

Friends of the Turnbull Library

Annual Report 1981/82

MEMBERSHIP The number of financial members was 913, plus 38 Life Members, as at 31 March 1982.

MEETINGS The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 1 July 1981, and followed by a talk by Miss Mary Ronnie, then National Librarian, talking on New Zealand reference services, especially in Dunedin where the New Zealand collections in the Dunedin Public Library and its McNab Collection act as a buffer to use of the research collections in the Hocken Library. It was a fighting speech in defence of the National Library and a worthy record of the National Librarian in the year of her retirement.

18 August 1981: Professor Howard Mayer Brown, a leading American musicologist from the University of Chicago's Department of Music, who specialises in Renaissance music, spoke on symbolism in the chansonnier contained in Banco Raro 229 in the Florence Library. His talk was illustrated with slides of the illuminations, and he played taped examples of some of the more important themes played by a viol consort.

16 September 1981: Dr Peter Whitehead, Head of the Department of Fishes in the British Museum. His lecture entitled: 'The Piquitinga Trail: Marcgraf, Music and Manuscripts', demonstrated how the search for a lost collection of Dutch 17th century natural history drawings from Brazil soon led to a search for much more spectacular material, the lost music scores of Beethoven, Mozart and others, dispersed during World War II, and finally discovered in the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow. Dr Whitehead's talk was most interesting and entertaining, with a masterly sense of timing, and the best use of slides for heightening suspense that many in the audience had ever seen.

2 November 1981: Dr Robin Alston, Director of the British Library's 18th Century Short Title Catalogue Project, and well known as editor of a very extensive bibliography of the English Language, spoke on 'The implications of the 18th Century Short Title Catalogue': a lively treatment of a formidable topic.

25 November 1981: Mrs Janet Paul, publisher, artist, art historian and former Art Librarian at the Alexander Turnbull Library, spoke on 'New Zealand landscape into painting'. She gave a virtuoso commentary on hundreds of slides on two projectors to a packed and appreciative audience.