

THE TURNBULL LIBRARY RECORD

1940-1976

A Record

To this present date the *Turnbull Library Record* has been the child of two editors, C. R. H. Taylor and A. G. Bagnall. The back cover of Number 1, January 1940, offers a prognosis. It was to be financed by the Friends of the Turnbull Library, a group founded in 1939 at the suggestion of the new Chief Librarian. (The approach of a centennial may have made people more mindful of New Zealand culture and emphasised the value of Alexander Turnbull's gift of his library.) Subscribing Friends were to be given a free copy of the *Record*. The Committee included the retired Turnbull Librarian, Johannes C. Andersen; A. E. Currie, an incisive Solicitor for Crown Law; the young Professor of English from Victoria University College, I. A. Gordon; C. Quentin Pope, an exceptional journalist, with an informed taste in music and fine printing and Alan Mulgan, even then a grand old man of journalism and broadcasting's Supervisor of Talks. By sad coincidence the final number of Taylor's editing, in November 1962, carries obituary notices of three members of this original committee.

No editor is named but the back cover carries a Library staff listing which gives C. R. H. Taylor as Librarian and A. G. Bagnall as Assistant Librarian and Assistant-Secretary of the Friends, and encourages the assumption that both these men took a responsible part in the inception of the *Record*. The idea for publishing such a journal was formulated by Clyde Taylor, his models being the journals of the Huntington and Clements libraries and the *British Museum Quarterly*. He had talked to librarians in the United States who had stressed the value of libraries using a popular periodical to reach the public at large. The Introduction sets out policy:

It will aim to do for the library what neither a catalogue nor a guide book generally does . . . the vehicle for . . . more precise particulars of books, manuscripts and other records . . . the publication of short texts of importance to the research worker . . . the object is simply to aid scholarship by rendering the library's resources more widely available. Editing will be reduced to a minimum, for interpretation of the material is not intended.

The first issue sets a tone for the *Record* which was remarkably consistent for the following 22 years. There were always bibliographical