

His personal papers also contain the correspondence relating to the Leigh family history and pictures (folder 42). Westbrook, who developed an itch to establish his pedigree, believed himself to be a direct descendant of Henry VII of England and these papers contain what was, to Westbrook's mind, proof of this. It seems, however, that Westbrook's connection with British nobility, let alone royalty, was so remote as to be meaningless for his purposes.

### MANUSCRIPTS

The greater volume of the Westbrook Papers consists of hundreds of reminiscences and political tracts which are uneven in quality and suspect in their accuracy. Most are no more than six pages in length but a few are over forty pages.

What started Westbrook writing? He was renowned for his ability at spinning a yarn and, over the years, must often have thought of capitalising on this talent. By 1925 he had already published a few reminiscences and newspaper commentaries of a political nature. Only after 1925, did Westbrook seriously consider writing books. On his way to England he passed through Tahiti and met the author W. R. Keable who '... must be making pots of money out of his novels'.<sup>29</sup> He also received encouragement from James Cowan, whilst stopping-over in Auckland on the return voyage.<sup>30</sup>

For the next ten years, Westbrook churned out 'reams of typed stuff'. Most of his writings pertain to Samoa but he also wrote a considerable amount on his pre-Samoan days. Many of these reminiscences were strung together and eventually published in 1935 under the title *Gods Who Die*. That work was originally to have been edited by the late R. A. K. Mason who, though going through a difficult period in his life, put a great deal of work into the venture. He not only selected and collated Westbrook's typescripts and organised the structure of the book but completely typed the entire manuscript which ran into almost 300 quarto pages.<sup>31</sup> But Westbrook broke his connection with Mason in 1933 when Dana offered to see the work through the press. This took Dana over two years to accomplish and the book sold poorly, to Westbrook's acute distress. Dana clearly promised Westbrook many things he was in no position to fulfil, including fame and fortune, and left Westbrook under the impression that movie companies would trample each other in the rush to secure the book's film rights. Here, it must also be pointed out that the statement made in the title-page of *Gods Who Die*, that these stories were 'told to Julian Dana', is a factual monstrosity. Dana never met Westbrook in Auckland, as he claimed.<sup>32</sup> Instead, he was sent the manuscript that Mason typed along with other typescripts and given 'every freedom' in their preparation for publication. It is not difficult to