

# Alexander Turnbull Library

*Report by the Chief Librarian for the year 1983/84*

The Alexander Turnbull Library is a national research library, dedicated to the collection and preservation of the records of human knowledge and endeavour and to the enrichment of those records through the fostering of research and publication. The Library is responsible for the long-term preservation of the national collection of library materials relating to New Zealand. Other special fields include the Pacific, early printed books, John Milton and his times, and the arts of the book.

## ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite continuing financial and staffing restraints the Library has pressed ahead with a number of programmes to improve the availability of the collections to the public. The endowments, supported by substantial grants from outside bodies, have played a vital role in all these programmes. In a move to improve the financial strength of the endowments the Board has employed a Development Secretary to encourage bequests, donations and grants. Indosuez New Zealand Limited has agreed to underwrite the five-volume series of accounts by the French explorers of Maori life, 1769-1840, and the Lottery Board is meeting most of the costs of publishing the proceedings of the history of science conference organised by the Library in 1983. The Archive of New Zealand Music has received further grants from the New Zealand Composers' Foundation and a grant of \$7,000 from the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council. (This grant was originally a fellowship award to Douglas Lilburn which, on his request, was transferred to the Archive.) The administration of a new charitable trust, the Lilburn Trust, was accepted by the Endowment Trust Board for 'the preservation of musical archives and in support of the Alexander Turnbull Library' and the general support of music in New Zealand.

The Friends of the Turnbull Library have increased their level of activity in support of the Library. A *Newsletter* was established during the year and a social function held to mark John Milton's birthday and to launch an appeal for funds. The Friends' Centennial Fund has a target of \$100,000 to be raised by the end of 1985 to make several major purchases for the Library's research collections.

Seven exhibitions were mounted in the Library to display to the public some of the Library's rich resources for research. Major exhibitions were 'Early Panoramic Views of New Zealand'; a display of Bibles from the Bible Society collection; portraits of New Zealanders prominent in