

fitted out, and modern library techniques and processes were introduced in various departments of the library.

The late winter of the depression was still casting a shadow on public expenditure in these first years. Mr Andersen had been greatly hampered in purchasing, having to list each book and its price before permission would be granted. Mr Taylor was successful in building up a broadly based acquisition policy, all operations of which he undertook personally for many years. At first he was allowed to spend £10 a month, but this amount was later increased to £400 a month. On this sum the Turnbull Library could not acquire as many literary and allied treasures as Mr Taylor would have liked, but the limitation made for shrewd buying. Mr Taylor endeavoured to strike a balance between the main sections of the Library, on the lines commenced by Alexander Turnbull. His efforts successfully carried the Library into the modern age, and he knew its holdings better than any individual staff member before or since.

It was his concern for expanding the limited resources of the Library, together with the necessity for a publication programme which led to his encouraging the establishment of the Friends of the Turnbull Library in 1939, for he had seen how successful such an organisation could be in the case of the British Museum. During Mr Taylor's lengthy and faithful service, numerous collections were bequeathed to the Library, notably the McLean papers and the Hogg and Trimble collections. All accretions to the Library's shelves in both new and antiquarian categories contributed to the unique value of the 'Turnbull' as a centre for research.

During Mr Taylor's term of office and since, scholars have come from all over the world to study in the small, crowded building at the foot of Bowen Street. Some of these visitors are world-famous men and women who spend weeks or months in the institution pursuing their particular field of study, others are students completing a thesis.

Although the Library has tended increasingly to become a New Zealand centre for historical studies in the New Zealand and Pacific subject fields, it is due to Mr Taylor's insistence that the balance of interest in Turnbull's original collection has been retained in at least English literature. During the time he was in charge it doubled its holdings and extended many times over, its manuscript resources.

With vigour and consistency he opposed the inclusion of the Turnbull Library in the National Library, for he feared that the specialised collections of the Turnbull might be swamped in the larger organisation, and that the Turnbull would lose its special place among scholars, as a first class research institution.

During his long association with the Turnbull Library there would be few literary personalities in New Zealand who did not make the acquaintance of Mr Taylor and benefit by his knowledge and wisdom.

Book selection was only one field of librarianship in which he excelled.