

directions I have indicated above. By so doing not only will the reputation of the Turnbull be extended, but thereby also New Zealand will be able firmly to establish an independent position for herself in the world of scholarship as a place where significant research in English literature can be pursued.

Early Printed Books on Microfilm

In the 1950s with the assistance of a \$9,000 grant from the Ford Foundation the Library began subscribing to the two series of microfilms of early British printed books published by University Microfilms. The two series, when complete, will contain all the items listed in the two standard catalogues for the period 1475-1700, those of Pollard & Redgrave 1475-1640 (STC I) and Donald Wing 1641-1700 (STC II).

The end is now in sight for STC I with its 26,143 items; the Turnbull has received over 77 percent of the total items, some 20,000 items on 4.2 million pages, and will receive some 200,000 pages a year until the project is completed.

The STC II period, with some 53,850 titles, is a far larger enterprise and was in 1976, with only one third of the items filmed, estimated to take another fifteen years. The publishers announced early in 1977 that with an accelerated schedule an additional 200,000 pages are to be completed each year. In addition the *Thomason Tracts, 1640-1661* are to be published as a special project. The Tracts, listed in Donald Wing's *Short-Title Catalogue 1641-1700* and as such an integral part of STC II, will now be filmed separately in 8 subscription units to be made available between 1977 and 1980. Subscribers to STC II who purchase the Thomason Tracts will be given appropriate discounts on the list price of \$US1,325 per unit. The Turnbull has placed a subscription and the first two units, each of some 100,000 pages, are now available to research workers.

George Thomason, a London bookseller and publisher, began systematically collecting every book, pamphlet and newspaper issued in London and as many as he could obtain from the provinces and abroad on the day the Long Parliament met, 3 November 1640, and continued collecting until the coronation of Charles II in 1661. The Tracts, comprising some 22,000 items bound in 2,008 volumes, each annotated and numbered by Thomason, are essential source materials for mid-seventeenth century English history and will add very considerable strength to the Turnbull's existing collections.