GOVERNOR-GENERAL WILL OPEN OUR NEW GALLERY

Our Patron, the Governor-General (Sir Arthur Porritt), has very kindly consented to open our new Gallery on Friday, March 8, at 8 p.m. He will be accompanied by Lady Porritt.

Admission will be by ticket, available to financial members, and

it may be necessary to limit their number.

Tickets can be applied for on the form enclosed. Your Council recommends the best way to avoid disappointment is to apply immediately. Tickets will not necessarily be issued immediately.

Members who wish to attend accompanied by a person not a member (e.g., husband, wife, son, friend, etc.) may obtain one additional ticket for \$1.00. The Council feels this preserves the the practice of members bringing a guest to Society functions, while this ticket revenue will help meet the expenses to be incurred.

Most important, of course—the Office will know exactly how

many people to allow for.

Sir Arthur and Lady Porritt will arrive at the Gallery at 8 p.m. and proceed to the first floor. Members and their guests are requested particularly not to arrive later than 7.50 p.m. Limited seating will be available for old people.

Dress will be dinner jacket or dark suit, without

decorations.

After the formal ceremony, members will be able to look at some of the exhibits which will be a feature of the Pan Pacific Arts Festival when the Gallery is

open to the public the following Sunday.

These will include sculpture by Rodin and his contemporaries, brought out by courtesy of Alfred Dunhill Ltd., London, in association with Rothman's Cultural Foundation; the famous Sydney Nolan "Riverbend" series, a panel of nine 5ft x 4ft oil paintings, owned by the Australian National University in Canberra; and an International Photographic Exhibition organised by the Christchurch Photographic Society.

For the "Riverbend" panel, the Society is indebted not only to the owner, but to Mr Nolan himself, to Qantas for carrying it from Perth to Christchurch free of charge, and to Mr Hal Missingham, Director of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, for facili-

tating the whole operation.

SILVER MEDAL

The Society has awarded its silver medal for distinguished services to visual art this year to Dr E. H. McCormick, of Auckland.

The president, Mr S. E. Mair, said at the annual meeting Dr McCormick's works placed him as the first authoritative historian of New Zealand art, and it was to him as an art historian that the award was made.

The medal will be presented to Dr McCormick at the opening of our Autumn Exhibition, in April.

Dr McCormick's publications include "Letters and Art in New Zealand" (1940), "Works of Frances Hodgkins," "The Expatriate" (1954), "Eric Lee-Johnson" (1956), "New Zealand Literature," "Tasman and New Zealand" and "The Inland Eye" (1959).

Previous silver medal awards have gone to Sir James

Previous silver medal awards have gone to Sir James Hay, New Zealand Newspapers, Ltd., for its secondary schools art competition, the Canterbury artist Sydney L. Thompson, and last year to Mr P. A. Tomory, formerly director of the Auckland Art Gallery.

NOLAN'S "RIVERBEND"

It was due to a "little bit of luck" that Sidney Nolan's panel of paintings, "Riverbend," will come to



news

NUMBER SEVENTEEN, JANUARY 1968

THE JOURNAL OF
THE CANTERBURY SOCIETY OF ARTS
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CHRISTCHURCH
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Christchurch for exhibition at the opening of our new gallery.

We predict it will prove to be one of the most talked about and admired works we have ever hung.

This panel of nine separate oils, each 5ft x 4ft, making altogether 5 x 36ft for they must be hung closely alongside each other, tells of still another story—or is it legend—of Ned Kelly, the Australian bushranger hanged for murder in 1880, aged 26.

In Nolan's Retrospective Exhibition of thirty years of his work at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, last September, 143 of his paintings were hung and for six weeks drew a constant stream of people.

No painting created more interest or more satisfaction for most visitors than "Riverbend." It seems that the exhibition organisers must have foreseen this for they reproduced all nine pictures in colour on the 30in wide cover of their beautiful souvenir catalogue.

What about this "little bit of luck"?

A New Zealand visitor to Sydney, having seen "Riverbend," was overheard by a comparative stranger to say: "If only we could get it to Christchurch." The stranger was Mr Robert Hanies, director of the David Jones Gallery in Sydney and friend of Nolan's.

Promptly he said: "Why not ask Sid, write to him

The letter was written.

About three weeks later came the reply from Mr Hal Missingham, another friend of Nolan's and Director of the New South Wales State Gallery.

Nolan, he wrote, had left Sydney for Mexico but

was agreeable to "Riverbend" being exhibited in Christchurch, provided satisfactory security arrangements were made and if the National University in Canberra, which had bought "Riverbend" for \$40,000, did not require it immediately.

In his letter, Mr Missingham made it clear that he

could see no difficulties.

To both Robert Haines and Hal Missingham, and to the University, we are most grateful for, without their interest and advice to Nolan before he left Australia, we could not have had these magnificent nine paintings.

It was our very good luck to have the aid of two

so influential directors.

"Riverbend" is being exhibited in Perth in January. Early in February it will be packed and flown to Christchurch free of charge to us by Qantas, to whom we also express sincere thanks.

After exhibition here, the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council will meet the greater part of the cost of exhibiting it in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin

before it is returned to Canberra.

The C.S.A. Council felt they should let the Queen Elizabeth Arts Council know we had "Riverbend" coming to us and we suggested it be exhibited in the other cities.

Mr David Peters, its Director, was quick to act.

CHRISTCHURCH HOMES OF TO-DAY

EVERYBODY IS INTERESTED IN HOUSES AND, OF COURSE, THE WAY THEIR OCCUPANTS MAKE USE OF THEM. AND ARCHITECTURE, TOO, IS ONE OF THE VISUAL ARTS.

The Society has prepared a scheme by which, this year, members can indulge them-

selves in this direction.

We invited leading Christchurch architects to nominate houses which demonstrated the best features of their domestic architecture.

More than fifty houses were named.

From these the Society's council selected seven, all new and all reasonably close to each other.

We then asked the owners if they would permit Society members and their friends to

see their homes.

Our objectives were twofold—to promote interest in fine domestic architecture, and to assist our Gallery building fund. Each year we have to find \$2000 to reduce our mortgage.

We are most grateful to the architects. We are more than grateful to the owners of the first seven homes, whom we specially thank for helping the Society by allowing their houses to be visited.

The list of seven owners, with addresses and architects, is:

Mr & Mrs J. C. Power, 9 Burrows Place.

(Cowey & McGregor).

Mr & Mrs J. S. Fletcher, 30 Newbridge Place.

(Hall & MacKenzie).

Mr & Mrs L. B. Stevens, 39A Waiwetu Street, (H. Francis Willis & Son).

Mr & Mrs T. K. Papprill, 31 Idris Road. (Warren & Mahoney).

Miss K. Scannell, 30 Idris Road. (P. Beavan, Hunt & Associates). Mr & Mrs I. A. Seay, 24 Desmond Street. (Helmore, Cotterill & Hall). Mr & Mrs S. E. Mair, 22 Desmond Street. (Helmore, Cotterill & Hall).

DETAILS

THE DAY: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

from the C.S.A. Office, Durham Street Gallery OR, if you prefer it, telephone the office (67-261) and tickets will be mailed to you with an account or send your cheque to the C.S.A., P.O. Box 772, Christchurch.

We regret children cannot be admitted. Please do not smoke. No dogs.

All seven houses are in the Fendalton area. Later, we expect to give you the opportunity to see other modern homes, designed by other architects in Cashmere, Scarborough-Redcliffs, Merivale and other parts of Fendalton.

Such visits to architect-nominated houses are new to Christchurch, but in Australia, England and the United States it is frequently done.

You will have an enjoyable and stimulating afternoon. Please support this new activity of the C.S.A. and get your tickets now.

EARLY WORKS WANTED

Mr John Oakley, a Society Council member, is organising the exhibition of Historical Canterbury Painting for the Pan Pacific Arts Festival, comprising work up to the end of last century. It is being assembled from art galleries, museums and libraries throughout New Zealand.

Mr Oakley would appreciate hearing from any Society members who own early paintings of Canterbury, or of the whereabouts of any, which could be loaned for the Exhibition. Any who can help can leave a message with Mr Laidlaw now at the Gallery.

EXHIBITIONS AND COMPETITIONS

Durham Street Gallery

Gavin Bishop, Ross Gray, Shona Cowan and Vivienne Bishop, paintings for sale, January 8 to 26. Permanent collection also.

National Bank Awards for Mural and Water Colour

Artists, receiving day February 7.

The Kelliher Prizes, receiving day April 19.
Holy Trinity (Wainui-o-mata) Art Competition,
opening May 24 (Biblical or Religious theme).

Manawatu, February 1 to 14.

Pan Pacific Festival Exhibitions, March 11 to 30. Wanganui Arts and Crafts Society, receiving day February 23; opening day March 20.

Gore Lions' Club Festival Art Exhibition, receiving

day February 24.

Benson and Hedges Exhibition: An exhibition of works selected for final judging, at the C.S.A. Gallery from May 19 to June 2, in the course of a New Zealand tour.

Pan Pacific Arts Festival

Additions:

Semisi Maya Paintings—The unique work of this Fijian handicapped by the effects of leprosy, being arranged by the Leper Trust Board, will be exhibited at the Amuri Motors showrooms.

Exhibition of Prints—A showing of fine quality prints is being arranged by 20/20 Vision at The Dominion Motors showroom.

Again the office acknowledges the help of many who so generously offer to assist with the mounting and running of these many shows.

Correction

In the previous issue of "News" we lost the identity

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of the Canterbury Embroidery Guild, for which we apologise. In a reference to its contribution to the Pan Pacific Arts Festival, we described the guild erroneously as a society.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr K. B. Aitken Mr Kobi Bosshard Mr F. L. Bowron Messrs Five Star Motors Mr C. H. Townsend Mr George Brooklands Mr George R. Burrowes Mrs Sally J. Connolly Mr E. A. Crothall Mr R. L. Elliott Miss J. Gardiner Mr Christopher Harrop Mr C. G. Haskell Mr John R. Herrick

Miss E. Ingles Dr N. F. McLeod Mr N. Roberts Miss P. Townsend Mrs G. B. Trolove Miss Pamela C. Urch Mr Alan White Mr J. Wolff Mr T. J. Ellis Mrs I. Jack Miss Margaret Smith Mr Guenter Taemmler Mrs W. M. Wilson

JUNIOR ART CLASSES

Our Junior Art Classes will continue in 1968. These aim to teach visual expression in painting, drawing, design and printing.

The classes are divided into two groups—Seniors, 13 years to 18; juniors 8 years to 12.

Term Dates For 1968

First Term begins on Saturday, February 3, and finishes on Saturday, April 27 inclusive. There will be no class on the Saturday of Easter week-end, April

Second Term begins on Saturday, May 25, and finishes on Saturday, August 17 inclusive. There will be no class on the Saturday of Queen's Birthday week-

Third Term begins on Saturday, September 14, and finishes on Saturday, December 7. There will be no class on the Saturday of Labour Week-end, October

The hours are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Fees, for a term of twelve weeks, are \$9.00 a term (75c a lesson), or 80c weekly payments; \$7.50 a term for children of Art Society members.

The tutors are Mr Derek Mitchell, for seniors, and Mr Warren Clode, for juniors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, C.S.A. News, Dear Sir,

About 1960 when I was touring in the Southern Alps districts I bought a landscape by a well known artist. I sold it a year or so ago for twice its cost!

I don't know much about art but I do know something about appreciation.

Yours truly, "Solomon."

ART JOURNAL

We notice "Ascent," an excellent journal of the visual arts in New Zealand edited by Leo Bensemann, assisted by Barbara Brooke, at the Caxton Press.

Mr Bensemann is well known to us as an artist as well as typographer, and Mrs Brooke as a former Society secretary.

We will give a detailed appreciation of "Ascent" in the next "News," but in the meantime we confidently recommend it to readers both for its range and depth of articles, and for its fine quality monotone and colour reproductions.





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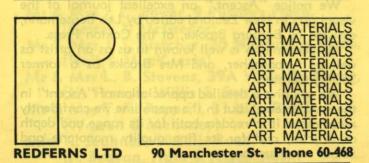
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McDOUGALL REPORT

We congratulate the chairman (Cr. P. J. Skellerup, J.P.) and Director (Mr W. S. Baverstock, F.R.S.A., O.B.E.) for issuing the first annual report of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery, an interesting, well printed and comprehensive booklet.

We will look forward to further issues.

In his introduction, Mr Skellerup says "the start of the valuable collection now numbering about 500 paintings was made possible by the generosity of the Canterbury Society of Arts which handed over about 118 paintings."

Some of these are to-day very valuable but they are well housed in the McDougall Gallery and well

taken care of.

Mr Skellerup, on the demands by contemporary artists for their work to be exhibited, says: "In our sister gallery, operated by the C.S.A., there is ample scope for their work to be hung and the better artists can ultimately be sure of representation in the McDougall."

We agree we can, and should, co-operate with and supplement the work of the McDougall Gallery in this

manner.

A catalogue of all the McDougall Gallery's collection is being prepared for publication. This, we believe, is important and cannot be made available too soon. We suggest it be available for all at no more than a nominal cost and that the Committee of the City Council which manages the McDougall Gallery consider a quarterly or half-yearly publication about its activities, in the manner of galleries in other cities, with some reproductions of works in the Gallery's Collection.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

The office staff have requested space from the Editor to thank briefly all those Members who, throughout the year, have helped so willingly in the work of the Society.

Without this voluntary aid our task would have been

quite impossible.

We want to thank those who have selected and mounted our exhibitions and those who have offered to look after them during their currency.

The manning of the box office is a very real help as it enables us to get on with the daily office work.

Then again we owe a debt to our Executive Officers who straighten out our problems so efficiently and smooth the path.

Finally, our Best Wishes to all Members for 1968.

OBITUARY

MR D. DARROCH

Mr Duncan Darroch, the Mount Cook area's most renowned personality, and a famed artist who could catch the moods of the mountains, died in Oamaru in December. He was 79.

Mr Darroch had been a Working Member of our

Society for forty-four years.

Some members will know his picturesque chalet, Tighnabruaich, and its novel kea umbrella on the Glencoe fan—near The Hermitage—which were almost as much a part of the Mount Cook scene as the Alps themselves.

Mr Darroch was practically a self-taught artist, and he painted the extremes of nature—mountains

and the sea.

The mountains were his life, and the sea he portrayed as he found it on his many voyages round the coast of New Zealand, and to Canada and Scotland as a sailor.

One painting of Mount Cook at dusk was bought by a tourist and subsequently donated to an art gallery in New York, where it hangs to-day.

The San Francisco Maritime Museum sought one of his seascapes to hang in its basement gallery, but

Mr Darroch held that no painting of his would hang in a cellar.

Most New Zealand art galleries have one or more

Darroch paintings.

He was fascinated by the Pamir. He followed the barque around New Zealand, painting her on several occasions, but never sailing in her.

MRS A. M. WICKENDEN,

The Editor, Dear Sir,

I should have written to you before to let you know that my mother, Mrs A. M. Wickenden, of 27 Ward Street, Upper Hutt, passed away in May. She must have been one of your oldest members—about 70 years. In May 1900, she won a Scholarship with a water colour of Rolleston Avenue, which gave her free tuition at Christchurch School of Art for one year, where she studied for many years. Till a cataract operation several years ago she exhibited regularly in Christchurch, Wellington and sometimes Dunedin, very often selling her entries. She also studied in England under J. Bromley, a well known artist at St Ives and later we toured with various artists, such as W. Eggington, who wrote articles and was president of Water Colours Society of Arts and considered the sky painter of his day. We toured in Brittany with W. Allcott, a Surrey artist.

In your last catalogue of last exhibition I noticed my name (Elaine Wickenden) was omitted from list of working members, evidently a mistake as I have been a working member since 1932 when I was elected.

> Thanking you, Yours Truly, (Mrs) E. Howell, (artist signature Elaine Wickenden).

ART "APPRECIATION"

In the substantial world of stocks and shares, of money gained and saved, and sometimes lost for another's gain, there is usually no thought of the artist and his aesthetic, less logical world.

Yet the two are coming together rapidly. In Australia the artist's output is being recognised more and more as a commodity for trading or investment.

This, of course, offers the artist a sense of security and appreciation which, contrary to romantic notion,

can only enrich his work. We are familiar with the almost fantasy prices paid for the masters of periods past, and possibly everyone has a moment when they wish great-grand-

father had had a Rembrandt tucked away somewhere, or had paid Monet a few sous for an early painting. But in Australia it is not the past greats, but the contemporary artists, who are good investments.

A correspondent to this issue describes buying a painting in 1960, and selling it recently for twice the price. If we say exaggeratedly that living-cost rises in the intervening seven years have depreciated our money internally by 20 per cent, we find our correspondent has made a profit of 80 per cent.

There are few companies from which he could have achieved anything like this, certainly none whose shares he could buy with the knowledge that they would, in fact, so appreciate.

Sydney experience might be a pointer for us, so

here are some of the facts:

Many Sydney business men are making bigger profits from art than from their best shares, art dealers

Some paintings have increased in value by 2000

per cent in less than ten years.

A number of business men collectors own so many paintings their houses are miniature art galleries and they could almost stage periodic "showings".

Doctors are buying paintings for their surgeries, banks have acquired valuable collections and many board rooms have been transformed by avant-garde abstracts.

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Many Americans are spending thousands of dollars on Australian paintings and making special trips to collect works.

One art gallery is advertising in financial journals to tell business men the advantages of speculating in art.

Sydney has a specialist who can be hired at \$10 an hour or \$50 a day to give independent advice to art buyers.

Australian painting has developed so much that the best works have sold for just under \$30,000.

Mr Max Hutchinson, director of Gallery A, has conducted a private survey on art prices based on an exhibition on nine Sydney painters in 1959.

Only one painting had been sold at that exhibition but the prices of the paintings since then had risen an average of 425 per cent.

Some of the paintings had increased in value 1000 per cent.

"Paintings are better than stocks because you can hang them on your wall and enjoy them while they are increasing in price," Mr Hutchinson says.

"With young painters, art gallery people have to act like brokers and look at the man behind the work to assess his staying power."

Mr Hutchinson said that unlike stockbrokers, reputable art dealers would be prepared to buy back paintings clients were dissatisfied with.

"No stockbrokers would do that, but I would stand by my painters regardless," he says.

The best paintings to buy to-day were often the hardest for the client to accept visually, he says, and some people took time to appreciate what they had bought.

Even stockbrokers are buying art, but doctors are by far the biggest professional buyers.

Mr John Amory is an American who has lived many years in Sydney, and gives professional art advice and guidance to buyers.

He says many companies are now giving executives paintings as gifts.

"Americans are coming out here and buying art all over the place because the prices at home are just too high," he said.

"If you are a bit smart and buy the right painters it is absolutely staggering the way prices go up."

One painting Mr Amory bought for his private collection cost \$120 six years ago and is now worth \$1500.

"But I have never bought anything with the thought that it would go up in price—I've just been terribly proud that they have," he says.

Mr Frank McDonald, director of Clune Galleries says: "You can say that anyone who buys a painting above \$500 has some hope that it will be an investment

"This is a partial consideration in any art sale.

"I suppose you could consider art as an adjunct to the stock market these days."

One example Mr McDonald gave of a big increase in the value of paintings was Ian Fairweather whose works were selling about ten years ago for \$120 and were now worth about \$2400.

WORTHWHILF

Make it worth his while, and the artist of all degrees is obviously as keen to be in as the next man.

The Benson and Hedges competition seems to have proved this, in attracting interest which could be measured in thousands of painters even long before closing date.

One draw is, of course, the rich prize, \$3000, the biggest ever for such a competition in this country, and surely many painters with a gambler's instinct must be among this number.

But for our serious artists, there is the glorious sense of freedom. The award carries no restrictions except a few administrative-type ones.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Mr W. S. Baverstock, a life member of the Society and Director of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery, has been awarded an O.B.E. in the New Year Honours.

news staff

Editor George W. Scandrett. Business manager Russell Laidlaw Printed by Wyatt and Wilson Ltd.