

CONCLUSION

The most important and substantial sections of the Westbrook Papers pertain to Samoa during the period of the New Zealand Administration. Yet writers on twentieth century Samoa have used private papers very little and almost completely ignored Westbrook's. This does not seem to have led to any significant distortion as his Papers tend to confirm the reliable interpretations rather than throw any new light on the subject.⁶⁰ It does suggest, however, that a greater use of private papers here would tighten up and give more precision to generalisations already made.

It is a pity that so much of the earlier material relating to Westbrook has been lost or destroyed. He provides a classic example of the deculturated European, a group whose members never really came to terms with their environment and, straddled between two conflicting cultures, found that the Pacific was both their world and their cage. That side of Westbrook's life—his years as a station trader—is largely undocumented and one has to read carefully between the lines to deduce what must have been. He hints at so much occasionally, often in an unguarded moment. All the more pity, therefore, that when he wrote about these 'vanished years' at a much later date he declined to relate the harsh and hopeless realities of the situation.

Doug Munro

REFERENCES

Unless otherwise stated, all manuscript references pertain to the Westbrook Papers (MS Papers 61, Alexander Turnbull Library). The number in parenthesis indicates the folder.

¹ G. E. L. Westbrook to Julian Dana, 16 November 1934 (29).

² W. Tarr to Dana, 3 July 1933 (29).

³ Westbrook to O. F. Nelson, 9 January 1930 (13).

⁴ Gibbings gives a highly fictionalised account of this meeting with Edward Westbrook in *Over the Reefs* (London: 1948) pp. 38-46.

⁵ Dana, *Gods Who Die. The story of Samoa's greatest adventurer* (New York: 1935) pp. 10, 21-22. According to available evidence, many of the details given by Westbrook are incorrect. The *Famenothe* never belonged to the Aberdeen White Star Line, as he said it did, nor did she visit New Zealand in 1876. See P. A. Eadie to R. A. K. Mason, 18 June 1932 (27).

⁶ Westbrook, 'I settle in Samoa', n.d. pp. 17-18 (61).

⁷ Louis Becke, 'The Old and New Style South Sea Trader', *Wild Life in Southern Seas* (London: 1897) p. 317.

⁸ [Thomas Trood] to Westbrook, 19 April 1913 (75).

⁹ H. J. Moors, *With Stevenson in Samoa* (Boston: 1910).

¹⁰ Tarr to Dana, 3 July 1933 (29).

¹¹ 'Sorrows of Samoa', *Auckland Star*, 11 May 1926.

¹² Westbrook to H. E. Holland, 30 November 1928 (14). See also Westbrook to Holland, 24 January 1927 (14).

¹³ Edward Lucett, *Rovings in the Pacific from 1837-49 . . .* (London: 1851);