

The collection of early printed books was augmented by a group of 289 English broadsides published between 1640 and 1710 purchased by the Endowment Trust. The Trust also provided funds for the purchase in England by Mr V. G. Elliott of 84 titles for the Milton collection. The Library placed an order for the microfilm edition of the Thomason Tracts in the British Library, a collection of over 22,000 pamphlets, newspapers and manuscripts issued in Britain between 1640 and 1661. This microfilm edition, a special supplement to the microfilm of publications listed in Wing's short-title catalogue 1641-1700, will strengthen significantly the Library's resources for seventeenth century studies. The Friends of the Turnbull Library marked the quincentenary of printing from movable type in England by presenting the Library with facsimiles published by the Scolar Press of three of Caxton's books.

During the year consultants were engaged by the Library to report on the development, organisation and use of two special collections. Professor Arthur Pollard from the Department of English at the University of Hull was made available by the British Council to report on the potential of the English literature collections for advanced research and Mr J. M. Thomson, the distinguished New Zealand-born musicologist, was employed by the National Library to advise on the Archive of New Zealand Music.

The Library is once again indebted to those who have contributed by donation to the growth of the collections and acknowledges their generosity. A full list of donors is published in the *Turnbull Library Record*. The role of the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust in purchasing highly priced books, manuscripts, maps and pictures for the Library and in making funds available for related activities is noted elsewhere in this report.

CONSERVING THE COLLECTIONS

Several collections in the Library, namely the collection of New Zealand printed matter (books, pamphlets, serials, newspapers, maps, prints and printed ephemera), the works on Pacific discovery and exploration, the New Zealand and Pacific manuscripts, the photographs, the New Zealand and Pacific pictorial collection and the early printed book collection have the status of national research collections and several are regarded by the library community as the collection of final resort for New Zealand. The Library has an obligation to ensure that such collections are preserved in good condition for the foreseeable future. The effects of heavy and sustained use of the collections were apparent some ten years ago and as a result a conservation officer was appointed, a conservation laboratory established, a number of conservation programmes planned and several established. During the year another programme has been established to set aside one copy in fine condition