

Bibliothèque Nationale, the New York Public Library and the Huntington.

"We in New Zealand because of our special historical experience have responded well to the welfare imperative and our record of public and private charity is good, but we have not yet felt the full force of our own cultural imperative. As a colonial outpost of Western European civilisation we have looked elsewhere for the preservation of the records of our Western European past, to the Public Record Office, the British Museum, Oxford and Cambridge. In the uncertain future that faces us as a country cast upon its own resources to make its own way in the world we shall need the self-assurance that a sense of our distinctively New Zealand past can give. Cicero's comment is as appropriate to a country as it is to an individual: 'To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to be forever a child.'

"For those who feel that in such uncertain times as these research libraries are a cultural luxury, a good thing, but a luxury notwithstanding, I commend the example of Prussia in 1810. Napoleon had crushed the Prussian Army, occupied Berlin, and ruined the economy. The response of the Prussian people was to create a new university, the University of Berlin, to match the great German universities of Heidelberg, Göttingen, Munich and Cologne. In a time of trouble they responded with an act of faith in the creative and renewing power of scholarship. Wilhelm von Humboldt, the great German scientist and the head of the new university, summed up his feelings thus: 'The state, like the private citizen, always acts wisely and politicly . . . when in times of misfortune it uses its efforts to establish something looking to future good and connects its name with such a work.'

"Our donors have helped to establish 'something looking to future good' and have connected their names with such a work."