

EMBARGO : NOT TO BE PUBLISHED, BROADCAST OR
 TELECAST BEFORE 9 P.M. 2ND MAY.
FOR PRESS:

HANDING OVER BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE
 CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL
 LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA OF HER MAJESTY'S GIFT
 OF COOK'S VOYAGES.

During her recent visit, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth presented to the Prime Minister as "a gift to the Government and people of the Commonwealth of Australia" a complete set of the original editions of Captain James Cook's Three Voyages to the Pacific and round the world published in London in nine volumes between 1773 and 1784. The set came from the Royal Library at Windsor Castle.

Tonight in the presence of members of the Council of the National Library of Australia, the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, handed the gift to the Chairman of the Council, Sir Grenfell Price. It will take its place in the collections of the Library alongside other gifts from Her Majesty, and other Cook material of outstanding importance.

The most recent gift, also made during the Royal Visit, was a copy, bound in the Royal Library, of H. B. Carter's monograph on the Spanish Merino flock which was developed by King George III, in association with Sir Joseph Banks, and which contributed to the establishment of the wool industry in New South Wales.

This followed a gift during the Royal Visit in 1954 of 13 watercolour sketches by S. T. Gill and Captain Charles Sturt relating to the Sturt and Horrocks expeditions into Central Australia between 1844 and 1846.

Her Majesty's first gift to the National Library was one which the late King George VI intended to make in order to commemorate the proposed visit to Australia in 1952 of their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and the manuscript is so inscribed, though the visit did not take place because of His Majesty's death. It was transmitted in 1953 by Sir William Slim, as Governor-General, to the Prime Minister.

The manuscript was a handsomely bound photographic copy of the journal of the second of Cook's three voyages to the Pacific and the Antarctic. This supplemented the priceless original of the journal of the first voyage, kept by Cook, in his own hand, on the ENDEAVOUR when he charted the East Coast of Australia after New Zealand. The Library purchased this, along with other important Cook manuscripts and pictures, in London in 1923 for about £6,000. Cook manuscripts of far less importance than those in the National Library collections brought £70,000 sterling at auction in London in 1960.

CANBERRA,

2nd May, 1963.