

*Friends Gift to mark Caxton Quincentenary*

The Committee of the Friends of the Turnbull Library have decided to donate to the Library the Scholar Press facsimile editions of three of William Caxton's most interesting books to mark the quincentenary of the establishment of the first printing press in England in 1476. The three items are Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur* (1485) from the only known complete copy in the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York; Aesop's *Fables* (1484) from the only known perfect copy in the Royal Library, Windsor; and Jacobus de Cessolis' *Game and Play of the Chess* (ca. 1482). These Scholar editions will make accessible as never before a group of works whose bibliographical importance and rarity is matched by their literary and historic interest. They amply display Caxton's craft as a printer, his enterprise as a publisher, and his abilities as scholar, editor and translator. The cost of the set will be £210.00.

The Library is planning to display the three facsimiles in an exhibition of early printing to be mounted late in 1976.

*Important Painting of Heke's War Donated*

The Library holds a most useful collection of nearly 40 paintings by Major Cyprian Bridge (later Colonel) and Lance-Sergeant John Williams, mostly in watercolours but including some crayons and sepia washes. Almost all relate to the Northland engagements of the eighteenth-forties. Some are in duplicate, a few in triplicate, for John Williams not infrequently made copies after Bridge—and also after watercolours by other officers. Unusually for that somewhat class-conscious period, the Major and the Lance-Sergeant even shared a sketchbook, hence it would seem that the latter's artistic ability enabled him to break the normal bounds of military rank. An interesting acquisition, over twenty years ago, came from a descendant of Bridge, in the form of 10 watercolours which had been copied for the artist, in England, from his originals which are now also in the Library.

The latest Bridge watercolour is of particular interest and was donated through the good offices of Mrs A. L. Smythe, another descendant of the artist. When she called at the Library last year, the routine enquiry was made of her as to whether she might possibly have any paintings or manuscripts of her ancestor's. She did not; but mentioned that a cousin in England owned a watercolour by Cyprian Bridge. At her request that lady most generously sent out the painting, as a donation to the Turnbull.

It is particularly useful historically as it closely resembles another