



MR Pat Mullins with part of his cricket library and memorabilia.

Sale hitch, and library drops a \$400,000 catch

THE State Library has lost the chance to buy one of the world's best collections of cricket books.

The collection, owned by retired Brisbane solicitor Mr Pat Mullins, was to have been bought by the library for \$400,000. But on March 21 solicitors acting for Mr Mullins wrote to the Solicitor-General saying it was no longer for sale.

Their letter read, in part: "Our client's continuing frustration with the (Queensland State) Library Board in respect to this proposed sale has now reached the point of no return. We are instructed that The Mullins Collection is no longer for sale.

"We do not wish to correspond further on this matter."

The collection of thousands of volumes and memorabilia is described in the proposed agreement for the sale as "regarded as the premier cricket collection in Australia".

The State librarian, Mr Stan Ryan, confirmed yesterday that the offer to sell the collection to the library had been withdrawn. "We were sad about that, but there are other important collections to be had," he said.

"The library board consulted the Justice Department about the proposed contract. They suggested some changes which we thought were not unreason-

able. The board was ready to proceed with the purchase, but the offer was withdrawn."

Last October Mr Mullins was quoted as saying: "The collection should be properly housed somewhere. It should be catalogued and continued — hopefully at the Queensland State Library."

After considerable negotiations, it seemed likely that the sale would go ahead.

On February 29 the acting under Treasurer wrote to Mr Mullins, telling him, among other things, that Cabinet considered the matter of the purchase on February 22 and approval was given "for the purchase of the Pat Mullins Cricket Collection on (a) five-year payment plan on the basis that future payments will be made to the maximum extent possible through the State Library Foundation".

Cabinet also resolved that "to the extent that the Library Board is unable to meet commitments in relation to the purchase of the collection through the State Library of Queensland Foundation, then the board be directed to meet such commitments from funds provided from Consolidated Revenue to the board's normal budget", and that "a Government guarantee to secure payment of the purchase not be provided".

(Extract from Courier Mail, Thursday, April 28, 1988)

THE PAT MULLINS LIBRARY