

the Howard bequest of 50 sixteenth century Bibles and prayer books received a few years ago the Library now has the core of a collection capable of sustaining serious research in a number of fields.

Other donations during the year included a collection of early printed books from a wide range of British and continental printers presented by Mr A. C. Brassington, a collection of the late Eugene Grayland's private press work presented by Mrs Valerie Grayland, a rare eighteenth century coloured mezzotint 'The Poa' from Sir Alister McIntosh and a collection of New Zealand paintings and illustrations from Lady McIntosh. The archive of New Zealand artists received donations of papers, photographs and early studies from Paul Beadle, Charles Tole, Ida Eise, Lois White and Helen Brown. Important donations to the photograph collections included 567 glass plates, mostly stereoscopic, taken by Isaac Jeffares in the early 1900s and 80 negatives by the Levin photographer W. Thorley. The Library purchased from the artist, Mrs Evelyn Page, a portrait of New Zealand's most famous historian John Cawte Beaglehole, OM.

The transfer of New Zealand historical manuscripts from the General Assembly Library to the Alexander Turnbull Library is now complete. Major collections included in this transfer are the papers of Sir John Hall, the Richmond-Atkinson family, Sir Julius Vogel, Andrew Sinclair, William Rolleston, Gordon Coates and Sir Sidney Holland. The Library acknowledges with thanks the cooperation of the General Assembly Library in the transfer of these manuscripts and other items. Additions to the manuscript collections continue to be announced through the *Turnbull Library Record* and *Archifacts*.

The Library is once again indebted to those who have contributed by donation to the growth of the collections and acknowledges their generosity. A full list of donors is published in the *Turnbull Library Record*. The role of the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust in purchasing highly priced books, manuscripts, maps and pictures for the Library and in making funds available for related activities is noted elsewhere.

CONSERVING THE COLLECTIONS

The research collections in the Alexander Turnbull Library constitute a national asset with a value to the community far in excess even of their monetary value. The collections relating to New Zealand will be called upon more and more in the future to assist both scholar and citizen to understand and interpret our society. The delicate balance which had been achieved between present use and future conservation has been upset in the last two