

the Act should be deposited at the General Assembly Library. Registration was not, however, compulsory on publication but linked only to copyright protection—those works registered must therefore be seen only as a random selection rather than a comprehensive collection of the published material of the time.

Applications for copyright were recorded in a Register of Copyrights held by the Justice Department. Also recorded was the name and address of the proprietor of copyright (usually but not always the author) and a description of the work. Each item was allocated a unique register number. This Register is now a vital source of information, as few of the published works contain the date of publication, and information about the authors is often scarce. The Register not only contains valuable information but in many cases also still contains a file copy of the registered work. This applies not only to musical items but to articles as diverse as plays, photographs and sample labels. Originally located in the Wellington Post Office, the Register was moved to the Patent Office where it remained until 1959 when the Copyright Office was closed and the records handed to National Archives, where it is part of the Justice Department archive.<sup>2</sup>

It is to the music registered for copyright that this survey has been restricted. So far, there has been little work carried out on the history of the establishment and development of a music publishing industry in New Zealand, or on the place of music in a wider social history of New Zealand. Popular music has always been a vivid reflection of a society and its study reveals not only the state of musical tastes of a period but also gives an indication of the concerns and interests prevailing at any particular time. The General Assembly Library has several volumes of popular music bound together under the general title 'Copyright Music' or 'Songs'. These volumes contain twenty-nine items published in New Zealand between 1879 and 1900 inclusive. Inspection of the Register brought to light a further twenty-three items still in existence. It is quite possible that these are the only remaining copies of a number of the items.

As mentioned earlier, the Register was first held at the Wellington Post Office. Unfortunately, a fire in April 1887 destroyed all registers and therefore all copies of works deposited to that date. Policing of the deposit requirements of the Act appears to have been more than haphazard and there are only two works published prior to 1887 held in the General Assembly Library volumes—Ellard's *Swing On, Old Pendulum* published in 1880 being the earliest with a register number of 53. The new Register started at the arbitrary number of 501 and the first two items listed in the Register of Dramatic Copyright are both songs. An indication of