

Mantell, Sir Donald McLean, the Polynesian Society and the Maori Purposes Fund Board, all rich in original Maori letters, accounts of traditional history and whakapapa.

A third grouping comprises two articles on significant collections of visual images of the Maori created by Europeans, one by Marian Minson on the recently purchased 'Nelson Maori portraits' of the 1840s, the other by John Sullivan on Samuel Carnell's photographic images of Maori from the second half of the nineteenth century.

A fourth grouping describes two other initiatives of the Turnbull to mark 1990: the exhibition 'Nga Kupu Korero' on the people associated with the Treaty of Waitangi, to be shown later in 1990 in the National Library's exhibition gallery in Wellington, and the proposed publication of the fourth part of Sir Apirana Ngata's *Nga Moteatea* in association with the Polynesian Society.

Although the composition of this issue has moved some distance from our original concept, the spread of subjects and viewpoints serves to indicate the breadth and depth of the collections and will, we hope, stimulate further inquiry and research.

Maori Resources in the Alexander Turnbull Library

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The rich documentary resources of Maori life, language, culture and traditional history in the Alexander Turnbull Library are a legacy of the founder's intention that his library should be 'the nucleus of a New Zealand national collection'.¹

Soon after Turnbull returned from London, at the age of twenty-four, to take up permanent residence in New Zealand he specified in a letter dated 23 May 1893 written to Dulau & Co., one of his London booksellers, his aims for the New Zealand section of his library. 'Anything whatever relating to this Colony, on its history, flora, fauna, geology and inhabitants, will be fish for my net, from as early a date as possible until now.'² His net captured printed Maori language items (the bulk of the incomparable collection of Maori language books, pamphlets and newspapers was gathered in Turnbull's lifetime); manuscripts in Maori and even original drawings by Maori; as well as the voluminous literature in other languages describing the Maori;