Notes and Comments

Some recent acquisitions

The Library recently purchased three titles by William Prynne (1100-1669) the indefatigable puritan pamphleteer whose principles cost him his ears. From 1627 until his death in 1669 he produced some 200 books and pamphlets, prompting Wood, one of his biographers, to remark that if rightly computed he wrote a sheet for every day of his life. The items are The Unlovelinesse of Love-lockes, 1628, an attack on unnatural hair lengths; A Soveraigne Antidote, to Prevent, Appease, and Determine our Unnaturall and Destructive Civill Warres and Dissentions, 1642; and A Moderate Apology Against a Pretended Calumny: in Answer to Some Passages in The Preheminence of Parliment, 1644. The Turnbull now holds 23 items by Prynne.

The Library's collection of work by William Mein Smith, the pioneer surveyor, has been significantly strengthened by a donation of seven ink drawings and two watercolours by Mrs F. Waghorn of Te Kuiti. The works, dating from the 1850s and 1860s, depict East Coast landscapes and Wairarapa scenes including Charles Hales's sheep station, the Tauherenikau Hotel, and the Pakuratahi bridge.

Ten sketchbooks of Archdeacon Philip Walsh (1843-1914) were purchased from Mrs J. Bradstreet of Hawthorne, Victoria, in August. Six of them include European and Irish scenes prior to Walsh's arrival in New Zealand. The New Zealand drawings, dating from about 1870 to the late 1890s, include copper mines on Kawau Island, bush clearing in Coromandel, logging and milling, and numerous scenes of Northland, especially the Waimate and Hokianga districts. Walsh was born in Ireland and educated in France, emigrating to New Zealand in 1866. He farmed in the Bay of Islands, then studied at St John's College, Auckland, in 1872. In 1900 he became Archdeacon of Waimate North.

A sketchbook of Major-General Robert Henry Wynyard was purchased at McArthur's auction in October. Dated January to March 1852, it contains 23 very fine ink and pencil drawings, covering Northland, Coromandel, Mt Egmont, Wanganui, Wellington district, including William Wakefield's house, the Porirua Barracks, the stockade at Pauatahanui, and the Nelson and Akaroa districts. At this period Wynyard was Lieutenant Governor of New Zealand and had commanded the 58th Regiment in the 1845-46 wars.