

Canterbury SOCIETY OF ARTS Newsletter

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December 1963

Two recent Editorials in the Chch "STAR" referred to us. We are grateful for splendid publicity from the "Press" and "Star". The editorials said:-

"If SELF HELP means anything in an approach for help from lottery funds through the Arts Advisory Council, the CANTERBURY SOCIETY OF ARTS has put itself in a most favourable position. It would be a drastic move for any voluntary organisation to double its annual subscription, but that is what the society has done, and with the approval of a large section of its membership.

This significant decision, an outcome of the society's annual meeting last evening, will, it is hoped mean an important advance towards the goal of a new home for the society and a move from the now decrepit Durham Street Gallery. Before the transfer to a modern building in Gloucester Street can be accomplished the society will have to be sure of the sum of £50,000, but now it has every ground for optimism. It will be able to draw from its own augmented resources, there seems little doubt about a sale of the old gallery to the Justice Department for £23,000, and any reasonable person would expect the Arts Council to be sympathetic to a group of citizens who are doing so much on their own."

"The EFFORT of the CANTERBURY SOCIETY OF ARTS to provide itself with a new, permanent home offers a splendid example of a project that will kill two birds with one stone. The eyesore gallery in Durham Street will be removed, and there will vanish the now old complaint of grave shortage of space for the Department of Justice. Crux of the whole scheme, is the application for funds from the Golden Kiwi lottery. In its application the society has noteworthy support, for not only have all the Canterbury members of Parliament put themselves behind it but the Minister of Internal Affairs himself has termed the undertaking worthwhile.

It is obvious, that the old gallery has had its day. It must be replaced. There must be a supplementary gallery in Christchurch, otherwise many exhibitions cannot come to the city.

As Christchurch expands this need will increase. A grant from lottery funds, therefore, would have a threefold benefit - the city, the Department of Justice, and the Art Society."

ANNUAL MEETING.

By a large majority the resolution of the Council to increase the subscription to £3. 3s. was adopted. £1 per member can now be set aside to aid rebuilding. Mr. H.G. Holmore O.B.E. was elected an honorary life member. Mrs. Frank Gross and Mr. P.J. Bevan were elected to the Council. Life Membership, Student Memberships, low rental exhibitions for young artists, and exhibitions throughout New Zealand for Canterbury painters were discussed and will be considered by the Council.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mr. R.R. Laidlaw, well known to many members has accepted this appointment because of his sincere interest in the Society and rebuilding. PLEASE HELP HIM BY SUPPLYING NAMES OF POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS. Phone the office 42-261 or private phone 63-150. Membership can be substantially increased. Although we have nearly 1000 members, new members are wanted for strength and to replace those who retire for normal reasons. In addition to the support to Arts which membership gives there are these valuable practical advantages:-

1. PRE-VIEW OF THE AUTUMN EXHIBITION, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IN N.Z.
2. TICKETS IN THE "ART UNION" VALUED AT £150 OR MORE EACH YEAR.
3. ADMISSION TO ALL EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETY.

This year, members received invitations to the many exhibitions, among these there were:- The Autumn, Andre Brooke, McCahon-Woollaston, Frank Gross, French Sculpture, Prof. Simpson's Illustrated Lecture "Australian Art", the Picasso Film.

