

federation of private sector workers from 1937 until May 1988, when it was replaced by the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

The archives transferred cover the period 1937 until 1978, and in some cases the mid 1980s. Records from approximately 1978 have been retained by the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions. These will be transferred to the Library at regular intervals as they are no longer needed for administrative use. Through the Trade Union History Project, the archives have been arranged and described and a guide to them produced.

The archives constitute a major source for New Zealand labour history and include correspondence and subject files, minutes, conference papers, photographs, sound tapes, video recordings, posters, publications and collected ephemera. All areas of FOL activity are covered including wage bargaining, disputes, involvement in social and economic issues and relations with affiliates, outside organisations, Government and Labour Party. Through this emerges a detailed picture of organised union response to, and debate about, national and international developments for half a century.

There are gaps in the records, particularly from the 1930s to the mid 1940s when some were burned, and again in the early 1960s. Some official Federation of Labour records already held in the Library partially compensate for these gaps.

Access to the archives is restricted and requires the written permission of the President, NZCTU, and the Chief Librarian.

Post Office Photographic Project

The first major photographic documentary project undertaken by the Library depicts Post Office buildings which closed, and activities which ended on 5 February 1988. The project was proposed by Martin Taylor of Paragon Arts and supported by New Zealand Post. The photographers Laurence Aberhart, Peter Black, Fiona Clark, Paul McCredie, Chris Matthews, Peter Ritchie and Ans Westra were commissioned by the Library. The proof sheets of their work are held by the Photographic Archive.

Gutenberg Bible Facsimile

To complement the two important collections of early printed Bibles held by the Library, the Howard Collection and the Bible Society in New Zealand Collection, a facsimile reproduction of the first printed Bible has been purchased. The original was printed in Mainz about 1455 by Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of movable type. The facsimile edition is a meticulous reproduction of the copy held in the Bibliotheque Mazarine, Paris. It is accompanied by an explanatory text.

European Fine Printing

The recent purchase of some two hundred and fifty Czech bibliophile editions, mostly of the twentieth century, has broadened the Library's strong collection of private press and fine printed books. The majority are bound in calf, and many are on hand-made paper and illustrated. The chief emphasis of this new collection is on the quality of printing, illustration and binding.