

Old Arts building sesquicentennial noted

By PAM SAUNDERS

The hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the opening of King's College, the direct predecessor of the University of New Brunswick, was celebrated Dec. 31, 1978. The opening of the cornerstone of the original King's College, now known as the Old Arts Building, a reception by Lieutenant-Governor Robichaud, and 'An Historical and Musical Extravaganza' highlighted the

celebrations.

Over two hundred people gathered in the Great Hall of the Old Arts Building to witness the first public unveiling of the contents of the cornerstone. It contained a brass plaque inscribed in Latin, a 1819 silver halfcrown, a 1821 gold sovereign, a 1824 silver halfcrown, and a glass bottle. President Anderson presided over the ceremony, and expressed thanks to the Senate Anniversary Committee chaired

by Neil MacGill, who he said provided the "driving force" for the sesquicentennial celebrations. Dr. Anderson mentioned the work of Prof. Eric C. Garland who was successful in locating the cornerstone on Oct. 23, 1978, after a six month search. He also thanked Dr. Alfred Bailey, Professor Emeritus of History, who was charged with accepting the contents of the cornerstone on behalf of the university community and will be respon-

sible for depositing them in the University Archives.

Lieutenant Governor Robichaud officially opened the cornerstone, remarking that it "symbolized the aspirations" of the people of New Brunswick when it was laid in September of 1826. We had been given a "unique opportunity to touch the hands of the future by recommitting ourselves to the ideals on which the institution was founded," he stated.

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John Webster of Audio Visual Services examines the King's College cornerstone and its contents now on display in the Old Arts Building.

Photo A. Kilfoil