

JUBILEE YEAR

The Library bequeathed to New Zealand by Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull (1868–1918) was opened to the public on Tuesday, 28 June 1920. It was decided that the Jubilee of the Library should be observed in 1970, rather than in 1968, the jubilee of the bequest and the centenary of the founder's birth. This followed the precedent set in 1945, when the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Library was celebrated. As the second world war was then still in progress, the occasion was marked only by a meeting at the Library on the afternoon of 5 July 1945. In the unavoidable absence of the Minister of Internal Affairs (Honourable W. E. Parry), a statement from him was read by Mr J. W. Heenan, the Under-Secretary. The Government was represented by the Ministers of Education (Mr Mason), Defence (Mr Jones) and Agriculture (Mr Roberts). Among others present were Mr J. C. Andersen the first Chief Librarian and Professor I. A. Gordon, President of the Friends.

The Honourable H. G. R. Mason, QC, praised 'the pre-vision' of Alexander Turnbull and spoke in commendation of the Friends of the Turnbull Library. He also mentioned that 'a scheme to co-ordinate a national library service had not been lost sight of, and was again making progress'. Afternoon tea was served and the guests inspected a special exhibition. *The Evening Post* ran a special article on the Library that day, and next day reported the function.

The official Fiftieth Jubilee celebrations commenced on the evening of Tuesday, 30 June 1970, with an address entitled *The Library and the Cosmos* by Professor J. C. Beaglehole, OM. The recognised world authority on Captain James Cook, RN, Professor Beaglehole has for many years been the Library's most distinguished reader. Alexander Turnbull had paid particular attention to building up a remarkably comprehensive collection of books and manuscripts relating to the exploration of the Pacific. The strength of the holdings on Cook has been immeasurably increased by the photo-copy material presented by John Beaglehole, accumulated in the course of his editing of Cook's *Journals* over quarter of a century.

The Beaglehole address, given under the aegis of the Trustees of the National Library, is published in this issue of the *Record* and off-prints will also be available. Ill-health prevented the attendance of Sir John Ilott, KT, Chairman of Trustees, 1966–70. In his stead the chair was taken by the Honourable D. J. Riddiford, MP, MC, Minister of Justice, and a member of the Trustees' Special Committee for the Turnbull Library. An audience of about one hundred, invited from all parts of New Zealand, packed the limited space of the Exhibition Room which had been cleared of the display cases. For the first time in fifty years the