

NOTES AND COMMENTARY

The Library Building

It is not now expected that the Library will move into the Free Lance Building on the Terrace until the autumn of 1972. Contracts for the alterations necessary to house the Library, as well as part of the Central Division, will be let shortly, but the work involved is not expected to be completed until next year. Even after the move it is the view of the Trustees that the Library should continue to make use of the Turnbull Building until its demolition is necessary. A firm date for this step is difficult to obtain, but the final act may still be three or four years ahead. Consideration is being given to ways, other than mere storage, in which the building can usefully be used during the period without adding further to staffing difficulties. So far as the Library is concerned, the Free Lance plans in their draft form are largely the work of Mr R. F. Grover. Mr Grover will also act as the Library's liaison officer with Mr T. B. O'Neill, Director of Extension Services, the senior librarian in the National Library, who will be working with Mr Peter Boyes of the Ministry of Works Architectural Division, on the plans for the National Library. Work has started on the preparation of sketch plans.

Staff

Mrs Margaret Scott (Manuscripts Librarian) in December was awarded a Winn-Manson-Menton Fellowship, which will enable her to continue her work on editing the letters of Katherine Mansfield while living in Menton and working in the Villa Isola Bella. Mrs Scott, who left for Europe in January, will be visiting Miss Ida Baker and following up other research leads in her work both before and after her residence in Menton. It is expected that she will resume duties as Manuscripts Librarian in January 1972. During her absence Mrs June Starke is Acting Manuscripts Librarian, assisted by Mrs Dorothy Reid, who replaces Mr P. B. L. Crisp.

Tongan Archives

The Library in 1968 was invited by the Tongan Government to take temporary custody of some of its archives. These, on receipt in January 1969, were found to comprise about two hundred feet of records, chiefly Minute Papers, files from the Premier's Office, with a small group of other miscellaneous material. The series covers approximately the years 1926 to 1954, and was recently sorted into its appropriate archival sequences by Mr Andrew Thornley, now working as a VSA student in the Fijian Archives in Suva. The Tongan Government has kindly given permission for microfilm copies to be taken of the papers, access to which will be with the permission of the Tongan Government on the recommendation of the Library.