

newspapers to the year 1860 now gives selective coverage for the years 1840-60 and 1874-90, which has proved useful to many readers.

With the assistance and advice of the conservation officer, stock has been noted for treatment, material has been checked for suitability for copying, and leather dressing of books has been continued.

During March, extra space on the sixth floor of the Ford building became available which should ease the situation until the move to the Free Lance building.

Manuscripts

Acquisition of manuscripts was sustained during the year. Important collections included the minute books of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company (by courtesy Dalgety and New Zealand Loan Limited), the Rolleston family papers (from Mrs Ormond Wilson), the full text of the autobiography of Alfred Saunders, a considerable run of the play production notes of Dame Ngaio Marsh, and the Tongan diary of an early nineteenth century missionary, G. R. H. Miller. The most significant overseas purchase from trust funds was the complete surviving run of diaries of Lieutenant-General H. J. Warre, which included the six years of his command in the Taranaki War. Other manuscripts lent for copying included, by courtesy of Mr W. H. Maxwell, the papers of Archdeacon A. N. Brown, kept in The Elms, Tauranga. Important manuscript material on microfilm continues to be received from the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and the Australian Joint Copying Project.

Mrs June Starke was acting manuscripts librarian during the absence overseas of the librarian, Mrs Margaret Scott. During the year 1,470 manuscript items were consulted by readers. The sorting of selected collections was completed and in some cases inventories were prepared but much remains to be done. The addition of a staff member to the section will give an opportunity not merely to service current acquisitions but to record and index earlier accessions more adequately.

With arrangements being made for the copying of the papers of the late Harry Holland held in the Archives of the Australian National University, Canberra, the copying of New Zealand manuscripts held in Australian repositories will soon be concluded. Approximately 600 items of useful historical research material are now available to research workers in New Zealand. The library gratefully acknowledges the assistance and co-operation it has received from the Mitchell Library, Sydney, the National Library of Australia, Canberra, and other institutions.

Art Collection

Growth of the art collection and rapid expansion of its use have posed