

*Brochure 7*, he is described as an authority already working on 'A History of New Zealand Bookplates'; no such book was however published, nor is there a manuscript extant. But on the same occasion he is said to have 5000 plates, and 120 books and journals on ex libris.

It does appear that part of Graham's collection had belonged to P. Neville Barnett, who had died in June 1953. There are two intriguing letters among the Graham papers in the Turnbull Library. Both lack the annual date, and were written to Graham by the widowed Joyce Barnett, obviously in response to enquiries from him. He had apparently asked if she would allow him to acquire Barnett's total collection. Her reply of 29 June makes clear that she wished to keep 'Barney's collection', but was prepared to 'sell the other'; she was favourably disposed to the Turnbull Library as its final destination, price un-named, and asked Graham to make arrangements as to despatch and payment. His reply seems to have been satisfactory, for her letter of 1 August assures him that she will 'sort out the plates' after recovery from a minor operation. There the record ends. It does however raise the question as to whether Graham would have approached her so soon after her husband's death, and whether zeal had overcome propriety. There is some reason to believe it had, if the ex libris grapevine had been at work.

Neville Barnett's death would have been well known to Ex Libris societies on both sides of the Tasman. The Auckland Ex Libris Society was active, and strongly supported by Hilda Wiseman, who was also a member of the New Zealand Society. There would have been conjecture as to the future of Barnett's collections, and Graham's initial letter could be regarded as a pre-emptive strike. In fact Mrs Barnett retained possession of 'Barney's collection' until it was acquired for the Auckland War Memorial Museum through the good offices of Colonel A. R. Hughes and the Auckland Ex Libris Society, for the extraordinarily low cost of £300, in 1955. Altogether there were some 7000 bookplates and some 100 books on the subject, several written and published by Barnett himself. The Museum mounted a substantial exhibition in 1956.

There appears to have been a ferment about bookplates in 1955. In Wellington it took the form of David and Jessie Graham's open intention of giving their collection to the Turnbull Library. The tangible pledge was in the form of a joint bookplate designed by Adele Younghusband, the Auckland artist. Its principal motif was taken, by consent of the British Museum, from the earliest known (Egyptian) library marker, dating from about 1400 B.C. The supporting motifs, a thistle and a sprig of kowhai, were of sentimental significance to husband and wife. The Library did not, however, receive the bequest until early in 1963, two years before Graham's death. The *Evening Post* rose to the occasion, with illustrations of a selection of plates. James