

letter from the Turnbull's Chief Librarian C. R. H. Taylor requesting that personal details of New Zealand's pioneer women be recorded on the forms and returned to the Library. It was also suggested that '... photographs, early letters, diaries, or other papers that may add to your record' also be deposited.⁶ It would appear that these early attempts to document the lives of New Zealand women were not particularly successful. A total of only eleven completed forms have survived in the Manuscripts Collection⁷ and the Library's acquisitions files do not show a significant amount of women's material being added to the collections during this period. The fate of the remaining nine hundred and eighty nine forms is a matter for speculation.

In 1975 the Library's attempts to collect women's material were significantly more successful, particularly in attracting the records of women's organisations. A check through the 'Notes on Manuscripts Accessions' which appear in each issue of the *Turnbull Library Record* reveals a number of significant collections in addition to the records of the National Council of Women which provided the impetus for the Library's renewed efforts. Included are the records of the Abortion Law Reform Association, the New Zealand Federation of University Women, the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, the New Zealand Maori Women's Welfare League, the New Zealand Nurses' Association, the Society for Research on Women, the United Women's Convention (1975), the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Young Women's Christian Association of New Zealand. The papers of individual women include those of doctors Agnes Bennett and Mary Barkas, politicians Mary Batchelor and Marilyn Waring, artists Rita Angus and Helen Crabb, composers Jenny McLeod and Gillian Whitehead and writers Nelle Scanlan and Ngaio Marsh.

Often of just as much interest to the researcher are the papers of those who are not well-known—the so called 'ordinary women' whose thoughts, activities and reactions to events of the day can help flesh out the bare facts of history. So the researcher will find in the collection an 1867 letter written by Mary Ann Hunter describing life in Auckland and her conditions and pay as a domestic servant; the shipboard diary of Jane Findlayson, a young Scottish immigrant to Port Chalmers in 1876; the letters of Daphne Commons, a nursing sister in Egypt during World War One, Jean Anderson's letter of 3 February 1931 giving a first-hand account of the Napier earthquake, and the reminiscences of Zelinda Froh, a German internee during World War Two.

In the ten years since the inauguration of the New Zealand Women's History Collection, the interest in women's studies has continued to grow, with study courses being offered at most New