

APRIL 1982

WINTER, JOHN - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

THE NEW ALBION PRESS

First book Poems in Honour of James McAuley published in 1978.

Inception in 1974 - proposals for a course in bibliography - to mount such a course properly would require a printing press - to replicate printed productions of the part. Press had been given to the University some years previously by The Examiner.

The Press hadn't worked for many years - many hours work required to get it working. Details.

A simple but ingenious machine. A self-taught printer.

First productions were posters. There was no intention in setting up the press to make it resemble a commercial press and to issue printed matter, but to demonstrate how printed matter used to be produced.

Ephemeral posters (large wooden type given by Mercury-Walsh) for Apprentice Theatre etc.

Even after successful production of McAuley book, book production is still subsiding to teaching priority.

Book in process at present: Harwood/Sitsky handwritten score of song cycle. Details.

Future plans: there will be no "programme of publication", like a commercial press - but hopes to publish a collection of poems of Tasmanian interest by Gwen Harwood, illust. by a local artist.

There has been nothing like this done before in the University of Tasmania.

The role of the press in the Bibliography course.

The paper used in the McAuley book.

Would it be possible to produce an entirely Tas. book?

Pros and cons of a wholly Tasmanian production.

The paper to be used in the McAuley-Harwood-Sitsky-Olsen book.

The economics of book production within the University.

The McAuley book made a handsome profit of \$4000, of which 3 1/2 thousand dollars was used for founding 3 prizes in English.

Even larger profit hoped for from next book - to produce 1 or 2 Hons scholarships in English.

ONE SIDE ONLY