

copying, chiefly as a security measure. Eventually, on an afternoon in February 1970, the transparencies arrived and were the subject of exciting examination for the rest of the available time that day. The following morning the album itself was eagerly unpacked, which gave rise to some, fortunately unnecessary, doubts about our security provision as both album and copies appeared to have come out on the same flight.

The scrapbook was on display at a function in the Library in April 1970 and the Trustees formally made an offer to Miss Pearse and her sister for its purchase. Mrs Margaret Scott, while in France as a Winn-Manson Fellow, visited Miss Pearse and was able to tell her at first hand of the tremendous importance of the scrapbook to New Zealand and of our wish to retain it here. A little later, Miss Pearse was able to confirm that it had been decided to accept the Trustees' offer. Miss Pearse had also kindly permitted the Library to purchase three most interesting Barraud paintings taken back to England by John Pearse, one being an important early portrait of the Chief Rangihaeata.

Before and, more intensively, since the album arrived in Wellington the first-named author, Margery Walton, has gathered information about its maker. John Pearse was born in 1808 and baptised at Bedford St. Mary, Dunstable, England.¹ His father was Theed Pearse (died 1847). He came of a family which produced 'many lawyers in Bedfordshire in the 18th and 19th centuries'.² When he was seventeen he commenced his law studies 'in an office of high standing'.³ We learn from his great-grand-daughter, Miss Beatrice Pearse, that John Pearse was articled to the firm of Theed Pearse. He was admitted as Attorney in the Courts of Westminster in 1832.⁴ About 1839 he married Cassandra Jennings Vipan.⁵ The couple may have continued to live in Bedford as John Pearse, when he ceased to practise in England, was described as 'Steward of the Manor Royal of Dunstable'.⁶ Births of four children are recorded: John Walter 24 October 1842; Laura Mary 21 June 1847; Charles⁷ (about 1849) and Clara Alice Pearse⁷ (about 1851). It was the weight of this 'increasing family' which made their no-longer young father think of emigration.⁸ He must have discussed the idea of coming to New Zealand with the Russell family who 'kindly took an interest in my coming out' and provided Pearse with a letter of introduction to Sir George Grey from whom he expected to receive an offer of government employment. In a letter of slightly querulous reminder John Pearse spells out his reasons: 'Having an increasing family, and an insufficiency of income to live *comfortably* [author's underlining] in England, and thinking that the chances of advancement of children were in favour of New Zealand, I determined (after mature deliberation and with the full approval of my wife) to proceed there; to explore, and judge as to the expediency of my wife and children following . . . though I am happy