

# Friends of the Turnbull Library

## *Annual Report 1978/79*

**MEMBERSHIP** The number of financial members was 940 as at 31 March 1979. This represents a small increase of some 40 members.

**MEETINGS** The Annual General Meeting was held on 27 July 1978. Later in the evening Professor James Bertram gave a talk entitled ‘“Man Missing”? Charles Brasch in Perspective’, based on his work editing Brasch’s autobiography, ‘Indirections’.

On 22 August Professor P. S. O’Connor, Auckland University, delivered a second lecture on Ettie Rout, First World War proponent of prophylactics for soldiers. A New Zealand expatriate, Dr Robin Fisher, Professor of History at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, spoke on 20 February 1979 on ‘Captain Cook at Nootka Sound’. Coloured slides supported the theme that Cook was as important to Canada as to New Zealand.

On 2 May, Vincent O’Sullivan, who has left Waikato University to live in Wellington as a full-time writer and as book review editor of the *New Zealand Listener*, and who is working with Margaret Scott in editing the letters of Katherine Mansfield, spoke on ‘Mansfield and Modernism’. He was chiefly concerned with Mansfield’s position in relation to advanced ideas of her time and emphasised that her creativity was very much stimulated by visual images.

**THE TURNBULL HOUSE** Since last reporting to you, much has been achieved at The Turnbull House. Refurbishing is now all but complete in the public rooms on the ground and first floors, three rooms are let on an annual basis, and bookings for the galleries and other rooms are growing heavy. During the McGregor Wright Centennial Exhibition recently many hundreds of people visited the House. The ground floor restaurant, space leased to and redecorated by The Paté Shop Company, has proved successful. Finances are not yet adequate to begin work on the third floor, but at least the House is being used at close to full capacity for community purposes.

**HONOURS** Mr A. G. Bagnall, formerly Chief Librarian, has been awarded an OBE, been informed of the bestowal of a