

watercolour by Bridge in the Library and another again, by John Williams (one of four by that artist held in the Hocken Library, Dunedin). All are from approximately the same vantage point but vary slightly in their depiction of the Battle of Puketutu (sometimes known as Te Mawhe or as Okaihau, at the time). On 8 May 1845 the British forces under Lt.-Col. Hulme attacked Hone Heke's large and strongly fortified pa but after a day's bitter fighting, with heavy casualties on both sides, were forced to withdraw. The three watercolours show stages of the attack, including a group of friendly Maoris in the foreground. Puketutu stood close to Lake Omaperere and the new acquisition clearly shows in much greater detail, along with other new information, how the wounded were evacuated along the marshy shores of the lake. The Library, and future historians researching this engagement, must be grateful to the two ladies responsible for this most worthwhile addition to our records.

Turnbull Contribution to Govett-Brewster Gallery Exhibition

An exhibition entitled 'Painting in Taranaki' was held at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery 16 September to 10 October.

Thirty-four items from the Alexander Turnbull Library were included in the exhibition. Part of the intention was to discover if there is 'Taranaki art'; certainly there is art which describes Taranaki. Mount Egmont, of course, has had an almost alarming attraction as a subject but it is interesting to realise that two of the most important paintings in New Zealand art 'Mount Egmont from the south' by Charles Heaphy and 'Taranaki' by Christopher Perkins, have been inspired by this backdrop to New Plymouth. The paintings from the Turnbull Library included views ranging from the early primitive, James Crawford, to the more 'artistic', by C. D. Barraud.

The exhibition has provided an excellent opportunity to show a series of Taranaki views by Sir William Fox. These were painted in his later period and use brilliant colours with almost naive enthusiasm. Sketches made by soldiers during the Maori wars feature prominently but there are lesser known artists such as Sophia Lysaght and a lively view on an expedition on the Mokau River by Stephenson Percy Smith.

However, the exhibition in Taranaki of these paintings from the Alexander Turnbull Library was not achieved without a great deal of time and effort. There is a question of responsibility—should important and irreplaceable paintings travel round the country? If one decides to take the risk, what is the safest way to travel? Then they have to be listed, photographed, mounted. All this means a strain on the Library's already over-extended resources, a strain which will affect increasingly the Library's ability to implement its policy of making its collections available to other institutions.