

The Friends of the Turnbull Library, in association with the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust Board, farewelled Graham Bagnall on Friday 18 May. About 160 guests attended a sherry party, coming from as far afield as Masterton, Nelson, Taihape and Wanganui. The Chairman of Trustees (Sir Alister McIntosh, K.C.M.G.) opened proceedings, speaking of the admiration and respect all felt for Mr Bagnall and of his unremitting efforts for the Library he loves. Sir Alister added that, as a tribute to these qualities, and in recognition of the services Mr Bagnall had already rendered, the Endowment Trust Board would be offering him financial assistance on his next foray overseas.

Professor D. F. McKenzie, President of the Friends, then referred to the warm generosity manifest in the response to an invitation to the Friends to contribute toward a gift for Graham Bagnall, a warmth that could also be felt in the splendid feeling that suffused the room that evening. He presented, from the Friends and from members of the Endowment Trust Board, a copy of the newly-published *Portraits of the New Zealand Maori* by G. F. Angas, and hoped that it might be possible to disarm Mr Bagnall's diffidence at receiving a present himself by the simultaneous gift of a rare book to the Library. In reply, Mr Bagnall said how touched he was by so ingenious a way of recognising the happy years he had spent at the Turnbull; he had always regarded working there as a rare privilege. When he came as Chief Librarian, he felt he knew what he wanted to do, 'and one has to interpret a job in the capacity of one's limits'. He added that his successor, Mr J. E. Traue, whom he commended to those present, would interpret his job in quite a different way. Mr Bagnall, in his turn, paid tribute to all those to whom he owed so much—the Committee of the Friends and successive presidents, the former Chairman of Trustees, the late Sir John Ilott, and now Sir Alister, and the Turnbull staff, only six of whom survive from 1966.

The book presented in the name of the Friends by Professor McKenzie is *The Spelling Dictionary*, by Thomas Dyche, the fourth edition, of 1737. Eighteen thousand copies of this dictionary were printed, but only four now survive, and only one matches this, being in the National Library in Rome. Further interest is added since, 'in recognition of another of Mr Bagnall's activities', it bears a hand-set, hand-printed label recording the presentation of the book to the Library on behalf of the Friends of the Turnbull Library to mark the retirement of Graham Bagnall.

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