

NEW ZEALAND MANUSCRIPTS HELD IN AUSTRALIA

In 1969 I was awarded an Anzac Fellowship to seek out New Zealand historical research material held in Australia. Anzac Fellowships were established in 1967 in response to a suggestion by the then Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable Harold Holt. Each country reciprocally awards two a year and the fields of interest which come within the conditions of the Fellowship are wide; agriculture, commerce, industry, the arts, and public service. The Fellowship's purpose is to further good relations and co-operation between the two countries.

New Zealand's historical research resources have benefited greatly from the co-operation of the Australian repositories which I visited. All of them willingly gave permission and staff-assistance for the copying of manuscripts and historical pictures. I am particularly grateful for the encouragement and help I received from Mr Gordon Richardson, OBE, Principal Librarian of the Library of New South Wales, and Sir Harold White, the then National Librarian.

It is not possible yet to issue a list of the manuscripts identified. In this article I will indicate only the type of manuscripts located and mention a few examples. One feature that seems to have emerged as the manuscripts have been catalogued is that, looked at as a whole, they reflect a pattern of relationships between New Zealand and Australia since the beginning of European settlement. That the pattern is sometimes disturbed a little is probably due to the activities of two notable collectors, David Scott Mitchell (1836-1907) and Mr Rex de C. Nan Kivell. Mr Mitchell purchased far outside his own state and country, and Mr Nan Kivell has made most of his purchases in Britain and Europe.

That two-thirds of the New Zealand manuscripts identified are held by the Mitchell Library is a tribute to the Library's founder and to those who vigorously acted on his collection policy after his death; it also evidences the degree of inter-relationship between New Zealand and New South Wales during the past 180 years. The decade represented by the greatest number of manuscripts is the 1840s. The holdings for the 1830s, fifties and sixties are fairly heavy and are closely followed by the 1820s. With the exception of literary manuscripts - which begin appearing regularly in the 1890s - surviving manuscripts for other decades are spread evenly but thinly.

A summary listing of the New Zealand highlights is in Miss Ida Leeson's book *The Mitchell Library*, (1936).

The bulk of the pre-1840 New Zealand records held in Australia is, as in New Zealand, of missionary origin. Chief amongst these, in influence and in the amount of shelving taken up by what has survived him, is Samuel Marsden (1764-1838). Some of the correspondence and