

# Obituary

## Willis Thomas Goodwin Airey

On 20 September 1968 Willis Airey died after a long period of indifferent health borne with courage and equanimity. At the time of his death he was still a teaching member of the history staff at the University of Auckland. This was apt. It was as Professor Airey and his colleagues would have had it, for there were few members of the staff whom he had not at some time taught during his long period of service at Auckland.

He had many talents. But considerable though his influence was in many fields, Willis Airey made his most permanent contribution in the lecture room and the seminar. In small intimate groups he was at his most effective. Only problems counted, and subject barriers would disappear because irrelevant. An excerpt from a poem would be drawn upon, and convincingly, as the most cogent evidence. Academic rigour, a sense of the breadth of problems, scrupulous fairness and compassion: those were the contagion to which all his students were exposed. The historian's ideal that 'impartiality is obligatory but neutrality impossible' was never spoken, for Willis was not pompous and never preached. But the ideal was honoured implicitly wherever he lectured and taught.

We have just planned the 1969 lecture programme in Auckland. For the first time in forty years the name Airey is missing. We are conscious of deprivation. Our sympathy goes to a wife and family whose sense of loss will be immeasurably greater.

R. C. J. STONE

## Alexander Hare McLintock

With the death of Alexander Hare McLintock, New Zealand history has lost a strong personality and a versatile and prolific writer. It was fitting that his career should be crowned by his editorship of the *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand* (1966). This work has won the tribute of constant use from history teachers, few of whom however are aware how much they owe to his fertile resources and massive labours. Dr. McLintock won his first reputation as provincial historian, both with his *History of Otago* (1949) and his editing of the seventeen Otago local histories. He was appointed Parliamentary Historian in 1952, and planned four volumes on New Zealand's constitutional and political history. He completed *Crown Colony Government* in 1958, and at the time of his death his survey of the

Legislative Council was almost ready for printing. Though appointed as historian, Dr. McIntock found himself charged with numerous other projects which indeed made use of his many talents, but rather impeded his own historical research. Beyond all this, 'the Doctor' won a special place for himself in Parliament House, members dropping into his room freely for briefing and a chat.

Alex McIntock was an historian of forthright views. He believed that history is largely compounded of personality and drama, and that the historian should write prose which gives men their full stature and events their true colour. His best work has eloquence equalled by very few New Zealand historians.

W. J. GARDNER

---

# REED BOOKS

*Forthcoming Books to be published during 1969 include —*

**EARLY CHARTS AND MAPS OF NEW ZEALAND: P. B. MALING.** The charting of New Zealand from the 16th to the 19th centuries illustrated by 56 exquisitely produced facsimile maps and charts, and described in a brief, scholarly text. In a limited edition of 500 copies, entirely produced in New Zealand, this will be a collector's item of very great importance. Prospectus available. 15½ x 11 inches, 136 pages, 10 full-colour charts, 46 2-colour charts, half leather binding. Pre-publication price: about \$95.00.

**SOCIAL CREDIT IN NEW ZEALAND: A HISTORY AND A CASE STUDY. W. F. MANDLE & PROFESSOR R. M. CHAPMAN.** A serious appraisal in two parts. Part I covers the history of Social Credit in New Zealand from about 1930, Part II gives a case study of the Hobson electorate in the 1966 general election. About \$2.95

**THE FEEL OF TRUTH: ESSAYS IN NEW ZEALAND AND PACIFIC HISTORY. PROFESSOR P. MUNZ (Ed).** An impressive collection of essays presented in a commemorative volume in honour of Professors J. C. Beaglehole and F. L. Wood. Contributors include W. H. Oliver, Keith Sinclair and other leading New Zealand and Australian historians. Essays by Professor Beaglehole and Professor Wood are also included. About \$7.50

*Already Published*

**TRADITIONAL MAORI CLOTHING. S. M. MEAD.** The full range of clothing and decoration studied against a background of Maori history. With its 56 pages of photographs, Dr. Mead's new book provides a comprehensive historical and sociological record. It is an excellent example of modern research employing new techniques and a broad approach. \$6.95

*From all Bookshops*

*An attractive free catalogue is available on request from the publishers —*

**A. H. & A. W. REED**

BOX 6002 WELLINGTON

Auckland — Sydney — Melbourne

---

*everybody  
wants  
it!*



**THE BEER FOR THE  
CONNOISSEUR**

**Wherever you go...take**



**WAIKATO**

**ALWAYS  
TIMELY...  
ASK FOR  
GORDON'S**



**ALL OVER THE WORLD  
MORE PEOPLE  
DRINK GORDON'S  
THAN ANY OTHER GIN**

**THE HEART OF A GOOD COCKTAIL**