

The Newsletter will appear at irregular intervals and will contain technical articles and news of interest to Museums and Art Galleries. Extra copies may be obtained from the Secretary.

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AN EASY AND ACCURATE WAY OF MAKING LINE DRAWINGS.

by Charles Hale, Photographer,  
Dominion Museum, Wellington.

In order to facilitate the production of line illustration a method using photographs as a base is now employed by the Dominion Museum staff.

The superiority of line drawing reproductions is well known, whilst the cost of blockmaking and printing and the satisfactory use of cheaper paper, make line blocks in most cases a more economical as well as a more suitable means of illustrating structural detail.

However, not every scientist is a first-rate draughtsman, and owing to the difficulty of attaining accuracy of proportion by freehand methods and the slowness of the process, many workers fall back on photography as an easy way out.

Unfortunately, the camera is only to a very limited degree able to differentiate between contours and masses when these are of similar tone, with the result that unimportant areas of the specimen are sometimes accentuated whilst more relevant detail remains obscure. In order to combine the ease, speed and accuracy of photography with the selectivity and clarity of drawing, we first photograph the specimen under carefully arranged lighting and processing conditions and make a soft bromide print of minimum contrast. The artist draws over this until he is satisfied that all relevant detail has been covered. The photographic image is then bleached away, leaving a black and white result from which a line block is made in the usual way.

The ideal photograph for use as a drawing base is one that shows contours and structure clearly; in which, in short, no part of the specimen is obscured by shadow. This means flat lighting, and the result of perfectly flat lighting is a photograph that very much resembles a drawing, for in this, shapes are translated into areas of tones whose depth is determined by two factors: (a) their distance from the lens, and (b) the angle of their surfaces to the optical axis of the camera.

Thus a white sphere on a white card appears as a black circle graduating to a pure white centre, and will contain a full range of tones from black to white. Sculpture registers as a series of dark contours enclosing areas of varying tones. It is from the depth of these tones the shape of the masses is understood. Making a drawing over such a photograph is not difficult.

A soft and pale enlargement is made on a type of bromide paper which has "tooth", such as Kodak BRSWF. This absorbs ink without spreading and holds it firmly during bleaching operations. The print should not be darker than is sufficient to show detail in the lightest parts. When the ink is quite dry, the print is bleached in the ordinary Potassium ferricyanide reducer and hypo, washed in gently moving water for about fifteen minutes and then hung up to dry by one corner, nothing in the meanwhile being allowed to touch its surface. When dry it is examined for blemishes, finally touched up by the artist, and a photographic copy made. Thus there is a negative of the drawing from which any number of copies of any size can be made whenever required.

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*Art Galleries and Museums Association  
of New Zealand (Inc.)*

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REGISTRATION: It has been decided to make a nominal registration fee of 5/- per member. Attention is drawn to the clause in the rules which permits non-members of the Association to join the Conference as Associate members on payment of the sum of 10.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel accommodation can be arranged for members if application is made to Mr. M. SMART, DIRECTOR,  
WANG. NUI MUSEUM. A limited number of private billets are available to junior members. Please communicate directly with Mr. Smart.

RAIL CONCESSIONS: The Railways Department has agreed to grant concession fares to members travelling by rail to Wanganui. These concessions represent a reduction of 20%. Forms must be obtained from THE SECRETARY before purchase of tickets.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES FOR JUNIOR STAFF: The Council has agreed to pay the travelling expenses of a limited number of junior staff members to enable them to attend the Conference. Attention is drawn to the following conditions and procedure for application:

1. Applicants must be members of A.G.M.A.N.Z.
2. Applicants must have been employed by a Museum, Art Gallery or a kindred institution for less than three years.
3. Application must be made through the Director of the institution in which the applicant is employed who will then forward the application to Mr. E. Westbrook, Auckland Art Gallery.
4. Not more than one grant will be made to any one Institution.

PRIVATE accommodation while in Wanganui will be arranged for successful applicants.

R.R.Forster,  
HON. SECRETARY

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