

of ex libris among its forty or so members, access to other sources of acquisition, and a freemasonry which extended world-wide. The global extent of the collection of bookplates is manifest by reference to the files relating to the two Turnbull collections; commercial dealerships clearly existed well before, and after, the Second World War.

The New Zealand Ex Libris Society met on a quarterly basis in Turnbull's own panelled library, by 1930 the Rare Book Room, presided over by Johannes Andersen. Graham Bagnall described him as 'poet, historian of Maori legend and of South Canterbury'. Alice Woodhouse, who worked with him from 1926 until his retirement in 1937, comments that 'he was remarkable in any company, with his height and his mass of hair and craggy face'. The Rare Book Room also served as his office, each of his several desks allotted to separate interests; he was successively editor of the *Transactions* of the New Zealand Institute, and of the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, as well as an authority on New Zealand bird song. The Room was the obvious place for the Society's formal lectures and exhibitions; indeed, the first 'annual' exhibition was held there in 1931. Its *Catalogue* lists 695 items: 67 from Andersen, 55 from Hilda Wiseman (the Auckland artist and enthusiast), 203 from Eric Reeves, 137 from the Society's own collection, 95 'Australian' plates (source unspecified) and 174 'Bookplates outside New Zealand' (source also unspecified). Given the names of owners, artists, style and media, the range is impressive, and indicates the individual taste both of original owner and collector. In the event there were to be only two exhibitions in all, the second, also quite substantial, merely an appendage to the New Zealand Authors' Exhibition of April 1936.

The five *Brochures* published by the Society are in limited editions, four of which have book art significance as fine printing. *Brochure* 3, least well printed, is of literary significance primarily in that it was produced in collaboration with the New Zealand Authors' Week Committee in April 1936; it contains critical articles on New Zealand writing, and prose and verse by writers such as Alan Mulgan, Eileen Duggan, Arnold Wall, Jessie Mackay, Robin Hyde, J. C. Beaglehole and Eve Langley. The list of New Zealand writers and their work, interspersed with photographs, extends to fifty-three pages. The ex libris material acts as a kind of grace note, consisting of original bookplates, and a list of bookplates on exhibition lent by Johannes Andersen, Eric Reeves and Violet Wakelin, who had succeeded Pat Lawlor as secretary in 1931; throughout its existence (later as Mrs Markham Jones) she remained a tower of strength, and her own fine collection remains in private hands. With the outbreak of the Second World War the Society went into recess, to be revived in 1948. Its first post-war *Brochure*, number 6, was published in 1951. The list of members is smaller, but contains familiar names: Johannes Andersen, though living in