

and contributed a paper to the international conference 'Captain James Cook and his Times' at the University in April.

Historians conference in Library

A small group of some twenty people with a research or teaching interest in early modern European history met by invitation at the Turnbull over the weekend of 17-18 June for a pioneer national conference 'Early Modern Historians in New Zealand' organised by Colin Davis of Victoria University. The conference was opened with a paper by Professor Geoffrey Elton of Cambridge University, in New Zealand on an extended visit sponsored by the British Council, entitled 'Parliamentary History after the Certainties of Neale and Notestein'. Other papers were delivered by Dr M. A. R. Graves of the University of Auckland ('The Decline of the House of Lords: A Marian Phenomenon'), Dr Alison Hanham of Massey University ('Fact and Fancy: Sir Thomas More as Historian') and Professor J. H. Jensen of Waikato University ('Nationalism in Early Modern Europe: Has Elliot got it right?')

The Turnbull's collections of sixteenth and seventeenth century printed books and its holdings of British books from Caxton to 1700 on microfilm make it a major research resource in New Zealand for British early modern history.

Oxford University Press quincentennial exhibition.

This year the quincentenary of the Oxford University Press is being celebrated throughout the world and in New Zealand an exhibition showing the development of publishing and printing at Oxford was open to the public from May to July in the Library's exhibition area.

Mary Paul's text, based on *The Oxford University Press and the Spread of Learning* (an illustrated history prepared for an exhibition at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York) traced the history of the Press from the first book printed at Oxford in 1478 through the organization of publishing in the seventeenth century and the commercial expansion of the nineteenth to the international publishing of the present day. Accompanying illustrations, mostly from the same book, included engravings and photographs of buildings occupied by the Press (the Sheldonian Theatre, the Clarendon Building, the Walton Street premises), portraits and photographs of dominant figures (Dr John Fell, Archbishop Laud, William Blackstone, Bartholomew Price), and sample pages from a number of major publications. Books from the early printed books collection gave a more immediate sense of the changes in publishing