

torical papers of Maxwell Smart; a variety of Army records; a considerable extension of the collection of manuscripts relating to Pacifist movements. During the year also, the cataloguing of the manuscripts in the Bett collection was completed. Three hundred and forty-two reels of microfilmed manuscripts were received from overseas, chiefly from the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, and the Australian Joint Copying Project; and forty-three reels of records were copied locally. There were three full-time staff members this year, for the first time. This gave some much-needed latitude, but because of the rate of acquisition of manuscripts in the last six years there is a very great deal still to be done. The sorting, listing, cataloguing and indexing of papers continues, as does the service to readers. During the year 680 people consulted manuscripts; and 150 letters requesting manuscript information were answered.

Art Collection

Once the violent fluctuations of the 'controlled temperature and humidity' have been steadied it will be fair to say that the Art Collection is benefiting from its rehousing. Although the floor space is not much greater, the ease of access to shelves is considerably increased; cabinet storage in metal drawers will better preserve large and fragile prints, posters and architectural plans; and specially-designed sliding racks both house safely the oil paintings and make them readily available for research and exhibition. A number of small oil paintings continue to be stored at Bowen Street.

The art collection is increasingly used although written enquiries to identify or 'value' work have dropped, and donations of significant work have almost ceased, as art dealers continue to get inflated prices for 'old' New Zealand paintings. Students of art history are its main users but anthropologists, geographers, seismologists and mountaineers find its visual records important to their work. Other government departments continue to use the collection in a variety of ways.

1972-73 has been a vintage year for the acquisition of original paintings and drawings many of which were purchased by the Endowment Trust Board: 457 originals (including 283 cartoons) were obtained.

Copyright acquisition was the chief source of reproduction prints: 67 prints and calendars and 84 posters were added to the collection. Some large, previously-acquired collections have been listed (e.g. 242 cartoons from the 'Free Lance collection') and a detailed inventory made of the 476 items in the Richard Taylor sketchbook. Its rich medley of pen drawings which date from 'Kororareka 1830' to 'a curious cloud seen at Putiki 19 Nov. 1864' can now be consulted. If published this sketchbook would