

EDITORIAL - MUSEUM NEEDS.

My first duty as Editor is the happy one of wishing all Members a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. My second duty is to give Members some news of the Association. The most welcome news is the Grant of £250 to subsidize the purchase of exhibits. The third duty, as I see it, is to suggest some targets for the Association in 1961.

At the Annual Meeting held at the Dominion Museum on 6th April, 1960, Members hopefully suggested that Council seek remission of Income Tax in the books of the donors on gifts to Art Galleries and Museums. The letter sent to the Hon. Minister of Finance and the discouraging reply received are published in this Newsletter. The National Party, in its programme for the 1960 election, promised that donations (within limits) out of income to approved charitable, educational, medical and welfare institutions will be deductible for income tax. The Association now has three tasks :-

1. To obtain recognition that its institution members are educational and charitable institutions for the purpose of the promised legislation.
2. To prepare information for donors regarding such legislation, when it is passed.
3. To give adequate publicity to the needs of Galleries and Museums.

What are these needs? L.P. Witteborg of the American Museum of Natural History remarked recently that of all the sources of public education in the world today, the Museum is probably the most neglected and the least supported, and its full potential is the least appreciated and realised. It is necessary however, to be more specific regarding needs. In previous Newsletters the lack of competent staff to care for collections, to provide attractive, up-to-date displays and to continue research in Museum fields has been stressed.

Here are three further suggestions :-

Television: The most promising medium of communication today for educational services is Television. U.S. Art Galleries and Museums have had experience of educational television for ten years and advise:-

1. That material must be taken to the studio as television cameras are rarely free to visit such low budget customers, and
2. That gallery and Museum staff must learn to write suitable script. (The enthusiastic script of television salesmen is more suitable for corsets and cough mixtures than for Frances Hodgkins and Fuchsia procumbens.) Member institutions should send staff overseas to study successful educational television, but for this they need staff and funds.

Photographic Services: Members who have done research and design for new displays know from bitter experience that reporters are not interested in good material, lighting, lettering or the content of labels. It seems foolish to spend time, thought and money on exhibitions and then wait passively for a few gilt-edged invitations, a one-inch advertisement and a press "puff" to attract visitors.

An effective way to inform people is to place suitable pictures in the daily press and less frequent journals. It is essential that pictures be published before the new display is foxed and faded or the temporary exhibition is just another scar on the linoleum. Speedy, competent photographers are needed as part of the Museum family. Their work can publicize the activities of member institutions far better than expensive advertisements and chance news items. Their work can also provide a history of the Museum and a record of social change far more effectively than a random collection of discarded photographs and negatives.



Publications: The number of new scientific journals is increasing at the rate of 1,000 a year or 3 a day. The number of scientific articles in the biological sciences, other than medicine and agriculture, is between 150,000 and 250,000 a year. To read all these papers is impossible. To find those papers relevant to a particular problem is difficult. Biological abstracting services in the U.S.A. abstract and classify a great number of articles each year but cannot cope with the flood. Biology has been cited as I am acquainted with its abstracting services. Publication in other branches of science and the arts is also reaching floodlike proportions. What has this to do with the Association?

Members of staffs of Art Galleries and Museums perform a useful service in reading articles in their particular fields, condensing bulky information, and presenting new ideas and discoveries in displays. This scrutiny of current research is not mere bibliography. Erwin Chargaff remarked recently that we live in a time that is drunk with experiments - dubious results, dubiously paralleled, serve to establish so-called facts with a celerity that would make a monkey blush. Under these conditions, Museums have ever-increasing problems to maintain the standards of their exhibition.

Personally, I think that Galleries and Museums can provide an important service to their communities in interpreting new discoveries and ideas, but for the service they need trained staff and funds.

Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary.

C/- Auckland Museum,  
P.O. Box 9027,  
NEWMARKET, AUCKLAND.

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#### ARTFUL GIVING

FROM "THE ECONOMIST" MAY 28, 1960.

Noted by H.C. McQueen.

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It has frequently been recommended - most recently by the Trustees of the National Gallery - that in order to encourage private gifts to Museums and Art Galleries, in spite of today's heavy taxation, the British Government should offer inducements similar to those available to would-be benefactors in the United States. What these are is explained below by our New York correspondent.

American Museums and Art Galleries do not receive direct grants from federal funds; the only exceptions to this rule are bodies like the Smithsonian Institute in Washington which are considered to be agencies of the federal government. The majority of Museums draw all their funds from private sources, although there are many which get some assistance from municipal revenues. But even where there is a measure of public support, museums still depend heavily on wealthy patrons. Luckily they are able to remind potential donors that not only is it more blessed to give than to pay taxes but that it may even be profitable. New York's Museum of Modern Art, for instance, has issued a lengthy memorandum - "Gifts to the Museum and Greater Tax Savings" - which suggests various ways of enriching the Museum at a minimum of real expense to the patron; the alternatives range from instalment giving to the bequest of undeveloped mineral deposits.

Largely because of the strong national preference for private philanthropy over public grants, the Internal Revenue Service has always looked kindly upon those who give to the wide range of causes that for tax purposes are regarded as worthy. Donations to any of these bodies are tax free up to the equivalent of 20 per cent of an individual's income each year, and in certain cases (mainly those of educational and religious institutions) the tax-free limit is 30 per cent. In 1957 over \$5 billion escaped the Treasury's net through the loophole of gifts to charity.



In claiming a tax deduction a donor is not limited to cash contributions. On the credit side of his tax account he can set the full current value of any gift in kind - a work of art, a piece of land, some securities or (in theory at least) a mink coat or any other item of personal property. For anyone well endowed with worldly possessions this opens up considerable opportunities for exchanging family heirlooms for lower taxes. If, for example, a man with an otherwise taxable income of £25,000 takes a picture worth £5,000 from his wall and gives it to a Museum, his income for tax purposes is reduced in that year to £20,000. If his rate of income tax is high and his appreciation of art low he may regard the transaction as a gain.

There is another important advantage in making gifts in kind rather than in cash. If a person gives a hundred shares in the General Motors Corporation to a Museum it receives, and the donor can deduct from his income, the full market value of these shares; if he had tried to realise these assets in the ordinary way he would have had to pay - if they had appreciated in value - a capital gains tax.

In the last few years the provisions of the tax law have been further refined to suit the varying tax situations and tastes of donors. Since the outright gift of a valuable work of art may carry an individual's charitable contributions in that year beyond the 20 per cent that can be deducted for tax purposes, he is now allowed to spread his gift over a longer period. He may, for instance, give to a Museum a one-fifth interest in a work of art in each of five years. By this device he can make full use of the inherent tax advantages of his gift and at the end of the period the Museum will be in full possession of the painting.

In the second place, the tax law now allows a donor to get current tax relief from the gift of a work of art although it will only become the property of the Museum at his death, by giving away the "remainder interest" as determined by actuaries. The sum that can be used as a tax deduction will, of course, be considerably less than in the case of an outright gift, but the donor does not have to part with the object in question.

It is widely believed that the American tax law allows a donor to have his cake and eat it - to "deduct" his picture and keep it hanging on the wall. When the donor has deducted only the remainder interest on his tax returns he is of course entitled to keep the picture, but if he is giving it over a period of years he must share its use with the beneficiary in proportion to their respective interests in any year. Thus, if he has donated a one-fifth share to the Museum, he can keep the work of art for only four-fifths of that year. If, on the other hand, a person makes an outright gift, and claims the full tax deduction for doing so, he is defrauding the Internal Revenue if he then borrows it back again. A certain amount of illegal "lend-lease" may go on but it is not the responsibility of the Museum to see that its arrangements with benefactors tally with the latter's tax returns.

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#### BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The Otago Museum Trust Board has invited the Association to hold the 6th Biennial Conference at Otago Museum in April 1961.

Tentative dates are Tuesday 18th to Thursday, 20th April, 1961. (Good Friday next year falls on 31st March, 1961). The Council has asked Dr. R.R. Forster, Mrs. G.M. Strathern and Mr. E.G. Turbott to prepare the programme.



### CUSTOMS DUTIES

At the Annual Meeting in April 1960, Members asked Council to find out the position about the Unesco Agreement to remove tariffs and import restrictions on scientific, educational and cultural material. The Agreement covers scientific instruments, books and works of art and was adopted by New Zealand and other Members of Unesco at Florence on 17th June, 1950. Thirty-three countries have ratified the Agreement, including Belgium and the United Kingdom who extended it to cover forty non-self-governing territories.

The reply of the Comptroller of Customs to our enquiry is:

"I have received your letter of 30 May concerning the Unesco Agreement.

New Zealand has not yet ratified the Agreement. This matter is now being studied and it is expected that a decision will be reached shortly.

I would mention, however, that the goods listed below are at present entitled to entry free of duty from all sources.

Printed books, papers and music classed under Tariff item 301.

Films for cinematographs.

Natural - history specimens, and such ethnological or similar specimens as may be approved by the Minister.

Antiques and works of art, as may be approved by the Minister, and on conditions prescribed by him provided he is satisfied that such articles were produced or manufactured at least 100 years prior to the date of importation.

Painting, statuary, other works of art, curios, and other articles approved by the Minister, for display in public museums, the buildings of public institutions, art associations registered as corporate bodies, public parks or other public places, on such conditions as may be approved by the Minister.

I feel sure that this list will be of considerable interest to the Members of your Association."

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) K.L. Press  
for Comptroller of Customs

14th June, 1960  
(Reference C20/13/36)

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### ESTATE AND GIFT DUTIES

The following letters are published as they may be of use to institution Members when questions of gift and estate duty arise.

1.

14th June, 1950.

The Duties Division,  
Inland Revenue Dept.,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Association I was instructed to enquire regarding the steps necessary to have all

member institutions placed on the list of charitable and educational institutions to qualify for exemption from gift duty.

The member institutions of the Association are:

The Auckland Institute & Museum  
The Auckland Art Gallery  
The Mackelvie Trust Board  
The Waikato Art Gallery, Hamilton  
The Gisborne Art Gallery & Museum  
The Hawkes Bay Art Gallery & Museum  
The Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth  
The Wanganui Public Museum  
The Sarjeant Art Gallery, Wanganui  
The Dominion Museum, Wellington  
The Museum of the N.Z. Geological Survey  
The Museum of the Cawthron Institute, Nelson  
The Nelson Museum  
The Bishop Suter Art Gallery, Nelson.  
The Canterbury Museum, Christchurch  
The South Canterbury Historical Museum, Timaru  
The Otago Museum, Dunedin  
The Hocken Library, Dunedin  
The Southland Museum, Invercargill.

Will you please advise me regarding the steps I should take.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.

2. INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
WELLINGTON

20 July, 1960

The Hon. Secretary,  
Art Galleries & Museums Association  
of New Zealand (Inc.),  
P.O. Box 9027,  
Newmarket,  
AUCKLAND.

Dear Sir,

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

With reference to your letter of 14 June, you appear to be under the impression that this Department is required to keep a list of those institutions which are deemed to hold their property on a charitable trust within the meaning of the Estate and Gift Duties Act 1955.

The Department does not keep such a list. An absolute gift during a person's lifetime to any of the institutions set out in your letter would probably be exempt from both gift duty and estate duty but the Department prefers to give no firm general ruling and to consider each case as it arises.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) D.S. Evans

Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue



3.

Office of Minister of Finance  
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

17 August 1960

The Hon. Secretary,  
Art Galleries and Museums Association  
of New Zealand (Inc.),  
C/o P.O. Box 9027, Newmarket,  
AUCKLAND, S.E.1.

Dear Sir,

As promised in my letter of 1 July I have looked into the question raised by you about the financial difficulties facing your member institutions under present-day conditions.

While appreciating the fact that most museums and art galleries have insufficient capital or sources of income to adequately carry out or extend their functions, successive Governments have always taken the view, and rightly I think, that these institutions are local cultural amenities which, broadly speaking, should be supported from local interests. I am not unmindful of the fact that some museums have had a measure of Government assistance in the past. In particular the metropolitan museums have had substantial Government subsidies for capital purposes as part of their war or centennial memorial schemes, while some of the provincial museums and art galleries have had smaller grants for capital purposes from art union funds. I am also advised that special grants from the latter source have also been made for special exhibitions and other deserving specific purposes.

The decision announced in the Budget to set up a Cultural Fund of £60,000 - half each from Art Union funds and half from Consolidated Fund - will, I hope, provide a source from which some assistance to deserving institutions fostering the arts can be drawn, provided of course that local interests contribute also to the maximum possible extent.

You asked specifically that consideration be given to remitting estate duty on bequests to art galleries and museums as is done for land bequeathed to the Historic Places Trust, and also to the remission of income tax on gifts to such institutions in the books of the donors.

These suggestions have been considered from time to time in connection with other charitable and educational purposes, both by the previous Government and the present one, and the conclusion has always been reached that no change in the law would be warranted.

In connection with estate duties, the fundamental principle is that it is a tax on the total wealth of a deceased, irrespective of the persons or institutions who might benefit. When succession duties were abolished by the Estates and Gift Duties Act in 1955, there was no intention to perpetuate the status quo as between the different types of successors. The only exceptions made are for widows and infant children succeeding to smaller estates or where close relatives succeed in a deceased servicemen's estate, but the considerations of hardship which apply in these cases can hardly be applied to bequests to a charity. There is also the point that money to a charity can be specified in a will to be free of duty, which shifts the burden of the duty to another part of the estate. A survey in a recent year showed that about 85 per cent of the bequests left to charity in that year were made duty-free. Thus a change in the law as suggested by you would not have benefitted the charity in those cases (the 85 per cent); the other successors would have received the benefit.

As regards the provision in the Historic Places Amendment Act 1957, this was introduced because unless an historic property was preserved it would be lost for all time, which placed such a property in a different category to bequests for other charitable purposes. On the other hand, bequests of money to the Historic Places Trust are not deductible for estate duty purposes.

The question of income tax remission, though apparently simple on the surface, is in fact a difficult one. For instance it is hard to say that a gift made by an individual, especially one getting on in years, is actually made out of income and not out of



capital in lieu of a legacy on death. The question is thus an important one from the point of view of the public revenues, especially as regards companies.

What is not generally appreciated by many would-be donors, however, is that the Government already allows a concession on donations for charitable purposes. Section 47(a) of the Estate and Gift Duties Act 1955 provides an exemption from gift duty on "the creation of any charitable trust in New Zealand or elsewhere or the gift of any property in aid of such charitable trust" and, furthermore, such gifts are not taken into account for the purpose of fixing the rate of duty on other gifts made by the donor within the previous or subsequent year. These are supplemented by allied stamp duty exemptions which are provided in the Stamp Duties Act 1954. Gifts to art galleries and museums would come within the definition of a "charitable trust".

Another important concession is provided by the Estate and Gift Duties Act in that such charitable gifts, if made outright and without reservations in favour of the donor, are not taken into account for estate duty purposes even if the donor should die within three years of the gift. Therefore such donations afford a safe means of effecting reductions in the donor's estate with the consequent reduction in the rate of estate duty on the estate remaining.

It should be noted, however, that this estate duty concession applies only to inter vivos gifts to charities and does not extend to charitable devises or legacies. There is, therefore, a powerful argument in favour of people in a position to do so making contributions towards charities in their lifetime and not waiting to make similar provision by will. By doing so they incur no liability for duty and can considerably reduce the rate of duty which is ultimately payable on the wealth they retain.

The financial advantages of making gifts in one's lifetime do not appear to be well enough known and your member institutions would do well to publicise this information.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A.H. Nordmeyer

Minister of Finance.

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#### GRANT-IN-AID FOR SMALLER ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS.

The Minister of Internal Affairs has approved a grant of £250 to the Association to be devoted to subsidizing purchases of exhibits by the smaller Art Galleries and Museums.

The British Parliament makes similar grants to assist local Museums and their collections and displays have benefited considerably as a result. While the modest sums paid from the British fund have not solved the financial difficulties of the smaller British Galleries and Museums, they do give the local appeal for funds a good 'send off'.

It is proposed to administer the New Zealand grant along similar lines to the British grants in aid to smaller Museums.

The Council of the Association at a recent meeting appointed Messrs. P.A. Tomory (President), V.F. Fisher (Council Member), and Dr. R.C. Cooper (Secretary) to disburse the grant this year.

In a brief discussion of policy several members of Council expressed doubt whether subsidies up to 25% of the purchase price, as paid by the British fund, would be sufficient. It was suggested that subsidies up to 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % would be necessary and it was agreed that the sub-committee should have discretionary power in the matter.



The subcommittee will need a photograph of the article to be purchased and full details regarding its history, price, etc., in order to reach a decision.

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#### HISTORIC HOUSES IN THE BAY OF ISLANDS.

At the Annual Meeting of the Association held in April, 1960, members of the Association and representatives of the Lands Department and National Historic Places Trust approved the report of a subcommittee on this subject and asked Council to invite representatives of bodies concerned to a meeting to consider ways of putting the recommendations into effect.

The National Historic Places Trust has advised that it is concerned with the supervision of folk museums on a national not merely a regional basis. The Administrator of the Waitangi National Trust, Hon. C.F. Skinner, has advised that a policy for the use of rooms in the Treaty House for museum purposes was affirmed by the Board last year. The policy is a long term one on account of finance. The Board considers that coordinated control may have some advantages and this could be looked into at an appropriate time. The Board is not interested in the appointment of a professional curator. The Administrator has asked that details of the proposed work, approved by the Board in 1959, be treated as confidential until he gives a statement to the press. The reasons for this request, and the long delay in giving the press release, are not stated.

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#### IMPORT LICENCE.

The Customs Department has approved a bulk allocation of £15,000 for member institutions in the 1961 import licencing period. The licence forms are held by the Auckland Town Hall Branch of the B.N.Z. (remitting funds) and by the Hon. Secretary (landing goods). The following information is required to complete the Bank forms allocating portion of the licence to an institution member who wishes to send funds overseas:-

Article to be paid for,  
Country of origin,  
Value, N.Z. C.I.F.E.  
Quarter in which funds will be sent  
(The quarters are Jan/Mar, April/June, July/Sept. and Oct./Dec.)

When several institution members in different parts of New Zealand wish to clear goods at the same time, customs forms, allocating part of the licence to each member, will be completed here on request.

The following information is required to complete customs forms allocating portion of the licence to an institution member who wishes to land goods :-

Name of vessel  
Port  
Expected date of arrival  
Article to be cleared  
Country of origin  
Value N.Z. C.I.F.E.

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#### MUSEUM EXTENSIONS

Work is under way on extensions to the Otago Museum, Dunedin, and Southland Museum, Invercargill.



MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT,  
WESTERN SPRINGS, AUCKLAND.

At a meeting held at the Auckland Town Hall on 8th November, 1960, the documents for incorporation of the Museum were signed by about 50 foundation members. Plans for buildings were presented by Mr. Peter Middleton, Lecturer on Architecture, University of Auckland, and questions on finance were answered by Mr. R.J.H. Seal, Public Accountant and Secretary of the new Museum. The Waterworks Engineer of the Auckland City Council advised that the pumping station at Western Springs is to be vacated by the Waterworks Division and will be available immediately for the housing of Museum material. In December, 1960, the Ministry of Works announced that it might require the site for metropolitan roading and the Secretary of the new Museum has asked for an early decision as planning of the new Museum will be held up until the Ministry decides where to build its new highway.

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MUSEUM SCHOOL SERVICES

A feature of the development of New Zealand Art Galleries and Museums since World War II is the number of new services provided by institution members. Last year the Hawkes Bay Art Gallery and Museum received 3,200 children in parties organised by teachers and schools. The Museums at New Plymouth, Wanganui, Nelson and Invercargill have also provided facilities for school parties. Several institutions have sought help from the Education authorities and have been advised to approach the local nature study specialists. Personally, I am at a loss to understand upon what principle of equity the Education Department, which provides the services of Museum Education Officers at the four main centres, refuses to admit the obligation of providing their services in smaller cities.

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NEW MUSEUMS

In recent months there have been reports in the newspapers of meetings to discuss new Museums at Central Otago (Goldfields history), Christchurch (science and industry), Dargaville, Hamilton, Nelson (history) and Whakatane (Centennial Museum).

In September, 1960, the Minister of Internal Affairs made a grant of £1,000 to the West Coast Historical Museum, Hokitika, which was opened in that month by Mr. J.B. Kent, member of Parliament for Westland.

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At the last meeting of Council, members congratulated the New Plymouth City Council on the erection of the new library and Museum building. This was opened by the Governor-General, Lord Cobham, in July 1960. The exhibits prepared by the Acting-Curator, Mr. Rigby Allan, and a team of volunteers, provided an attractive pageant of Taranaki history. A committee comprising representatives of 16 contributing local bodies has been elected to control and maintain the Museum.

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On September 25th, 1960 the newly established Stewart Island Museum was opened to the public. The Museum exhibits objects of local interest. One exhibit which aroused considerable interest is the history of the whaling industry.



P E R S O N A L

The President, Mr. P.A. Tomory, left New Zealand on 1st November, 1960, to visit Great Britain and Europe. He will return to Auckland at the beginning of March, 1961.

Dr. T. Barrow, Dominion Museum, returned from Tokyo in October 1960 and a report on the Unesco Asian-Pacific Seminar, which he attended as New Zealand Delegate, is included in this Newsletter.

Congratulations to Dr. Roger Duff, Director of Canterbury Museum, on the award of a Seato Fellowship. Dr. Duff leaves New Zealand in January 1961, for 12 months study leave in South-east Asia.

Owing to ill-health, Mr. M.J.G. Smart has retired from the Directorship of Wanganui Museum. The President, at the last meeting of Council, paid a tribute to his services to Wanganui and to the Museum movement. Mr. and Mrs. Smart have given generously of their time and talents to build up the collections and displays at Wanganui Museum. Members will join me in best wishes to Max and Mrs. Smart on their retirement.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. R. McDonald, Assistant Education Officer, Auckland Museum, on his appointment as Director of Wanganui Public Museum.

Messrs. H. Keith and R. Fraser, Auckland Art Gallery, sat the first part of the Diploma Examination of the British Museums Association on 15th - 16th November, 1960. The examinations were held at the Auckland Museum under the supervision of the Hon. Secretary and Auckland Members of the Association.

A welcome is extended to the following new members:

The Cawthron Institute, Nelson,  
The Mackelvie Trustees, Auckland,  
The Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington,  
Miss V.A. Rucroft, 65A Goulstone Road, Whakatane,  
Mr. W.B. Harris, National Film Library, Wellington.

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PLANETARIUM

Congratulations to Canterbury Museum on the opening of a Planetarium recently. There has been unprecedented interest in astronomy since World War II and the Planetarium at Auckland Museum has had large and enthusiastic audiences since it was opened.

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REVIEWS.

Educating in Five Dimensions.

H.W. Beaumont.

With an introduction by Roger Duff.

A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington. 67 pp., 7/6d.

Huia Beaumont was in charge of the Museum School Service at Canterbury Museum from 1948 to 1958. Dr. Duff may be forgiven a partiality for his former colleague, and to such bias I attribute his statement that "perhaps his New Zealand peer is not to be found in the ranks of professional teachers and administrators, but rather Rewi Alley of Sandan, whose work among the Chinese peasant children was inspired by the same earnest conviction of the need to blend a practical attitude of living with the necessary theory of the class room."

But even though the reader may scruple to accept this assessment, he must be grateful to Huia Beaumont for this entertaining account of the school service at Canterbury Museum.



Toward Meaningful Attendance Statistics.

D.F. Cameron and D.S. Abbey in the Bulletin of the Canadian Museums Association,  
12 (3) : 6-10, 1960.

The authors distinguish between school classes and voluntary visits, and between the number of "visits" and "visitors". They suggest sampling and new criteria for museum attendance reports. They consider that raw attendance figures at present available are misleading and that more revealing statistics are needed to determine the impact of the museum on its local community and its potency as a tourist attraction.

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SALARIES

One of the objects of the Association is to provide means of improving the status of curators and staffs of Art Galleries and Museums. To this end the Council obtained returns from the four larger Museums in 1953 and issued the first report on salaries on 10th May, 1954. Further returns were obtained in 1955 and the second report was issued on 1st March, 1956.

As four years have elapsed, Council decided on 2nd July, 1959, to revise the report and appointed a competent subcommittee for the purpose. The interim report of the subcommittee recommended that, instead of preparing its own scale, the Association should suggest to governing authorities that they adopt sections of the University and D.S.I.R. scales appropriate to their staffs. The subcommittee has not attempted to grade institution members beyond recognising the fact that Museums in the four main centres are larger in size, while those in other centres are smaller. The tables equating the post of Museum Director with that of a University Professor or D.S.I.R. Director, are applicable only to the larger institutions. Governing authorities are asked to decide the particular sections of the University or D.S.I.R. scales that are applicable to their staffs. The final report of the subcommittee was approved by Council with minor amendments and will be circulated to members for adoption at a general meeting to be held at the Biennial Conference in April, 1961. The decision to circulate the report, and to provide an opportunity for discussion of it, was taken following the complaint that members had no opportunity to criticise earlier reports before they were sent to governing authorities.

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UNESCO REGIONAL SEMINAR  
(ASIAN - PACIFIC)

Held in Tokyo during the month of September, 1960.

Preliminary Report by Dr. T. Barrow,  
Dominion Museum, Wellington.

At the conclusion of a Seato Fellowship in Manila, I proceeded to Tokyo as New Zealand delegate to the Unesco Asian-Pacific Seminar held during the month of September. Travel expenses were paid by the Department of Internal Affairs. Other participants and observers were present from Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, China, France, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos, Netherlands, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom and Sarawak, and United States of America.

The theme of the Seminar was "The Museum as a cultural centre in the development of the community", and each delegate presented a report on the state of Museums in his own country with special reference to the educational situation. Each report was submitted in a written form beforehand in response to a questionnaire and subsequently all reports were duplicated and distributed to participants. The general reports covered such aspects as government control, museum co-operation, publications, conservation, staff training, specialised and educational institutions, museums and mass communication media, international



cultural exchange, etc. Each delegate also reported on his own institution; staff, organisation, physical assets, collections and documentation, admission policies, relationship with the general public, publications, educational programmes, conservation, etc.

The report on the New Zealand situation was well received and comparatively speaking it was evident that New Zealand Museums are particularly advanced in matters of educational practice. Delegates and observers were taken to many Japanese Museums and places of historical and scenic beauty. Owing to the excellent organisation and hospitality of our Japanese hosts, the efficiency of the Unesco Secretariat and the outstanding ability of our President, Dr. R.P. Griffing, Jnr., Director of the Honolulu Academy of Arts, the Seminar was very successful and the entire programme was obviously enjoyed by all concerned. The session concluded with feelings of satisfaction all around.

The conclusions of the Seminar drew attention to facts of importance, with particular reference to the Museum situation in some of the smaller Far Eastern countries. Final reports on the Seminar are yet to be published, but for the information of members, the recommendations of the Seminar are presented below:-

#### General Statements

1. Museums (1) should be considered as organizations in which the activities of collecting, conservation, research and education are of equal importance for the fulfilment of the museum's function as a cultural centre in the community.

(1) The term "museum" is here used in an inclusive sense, thereby taking into account such institutions as "art galleries" etc. in countries where a distinction is made between an "art gallery" and a "museum" and where the "art gallery" fulfils the function of a museum in the more commonly accepted interpretation of the term.

2. Because museums play a unique role in the cultural life of the nation, their establishment, position, purposes, and activities merit full governmental recognition as contributing to the cultural welfare of the nation.
3. In maintaining existing museums, or establishing new ones, it is necessary for a definite, defined status to be given to museums in every community. They should have sufficient autonomy to be enabled to act in accordance with the traditions and obligations of museum service.
4. Regional and specialized museums can have an important function as educational and cultural community centers. Their establishment is desirable in all countries, including those in which centrally situated museums already exist.
5. Museums have an important and growing role in advancing mutual understanding by providing explanatory and interpretive services for the international traveller.
6. Museums should make their resources available to industry for the improvement of standards of design.
7. The establishment of national and regional associations of museums is to be encouraged in areas where such associations do not exist.
8. Museums should provide the fullest possible extent of encouragement of the living arts (painting, sculpture, architecture, graphic arts, crafts, music, drama, the dance, films, etc.) within the community, including the provision of opportunity for the artist to become acquainted with the status and development of the arts beyond the national boundaries.



## Final Recommendation (2)

9. Natural history, ethnological and technological museums have an important part to play in present-day educational systems, since they can do much to help instruct a community in principles associated with modern life. All three have a vital function in preserving the past and the present for the future.
10. In the interests of the advancement of education and science it is desirable that exchanges of museum objects be facilitated.
11. The study of living animals in zoological gardens is educationally valuable. It is therefore desirable that there should be an increased exchange of living animals between countries in the Asian region, provided always that exchanges are carried out on a properly regulated basis.
12. The establishment of laboratory facilities, the training of laboratory technicians, and the continuing study of the problems of preservation and restoration, especially in relation to tropical and sub-tropical conditions, should be encouraged, keeping in mind the purposes and facilities of the Rome Centre and any other related activities initiated by UNESCO and ICOM.

## Recommendations.

### Collections

1. Since natural environments are being rapidly destroyed throughout the world, it is Recommended that collections of natural history objects be made as a matter of urgency, so long as collecting is consistent with conservation. Because traditional cultures are being rapidly transformed by modern life, it is likewise an urgent matter for collections of ethnological and technological objects to be made.

### Conservation

2. It is a matter of extreme urgency that immediate steps be taken to preserve existing prehistoric and historic sites and monuments of cultural significance. It is therefore Recommended that a governmental program for the protection of cultural properties be put into effect in nations in which such programs do not exist, to operate in close cooperation with the national museums system. It is further Recommended that in countries where large-scale works, such as the construction of highways and dams and other engineering projects, are to be undertaken, due attention be paid towards measures for the preservation or conservation of the natural and cultural heritage, including plants and animals in danger of extinction, cultural property, etc.

### Education

3. It is Recommended that there be coordination between educational systems and museums and that there be a heightened development of adult education programs in the area.
4. In view of general agreement on the importance and urgency of archaeological activities, it is Recommended that laws be enacted in accordance with the principles as proposed in the international recommendation of UNESCO ( ).

### Publications

5. There should be no bar to the unrestricted international exchange of scholarly publications. It is Recommended that all Member States of the area adhere to the agreement for the free interchange of educational, scientific, and cultural materials.



6. It is Recommended that national directories of museums be prepared in those countries where they are lacking or obsolete, using as a model the outline as published in UNESCO CL/504 (1952).

7. It is Recommended, in the interests of fuller world-wide cooperation among museums, that copies of all basic museum publications should be forwarded to the UNESCO/ICOM Documentation Centre in Paris.

Staff

8. If a museum is to play its full part in the community, it is essential that well-qualified scientific and educational staff be employed. It is Recommended that qualified persons should be appointed locally, but in those countries where trained staff is not available, assistance should be sought from international agencies. It is sometimes desirable that staff concerned with exhibition, preservation and restoration receive training in countries having similar conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS 9 and 10 are addressed to UNESCO and ICOM.

RECOMMENDATION 11 is addressed to the PACIFIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

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