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A.G.M.A.N.Z. NEWSLETTER NO. 20

January, 1965.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALLER MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES

The Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council has made a grant to the Association of £2,000, for the purpose of assisting small museums and art galleries with expert advice and services.

A proviso to the grant is that all projects must receive a contribution from local sources. (The proportion of the local fund to that granted by the Association is not specified.)

The Council of the Association has set up a Committee to work out plans for the use of the £2,000. It consists of Mr. H.C. McQueen (Chairman), Dr. R.A. Falla, Dr. R.K. Dell, and Mr. B.G. Hamlin. In the meantime all correspondence regarding the use of the grant should be addressed to:

Mr. H.C. McQueen,
34 Friend Street,
WELLINGTON, W.3.

Institutions which have proposals to make for use of the grant should let Mr. McQueen have them by 28th February, 1965, so that they can be collated and presented to the Conference in Napier. Decisions will be made at, or immediately after, that Conference.

The Council thinks that the grant might be used in a number of ways. The main purpose of the money is to enable those that benefit from assistance to improve the quality of the work done in their museums and galleries. The grant cannot be made available for buildings or for purchases.

The following suggestions are put forward:

1. Preparation of small manuals dealing with matters that concern smaller institutions; e.g. control of pests.
2. Expenses of visits by members of the staff (either honorary or salaried) to other institutions for training in particular ways.
3. Expenses of visits by experts to smaller institutions to advise and help in specified ways.
4. Grants to cover salaries for short term projects that cannot be carried out by volunteers or existing staff.

This grant from the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council is a generous one. If it is put to good use there may be a repetition of it. Therefore it is important that those museums and galleries for which it is intended should put forward all the ideas they have for its use.

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - MARCH 1965

The 8th Conference will be held at the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Herschell Street, Napier from Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th March 1965. The Annual General Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 24th March. A preliminary programme was circulated in Newsletter 19 of September 1964. On the afternoon of 24th March, members have been invited to visit the Aerial Mapping Co., Hastings and to be the guests of Piet van Asch at afternoon tea. It is doubtful whether there will be time to visit the kiwis, but it is hoped that the work of the Aerial Mapping Co., will be of interest to all members and particularly those concerned with archaeological and ecological surveys. A final programme will be issued next month.

Will members who are attending the Conference please complete their accommodation arrangements as soon as possible.

EDUCATION OFFICERS

The following letter is circulated for information of members:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Wellington, C.1

30th November, 1964.

Mr. Robert Cooper,
Hon. Secretary,
Art Galleries & Museums Association of
New Zealand (Inc.),
C/- Auckland Museum,
Private Bag,
AUCKLAND

Dear Sir,

I regret that there has been some delay in replying to your letter asking if permission could be granted for Museum Education Officers and their assistants to attend the biennial conference of the Association at the Hawkes Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Napier, from Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25 March 1965.

After considering the request of your Association very carefully I have come to the conclusion that the participation of the Education Officers during school time would not be justified. I appreciate that your Association has amended its rules to enable conferences to be held in the school holidays. It is unfortunate that it has not been found possible for the conference to be held at that time in 1965. It is the general rule of the Department of Education that conferences of teachers in the various specialist services working with children should be held during school holidays and not during school time. As you are aware all the Museum Education Services are finding difficulty in coping with the demands made on them by the schools.

No decision has been reached on a further conference for Museum Officers in the Department of Education. Numbers of matters affecting the Museum Education Services are under active consideration and the question of a further conference will be looked into in the new year. Had your Association been holding its own conference during May it might have been found possible for the Department to arrange for a meeting of the Education Officers at about the same time. However, numbers of matters affecting the Museum Education Officers are under consideration and I would prefer to leave to a later date any decision about a further conference.

I should like to thank your Association for its invitation for the Department of Education to attend the biennial conference at Napier in March. I shall arrange with Mr. E.J. Watts, District Senior Inspector, Napier for the Department to be represented at the conference.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) F.R.G. Aitken
Acting Director of Education

GUIDE TO THE ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS OF NEW ZEALAND

The directory of art galleries and museums, compiled by Mr. P.A. Tomory and the Secretary in 1958, is now out-of-date. The Council has asked the President, Mr. Tomory and the Secretary to compile a new edition, and has approved the use of up to £50 of the Small Museums Grant for typing and routine assistance. Mrs. Brenda Gamble has been employed to gather material and will be sending forms to all galleries and museums in the near future. Your co-operation in completing the forms will be appreciated.

GULBENKIAN TRAVEL GRANTS

The travel grants for members, begun in 1962 with the aid of a grant of £5,000 from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, will be continued by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council. Applications will be considered by the Arts Council in the light of the finances available to the Council and the resources of the employing body. Members will be advised later when the Arts Council wishes applications to be lodged. In the meantime, two members who wish to travel during 1965 have lodged applications with the Hon. Secretary and these have been sent on to the Arts Council.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS

Sir Philip Hendy, President of ICOM wrote in April 1964 advising that ICOM has been on a fixed budget since 1962, salaries have fallen behind living costs, staff is insufficient, and the Director, Dr. G.H. Riviere, has resigned. Sir Philip asked whether the N.Z. National Committee could make an annual subvention of 150 dollars for several years to assist ICOM until permanent arrangements for finance are made. The Council of the Association decided recently to grant £10 per annum to ICOM from the Fellowship Fund. This fund consists of fees paid by members on the award of fellowships, and was earmarked for international purposes by Council on 24th May 1961.

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for election at the next Council Meeting:

Mr. D.R. Gregg, Geologist, Canterbury Museum.

PURCHASE SUBSIDY FUND

The Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council has granted £93 to replenish the fund of £250 to subsidize the purchase of exhibits by smaller art galleries and museums.

The fund is disbursed by a subcommittee consisting of Messrs. P.A. Tomory, V.F. Fisher and the Secretary. Grants up to 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % may be made to assist galleries and museums to obtain exhibits for their collections and displays.

The subcommittee needs a photograph of the article to be bought, and full details regarding its history and price, in order to reach a decision.

For larger art galleries the Arts Advisory Council instituted a separate subsidy scheme, which is now administered by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council.

SECRETARIAL SERVICES

At a recent meeting of Council the Hon. Secretary said that he could not give sufficient time to the work of the Association. The work is increasing, as there are more requests for extracts from the pool import licence, and the Association is undertaking additional activities. Each committee makes additional secretarial work and the decisions reached cannot be implemented if there is not an adequate secretarial service. The Council decided to make £100 available from the Small Museums Grant for secretarial services, and to review the position in March 1965. The services of Mrs. Brenda Gamble have been obtained to assist with typing and to prepare an up-to-date list of members and Newsletter addresses. Addressograph plates have been ordered.

ORIENTAL RUGS

On 30th September 1964, application was made to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council for a grant of £500 to meet the costs of an exhibition of rugs circulated by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. We are most grateful to the Arts Council for approving the grant. The landing and tour of the exhibition in New Zealand will be handled by the Auckland Art Gallery.

THE NEWTOWN MUSEUM, WELLINGTON

We are indebted to Mr. C.J. Lindsay, Taxidermist, Dominion Museum, Wellington, for sending the following account:

A museum now extinct and forgotten formerly existed in Riddiford Street, Newtown, occupying the top floor of the public library building, Wellington South Branch. It was controlled by the Wellington City Council. The first section of this building was erected in 1902 as a library, with two end additions completed in 1905. The ground floor was a public library and a hall used for meetings and dances. The upper floor was built for a museum, the nucleus of which was the E.W. Petherick Collection. This was formed by the late Mr. Petherick in the 1890-1906 period; prior to 1906, it was housed in a brick building especially erected at his home in Ellice Street. His sons not being interested in his museum, he donated it to the city, it being officially opened to the public in 1906.

E.W. Petherick was honorary curator 1906-10. At about this period Alex Yuill was taxidermist to the museum for some years, mounting many mammals that had died at the Zoo. He also made a restoration of one of the large moas. Henry Travers was curator 1913-1915,

C.J. Lindsay, after eight years service with the Canterbury Museum was appointed Taxidermist in Charge in 1924. He resigned in December 1926 to take an appointment with the Dominion Museum.

Under an arrangement with the Wellington City Council the Dominion Museum assumed responsibility for the collections in 1929, and with the completion of the new Dominion Museum in 1936 the collections in the Newtown Museum were transferred to it.

E.W. Petherick's collection consisted of natural history specimens, Maori artifacts, historical relics, coins, firearms etc. - a large collection, if perhaps not well planned. This was added to over the years, after it came under City Council control, by the addition of mammals and birds, chiefly specimens that had died at the Zoo. Maori artifacts and material from the Pacific were also well represented. Many foreign birds were in the collection and ninety eight species of New Zealand birds were on display.

In size this museum measured 9000 square feet in area. Its show cases were impressive - one case being 75' x 18' by 6' and contained mammals with dried foliage and artificial rocks. The other cases were island cases 10'6" x 4'6" x 6'6" and numbered twelve to fourteen. Wall cases extended over 300' of wall space. All cases were glazed with plate glass, wooden pillars being of small size and internal electric lighting of all the cases was a feature ahead of the times. Well painted landscape backgrounds were used in some of the wall cases. The material displayed was of not the same standard as the general planning or quality of the show cases, or lighting, but some exhibits were good, notably habitat groups of the South American Rhea, Royal Albatross, Giant Petrel or Nelly, and a collection of Terns from all countries.

Attendances were roughly recorded in 1926 and showed that about 18,000 people visited the museum during the twelve months.

Wellington South, or Newtown Museum is a thing of the past, and not known today even by many professional museum people. It had its day, even if only for a short thirty years 1906-1936, and helped to keep museums before the public; the Dominion Museum too would be the poorer without the more valuable material which was passed on to it.

The Museum and Library Building still stands in Riddiford Street, Newtown where it houses the National Health Institute, a research and reference laboratory in public health controlled by the Government Health Department.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

In accordance with the Rules (Rule 12, paragraphs 1-3), nominations for officers and council members must be called for by post at least six weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nominations in writing must be in the hands of the Secretary at least four weeks (i.e. by Wednesday, 24th February, 1965) prior to the Annual General Meeting. All nominations must be signed by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be Ordinary or Honorary Members of the Association. Nominees should consent to nomination, preferably by signing the nomination form.

It is recommended that the following additional information be supplied with each nomination:-

- (a) Occupation
- (b) Residence
- (c) Posts held
- (d) Other relevant qualifications

Copies of statements submitted will be sent out with the voting paper.

Notice is hereby given that nominations are called for the following officers and members of the Council:-

President
Vice-Presidents (two, one of whom shall be a Museum and one an Art Gallery representative)
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Council (eight members)

Candidates for these offices must be Ordinary or Honorary Members, or delegates for Institution Members. Voting for the above offices will be conducted by secret postal ballot at least 3 weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

The following officers and members of Council were elected at the last Annual General Meeting on 8th April, 1964:-

President	Mr. E.G. Turbott,	Auckland Museum, Director
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. H.C. McQueen,	Dominion Museum, Wellington
	Mr. P.A. Tomory,	Chairman, Museum Management Committee
		Auckland Art Gallery, Director
		(Senior Lecturer in the history and theory of Fine Arts. University of Auckland from 1.2.65)
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. R.H. Riccalton,	Canterbury Museum, Asst. Preparator
Hon. Secretary:	Dr. R. Cooper,	Auckland Museum, Botanist
Council:	Dr. R.K. Dell,	Dominion Museum, Assist. Director
	Dr. R.S. Duff,	Canterbury Museum, Director
	Dr. R.A. Falla,	Dominion Museum, Director
	Mr. V.F. Fisher,	Auckland Museum, Ethnologist
	Mrs. A.N. Gale,	Taranaki Museum, Chairman
		Museum Executive Committee
	Mr. B.G. Hamlin,	Dominion Museum, Botanist
	Mr. J.S.B. Munro,	Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum - Director
	Professor K.W. Thomson,	Manawatu Society of Arts, Palmerston North Art Gallery, Vice-President

Notice of delegates appointed by Institution Members should reach the Hon. Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting.

SCHOOL FOR CURATORS

At the Final Plenary Session, held at the Dominion Museum, Wellington on 9th April 1964, Mr. J. Hogan, Museum of Transport and Technology, and Mr. F.E. Smith, Wanganui Public Museum, suggested that the Council consider holding a "summer school" of two or three weeks for members to discuss problems of museum work. As several applications for grants had been lodged with the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council for other purposes, application was made to the J.R. McKenzie Trust for a grant towards the expenses of a course for curators of new, small or isolated galleries and museums - to meet tutor's costs and subsidize curators' fares and expenses. The J.R. McKenzie Trust distributes £50,000 to £70,000 each year, from the profits of McKenzies (N.Z.) Ltd., chain stores, for the care of the aged, youth work, educational purposes and research, under trusts established by the late Sir John McKenzie.

The J.R. McKenzie Trust granted £200 on 14th October 1964 for a training course for curators. A cheque has been received and it is a condition of the grant that the money be expended in 12 months.

The Council of the Association has asked the President, Secretary, and Auckland members to organise a course of one week, during the winter of 1965, using the J.R. McKenzie Trust grant of £200 and part of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council grant for Small Museums of £2,000, - the Association to invite applications (perhaps one from each institution), and to pay first class fares and £3 per day for out-of-pocket expenses for students and tutors, where necessary.

There will be an opportunity for members to discuss the proposed school at the Biennial Conference in March next.

PERSONAL

The Council resolved recently to extend best wishes to Messrs. C. McCahon, and P.A. Tomory on appointment to the staff of the University of Auckland. As Senior Lecturer in the history and theory of the Fine Arts, Mr. Tomory will continue his interest in training for art gallery work. He has been appointed Honorary Exhibitions Officer to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council for the next two years.

The Council also resolved recently:

1. to congratulate the Museum of Transport and Technology (Inc.) on opening communications and road transport sections on the 14th October last. (As it is not yet possible to offer a suitable contract for the engagement of a full-time Director, arrangements have been made for the essential duties of this office to be carried out on a part-time basis by the Executive Chairman, Mr. J.L. Hogan, with the status of Acting Director. Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Hogan.)
2. to congratulate the Langlois-Eteveneaux House Museum Board, Duvauchelle, on opening the historic house to the public on the 5th December last.

Members will learn with pleasure that the Council has decided to nominate Sir Gilbert Archey for Honorary Membership of the Association at the Annual General Meeting to be held at Napier on Wednesday, 24th March 1965. The formal motion and citation, in accordance with Rule 7C, will be sent to members with the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

Dr. T. Barrow, Ethnologist, Dominion Museum, Wellington, was invited by the Japanese Government to visit Japan in October 1964.

Miss J. Goulding, Assistant, Auckland Museum, left in early January 1965 to visit the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, for 6 months training in herbarium work, and to join the 1965 tour of American Museums arranged by the American Association.

Mr. L. Cappel of Canterbury Museum Education Section began duty as Preparator at Auckland Museum on 1st November 1964.