

Moore Library May 2010

Welcome from the Library Committee Chairman

What a magnificent resource God has blessed us with. Our library is recognisably the best in the southern hemisphere, and we are determined that it will continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

To this end, the staff remains very proactive in adding new materials to our collection. One such recent purchase - a Rarotongan New Testament dating from 1836 - is the subject of Kim Robinson's article.

Of course, much important work in maintaining the library and ensuring easy access to its resources goes on 'behind the scenes. Conscientious staff, hidden

away in their offices, are busy with our archives. Julie Olston offers us some personal insights into this crucial work.

Unfortunately our library continues to suffer from an ever-increasing lack of space. Doug Marr's article helps keep readers abreast of the current planning and developments with respect to our new library, upon which work should commence in the near future.

We do trust that you find this issue informative and helpful as you support us in our work.

On behalf of the Library Committee and staff, we wish you God's blessing.

Dr Paul Williamson, Chair, Library Committee

Assessing the Significance of the Moore College Library Archives

Following on from the Library receiving a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library in 2009 for a significance assessment of the Samuel Marsden Archives, Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher, formerly Bicentennial Professor of Australian History, University of Sydney, has been assessing the collection in conjunction with Library staff.

'Significance' relates to the values and meanings that an item or collection of items has for individuals and communities. Assessment is a process which includes analysing the item, researching its history, provenance and context, comparing it with similar items, understanding its value and summarising its meanings and values in a Statement of Significance. Four primary criteria apply when assessing significance - historic, artistic or aesthetic, scientific or research potential, social or spiritual. Four comparative criteria evaluate the degree of significance and they are provenance, rarity or representativeness, condition or completeness and interpretive capacity.

Our significance assessment will include Statements of Significance for the Archives as a whole and for certain sub-collections including the ninety eight sermon manuscripts of Rev Samuel Marsden; letters written and

received by Bishop William Grant Broughton, the first and only Anglican Bishop of Australia as well as two of Broughton's diaries; the papers of Deaconess Mary Andrews, missionary to China before becoming Head of Deaconess House, Sydney; and the papers of Professor E.C.B MacLaurin, foundation Head of the Dept of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney.

The College has recently changed the name of the Archives from the Samuel Marsden Archives to the Moore College Library Archives to reflect the breadth of the material held in the Archives.

The Library intends to submit Professor Fletcher's assessment to the National Library by November of this year. The process of working with Professor Fletcher has assisted staff to become more familiar with the collection and we are looking at ways in which we can make the contents of the Archives more accessible. With this in mind, we have recently become a member of the Collections Australia Network.

<http://www.collectionsaustralia.net/> CAN provides an online detailed guide to Australian cultural heritage collections. Our new website will include pages featuring material held in the Archives.

By Julie Olston, Library Manager

New Library Building report

The Moore College Library is well known for its excellent holdings of books and other material but has suffered for many years from poor physical facilities for the collection, staff and users. Plans are well underway for a new building which will provide comfortable and generous space for all the Library needs and also enable the College to implement the very latest in technology.

In November 2009 the College lodged a Project Application with the NSW Department of Planning seeking approval to demolish the existing building at 1 King Street (Administration and Library) and replace it with a substantial new building. The College proposals and plans for the long term development of the Newtown campus were advertised by the Department of Planning and can be viewed on the Department's web site. Comments were sought from government departments and members of the public and the College is now in the process of responding to all of the issues raised and revising the proposals as considered most appropriate. It is currently expected that formal approval will be received in the second half of 2010. Once the structure of the building is approved, the College will move into the detailed internal planning and seek to commence construction as soon as the necessary funds are available.

The new building will enable the whole Library collection to be brought together in one place with an associated improvement in service for users. Large parts of the collection are currently located far away from the current library and some materials are only available after a delay of a week. However, the new Library will offer far more than just convenient access to the collection and more space, it will also enable the Library to offer the best facilities for students, researchers and other users. Computer access to digital collections and other developments in technology will blend with spaces for use as part of modern practice in teaching and learning. Visually the new library will be stimulating and exciting and will cater for the full range of personal working styles. The whole College is looking forward to this tremendous leap forward.

by Doug Marr, Director of Property Planning

Te korero-motu ou a to tatou atu e te ora a Jesu Mesia : kiritiia i te reo Rarotonga

A recent purchase for the Australiana Rare book collection has been a fine copy of the 1836 first edition of Te korero-motu ou a to tatou atu e te ora a Jesu Mesia : kiritiia i te reo Rarotonga.

It was published in London by the British and Foreign Bible Society and is the first edition of the New Testament in Rarotongan. This is the language of the island of Rarotonga which is the most populous island of the Cook Islands. It is a Polynesian language closely related to Tahitian and Maori.

The work was translated by John Williams, C. Pitman and A. Buzacott. John Williams, a London Missionary Society missionary, arrived in the Cook Islands in 1821. When he returned to England in 1835 he brought with him the translation of the New Testament which he supervised through the printing and publishing process. On his return to Rarotonga in 1839 he brought 5,000 copies of the book and their sale refunded to the B.F.B.S. the cost of its production. Later that year he and fellow missionary James Harris were killed and eaten by cannibals on the island of Erromango in the New Hebrides.

The book is a fine example of early missionary language work and an excellent reminder of the work that missionaries did in language studies. The library holds many examples of such early missionary work, particularly in Pacific languages.

by Kim Robinson, Senior Librarian, Acquisitions

Contact the Library

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Moore Theological College Library

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