

tion among the top six in the world. But important also is the increase in the number of copies held of each edition. The Stuart purchase strengthens the former collection immeasurably in this respect.

It is in the field of Miltoniana, however, that the new collection will make perhaps its greatest impact. Here alone the purchase adds 323 new titles or editions including 186 published in the seventeenth century and 108 in the eighteenth century. The Library was already strong in material of this kind which supports the main collection of Milton editions but an improvement of this order must be seen as a major advance. The acquisition will here strengthen other areas of the Rare Book Collection and possibly provide new growing points for the future.

The Stuart Collection arrived at the Library early in February and has yet to be catalogued. Any report on its composition and strengths must remain preliminary. It is clear, however, that its acquisition will restore the Milton collection to a position approaching its former eminence. The purchase also affirms the wisdom of the young Turnbull's original decision to establish in New Zealand a Milton collection of extraordinary depth and quality.

V. G. ELLIOTT

III. The Tercentenary Exhibition

On 8 November 1974 Professor D. F. McKenzie of Victoria University of Wellington opened a display mounted in the Exhibition Room to commemorate the tercentenary of the death of John Milton. The exhibition was also intended as a tribute to the Library's founder, Alexander Turnbull, and it was fitting that it should open in the week in which news of the Stuart purchase, the first major addition to the Milton collection since Turnbull's death, was released.

The display was based on the Library's collection of seventeenth-century Milton editions including titles in which work by Milton was published. The 76 editions, starting with the Shakespeare Second Folio of 1632 and ending with the 1698 *Complete collection*, were arranged chronologically by the date of the first edition of each title. To accompany the exhibition, a printed catalogue was prepared giving brief notes on the content and early publishing history of the editions displayed.

The exhibition also included a number of portraits of Milton and his contemporaries. The Library is indebted to the National Portrait Gallery, London, for permission to reproduce ten pictures, including the Onslow portrait of Milton at the age of 21, and to the Princeton University Library for allowing reproduction of the Bayfordbury portrait. The William Faithorne engraving of Milton, aged 62, for which the Bayfordbury crayon may have been the original drawing from life, also