

## Landmark agreement in library cooperation

Transfer of five major collections from National to La Trobe

by Rita Stanner, Borchardt Library, La Trobe University

**L**A TROBE University and the National Library of Australia signed a landmark agreement on 10 December, 1991 which will see the transfer on long-term loan, of five major collections of Latin American material totalling 14 000 volumes from the National Library to La Trobe University Library. The two institutions view this agreement as a clear statement of their endorsement of the concept of the Distributed National Collection.

Under the terms of the agreement, La Trobe University Library, which is a recognised centre of excellence in Latin American Collections, will maintain these collections and make them available to scholars through the existing inter-library cooperative arrangements. A measure of the enthusiasm and commitment that La Trobe University has for the ideal of the distributed national collection is its

undertaking to develop these collections through new acquisitions in these subject areas.

The five transferred collections cover a diverse range of topics, and consist of works in many languages, with Spanish and Portuguese being predominant. Works range in date from early nineteenth century Imprints to the 1960s. The largest of the collections is the Gulmares Collection which covers Brazilian history and literature. The Paraguayan Collection comprises historical works on Argentina and Uruguay as

well as Paraguay. The Lopez Collection deals with the history of Mexico. The Mendel Collection and the LACAP Collection consist of works on Latin American politics, economics, literature and history. □



Warren Horton, Director-General, National Library (left) and Earle Gow, Chief Librarian, La Trobe University (right)

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by Warren Brewer Curriculum and Information Manager

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