

THE UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS OF  
KATHERINE MANSFIELD

Part IV

Among the things of Katherine Mansfield's in the possession of Miss Ida Baker were two manuscripts which were sold to a London dealer in the early 1950s and cannot now be traced. Because they were so difficult to read and had, in fact, never been read or transcribed, Miss Baker retained a photocopy of both, hoping to be able to work on them. Failing eyesight, however, made this impossible and, well aware that transcribing Mansfield is virtually a hopeless task for the inexperienced, Miss Baker recently gave the photocopies to the Turnbull Library. Permission to publish them has been granted by Mrs Middleton Murry.

The larger of the manuscripts, entitled 'Brave Love', turned out to be a complete short story—not just 'the opening pages' referred to by Middleton Murry in a footnote in the *Journal*. Since a new, complete, unpublished story by Katherine Mansfield is an event of some literary importance, the editor of the *Turnbull Library Record* has generously agreed to its being published in *Landfall*, New Zealand's major literary journal.

The other manuscript, a notebook of some 28 small pages, is published here. Apart from a few brief and fragmentary passages it consists of one situation: the young woman Elena and her small son Peter. Once again the interest is biographical and psychological rather than literary and for this reason dating is important. But the dating of an undated photocopy is even more difficult than that of an original manuscript where the paper itself sometimes gives a clue. In this case the use of an occasional German word would suggest that it was written in the second half of 1909 in Germany, either when Katherine Mansfield was pregnant or after the pregnancy when she was looking after Walter, the little boy from London. The death of Peter would be psychologically interesting if it were written at that time. But early in the story are three sentences ('She loved to think of the world outside . . . Mon Dieu how quiet it was.') which appear almost word for word in another fragment published in the *Journal* (p. 63) and dated 1914 by Middleton Murry. If this dating is correct, and it is likely to be so, the notebook was probably also written towards the end of 1914. Some support for this is in the notebook itself. The story of Elena and Peter is written on the recto pages only, but about half way through, on one of the verso pages, there appears this note:

'One night when Jack was with Goodyear and I had gone to bed and he said that what he really wanted was a woman who would keep