

the complex release procedure which took until 1.30 a.m. Special arrangements had been made for security men to be on duty twenty-four hours a day throughout the process but Mr Baillie made periodic inspections and was joined by Mr Bagnall on the Saturday morning.

All went well, with none of the expected casualties forecast by ill-informed Jeremiahs. At 11 p.m. on the Sunday night, when passing traffic was again relatively light, the tarpaulin was partially lifted and the heavy gas was flushed out by carbon dioxide gas under pressure. The whole building was then aired until the Tuesday morning. For the next four days the Art Collection was interpolated with the Rare Books being taken to The Terrace. Carrying out the tarpaulin was reminiscent of the dragons seen in Chinese ceremonial processions, but unfortunately it came to life in a brisk breeze when stretched out on the front lawn, which was not big enough to take its full length and width as it was folded up. It took a dozen men over quarter of an hour to subdue the beast.

The purpose of the fumigation was to treat all paper items in the Art Collection to eradicate all moulds, particularly those responsible for foxing, for mould is an organism more difficult to kill than animal life. It was important that this should be done before the art material was installed in the air-conditioned Art Room in the new premises, which could otherwise have become contaminated. It is intended to fumigate the whole of the new National Library Building with methyl bromide to eradicate animal pests such as rats and silverfish.

Message from Editor

This issue marks the last which I have assembled as Editor and as Chief Librarian. In signing off in the latter capacity I wish to thank all who have assisted the Society and the Library during my seven years in office. During this time donations have continued to enhance the collections by significant new books, manuscripts, sketches, paintings and other materials as well as by heartening cash support for the Friends and particularly for the Endowment Trust. In an inflationary period when prices in the open market present a formidable challenge it has been most encouraging to assist the Library to hold its own. In the acquisition of Pacific source material, as distinct from purely New Zealand items, as well as in the field of European first editions we still need enhanced resources to enable the Library to build out the collections but the way has been shown.

To members for their support both at Library functions and for the *Record* I tender special thanks. In concluding this note *after* May 18 I wish to thank all concerned for the splendid farewell gift of *Portraits of the New Zealand Maori* (Angas) and the set of crystal glasses, a