

'Tasks manfully accepted, though accepting them meant adding to the heavy burden he carried, included two spells, each of over six months, in 1960 and 1961, as Acting Director of the National Library Service. In these two periods, mainly in the earlier one, there arose the difficult matter of overseeing the attempted launching of the pilot regional library scheme for Manawatu-Wairarapa. Mr. Bagnall's address on the failure of this attempt—to the NZLA conference of 1962 at New Plymouth—was a classical study in frankness and compression.

'The growth of the idea of a strong National Library for New Zealand owes much to him. Many influences can be noted, from his early (1946) survey of the libraries of Government departments in Wellington, through his work on the NZLA committee on the Wellington libraries (1951), to his part in the preparation of reports for the key committees studying the National Library proposal, and, later, his invaluable help in drafting and re-drafting material for ministers and Cabinet. . . .

'Yet it is as a fighter, and as a fortunate man, that many of his contemporaries will think of him. Fighter, yes, because through the apparently unfruitful years of the 1950's he laboured, battled and never gave up in the struggle towards an orderly, logical development in a national library setting for the work he knew had to be done. In his more than seven years as Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library he has, of course, been a fighter for the part he sees for the library in the setting of the National Library as a whole.

'And he has been, is, fortunate, because some of the things he fought and worked for, with others, have been won. Many of the things he has done and written, unaided, stand for the record. And we are fortunate, too, in having this man among us.'

Graham Bagnall has been no cloistered librarian in an ivory tower. A long-distance champion in his youth, he exchanged running for tramping for many years. He served on the council of the Polynesian Society from 1939 to 1955 and was deputy chairman of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust from 1959 to 1965, being awarded honorary life membership in 1969.

The New Zealand Library Association has owed much to him over a very long period. He served several terms on the council of the Association, became a fellow in 1955, was vice-president 1962-64 and president 1964-65 and was elected honorary life member in 1971, the same year in which the Association awarded A. G. Bagnall the John Harris award for his outstanding contribution to New Zealand bibliography. He was editor of *New Zealand Libraries* 1946-47, convener of the Publications Committee 1956-63, and was responsible in 1941 for the first two quarterly