

IN MEMORIAM: SIR CHARLES FLEMING, 1916–1987

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Charles Fleming, Corresponding Fellow, died suddenly in Wellington, New Zealand on 11 September 1987, aged 71. He was educated at Auckland University. A paleontologist by profession, he worked with the New Zealand Geological Survey as Chief Palaeontologist until retirement. He published widely as paleontologist and geologist, ornithologist, entomologist, biogeographer, environmentalist, science administrator, Darwinian evolutionist and science historian. His work included the major paper on the birds of the Chatham Islands, a classic one on the phylogeny of the prions (from his M.Sc. thesis), the first modern checklist of New Zealand birds (1950), papers on moas, *Petroica* spp., Australasian Gannet populations, and many others. His last major ornithological publication was a handsome book, "George Edward Lodge—The Unpublished New Zealand Bird Paintings" (Nova Pacifica, 1982. Pp. 409), which contains recent and stimulating essays on the origins and evolution of New Zealand's birds.

Charles Fleming was a driving force in the formation of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and very active for 50 years in the Royal Society of New Zealand. His "Science, Set-

tlers and Scholars," published but a month before his death, is a detailed history of that society. He was also involved in international science and was an active participant in international scientific congresses. I believe that he was the only New Zealand resident to be made a Foreign Member of the American Philosophical Society. In New Zealand he commanded respect in the corridors of power, and, by his quiet but eloquent diplomacy, often achieved success in resolving controversial problems, particularly those of an environmental nature. His contributions to geology gained him F.R.S. in 1967; those to science and conservation, K.B.E. in 1977, the latter award greatly acclaimed by his friends and associates in those fields.

For an appreciation of his work and an ornithological bibliography to 1977 see *Notornis* 24: 288–294 (1977). A comprehensive bibliography to 1980 appeared in *N.Z. Geol. Surv. Rep.* 95 (1981). A much fuller account of his work is to appear in "Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand" and another comprehensive one is planned by the Royal Society of London. Briefer accounts are to be published in *Notornis* and *Ibis*.