

## DONORS' EXHIBITION

This year, for the first time, a special exhibition presented a wide selection of donations to the Library over the preceding fifteen months. It is intended that such an exhibition should become an annual event, as a gesture of appreciation to past benefactors as well as *pour encourager les autres*. The exhibition was mounted by Tom Wilsted, Manuscripts Librarian, and Jeavons Baillie, Conservation Officer, but almost all senior staff were involved to some degree. The display deliberately concentrated upon a great variety of items to the almost total exclusion of books, with the intention of showing how very widely the Library tries to cast its net in building up research collections covering every aspect of New Zealand history and our way of life at each and every period.

Manuscripts naturally played a prominent part, including material acquired through the WARDOCUMENT project, with paintings and sketches, prints, maps, music, gramophone records, tape recordings, photo-copies, photographs, posters, programmes, postcards and every type of ephemera. As a result of excellent publicity secured by those responsible for mounting the exhibition, including most useful television coverage, an unusually large number of visitors came to view it, many of whom had not been in the Library before. The objective was well achieved, in that the term 'library material' now has a much more concrete meaning for several thousand people, at first hand: and, in consequence, many more donations have been received, all in their own way important, whether a quite minor item or a major manuscript collection. Some emphasis had been placed on the policy of securing representative papers of Parliamentarians, including the recently acquired Sir John Marshall papers.

A handsomely-presented brochure, listing all donors of the preceding fifteen months with some introductory comment and indicating how small a selection of material could be shown, was sent to the 566 donors and their families, with an invitation to a special Donors' Preview, held from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, 13 June, when over 200 took advantage of the opportunity. Library staff were in attendance to assist visitors with any enquiries, and at intervals the Chief Librarian (Mr J. E. Traue) briefly summarized the intention of the occasion. The brochure also accompanied the invitations to the official opening of the exhibition on the following day, Monday, 14 June, at 5.30 p.m.

The scores of thousands of donations in the fifty odd years since the death of the founder would now have an aggregate current market value of several millions but their worth cannot be estimated in dollars alone. Gifts have ranged from Sir Joseph Kinsey's library of 20,000