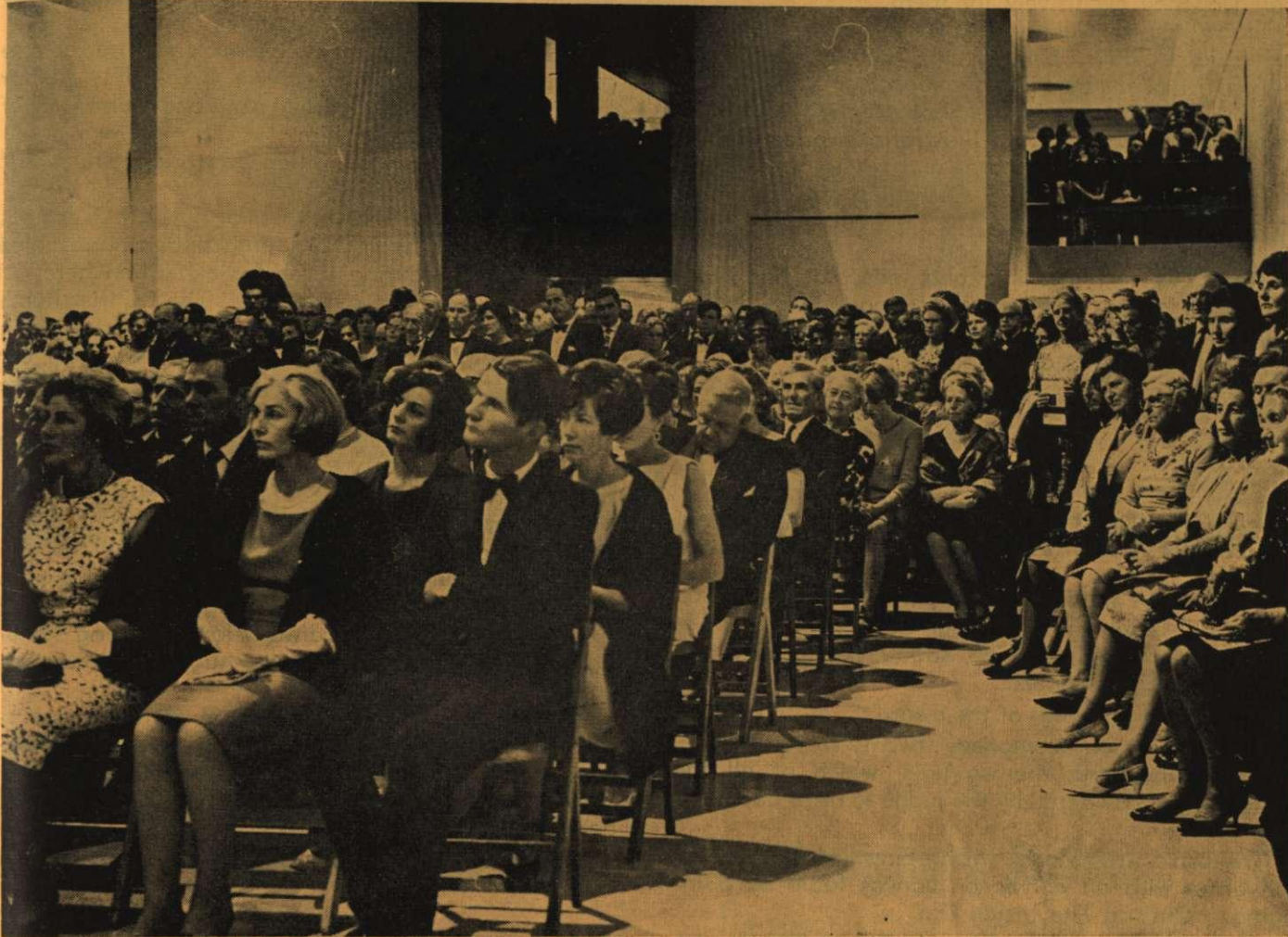


# news

NUMBER NINETEEN, MAY 1968



THE JOURNAL OF  
THE CANTERBURY SOCIETY OF ARTS  
66 GLOUCESTER STREET  
P.O. BOX 772  
CHRISTCHURCH  
TELEPHONE 67-261



Some of the crowd in the main gallery for the opening, with some of the overflow visible on the mezzanine floor.



The Governor-General, Sir Arthur Porritt, opening the new Gallery. Miss Joanna Porritt and Lady Porritt are seated behind him. The President, Mr S. E. Mair, is on the left.

## THE GREAT DAY

Highpoint in the Society's affairs so far, and surely for many years to come, is the opening of our new Gallery by His Excellency Sir Arthur Porritt.

It was an exciting occasion, one for which we had waited patiently five years, and the new building's main gallery was packed with an overflow to the mezzanine floor and this with a restricted ticket list because of public building regulations.

Sir Arthur was accompanied by Lady Porritt and Miss Joanna Porritt. Fortuitously, the opening preceded that of the Pan Pacific Arts Festival by a day—our gallery had its festival exhibitions for the opening.

Other speakers were the Mayor, Sir George Manning; the Hon A. E. Kinsella, Minister of Education, representing the Government; the Society's President, Mr S. E. Mair; and Mr K. L. Simich, of the Rothman Cultural Foundation.

The President presented the Society's Silver Medal to the Governor-General as a memento of the occasion.

Among the Society's guests were the Leader of the Opposition, Mr N. E. Kirk, and all other Canterbury Members of Parliament; the Director of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council, Mr David Peters; the Chancellor of the University of Canterbury, Bishop A. K. Warren, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor N. C. Phillips, and many distinguished citizens.

Messages of congratulation were received from the Prime Minister, Mr Holyoake, and from the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon D. C. Seath.

The crowd was so big it was difficult to see the exhibits, and gallery attendances in the next two or three days were at a peak.

On the morning after the opening Lady Porritt and Miss Joanna Porritt visited the Gallery in private.

On the morning of the first Sunday of the Festival period, many members took advantage of the Gallery being opened exclusively for them.

Since then the Gallery has offered great diversity of exhibition—Rodin, Cardew the potter, Australia's Nolan, jewellery by some fine local gold and silversmiths, an international photography exhibition, another of School Journal illustrations, prize-winners in the National Bank mural and water colour competition, four fascinating Australian water colours by Albert Namatjira and his contemporaries, and our Annual Autumn Exhibition.

It sounds very exciting, and indeed it has been. Our art-viewing public has supported us in its thousands, and there is no more suitable way in which it could indicate its approval.

## Benson and Hedges Exhibition

The Benson and Hedges Art Award 1968 Exhibition which will be on display in our Gallery until June 2, arises from the richest prize, \$3000, ever offered in a New Zealand art contest.

This is the first year of the award.

The exhibition comprises twenty-six paintings, naturally including the winner's, which of all the entries were considered by the judge to be of outstanding merit.

The prize was won by Wong Sing Tai, a Wellington artist with an acrylic on canvas (63in by 63in) named "Outside The Inside Out".

The contest was judged by Mr Robert Haines, the distinguished Director of David Jones Art Gallery in Sydney. He was educated at Melbourne University, was formerly Director of the Queensland Art Gallery and Assistant-Director of the National Gallery in Melbourne.

Invitations have been sent to all our members by Benson and Hedges for the opening function on May 18.

The chairman of the firm, Mr A. L. Mansfield, will speak briefly, after which the exhibition will be opened formally by Mr Hamish G. Hay, chairman of the recent Pan Pacific Arts Festival.

This most important exhibition of work by foremost young New Zealand artists really should not be missed.

The Society is naturally grateful to the sponsoring firm for agreeing to our suggestion that it exhibit in our gallery.

For the opening function members will be the guests of Messrs Benson and Hedges. Refreshments will be served, as usual.

## Autumn Exhibition

After the great excitement and circumstance of the Vice-Regal opening of our Gloucester Street Gallery, and the Pan Pacific Arts Festival Exhibitions we showed there, the opening of the Society's eighty-eighth Annual Autumn Exhibition might have seemed to many an anti-climax.

The night was particularly wet and, understand-

ably, the attendance was not as large, or as colourful, as it has been for some Autumn openings.

We had no guest speaker, just a few words from the President, Mr S. E. Mair.

And it seemed better this way. After all, no matter what is done following a Vice-Regal occasion, it will seem a let-down to some degree.

However, it was the first purely Society function and event since the Gallery was opened, and certainly attracted its share of attention. In spite of the cold weather, attendances were very good and clearly public interest this year was much increased.

Unfortunately Dr Eric McCormick was not able to come from Auckland to receive the Society's Silver Medal for services to art. Mr John Summers, of Christchurch, acted for him.

With the Autumn Exhibition were hung, downstairs, the Nolan "Ned Kelly" series.

Whether everyone liked them or not, it was obvious that the Christchurch art-viewing public appreciated our efforts in securing these for exhibition here.

Naturally we have our critics. The "Christchurch Star" critic, paying us the compliment of describing us as New Zealand's leading art society with our spacious gallery the envy of others, suggested that the "line" of paintings be broken by screens.

Well, we have the screens, and the idea can be considered.

Another critic said, bluntly or forthrightly, depending on your viewpoint: "... the C.S.A. annual exhibitions get no better."

This is opinion, just as valid as ours, which is to think back a few years, and disagree.

However, we do hope always for improving standards, and this critics' views and suggestions are welcome.

The thanks of all members are certainly due to all who submitted work for hanging—our own Working Members as well as the many from other societies. Without such wonderful support this exhibition could not be held.

## Adelaide Festival Art Sells

Adelaide art galleries sold works worth more than \$100,000 during the Festival of Arts there earlier this year.

Names of purchasers read like an Australian and international VIP list.

The Nebuchadnezzar series by Arthur Boyd, hanging at the Bonython Gallery, sold 26 paintings for \$55,000.

The exhibition of 31 paintings by South Australian artist Ainslee Roberts based on Australian Aboriginal mythology sold out three days after opening at the Osborne Art Gallery.

The lucky few who snapped up the collection paid a total of \$18,400.

Adelaide's third major art exhibition, at North Adelaide Galleries, also sold several thousand dollars worth of art for three other Australian artists—Brian Dunlop, Donald Friend, and Keith Looby.

The Osborne Art Gallery said it could have sold some of Ainslie Roberts' Aboriginal mythology works "seven times over."

All the 31 paintings were priced at \$600 except for two at \$500.

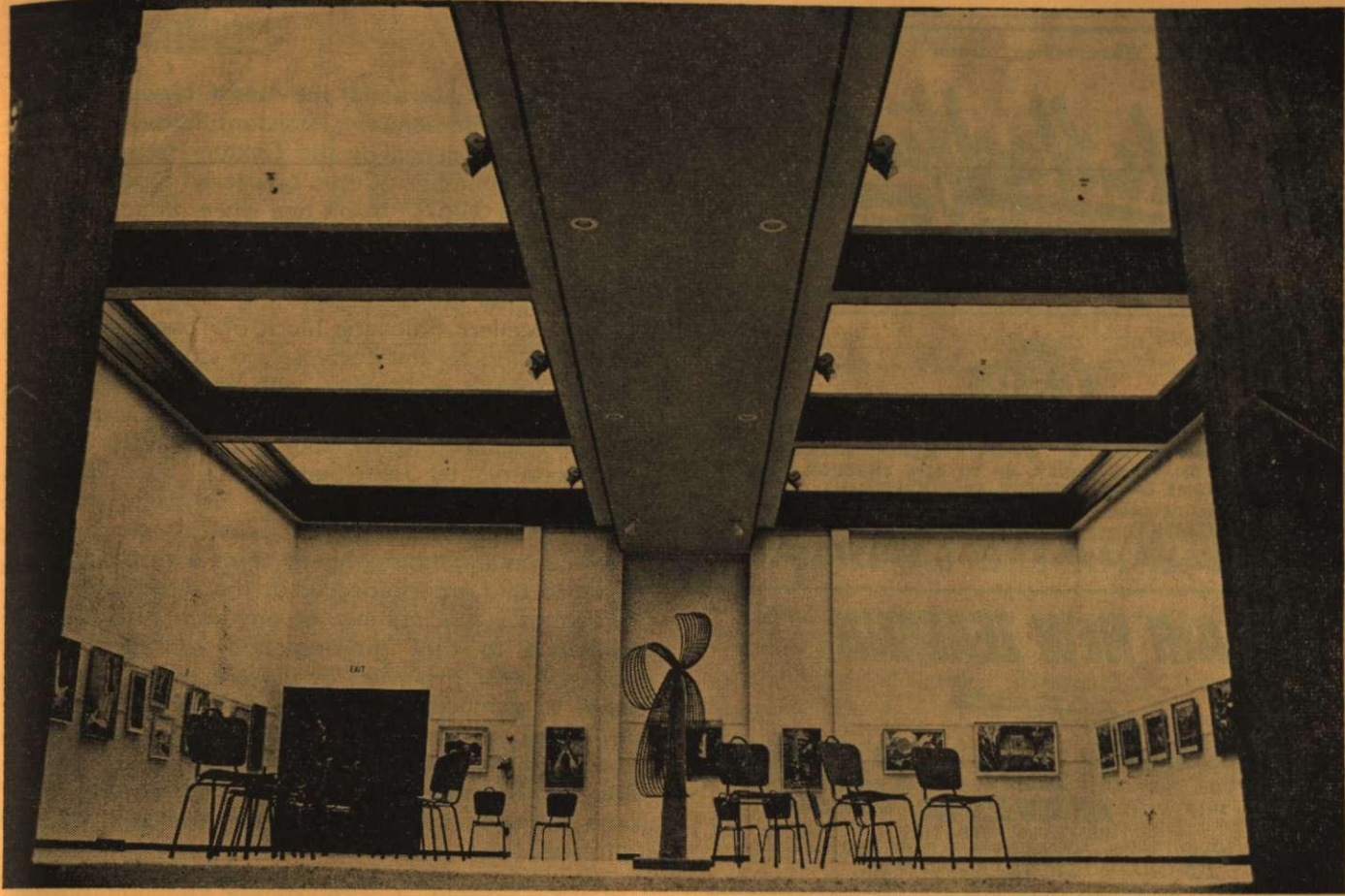
Some of the best were bought by art lovers:

"Whispering Bluebirds," by Sir Edric Bastyan, South Australia's artist-Governor.

"Echidna and Robin" by the State's dancing knight, Sir Robert Helpmann.

"The Creation of Spencer Gulf," by the Italian prima donna of the opera "Tannhauser," Miss Marcella Reale.

"The Fighting Clouds" by Ireland's Lord Talbot deMalahide, who will hang it at his Tasmanian estate.



Looking into the main gallery from the head of the stairs during the autumn exhibition.

## Painting School Students Had Fine Weather

Students who attended a weekend Painting School at Diamond Harbour early in April enjoyed time summer weather. A few days later the Easter storm broke and brought havoc to the picturesque spot.

More than 80 trees were blown down or otherwise damaged in the vicinity of Godley House where the School was held. Trees fringing the Domain, just below Godley House were felled in the high winds and tall pines fell across the road leading down to the jetty, blocking traffic.

The Proprietors of Godley House, Mr and Mrs R. Hearn, and their children, spent an unpleasant night during the height of the storm as trees crashed down around the building. Mr and Mrs Hearn report that the noise of the wind in the trees was terrifying. Very little damage, fortunately, was sustained by Godley House, but the surrounding landscape was altered considerably.

Temperatures were high while the Painting School was in progress the previous weekend, and students were able to work out of doors from the landscape. More than sixty works were displayed on the lawns surrounding Godley House when the School concluded.

The tutors were Michael Eaton and John Coley and those attending the School were: Mrs G. Ensor and Mrs S. Mulcock, of Cheviot; Mrs F. Antill, of Amberley; Mr B. Glubb, of Kaiapoi; Mrs K. von Tunzelmann, Miss V. Olliver, Mr L. Rickard, Miss E. Read, Mrs D. Nicholl, and Mrs P. Forsythe, of Ashburton; Miss A. Cameron-Smith, Miss L. Tonkin, Mrs P. Orme, Mrs B. Knight, Mrs P. Dollan, Mr R. Taylor, Mrs G. Grensell, Mr H. Tetley, Mrs P. Spencer, Mrs Nicholl, Mrs I. Doidge, Mr B. Galbraith, and Mrs J. Boulton, of Christchurch.

## Two Councillors Resign

The Society's Council has, sadly, received the resignations of Mrs Vy Elsom and Mr W. A. Sutton, two prominent Canterbury artists who, over many years, have contributed greatly to the Society's work and to the Council's deliberations.

Both will be very much missed not only from the Council table, but for the many and diverse behind-the-scenes tasks they performed and supervised in our preparations for exhibitions and openings.

Both are widely known as artists and Mr Sutton is a noted judge, critic and teacher as well.

All members are in their debt for their energetic prosecution of the Society's objectives.

## A Thought

"If a Society's work is not relevant to the needs of the people and if its attitude to art is a closed authoritative one then that Society will gradually fade."—  
Taranaki Society of Arts Newsletter, March 1968.

## Costume Ball

The Canterbury Repertory Theatre Society wishes our members to know that it will hold its annual Costume Ball at the Winter Garden on May 30.

Period costume or fancy dress, individually, in pairs or in tableaux, are suggested, and prizes will be given for the best couples and best groups.

Floor shows and other entertainment is planned. Single tickets are \$4 and double tickets \$8.

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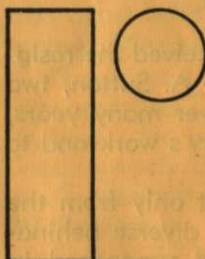
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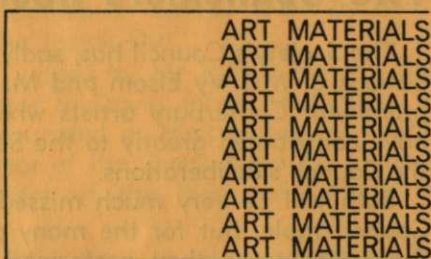
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## Review

"Ascent": A Journal of the Arts in New Zealand. Editor, Leo Bensemann; Assistant Editor, Barbara Brooke. Published by the Caxton Press.

The first number of this quarterly appeared early in December 1967. In an age when magazine cover design and layout have exhausted almost every visual gimmick possible with printers' ink on paper, "Ascent" strikes a blow for simplicity.

The excellent half-tone block of Toss Woollaston's wash drawing on the cover sets a standard of reproduction that is maintained with very few exceptions throughout the entire publication. This drawing on the cover leads on to the leading article "The Woollaston Country" by John Summers. I read this with considerable enjoyment having just returned from visiting both Mapua and the Coast.

Mr Summers, thoroughly at home with this subject, informed and entertained us at the same time.

"Ascent", this number at any rate, should be of assistance to that growing body of people who, though rather mystified at present, have a genuine desire to gain some understanding of contemporary New Zealand art. So far the clamour of exhibition advertisements and the promotion of artists' personalities rather than their work, irritating features of some overseas art glossies, have not been allowed to intrude.

The inclusion of Bruce Mason's address to the Massey University English Association gave strength to this first number of the journal. His address was one more section of the magazine that should absorb practising artist and art appreciator alike.

Pottery and Sculpture were well represented by articles on Patricia Perrin and Greer Twiss, both very well illustrated. The work of John Drawbridge reproduced well, but Barry Cleavin's lost some of its clarity through reproduction. With Ian Roberts's outline of the aims of the New Zealand Print Council, Graphic Art held a substantial part of the reader's attention.

Pat Hanley's work stood up well to half-tone reproduction and exceedingly well to colour printing. The colour reproduction of both Hanley's and Mrknsich's work was made possible by assistance from the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council.

Works by Sutton, Gopas, Macfarlane and Moffit, artists well known to Society members, appear in this issue as well as work by former Christchurch artists Rita Angus, Colin McCahon and Philip Truettum.

Reviews of art books, exhibitions and drama complete this first presentation of "Ascent", a journal that deserves our support.—**Graham Barton.**

## Correction

In the report "How Our New Gallery Was Achieved" in the March issue of "News" we stated we were greatly encouraged by a gift of \$2000. The generous donors were Mr and Mrs Leslie Rutherford, of Leslie Hills, Culverden, who gave \$1000, and an anonymous donor who gave another \$1000.

Mrs Rutherford is President of the Town and Country Art Club.

## Australian Tours

Two tours of art galleries in Australia are being arranged by the Holm Travel Service for October. The leaders are Mrs Shay Docking and Mr John Maynard.

These group tours are available to members of art societies in New Zealand, artists, art teachers, students and others with any special involvement in art.

A circular containing complete details is available at the office, and also from the Holm Travel Service.

## New Members

The Society Extends a Welcome to New Members.

Mrs M. Abbott	Mrs G. A. M. Hilson
Mrs H. M. Aris	Mr B. J. Hunt
Mr W. H. Baird	Mrs J. Hunt
Mrs W. H. Baird	Mrs S. C. Kean
Mr B. H. Baraki	Mrs J. C. M. Kirk
Mr W. P. Barker	Mrs D. H. Lawrence
Mrs D. Barr	Mr L. R. C. Macfarlane
Mrs G. S. Branthwaite	Miss S. S. Macpherson
Mr G. E. Brassell	Miss Fiona McBride
Mrs B. J. Britten	Mr Alex McDonald
Miss D. L. Britten	Miss M. McQuilkin
Mr Colin Bryce	Mrs A. Mander
Mr J. B. L. Bunce	Mrs E. R. Mars
Mrs Rosalie P. Clark	Mr J. R. Milligan
Mrs B. D. Clarke	Mrs J. R. Moore
Mr N. C. Clifton	Miss L. Mullinder
Mr K. C. Cooper	Mrs Jean E. Nichol
Mr H. Jack Corbett	Mr W. C. Pollard
Mrs M. J. Couper	Mr E. T. C. Salt
Mrs P. M. Donovan	Mr R. G. Shackleton
Dunford Publicity Studios Ltd.	Miss S. Sheehan
Mrs W. D. Dunkley	Mr L. C. C. Spooner
Mr W. T. Guthrie	Mrs C. A. Tatom
Mr T. B. Fitzgerald	Mr M. Wallace
Dr Bruce A. Ford	Mrs George Weston
Mr P. P. Hall	Mrs T. C. Wilson
Mr A. J. Henderson	Mrs Ronald Yates.

## Appreciation

The Rodin exhibition which was in our Gallery for the Pan Pacific Arts Festival achieved prominence in the eyes of the sponsor, as well as the public, during its stay.

In a letter, the New Zealand manager of Alfred Dunhill Ltd., Mr R. S. Caulton, who with his wife Alison set up the exhibition, says:

"I think it is fair comment to say that whilst the Exhibition was in Christchurch it finally achieved the national recognition we have been striving after since last year."

## Exhibitions and Competitions

**Otago Art Society** Annual Exhibition. (Receiving Day, May 22).

**Redcliffe Art Contest** (Queensland). (Receiving Day, August 21).

**Napier Sunken Garden** Sculpture competition. (Receiving day for the first stage, sketch with stated details, June 21).

## Obituary

We have, regretfully, to record the passing of three members of the Society, Mrs Maisie Hill, Mr J. H. Macdonald and Mr N. H. McCrostie. Mr McCrostie was a particularly good friend to the Society, helping us on several occasions at fund-raising auctions.

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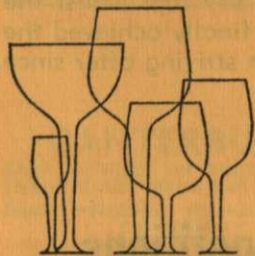
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## Acknowledgements

In connection with the Society's move to the new Gallery, we wish to acknowledge the help given by  
Mr W. A. Sutton and his party.  
Mr T. J. Taylor and his party.  
Mr A. E. P. Kilian.  
Five Star Motors.

In connection with the opening of the Gallery, our thanks go to  
Mr Leon Langley for providing supper.  
The Canterbury Flower Arrangement Society for the floral decorations.  
The Canterbury Potters' Association, whose members made twenty-three attractive ashtrays for the Gallery.

## Notes from the Office

We wish to thank most warmly those members who are helping our burden by minding the gallery during exhibitions.

## In The Gallery

May 18 to June 2: Benson and Hedges Art Award 1968 Exhibition.

May 18 to June 2: David Cheer one-man exhibition.

May 18 to June 2: New Zealand Print Council.

June 4 to June 20: Combined Artists.

July 14 to 31: Printing Display.

June 29 to July 14: Associate Working Members' Exhibition (Receiving Day June 21).

August 2 to 24: "Christchurch Star" Secondary Schools Exhibition.

August 28 to September 3: Indian Batik Printing.

September 14 to 25: Town and Country Show.

September 28 to October 11: Graphic Art and Pottery.

October 12 to 25: Olivia Spencer-Bower Exhibition.

October 25 to November 12: The Group.

December 7 to 22: Summer Show (Receiving day, November 28).

We expect more exhibitions to be added to the year's list.

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### SYDNEY THOMSON SHOW

During September we expect to mount a complimentary exhibition by the doyen of Canterbury artists, Sidney Thompson, O.B.E.

Mr Thompson's work will be for sale.

Mr Thompson has a reputation extending far beyond New Zealand, and is a holder of the Society's Silver Medal for services to the arts.

## Using Our Collection

For most of the time the paintings in the Society's permanent collection repose unseen. This is not a particularly desirable state of affairs, for really there is no truth in the old suggestion that a painting gets worn out if it gets looked at too much.

Now we are trying to make this collection, in "parcels" of twenty paintings, familiar to as many people as possible throughout Canterbury. We are, after all, the Canterbury, not the Christchurch, Society of Arts.

Our objective particularly is to provide country people with the opportunity to view good New Zealand art conveniently on, as it were, their own thresholds.

We have approached about thirty local authorities throughout Canterbury offering them, or a responsible district organisation any might nominate, a selection of twenty paintings for a rental of \$50 for four weeks.

The Society undertakes to pack and insure, and allowing for delivery time a district should be able to exhibit the paintings for three full weeks.

Where Christchurch people are able to visit our Gallery and the Robert McDougall Gallery in their thousands each year, our scheme should mean that country people, too, will be able to view more readily some of the best in New Zealand painting.

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## The Ned Kelly Mystique

In the catalogue for the Sydney Nolan paintings we hung at the same time as our Autumn Exhibition, each of the twenty-five paintings is described by Nolan himself with extracts from a Royal Commission's report of 1881, from contemporary newspapers, and from a book called "The Complete Inner History of the Kelly Gang".

Painting No. 25 is called "The Trial" and of it Nolan said: "Judge Barry then passed sentence of death and concluded 'may the Lord have mercy on your soul'. Ned Kelly said 'Yes, I will meet you there!'"

Nolan might have added that Judge Barry himself died two weeks later, adding another facet to the fantastic story of Ned Kelly.



## Advice on Paintings

Again an important New Zealand company has sought the Society's help in acquiring a painting for one of its premises.

Recently the Commercial Union Group of Insurance Companies bought two paintings on our advice.

Subsequently, Mr R. H. Lord, manager of the Bank of New Zealand in Christchurch, sought our help in buying a Peter McIntyre landscape for its London office.

We located Mr McIntyre at Kakahi and learned from him that only one of his paintings was available, "Frosty Morning, Galloway", a Central Otago scene, oil on hardboard, and now this is on its way to London.

The Society is always ready to help any organisation or individual who wishes to be introduced to any New Zealand artist.

## Quarterly For The Arts

The following letter has been received concerning a proposed quarterly publication:

Dear Sir,

Before the end of this month, the first issue of a new quarterly magazine devoted to all the arts is appearing. This magazine, "Frontiers", is being published at least partly because up to the present there has been no magazine of this type published in the country. As well as poetry and prose writing, various articles, essays and reviews on the other arts—including painting, sculpture, pottery, drama, etc.—will appear. We hope too that interviews with artists, and biographical material will be a regular feature. (In the first issue for example, part of Toss Woollaston's autobiography will be published for the first time.)

We wonder whether it will be possible for "Frontiers" to be mentioned in some way in the C.S.A. News.

Yours faithfully,  
T. S. Tanner,  
P.O. BOX 1659, Christchurch.

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