

COMMENTARY

Mr R. F. Grover, Assistant Chief Librarian, has been awarded an Anzac Fellowship in terms of which he is spending six months in Australia examining library and other institutional holdings of New Zealand manuscripts, paintings and photographs. Mr Grover who began his assignment on 1 July, is undertaking this work with the welcome support of the Australian National Librarian, Mr H. L. White, and the Principal Librarian of the Library of New South Wales, Mr G. D. Richardson, in whose libraries much of his time will be spent. He will also visit Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart and Brisbane. While in Canberra at the National Library of Australia he will also study bibliographical procedures and techniques. These are of great interest to Turnbull, which as part of the National Library, is responsible for the *New Zealand National Bibliography*. The Turnbull Committee and Trustees are grateful to the Australian Library authorities who, as part of Mr Grover's programme, have permitted extensive runs of manuscript to be photocopied for consultation in the Turnbull Library.

Miss M. Walton, Head of Reference, who has been on leave in the United Kingdom since the beginning of June, spent some weeks at work in London in August–September at the conclusion of her holiday. Her task has been to assist Mr John Maggs of Messrs Maggs Bros to identify the items in which the Library is interested in the collection of the late K. A. Webster bought by the firm. During his relatively short active period as a book collector as distinct from a collector of Maori artifacts, Mr Webster had built up what was undoubtedly the finest private collection still extant on New Zealand, Australia and their colonising background. In earlier years Mr Webster had generously permitted some of his manuscripts to be copied for the Library. By a tragic conjunction of circumstances one such consignment was almost totally destroyed on its return, in the 1961 Aotea Quay fire. Before his sudden death in October 1967 the Library had bought a number of manuscripts from Mr Webster. The sympathetic indulgence of Mrs Webster, the Trustees of the estate and of John Maggs in giving New Zealand in the form of the Library the opportunity of acquiring not merely the manuscripts which Mr Webster still retained but also selections from his pamphlets, maps and numerous other rare ephemera is greatly appreciated.

The Library, in agreement with the National Library of Australia, the Mitchell Library and the University of Hawaii, were bidders at the 2 June Paris sale of the Ropiteau-O'Reilly collection of Tahitian and other Pacific manuscripts with early island imprints. These libraries, with the Australian National University in Canberra, constitute the