

since 1783 faded. He had been asked by J. A. Williamson, who ran the Imperial history seminar while Newton was in India, to write a book on Pacific exploration for a new series of books on pioneering, 'not that I know anything about either the Pacific or exploration'. It was something he supposed he could do at home, working in the Turnbull Library. More immediately, however, came 'the worst thud of all'; the Oxford University Press turned down his thesis, 'too much of a dissertation & not enough of a book'.

His parents had sent him a small sum of money to mark the Ph.D. and for his birthday. Before it arrived his mother, who had been ill for many months, died. He spent the money on the two-volume *Nonesuch Milton*, found in Charing Cross Road, £3 10s. It meant a lot to him. He also in those last months in London grew a moustache, 'for experimental purposes', and had his portrait painted by his uncle, George Butler. Just before sailing for home in the *Osterley* at the beginning of August 1929 he bought the *Shakespeare Head Plutarch*, in eight volumes, 'to celebrate my sojourn in & departure from England'.

In March 1930 John Beaglehole wrote once more to Dick Campbell. He had just arrived in Dunedin and was about to start 'commercial travelling in miscellaneous wisdom'.

In *The New Zealand Scholar* Beaglehole writes,

... from 1932 onwards for a while politics and social life in our country were not exactly encouraging for the free human spirit. Of course things began to look up, and a university college took me in at last, but I still could not see much point in New Zealand. To be candid, I was not interested in New Zealand—except in so far as I had to be.

The statement sets the scene for a later period, for what he saw as his own discovery of New Zealand. Yet the letters of the London years suggest to me that the contrast is too sweeping, that New Zealand was always a part of him. England was never 'Home'. That was London or—no, and—London and New Zealand.

REFERENCES

- 1 Letters to R. M. Campbell are in the Campbell Papers, MS Papers 1900, Alexander Turnbull Library. Other quotations without an acknowledgement are from John Beaglehole's letters to his family, 1926-1929, which will in due course be deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library.
- 2 *The New Zealand Scholar* . . . Margaret Condliffe Memorial Lecture, Canterbury University College, 21 April 1954 (Christchurch, 1954) reprinted in *The Feel of Truth* ed. P. Munz (Wellington, 1969) pp.237-252.
- 3 Address by J. C. Beaglehole to annual general meeting, Wellington Chamber Music Society, 23 March 1968. Typescript in author's possession.
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 Review in *Parson's Packet*, no. 23 (July 1953) 8-10
- 6 *Ibid.*