

money and a name for himself out of *Gods Who Die* rather than in presenting the truth. Yet he had the effrontery to say:

The story should be recorded. It is up to old people like myself to impart historical knowledge of the islands to those able to place such information on record. Happenings we know to be true may be of benefit to anthropologists and others who come after them.⁵⁴

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Dana, in his introduction to *Gods Who Die*, pictured Westbrook as a gallant and magnanimous gentleman fighting a lonely battle on behalf of the Samoans. Westbrook, in some of his Samoan writings also endeavoured to give that impression⁵⁵ but, in reality, he regarded the Samoans mainly as means to an end and not as an end in themselves.⁵⁶ He even went so far as to say he was fighting his own battle 'quite independent of Mr Nelson and the Samoans'.⁵⁷

Much of his Samoan material was also to have been converted into books but the failure of *Gods Who Die* ruled out this possibility. Despite the occasional assertion to the contrary, the projected volumes on Samoa (folders 61 to 64) were regarded by their maker as providing proof that he 'was right after all' and the means to get back on a firm financial footing. 'The second book,' he wrote to Dana, 'will reinstate me in every way and absolve me from all political intrigue.'⁵⁸

As such, his Samoan writings differ from his trader accounts in that they are nearly all politically inclined. The same verdict passed on his letters applies here. His Samoan manuscripts are of uneven quality as he oscillated between selfish and unreasonable criticism and penetrating and constructive comment. Westbrook's writings on the Mau in folders 56 and 57, for example, are the product of perception and understanding but this cannot always be said as he inveighs against the Administration unceasingly. It is unfortunate that many of these manuscripts are undated for their value is diminished unless the year of writing can be ascertained by comments in the text.

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NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Newton Rowe in his pen sketch of Westbrook referred to 'his great books of press-cuttings that contain everything he had ever written'.⁵⁹ Although impressive, their contents are confined to what Westbrook actually wrote for newspapers plus many other clippings on Samoa. Their comprehensiveness testifies to the vigour with which he approached the task and these volumes of clippings constitute a valuable collection. It is therefore unfortunate that Westbrook was not always equally energetic in documenting this collection. Neither did he normally indicate his authorship of anonymous articles.