

Agreement has been reached on the purchase of the remainder of the late Frank Sargeson's papers to complete the holdings of Sargeson papers acquired in 1971, and negotiations are well advanced for the acquisition of several other collections of literary papers. Major acquisitions of the archives of institutions included those of the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Society, the New Zealand Public Service Association, the Gear Meat Company, and the Goodman Group of companies. The remainder of the Te Whatahoro Jury papers from the Library of the Maori Purposes Fund Board were deposited during the year and negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of other important collections of Maori manuscripts. The photograph collection benefited from the loan of several collections for copying and the donation of the Chappell Collection relating to the Thames-Coromandel goldfields, that of Miss E. E. Williams, an early professional photographer in Wanganui, and several others. The visit of the Map Librarian to Australia has resulted in a steady flow of copies of New Zealand maps to fill gaps in the Turnbull collection. The Composers' Foundation is making an annual grant of \$1,000 to the Archive of New Zealand Music, and this year the money is being used to accelerate the Archive's oral history programme. The Music Archive is also receiving copies of the tapes of the Cambridge Music Schools.

A collection of contemporary German fine printing was donated to the Library through the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and with the assistance of the Endowment Trust several significant purchases were made for the arts of the printed book collection. Notable purchases for the New Zealand book collection included John Murray's *An account of the Phormium Tenax or New Zealand Flax* . . . (London, 1836) printed on paper made from flax, and two very rare Russian language pamphlets published in 1904 and 1906.

CONSERVING THE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

Research libraries, as custodians of the records of the past, have a general responsibility to ensure that their collections are available not just to their present users but to future generations as well. The Turnbull Library has additional responsibilities because of the high proportion of unique, rare and valuable items in its collections and its special role as the custodian of the national copies of last resort of all New Zealand books and a substantial proportion of New Zealand serial titles. The resources of staff and materials available to the Library for the long-term preservation of its collections are still inadequate and measures are being continued to improve short-term preservation. Unless demand on some parts of the collections diminishes significantly, thus reducing deterioration due to handling, measures will be necessary to restrict access to more items.

During the year Mr O. A. Clarke, the Library's conservation technician, spent six weeks in Australia, gaining practical experience in the conservation laboratory of the Australian National Archives, visiting other conservation units, and attending the conference of the Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials. In April 1981 two conservation staff were called on to lead a small team of museum and archives