

JOHN DRYDEN IN THE LIBRARY

Two years ago Dr. W. J. Cameron, the enthusiastic lecturer in English at Auckland University, made a survey of the works of John Dryden in New Zealand libraries. This, with a survey of 16th–17th century English books, he had published by the Library School attached to the National Library Service.

The listing here reveals that the Turnbull's Dryden titles (about 70) surpass those held elsewhere so completely that it is manifest that not only should the Library develop such a good group, but that it is scarcely advisable for another library to do so. It is obvious that Alexander Turnbull, in developing his Milton collection, found it desirable to give attention to the next great figure of the time, who was also the greatest admirer of Milton, and architect of his reputation.

Since that time some additional attention has been devoted to adding to the Dryden holdings, and some ten new titles in original or significant editions have been added. In the previous twenty years, about the same number was added. But like most books of any note in this time, they are becoming more and more scarce, and accordingly, more expensive.

THE JOAN OF ARC COLLECTION

Bequeathed by J. Carling of Mapua

The literature concerning Joan of Arc is vast, and while it would not be difficult to assemble a large group of books on the subject, it would call for knowledge, care and discrimination to gather, in small compass, an adequate representation. In the bequest of the late Mr. J. Carling, who died in 1960, there are seventy-five works, and among them one finds about 75 per cent. of the best accredited texts. Although this is not a field wherein the Library develops, several books were already in the shelves, and an attempt will next be made to ensure that fairly full resources are available.

In this case, a check will be made of the holdings of other libraries, after which a check of bibliographies will reveal what acquisitions will be advisable. Thus within the library system, a fairly full range of the most important works will be accessible.