

to make clear what he wanted, but each was equally able to leave important decisions to a subordinate whom he trusted. Graham always said that he appeared to be good at delegating only because he was not interested in what his heads of sections were involved with, but that is not my impression of him. He certainly showed what could only be described as vehement interest whenever anything seemed to him to have gone seriously wrong. But he left plenty of room for individuality, as Geoff Alley did, too. This was a side of them that was probably most apparent to those few who benefited from it, but it was extremely valuable and, I hope, has been passed on down the line.

Graham was a very clearly defined individual, impossible to describe properly in a short note. He had an aversion to universities which was rather endearing and nineteen-thirtyish in its own way, and which was based on a very salutary contempt for what he saw as sloppy research. He was a master of the blunt statement: my predecessor at Otago had adopted the style and title of Librarian and Keeper of the Hocken Collection, and when I was going to take his place Graham said, 'If you are going to call yourself Keeper of the Hocken Collection you had better learn something about New Zealand books' (I dropped the title, but this is quite a different story). He was also a master of the statement that reveals an ankle but conceals the rest of the leg (a specifically Public Service accomplishment, I think); and many of these were delivered in buses and in other places where you couldn't hear them properly anyway. He was a most considerate friend. And he was a person who had no pretence whatsoever. I see him clearly in a passage from his Presidential Address to the New Zealand Library Association,² in which he talked about the empty argument about whether librarianship was a science or an art:

Upon the essential core of general and special education must be superimposed some professional training which draws constantly upon a wide and developing range of technical skills. What gives success which can be instantly recognized when seen is an individual amalgam of personality, training and judgement which in its highest application is essentially an art.

He would not have been consciously describing himself, but we can recognise him as a great artist.

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REFERENCES

- 1 A. G. Bagnall, 'Reflections on Some Unfinished Business; the Retrospective National Bibliography, 1946-1976', *New Zealand Libraries*, 40 (1977), 40-46.
- 2 A. G. Bagnall, 'Presidential Address; the State of the Library Art', *New Zealand Libraries*, 28 (1965), 21-31.