

### *Fulbright scholar at Turnbull*

Associate Professor Alfred W. Crosby of the Department of American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, is the recipient for 1979 of a Fulbright senior research award at the Alexander Turnbull Library. Dr Crosby, a graduate of Harvard and Boston universities, is the author of *Epidemic and Peace, 1918* (1976); *The Columbian Exchange; Biological and Cultural Consequence of 1492* (1972); *America, Russia, Hemp and Napoleon*; *American Trade with Russia and the Baltic, 1783–1812* (1965) and numerous periodical articles. He held a National Institutes of Health Fellowship at the University of California at San Francisco in 1971–73, a National Humanities Institute Fellowship at Yale 1975–76, the Cardozo Furst Professorship at Yale, Spring 1977, and won the Medical Writers' Association Award for the best book on a medical subject for laymen in 1976. Dr Crosby's special field of research is ecological history and he proposes to undertake a comparative study of the impact of European expansion on the aboriginal societies of North America and New Zealand.

### *Conference on New Zealand social history*

Over the weekend of 19–20 August some fifty historians, economists, anthropologists, geographers, sociologists, archivists and librarians gathered at the Turnbull Library for a conference on New Zealand social history. The purpose of the conference, given the title 'New Directions' by its organisers at the History Department of Victoria University, was to bring together by invitation a number of people engaged in research in New Zealand social history together with those in libraries and archival institutions managing relevant research collections to discuss some current research in progress and to consider the lines along which future research can and should proceed. Papers were circulated in advance to participants and two commentaries were invited on each. Papers were contributed by Ann R. Parsonson on Maori social history in the nineteenth century, David Hamer on towns in nineteenth century New Zealand, Claire Toynbee on class and social structure, Miles Fairburn on social mobility and opportunity in nineteenth-century New Zealand, Bill Oliver and Margaret Tennant on social welfare in the Liberal period and Ian Breward on religion and New Zealand society.

The papers, commentaries and records of the discussion will appear early in 1979 in a special issue of the *New Zealand Journal of History* edited by Professor David Hamer. The Turnbull Research Fund has made a grant of \$1,000 to the *New Zealand Journal of History*