

became law he was inevitably one of its first group of Trustees although his appointment as New Zealand Ambassador in Rome in 1966 deferred his closer involvement until his return in 1970. On the retirement of Sir John Ilott in May both the National Librarian and the Turnbull Committee invited him to allow himself to be nominated for office. Cabinet duly appointed him Chairman of Trustees; in September the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust appointed him Chairman and at the December meeting of the Committee he was appointed Chairman.

The four years in Rome had permitted him to enlarge on his interest in maps and prints both for himself—and even then generously anticipating their ultimate resting place in the Library—and for Turnbull on whose behalf he repeatedly acted on specific commissions often suggested by himself. This period is permanently marked in the collections by items like the Zatta Atlas and many interesting engravings, particularly the fascinating European distortions of the navigators' classic renderings. While in London he was able to complete the final negotiations for the transfer of the Webster collection to Turnbull. Although not a book collector in the accepted sense he had acquired a range of New Zealand books and pamphlets beyond what might be considered as a working collection. Many of these he had disposed of in 1966 but in retirement before the final series of appointments snatched away leisure and health he regularly attended Wellington book auctions.

One's own treasured associations with Alister Mac are from the last decade. He had left Library work two years before the writer's first transfer to Turnbull although he was even then a professional legend. The first personal contact was in quite another area and marginally worth recalling because of its small light on his working responses. A night about 1 September 1945 when Sir Leonard Isitt, Chief of Air Staff, was in Tokio Bay as New Zealand plenipotentiary for the Japanese surrender on USS *Missouri* the following day: Appropriately he used naval communication channels to check with Wellington on a minor point in the negotiations. The Duty Cipher Officer (AGB) received and translated this *Most Immediate* which regretfully required the reply of the P.M.'s right hand. McIntosh, dragged from sleep, was what one later came to know as his invariably courteous self and dictated a reply which was duly wrapped up and despatched. Isitt, bless him, all alert in the excitement of that unique eve, asked for clarification on some trifle. In the uncertainties of pre-dawn judgement the Cipher Officer decided that McIntosh should sleep out the rest of the night, at least so far as he was concerned, and left the tidying up for the 8 a.m. watch—to earn a later indirect, kindly but unmitigable reproof.

This very minor incident emphasises indirectly the pressures