

### *Trust fund for fine printing and binding*

The New Zealand Ex Libris and Booklovers' Society has decided to dissolve itself and to donate the funds of the Society to the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust to create a special trust fund to be used for the development of the Library's collection of fine printing, and for the advancement of fine printing and binding in New Zealand by way of exhibitions, prizes, awards, lectures, etc. The fund is to be designated the 'New Zealand Ex Libris and Booklovers' Society Fine Printing and Binding Fund' and the agreement provides for both the capital and income to be expended at the discretion of the Board of the Endowment Trust.

### *Beere negatives acquired*

In August 1979 the Library purchased a collection of 793 glass negatives by the photographer Daniel Manders Beere, one of three brothers born at Ballynacargy, West Meath, Ireland, all of whom came to New Zealand during the 1860s.

Daniel arrived in New Zealand in 1863 after spending some time in Canada as an engineering cadet to his uncle, a bridge engineer. From 1864 until 1867 he served as a surveyor to the Provincial Government, working in the Auckland, Waikato and Thames districts. During the 1870s he surveyed the routes of the Manawatu-Wanganui and Pakipaki-Waipukurau stretches of railway before returning to the Waikato in 1876 to carry on railway construction work. In 1886 he left New Zealand and travelled extensively before settling in Melbourne, where he died in 1909. His negatives remained with his descendants in New Zealand, by whom they have always been maintained in excellent condition, and as a result they exhibit almost none of the deterioration so commonly seen in glass negatives.

The collection can be divided into three categories. The earliest plates, dating from the 1860s and 1870s, are 88 7¼" × 4½" collodion negatives depicting scenes in Auckland, the Kaipara district, Thames and the military camps on the Waikato during the New Zealand wars. The 7¼" × 4½" format is not common in New Zealand but is known in North America and it may be assumed that these negatives were made on a camera brought from Canada. The equipment used by Beere for these early images was obviously of the highest quality, for it enabled him to use exposures short enough to capture moving objects lost by most of his contemporaries, while at the same time using apertures small enough to ensure a good depth of field. The resulting richness of detail extending from foreground to background gives these photographs a vitality lacking in most of their contemporaries. A study of these negatives with a magnifier brings out a wealth of detail invisible to the unaided eye.

From a slightly later period are 141 dry-plate negatives, 6½" × 4½" in size. These date from the period when Beere was engaged in surveying railways in Hawkes Bay and the Manawatu and cover much of the