait and that it should be hung permanently in the Exhibition Room where it now catches the eye of the reader with a thoughtful, compassionate, quizzical look and with a mouth almost in movement, ready to make some amused comment.

Exhibition

'Bush carpenters; pioneer homes in New Zealand' was on display until September. It dealt broadly with the solutions found by nineteenth century settlers to the problem of providing immediate shelter for themselves and their families. They are chiefly rural homes, as it was only in the country that the dwellings survived until the advent of photography, displaying varying ways in which the materials at hand (wood, raupo, cob and stone) or easily portable were used by unskilled builders. The common factor is that they were planned and built by the people who lived in them. The display featured photographs, illustrated manuscripts and books, paintings and domestic utensils and building tools to reconstruct a unique architectural period.