

ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

C/- Auckland Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland, New Zealand.

A.G.M.A.N.Z. NEWSLETTER NO. 17

March, 1964.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st JANUARY, 1964.

Membership:

Honorary members 4, institutional members 31, and ordinary members 73 make up the roll of 108. Last year the roll was 101, and we welcome the following new institutional members: Museum of Transport and Technology, Auckland, Palmerston North Art Gallery, National Art Gallery, Wellington, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, and the Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru. The 31 institution members are :

- Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru.
- Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.
- Auckland City Art Gallery.
- Auckland Institute and Museum.
- Bishop Suter Art Gallery, Nelson.
- Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.
- Cawthron Institute Museum, Nelson.
- Dominion Museum, Wellington.
- Dunedin Public Art Gallery.
- Gisborne Art Gallery and Museum.
- Hamilton Art Gallery, Waikato Society of Arts.
- Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Napier.
- Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin.
- Mackelvie Trustees, Auckland.
- N.Z. Geological Survey, Lower Hutt.
- Matakohe Pioneer Museum.
- Museum of Transport and Technology, Auckland.
- National Art Gallery, Wellington.
- Nelson Institute Museum.
- N.Z. Oceanographic Institute, Wellington.
- Otago Museum, Dunedin.
- Palmerston North Art Gallery, Manawatu Society of Arts.
- Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch.
- Sarjeant Art Gallery, Wanganui.
- South Canterbury Historical Society, Timaru.
- Southland Museum, Invercargill.
- Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth.
- Waihi Arts Centre and Museum.
- Waitangi National Trust.
- Wanganui Public Museum.
- Whakatane District Centennial Museum Committee.

The 77 honorary and ordinary members may be classified as follows :

Board members 12, directors 12, assistant directors 5, and office assistants 3.     ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	32
Art gallery assistants 2, conservators 1   ...   ...   ...	3
Museum education officers 6, librarians 3, extension service 1,	10
Botanists 2, zoologists 1, ethnologists 4.   ...   ...   ...	7
Artists 1, art assistants 3, carvers 1, carpenters 1, modellers 1, photographers 1, preparators 3, taxidermists 1	12
Retired, honorary and friends   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	13
	77

The wide range of the membership shown above suggests how diverse are the skills required for gallery and museum work. The list reveals also that there are very few junior staff members under training to take their places later as specialist officers.

In the future, the main source of new members of the Association must be the boards and unpaid helpers of art galleries and museums. Perhaps we should stress the fact that the Association is not a professional group for the airing of grievances but a meeting of all interested in the well-being and development of galleries and museums, and that it will welcome board members and friends to its ranks.

#### Grants:

We are most grateful to the Department of Internal Affairs and the Arts Advisory Council for a further grant of £150 to restore the fund for subsidies for the purchase of exhibits for smaller galleries and museums to £250. During the year subsidies of £208 have been paid to the Hamilton Art Gallery, Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum, the Taranaki Museum and the Sarjeant Art Gallery.

The Council has awarded the 1964 Calouste Gulbenkian Travel grants to Mr. Ray Jacobs, Senior Preparator at Canterbury Museum, and to Mr. Rigby Allan, Director of the Taranaki Museum. Mr. Jacobs will visit U.S.A. and Europe to study mammalian preparation and large-scale dioramas. Mr. Allan will be the guest of the State Department and the American Association of Museums on a tour of Mid-West galleries and museums, before visiting Europe to study preparation, storage and display.

In November 1963, Dr. Esmond S. de Beer and his sisters arranged to give £300 a year for 10 years, for travel grants for members. The money may be accumulated until there is enough to provide for all the expenses of a traveller, or is to be used as auxiliary grants to staff members who can draw inadequate funds from other sources. It is the wish of the donors that grants should be on the generous side rather than closely calculated, so that recipients should not be unduly anxious about their subsistence. Dr. de Beer and his sisters have also been benefactors of Otago and other museums, and the Association is indebted to them for their continued interest in New Zealand art galleries and museums.

#### The Import Licence:

A pool import licence for £15,000 was granted to the Association for the year ending mid-1964. Again the imports of member institutions will not be sufficient to use the licence. It is clear that the permanent collections of member institutions are growing very slowly, despite the generous subsidy scheme introduced by the Arts Advisory Council in May 1963. It is a condition of the scheme that a gallery applying for a subsidy shall state its policy for building up its collection, and we will be happy to arrange for a discussion of possible policies if member art galleries so wish.

#### Biennial Conference:

The 7th Conference, held at Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth, in March 1963, was most successful, and we are indebted to the following for the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality: the Mayor and Council of the City, Taranaki Museum Board and Executive Committee, Mrs. A.N. Gale and the members of the local committee, Mr. Rigby Allan and his staff and helpers. The problems of smaller museums were discussed and an application has been made to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council for a fund to enable the Association to give greater assistance to new, small and isolated institutions.

The Association has been invited to hold the 8th Conference at Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Napier, in 1965. Already Mr. J.S.B. Munro has outlined a programme which indicates that the 1965 Conference will be one of the most interesting we have held.

#### Newsletters:

Number 15 was sent to members in May and number 16 in September 1963. During 1964 it is proposed to increase the number of Newsletters to three a year.

H.C. McQueen  
President.

Robert Cooper  
Hon. Secretary.

18th March, 1964.

ANTIQUÉ ARMS

This letter has been forwarded by Dr. Falla for  
the information of members :-

40 Hawthorne St.,  
Christchurch 5.

3rd January 1964.

Dear Dr. Falla,

During the past few years the members of the New Zealand Antique Arms Association Inc., have been most concerned by the number of antique firearms of historic value to this country which have been sold to buyers in the United States of America and England.

Due to the high prices which are often obtained through dealers and in auctions abroad it would seem that this trend will continue unless some steps are taken to counteract it by providing an alternative market.

In some cases which have been investigated this Association has learned that the sellers have first offered the items to local Museums but these, (even when interested), had not the available cash to make a purchase, consequently these irreplaceable items had been lost to this country for all time.

In view of this, the N.Z.A.A.A.I. respectfully wish to bring to the notice of all Museums in New Zealand that a Committee has been formed within this Association, to value and purchase such items at any time, and suggest that when antique firearms, swords, or other antique weapons are offered for sale to any Museum in New Zealand (which for any reason may be unable to purchase same), that the sellers be put in touch with this Association. In this way it is hoped that this Association may be able to prevent these most important items leaving this country.

On behalf of the New Zealand Antique Arms Association Inc. may I take this opportunity of thanking you for your future help and cooperation in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

C.K. Atkinson  
Hon. Secretary.  
New Zealand Antique Arms Assn. Inc.

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CANTERBURY MUSEUM HALL OF BIOLOGY.

The remodelled Hall of Biology was opened to the public in December 1963, together with the new Garden Court. Both were warmly praised by the public and the press. Congratulations to the scientist in charge, Mr. E.G. Turbott, the preparators, Messrs. R.J. Jacobs and Ralph Riccalton, and the cabinetmakers Messrs. W. Dukes and W. Peppler, on the successful completion of their work.

The Canterbury Museum plans to celebrate its centenary with an extension to include a Rutherford Hall of Science, to illustrate the physical sciences, structure of matter, and sources of energy. At a recent meeting, the Trust Board also approved the suggestion of the Director, Dr. R.S. Duff, that a new layout be prepared of the Hall of Transport.

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CANTERBURY MUSEUM RESEARCH GRANT

Dr. Duff has forwarded the following report for the information of members :-

"Advice has been received from the Kiwi Lottery Board through its Distribution Committee for Scientific Research of a research grant of £3000 annually for for an initial term of 5 years to enable the Museum to establish a Department of Entomology, staffed by a research Entomologist and a Technical Assistant. The grant is subject to the submission of a research programme acceptable to the Entomological Division of the D.S.I.R. and proposals for specializing in the field of fresh-water Entomology have been prepared by Professor George Knox, Convenor of the Museum's Committee on Research Appointments, and forwarded to Dr. W. Cottier of the D.S.I.R.

This satisfactory result, setting a precedent for support from national funds of Provincial Museums, marks the end of a two years' campaign to seek Government support of long term scientific research projects which cannot be financed from the Museum's regular income based on local rates. While the system of support for the Canterbury Museum from a levy on the rates collected by Local Bodies between the Conway and the Rangitata is regarded as the best of such New Zealand Museum schemes, the amount of income is limited and its source from public rates imposes a heavy public relations obligation on our part to maintain an ever expanding programme of gallery presentation and public education to the detriment of our wider research obligations. This was the subject of a report to the Board following a Conference of the AGMANZ at Wellington in March, 1962 when an address from Dr. W.M. Hamilton, Secretary, D.S.I.R., disclosed that with the exception of an annual grant of £11,000 to the Dominion Museum from the Department of Internal Affairs there was no Government financial assistance for scientific research programmes in New Zealand Museums. As a result of the report, the Board appointed a sub-committee, with Professor Knox as Convenor, to prepare a priority schedule for research appointments and to seek assistance from D.S.I.R. in the establishment of the first priority beyond the Board's means, the post of Entomologist. Although Dr. Hamilton, in the discussions which ensued, was not able to second research officers from his Department, his advice led to the present successful issue.

I record my personal appreciation of the support of the Chairman in this campaign and the excellent case presented by the other Committee members: Professor George Knox (Convenor), Professor R.S. Allan and Mr. C.E. Fenwick (Board Members) and the Assistant Director, Mr. E.G. Turbott."

R.S. DUFF

Director  
Canterbury Museum

November, 1963.

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INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Dr. G.H. Riviere, Director of the International Council of Museums, has asked the Association to support a Unesco Campaign for Monuments of Historical or Artistic Value. This will be similar to the Museums Campaign of 1956, and will probably be held from 1st June to 30th November 1964. Members will receive further information shortly. At this stage, it is suggested that members preparing programmes of winter lectures and exhibitions consider the possibility of collaboration with archaeologists and historical societies to give prominence to the Campaign.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations are recorded to the following members:

Miss Nancy Adams, Artist, Dominion Museum, Wellington has been awarded the Loder Cup in recognition of her services to New Zealand botany. Her drawings of native plants have enhanced Post-Primary School Bulletins and National Park Handbooks for several years past. Some were recently brought together in two excellent books for naturalists :-

Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand, by A.L. Poole & Nancy M. Adams, Wellington, Government Printer, 1963. 249p., illus., map.

Plants of the New Zealand Coast, by Lucy B. Moore & Nancy M. Adams, Auckland and Hamilton, Paul's Book Arcade, 1963. 113 p., illus.

Dr. R.R. Forster, Director of the Otago Museum, Dunedin, has received a grant of \$ 9,700 from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Institutes of Health of the U.S.A., in support of his studies of the spiders of the New Zealand region. The money will be used to support his work during a year at Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

Mr. D.R. Simmons, Keeper in Anthropology, Otago Museum, has led a three-man expedition to make a survey of early Moriori occupation sites on Chatham Island. The expedition was sponsored by the Historic Places Trust, and members also studied the dendroglyphs found on the island.

Mr. E.G. Turbott, Assistant Director, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, has been appointed Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. He will commence his new duties on 1st July 1964, following the retirement of Sir Gilbert Archey.

Mrs. A.N. Gale, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Taranaki Museum, has been appointed a member of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, on the nomination of the Council of the Association. Mrs. Gale replaces Mr.V.F. Fisher, and at the last Council Meeting on 26th November 1963, members recorded their thanks to Mr. Fisher for his work on behalf of the Association.

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#### NELSON PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

The Nelson Provincial Museum Trust Board was established in 1963, by agreement between the territorial Local Authorities between Nelson and Buller. The function of the Board is to collect, house, preserve and display historical materials, objects, records and archives, with particular reference to those pertaining to the Nelson District, including natural history material. There is authority for the Museum assets of the Nelson Institute to be handed to the Board.

The Board proposes to lease from the Nelson City Council an area of land in Isel Park at Stoke (a suburb of Nelson), which is a magnificent park containing fine specimens of trees planted by the Marsden family over 100 years ago. The lease will include Isel House, which is at present occupied by the Nelson Historical Society, for the housing of historical material. One of the first functions of the Board is to arrange for the erection of a modern Museum Building in this park, although it is unlikely that the complete building can be erected immediately because of the financial restrictions in the Agreement, which limits the rate revenue to £4,000 per annum. However it is possible that there are other sources of revenue available.

The administration of the Museum is in the hands of the Board and its executive Committee. The Town Clerk of Nelson is the nominated Secretary (ex officio) and the City Council keeps the books, etc. The Board has begun operations by calling for applications for the position of Director :-

"The recently established Nelson Provincial Museum Trust Board invites applications for the position of Director of the Nelson Provincial Museum which is to be established at Isel Park, Nelson. The commencing salary will be between £1200/1600 per annum, depending on qualifications and experience, and there is a super-annuation scheme available.

This will be a rewarding post providing challenge and opportunity for a person with a general interest in Museum Education, or a special interest in Colonial History or Maori Pre-History or Natural History.

Applications close at Noon on Thursday, 30th April 1964 with the Secretary of the Nelson Provincial Museum Trust Board, The Town Clerk, P.O. Box 313, Nelson, from whom may be obtained the conditions of appointment and schedule of duties and any other information required."

Best wishes to the new Museum for the success of their venture, and congratulations to the Board on their wisdom in making the appointment of a Director their first duty.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDING SCHEME

The following letter has been received from Mr. A.T. Edgar, Honorary Secretary of the O.S.N.Z., Inlet Road, Kerikeri:-

"Dear Sir,

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand has inaugurated a Recording Scheme, which is intended to function as a Central Registry of unpublished ornithological information. The scheme has a dual purpose, firstly to ensure that all available information is recorded on its files, and secondly, to encourage co-operative field study of New Zealand Birds and to co-ordinate the results of field work in different parts of the country. Members working on specific subjects have access to all relevant material collected under the scheme. When special enquiries are undertaken by the Society the Scheme is in a position to act as a clearing house for the collection of information.

An important current project is the collection through the Recording Scheme of information about the present distribution and status of a number of species. This information is required to assist a Committee now working on preparation of a revised Checklist of New Zealand Birds.

A considerable volume of valuable information reaches the Recording Scheme direct from members of O.S.N.Z., but it is probable that many important records are not at present available to the Scheme because specimens are sent by non-members of O.S.N.Z. direct to Museums.

I have received a list of ornithological accessions for the years 1961/July 1963 from Wanganui Public Museum, and the Director, Dominion Museum, has kindly undertaken to provide lists of past accessions, and to follow up with further lists as available. May I ask your support for my request that similar lists may be made available to me from all Museums in New Zealand.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A.T. Edgar  
Hon. Sec. O.S.N.Z."

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PAN-PACIFIC ARTS FESTIVAL, CHRISTCHURCH.

With the support of the Mayor, and other influential citizens, a group of Christchurch people is planning a Festival, to be held in Christchurch in February-March 1965, "as a serious cultural event at which the arts of the Pacific will be brought to the attention of the citizens of Christchurch, and of New Zealand as a whole". Galleries and Museums may be asked to assist with this major contribution to the cultural life of 1965.

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RESEARCH FUND

At the Annual Meeting of the Association, held at Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth, on 14th March 1963, a proposal from the Canterbury Museum Trust Board that the Association seek a research fund, similar to the Universities Research Fund, was endorsed by members and referred to the incoming Council for study.

The Council discussed the proposal on the 26th November last, and from the remarks of members it seemed clear that the need to develop research programmes was generally accepted. Some members thought that it might be preferable for each institution to apply to the Golden Kiwi Lottery Research Committee for its particular needs. A difficulty however is that the Committee has fixed £15,000 as the minimum limit for research grants, and this is usually far higher than the modest cost of museum studies. It was suggested that the Association could overcome this problem by filing an application on behalf of all members. An objection to this course is that grants from any pool awarded to the Association would have to be approved by potential beneficiaries.

The Council decided to ask Drs. Duff and Forster and Mr. Turbott to prepare a report for consideration by members at the next Annual Meeting.

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SOUTH CANTERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, TIMARU.

The Timaru City Council has approved sketch plans for the proposed new museum, to cost £42,000. The building will be octagonal in shape, and a glazed dome, and windows beneath the roof, will be lit at night to give the effect of a floating roof. Building will not begin for some months.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON MUSEUM SCIENCE

The museum taxonomist, ecologist and archaeologist require areas of relatively undisturbed land for their studies. In the past, ample areas were available close to museums, but rapid settlement and the use of topdressing, insecticides, etc., have altered many of our collecting areas. Public works, bulldozing and quarrying have destroyed many of the accessible archaeological sites. The following action should be taken as soon as possible.

1. Museums should seek donations of suitable areas of land, which will remain undisturbed for long periods, for future studies, and
2. Museums should press for the classification of national park lands and scenic reserves, to ensure that some are preserved "uncontaminated" by public use.

Taxonomy is a traditional field of museum research, and several of the early museum curators showed outstanding ability in finding the order which underlies the bewildering variety of native plants and animals. These men were humble, but showed surprising confidence in penetrating and comprehending the patterns of variation. Today, it is more in the modern mode for us to believe that a committee might devise a better system of judgements. Overseas, several recent floras have been prepared by teams of botanists. It has also been demonstrated that a machine may be fed a number of measurements, and produce satisfactory answers. The taxonomist is still required however to select the data for processing, and to decide what importance is to be attached to the answers. Clearly, there is still a future for the taxonomist.

Our larger museums are capable both of attracting first-class scientists, and of training juniors, but the "climate" must be favourable. If museum boards will place emphasis on scholarship and research, as well as on new buildings and displays, they will help to attract young people to museum work, and to maintain museum science in a healthy state. The task is not one for boards alone. Every member can help, by stressing the need for thorough research as though the future of museum science depended on this alone. Perhaps it does. Clearly we cannot hope to match the scale of University and D.S.I.R. research, but we can hope to equal or to exceed it in quality.

Robert Cooper

ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

PROGRAMME

Dominion Museum

8th - 9th April, 1964

Wednesday, 8th April

Morning:

- 9.30 a.m. Meeting of Outgoing Council.
- 10.30 a.m. Registration and morning tea.  
Dr. R.A. Falla, Director, Dominion Museum.  
Welcome to members and delegates.
- 11 - 12.30 Annual General Meeting.  
Presidential Address - Mr. H.C. McQueen, Chairman,  
Dominion Museum Management Committee.

Afternoon:

- 2.00 p.m. Reports of Galleries and Museums.
- 3.00 p.m. "Local Authority Support" - Mr. H.C. McQueen.
- 4.00 p.m. "Art Research in New Zealand" - Mr. P.A. Tomory,  
Director, Auckland City Art Gallery.
- 5 - 6 approx. President's Sherry Party.
- 8.00 p.m. Antarctic evening - displays of material and films,  
arranged by Dr. R.A. Falla, and the staff of the  
Dominion Museum.

Thursday, 9th April.

Morning:

- 9.30 a.m. "Typography" - Mr. D. Glover, 66 Ames St., Paekakariki.
- 11.00 a.m. Tour of National Art Gallery - Mr. Fremaux,  
Education Officer.
- 11.45 a.m. "Two small Museums in Canterbury" - Mr. E.G. Turbott,  
Asst. Director, Canterbury Museum.

Afternoon:

- 2.00 p.m. "Punched Cards" - Mr. B.G. Hamlin, Botanist, Dominion Museum.
- 3.00 p.m. Final Session. (There will be opportunities for sectional  
meetings if members so wish.)

Meetings are held in the Royal Society of N.Z. Room, Ground Floor, eastern  
side, Dominion Museum.

The usual fee of 5/- will be payable on registration to cover meeting expenses.

Robert Cooper  
Hon. Secretary.

18th March, 1964.

Distribution: All members of the Association.