

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 1975/76

The Alexander Turnbull Library collects, maintains and makes available within the Library a range of research materials on New Zealand, the Pacific, English literature, John Milton, early printed books and the development of the art of printing. It is responsible for the national collection of library materials relating to New Zealand and for the production of the *New Zealand National Bibliography*.

Building the Collections

The past year has seen the manuscripts collections, the personal papers of individuals and the archives of institutions, businesses and associations, developed in depth and scope. Particular emphasis has been placed by the Library in recent years on collecting papers and records relating to New Zealand's immediate past which, it is considered, are in greater danger of damage or destruction than materials of the early colonial period. The two special subject collections developed last year, the Archive of New Zealand Music and the War History Documentation Centre, have been strengthened and two new ones inaugurated, the Women's History Research Collection and the archival repository scheme for the political papers of Members of Parliament.

In the last few years research workers have shown an increasing interest in the contribution made by women to the development of New Zealand society and the Library has responded by undertaking to develop its existing collections on women into a national research collection. Emphasis has been placed on the personal papers of outstanding individuals and the archives of national women's organisations and during the year major deposits were received from the National Council of Women and the Maori Women's Welfare League. The Library's collection of the papers of Members of Parliament has long been the strongest in New Zealand containing as it does papers of 13 Prime Ministers, 41 members of the House of Representatives and 11 members of the Legislative Council, but it has been proving increasingly inadequate to meet the demands of research workers. In order to ensure the permanent preservation of some complete sets of the papers of Members of Parliament the Library has approached a small group of Members of Parliament selected to provide a representative coverage by geographical area, political party and type of electorate and invited them to use the Library as an archival repository during their Parliamentary careers. The scheme at present covers six Members and it is proposed to increase the numbers to 10 or 12. During the year the political papers of the Rt. Hon. Sir John Marshall were donated to the