

### *Law Society Collection*

The Wellington District Law Society has agreed to deposit its small collection of books printed before 1801 (some 100 volumes) in the Alexander Turnbull Library on long term loan. The formal deed specifies that the books are to remain the property of the Law Society but that they are to be housed and conserved as if they were the property of the Library. The use of the collection is to be in accordance with the Turnbull's *Rules for Use of the Library and Reading Room*. The collection will be designated as "The Wellington District Law Society's Collection" and each volume marked by an appropriate bookplate.

Most of the volumes are law reports published in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Interesting sixteenth century titles include Ranulphus de Glanville's *Tractatus de legibus et consuetudinibus regni Angliae* (1555?), Sir Robert Brooke's *La graunde abridgement . . .* (1573) and Sir William Stanford's *Les plees del coron . . .* (1567) and *An exposition of the kinges prerogative . . .* (1568).

The Turnbull has, for several years, been engaged in strengthening its national research collection of books printed before 1801 through purchases, bequests, and the encouragement of the long term deposit of significant collections in private and institutional hands. The Law Society's collection will add much needed strength to the Library's holdings of early legal works.

### *Exhibition of entertainment ephemera*

Reviving pleasant memories, entertaining, informing and attracting considerable interest from both older and younger generations, the Library's first ever ephemera exhibition 'Entertainment Ephemera: Posters and Programmes from New Zealand's Past', was held from 3 March to 19 July 1980.

Items in the colourful display, which spanned over a century (ca. 1825 to 1929), ranged from early English sideshow posters proclaiming the presence of 'Wild Indian Cannibals from New Zealand', through programmes of sparkling operatic seasons, brilliant regal balls, the excitement of the circus, pleasant picnic days, military displays, to the last years of the silent movies. Enhanced by items of evening wear kindly lent by the National Museum, the posters and programmes were accompanied by photographs and descriptive captions that brought to life local and visiting personalities including the great entrepreneurs who greatly influenced the New Zealand entertainment scene. Gems of humour found in old newspaper and magazine reviews added light-hearted atmosphere.

A primary aim of the exhibition was to arouse public awareness of the Library's collection and the value of ephemera as a source of information and illustration. Organised by Allison Buchan, assisted by Jill Palmer and vacation workers Helen Wyn and Hamish Graham, the display was made possible by many much-appreciated past donations, and it is hoped that the exhibition will have favourably influenced both potential users and potential donors.