

a result he was appointed to control the plague of mosquitoes in Auckland. His success gained him headlines as 'Mr Mosquito', and he was able to combine his activities with the excavation of Maori relics, which he gave to the Auckland Museum. In the early thirties he was appointed marine biologist at the Portobello Hatchery in Dunedin, and was again notable for his success, and for his promotion of fish as food. The Depression caused his redundancy, and a desperate search for employment suited to his qualifications. Among his papers in the Turnbull is a testimonial from Sir Charles Weston, who described him as one of the most remarkable men he had ever met, including Rutherford. On the outbreak of World War II, aged 54, Graham made a determined effort to join the Army and was appointed briefly to the Medical Corps, and after training, to be Inspector of Munitions in Wellington. His success in discovering faulty fuses in shells for the artillery again caused him to be hailed in headlines. At this point fate struck him down; he began a rapid decline in health, with strokes, osteoarthritis and coronary disease. After much medical attention he was invalided in 1944 with the rank of captain. Undeterred, and in spite of a paralysed right hand, he devoted himself to a pioneering magnum opus, his *Treasury of New Zealand Fishes*, faithfully transcribed by his future wife. It met with general approval when published in 1953.

It is against this background that one has to see his collection of thousands of bookplates. In 1949 he had met Clyde Taylor, Turnbull's second Librarian, conversation turning towards the revived Ex Libris Society. Graham recalled an early interest of 1897, joined the Society, attended meetings, and pursued his revived interest with enormous zeal. Over the next fifteen years he must have written hundreds of letters to other collectors, ex libris societies, booksellers and agents. In this he was clearly influenced and assisted by the Australian authority, P. Neville Barnett, who had inspired Pat Lawlor twenty years before.

Graham lost no time, for by 12 March 1951 the Wellington *Evening Post* hailed him as owner of 'what must easily be the biggest collection of bookplates in New Zealand'. The collection is described as contained in descriptive folders in boxes, and consisting of about 4000 plates. Apart from its sheer size, it was made up of numerous Australian and New Zealand plates, and examples from 'practically all' European countries, the United States, and Japan. Famous owners included Pope Pius IX and Princess Elizabeth. As to books on the subject, his library contained '70 books on bookplates, most of them deluxe editions published in various countries'. Even allowing for the purchase of pre-existing collections, the mind boggles at such industry in a subject he had taken up 'fairly recently — about two years ago'. His intention, even then, was to write a book, and to bequeath the collection to the Turnbull Library. Some seven years later in the New Zealand Ex Libris Society's