

New Zealand National Bibliography to 1960

The three volumes of the retrospective *New Zealand National Bibliography* which have been published so far have received only passing mention in this journal. This may possibly be explained by the close association between the Library and the editor of both the *Bibliography* and the *Record*, Mr A. G. Bagnall. It is appropriate to draw attention to the project now, as with the publication by the Government Printer of Volume IV (P-Z) in April this year the alphabetical main entry sequence of some 27,000 items for 1890-1960 was completed. Apart from those items to 1909 included in Dr Hocken's bibliography there has previously been no cumulative bibliographical approach to the period.

Volume II (A-H) was published in 1970 and Volume III in 1972; for the former the editor received the John Harris Award. This New Zealand Library Association award is for 'the published record of notable work, whether in the bibliographical, critical, historical or administrative fields which will be a contribution to New Zealand librarianship' and since its institution in 1962 there have been only three other recipients. The three volumes of the bibliography published so far are the tangible result of nearly 30 years' dedication to a task which is now approaching completion. Final checking of entries for Volume I (to 1889) has begun—the scope limitations for this period are wider, particularly to 1869, and entries will be lined off in descriptive bibliographical form so there will be immediate differences from Volumes II-IV, but similarities to Dr Hocken's work. The number of entries already prepared and those which have yet to be done indicate that there will be approximately 5,000 items—Dr Hocken's bibliography (to 1909) contains 3,500—considerably more than originally anticipated.

To complete the set of 5 volumes as originally planned is the Index and Supplement volume—the supplementary section including corrections and amplifications to existing entries as well as items recorded for the first time. The Index will provide approaches by subject, title and added authors where appropriate. Although it is difficult to give a likely publication date for Volumes I and V, it is hoped that entries will be ready for the press by the end of 1977. Preparation of entries for the retrospective *New Zealand National Bibliography* is carried out by Ms P. Griffith in the Cataloguing Section of the Alexander Turnbull Library, with the Head of that Section, Miss K. S. Williams, as Assistant Editor, although the ultimate responsibility still rests with Mr Bagnall, despite his 'retirement' in 1973.

Retirement of Hon. Editor

This issue of the *Record* represents the completion of ten years' publication in the new series which I commenced in 1967. Editorial responsibility since 1974 has been shared with Mr J. E. Traue as Chief