

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

1-30 OCT 1965
C/- Auckland Museum,
Private Bag,
Auckland, New Zealand.

A.G.M.A.N.Z. NEWSLETTER NO. 23

September, 1965.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II ARTS COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS
IN MUSIC, DRAMA, BALLET AND THE VISUAL ARTS FOR 1966.

The Council invites applications for a limited number of Awards to be taken up in 1966 as follows -

Scholarships: For students seeking institutional or private tuition extending over one or more years.

Value: Up to £750 plus £250 grant-in-aid of travel where applicable.

Fellowships: For established workers in the arts seeking to undertake special studies.

Value: Up to £1,500 plus up to £500 grant-in-aid of travel where applicable.

In both categories awards are available for study within New Zealand or for study and travel overseas.

For further information apply to -

The Secretary,
Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council,
P.O. Box 5198,
Lambton Quay,
WELLINGTON.

Closing Date for all applications - 30th September, 1965.

ART GALLERIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

A letter on behalf of the President and members was sent to the inaugural meeting of the Art Galleries Association of Australia, conveying best wishes for the success of the Association. This was acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Appleyard, National Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide.

The Inaugural Meeting was held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, from 9th - 11th June, 1965. Information had been sought about our Association and it appears that the new Australian Association will be run on similar lines. One difference is the appointment of a Board of Qualification to approve applications for membership before members are elected by Council. Apart from Honorary and Foundation members, membership seems to be restricted to full-time professional staff of Art Galleries, Art Museums, "or such other kindred institutions as the Council may approve" The subscription is 30/- (Australian) a year.

A CO-OPERATIVE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mr. Gilbert Docking, Director, and Mr. L. Charles Lloyd, Conservator, of the Auckland City Art Gallery, have prepared proposals for a national conservation service for works of art. There will be an opportunity for members to discuss the scheme at the Annual Meeting of the Association at Dominion Museum, Wellington, in March 1966. The proposals are :-

"It is with considerable concern for the welfare of picture collections throughout New Zealand, and the urgent necessity that treatment be made available, that the following scheme has been conceived:

(1) Co-operative Conservation Service:

The suggestion is to make a programme of conservation available to any member, public or private institution, museum or gallery, that cannot singly maintain an adequately equipped or staffed conservation department. What is envisioned is not a repair service, but a centre for the care and treatment of works of art, which could also provide information and advice leading to improved practices in maintaining collections.

(2) Inspections:

Regular inspection visits would be made to each collection, possibly biennially by the conservator.

(3) Card Records:

In the initial inspection a record card for each picture or object in the collection would be supplied; identifying the object, its materials and construction, details of damage and condition noted. The conservator would add recommendations for care and treatment. The objects requiring urgent attention would have a distinctive mark attached to the card. In addition, a photograph of each object would be made and attached to its appropriate card. All cards would then be filed with the curator of the museum. The plan of action would then be in the curator's hands; he may withhold some objects from exhibition or loan, or, in consultation with the conservator, he may arrange treatment, depending upon urgency, and as funds budgeted for conservation permitted. The documenting would consist of the following procedure:

The card size would be approximately 8½" x 5½". A code number would be allocated for each picture and placed at top left of card. This number would have a prefix letter denoting town or collection and a suffix letter identifying medium in which work was executed, such as WC=watercolour, O=oil, E=etching, etc.

This code number would be photographed with the picture, which would ensure location of the negative. The card would also indicate ARTIST, TITLE, SIZE AND PROVENANCE on the front, together with photographic print-size 5" x 4" and on the reverse side of card CONDITION, which would be completed and dated. Copies of the photographs could be ordered by the code number. The cost of these prints would depend on size required, but it is hoped to standardize at 10" x 8". These would be supplied at the non-profit making price of 1s. 6d. each, plus postage. Colour photographs for 35m/m slides would be taken at the same time, and would be held at the ACAG and could be ordered as desired at 3s. 0d. each.

(4) Condition Reports and Identification Service:

Should a curator be considering an object for purchase, he may use the services of the conservation department for a report on condition and identification of materials that may have a bearing on the object's provenance or history.

(5) Seminar:

A seminar of perhaps 2 days could be held in the early stages of such a scheme, at the Conservation department at the Auckland City Art Gallery. It would have as its object: to acquaint participants of measures they may adopt for improving conditions of their collections, and general matters of picture care.

Effective conservation depends upon the full co-operation of all who are associated with a collection, from packing of pictures to cost of conservation which museum trustees are called upon to underwrite.

(6) Subscription:

The plan devised for normal operating expenses is that in order to ensure participation, each member museum pays in advance an annual subscription of £25 which would cover the supply of cards and photographs (see 3) the initial seminar (see 5), and condition and identification reports (see 4). Charges for any conservation work would be by quotation to the curator.

(7) Archive:

As duplicates of all cards and photographs would be kept by the conservator, it would be possible to provide data to members of various collections throughout New Zealand, should they be desirous of borrowing specific works for exhibitions. This would, in fact, become a national archive of pictures, with details and photographs of the contents of public collections throughout New Zealand.

(8) Biennial Visit:

The length of stay at each Museum or Gallery for compilation of data, would of course be governed by the extent of the collection, and therefore, hotel expenses of the conservator and/or assistant would be borne by the institution, as a separate item to the annual subscription.

For a large proportion of each collection, it would not be possible to document it during hours when the collection was open to the public. At these times the collection in store could be processed; the displayed collection would be carded and photographed before or after hours. Such arrangements would in any case be by agreement with the curator. It would be advisable to process the major works on the first visit and the less important works on subsequent visits.

(9) National Catalogue:

It is hoped that as soon as a sufficiently large number of collections have been documented, a catalogue will be published and distributed.

(10) Summary:

1. The Co-operative Conservation Service therefore would include:
 - a) Supplying cards and documenting the collection.
 - b) Photographing the collection in black and white and colour.
 - c) Inspection of each work and advising regarding conservation.
 - d) General advice on care and storage of collection."

(Signed) G. DOCKING DIRECTOR

(Signed) L. CHARLES LLOYD CONSERVATOR

5th July, 1965.

AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY

CAPTAIN COOK'S LANDING SITE AT GISBORNE.

At the Annual General Meeting held at Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Napier, on 24th March 1965, Mr. W.H. Way, Director of the Gisborne Art Gallery and Museum, read a statement on Cook's landing site. He moved a motion that the Association's representative, Mrs. Gale, raise the subject with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. (See Newsletter No.22, of May 1965, page 11).

Advice has now been received that the Chairman of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Mr. Ormond Wilson; the Secretary, Mr. Burnett; Professor Beaglehole, Dr. Duff and Mrs. Gale will visit Gisborne in November to confer with interested parties.

FRANCES HODGKINS FELLOWSHIP

The Frances Hodgkins Fellowship of the University of Otago has been established to encourage painters and sculptors in the practice and advancement of their art, to associate them with the life of the University and, at the same time, to foster interest in the arts within the University. The Fellowship Fund has been provided by an anonymous donor. and the first Fellow will be appointed shortly to take up the award early in 1966.

The Association has been invited to appoint a member to act on the Selection Committee and the Vice-President (Art Galleries), Mr. P.A. Tomory, has been nominated to serve for 1965. Travelling expenses of members of the Selection Committee are provided from the Fellowship Fund.

This magnificent gift to the University will help to create a "centre of excellence" and in the long run will stimulate the arts, not only in Dunedin, but throughout New Zealand.

HISTORIC ARTICLES

1. Mr. Hamish Keith, Keeper, Auckland City Art Gallery, has written to express concern that the definition of a "historic article" in the 1962 Historic Articles Act does not cover paintings, drawings, etchings, etc., and has suggested that the Association make representations to the Department of Internal Affairs for an amendment to the Act.
2. The General Conference of Unesco, held in Paris from 20.10.64 to 20.11.64 at its 13th Session, adopted a recommendation that Member States take legislative or other steps to prohibit and prevent the illicit export, import and transfer of ownership of cultural property. Many of the recommendations are covered by the New Zealand Historic Articles Act 1962, and Historic Places Act 1954, but the following may be of interest to members :-
 - Clause 8. Museums...should refrain from purchasing any item... obtained through an illicit export, import or transfer of ownership.
 10. ...each Member State should...draw up a national inventory of cultural property.
 11. Each Member State should provide...a national service for the protection of cultural property...

- Clause 12. Each member State should...set up a fund...in order to have means necessary to purchase exceptionally important cultural property.
17. The disappearance of any cultural object should...be brought to the knowledge of the public by means of appropriate publicity.
18. Each Member State should...ensure to the bona fide purchaser of cultural property...to be returned...damages or fair compensation.

PUBLICATIONS NOTED

N.Z. Library Association Inc. 1965 A National Library for New Zealand. 8p.
Wright & Carman Ltd., Wellington.

The aims and duties of a National Library are listed and the history of the movement to form the library is described. The agitation to prevent the inclusion of the Alexander Turnbull Library is discussed and the provisions of the draft Bill to safeguard the integrity of the library are stressed. The need to provide a swift impartial reference service for Members of Parliament is mentioned, and the advantages of amalgamating the General Assembly Library, Alexander Turnbull Library and National Library Service are given. The Library Association commends the Government for the careful consideration given the proposals, and urges all who care about New Zealand's libraries and cultural heritage to demonstrate their support. There is an annotated list of references.

Clokier, Hermia N. 1964 An account of the Herbaria of the Department of Botany in the University of Oxford. 280p. 12pl.refs.
Oxford University Press. £3.10. 0.

Contains useful information about collectors including several who visited New Zealand in the early days. Descriptions of past Curators are fascinating, e.g. Jacob Brobart the elder tagged his beard with silver to attract many people to the Garden; Jacob the younger found it difficult to make ends meet, and his clothes, especially his hat, were very bad; Charles Daubeny had brilliant eyes and an intense expression "so that it was easy to believe that his interests extended to the Black Arts".

Sharp, Paul & E.M. Hatt 1964 Museums. 128p. illus. Chatto & Windus Ltd.
A National Benzole Book, edit. Sir Hugh Casson. 6/-

Contains readable descriptions and charming illustrations of more than 200 British museums, "idiosyncratic, humble, quirky, touching or scholarly, but all able to provoke human curiosity and thus, by extending man's capacity for enjoyment, help him to command happiness".

M E M B E R S H I P

Proposed for election at the next Council Meeting:

- The Hamilton Museum, C/- Mr. G.C. Henry, Secretary, Waikato Museum Society, 529 Grey Street, Hamilton.
- Mr. J. Chasemore James, Executive Officer, Wanganui Public Museum.
- Mr. G. Docking, Director, Auckland City Art Gallery.
- Mr. J. McCaw, Education Section, Auckland War Memorial Museum.

SCHOOL FOR CURATORS HELD AT AUCKLAND, JULY, 1965.

A school for curators of new, small and isolated museums was held at the Auckland War Memorial Museum from 19th to 22nd July, 1965. The following attended :-

Alexandra Historical Society Museum	- Mrs. N. Hannah
Coromandel School of Mines Museum	- Mr. J.G. Allington
Gavin Gifford Memorial Museum, Te Awamutu	- Mr. W.J. Tucker
Hamilton Art Gallery	- Mr. Jim Mack
Museum of Transport & Technology, Auckland	- Miss Fay Quigley and Mr. Roger McGirr
Russell Centennial Museum	- Miss Marie King
South Canterbury Historical Museum, Timaru	- Miss F.M. Clissold
Southland Museum, Invercargill	- Mr. Arthur J. Mackenzie
Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth	- Mr. Rigby Allan (Cancelled)
Thames Mineralogical Museum	- Mr. Alistair M. Isdale
Waihi Arts Centre & Museum	- Mrs. M.S. Martin
Waitangi Treaty House	- Mr. W.A. Lindsay
West Coast Historical Museum, Hokitika	- Mr. Robert Drummond
Whangarei City Council Museum	- Mr. J. Donnelly
University of Auckland, Zoology Department	- Miss J. Robb and Mr. K. Somerfield

The programme was a full one and entailed considerable walking and standing which brought home the meaning of museum fatigue. It was agreed by the participants that the inclusion of Museums and Art Galleries in the same course was quite satisfactory. Special appreciation was expressed of the visit to the Museum of Transport and Technology. More time for general discussion would have been appreciated by the curators. Accommodation and travel arrangements were apparently satisfactory.

Several curators expressed surprise that assistance was granted to non-members of the Association. The view was taken, however, that the grants from the J.R. McKenzie Trust and the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council are for all small art galleries and museums. It is hoped, of course, that non-members will join the Association when circumstances permit.

The following is the programme of the Course :-

Monday, 19th July: Meet in Library Reading Room, War Memorial Museum, back entrance, 2nd floor.

9.10 a.m. Welcome and talk by Mr. Turbott; tour of display galleries.

11.00 a.m. Mr. Fisher, Ethnology Department.

1.30 p.m. Mr. McIntosh Mr. Roe
Mr. Cappel Dr. Powell
Mrs. Brookes Dr. Cooper

Tuesday, 20th July: Meet at Auckland City Art Gallery, Wellesley St. East.

9.10 a.m. Welcome by Mr. Docking; tour of Gallery.
Mr. Docking - Art Galleries and the public.
Mr. Keith - Cataloguing procedure, attributions, publications.
Mr. Lloyd - Conservation - end at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, 21st July: Meet at Museum of Transport & Technology, Western Springs.

9.10 a.m. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Stone; tour of Museum and discussion of problems.

end at 11.30 a.m.

1.00 p.m. Meet at War Memorial Museum, front entrance.
Mr. Scobie - The Museum School Service
Mr. McCaw - School Service displays.
Miss Evans - Filing photographs and documents.
Mr. Tomory - Topographical drawings.
Mr. Cadman - Clubs for special groups.

Thursday, 22nd July: Meet at War Memorial Museum, back entrance.

9.10 a.m. Mr. Fisher - Cataloguing.

11.00 a.m. General discussion - care of collections, insect control.

1.30 p.m. Mr. Cappel - Lighting, dioramas, preservation. Planetarium session.

3.30 p.m. Tea, attended by Dr. E.H. Roche, on behalf of the President of the Auckland Institute and Museums.

In view of the number of people who could not attend, or who could not be accepted for the course this year, application has been made for another grant in 1966.

WORKS IN WAX

Mr. E.J. Pyke, 37 Craven Road, Hyde Park, London, W.2., is compiling a book on workers in wax and has asked for information:-

Museum reference number, title of wax, name of modeller if signed or otherwise authenticated, colour of wax, degree of relief, and colour and material used for the mount.

MUSEUM NEWS

WHANGAREI:

In April 1965, the Whangarei City Council approved the employment of an assistant to help the Curator, Mr. J. Donnelly. Councillors said that the museum was a credit to the City and the Curator.

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM:

Mr. R.S. Milne, Chairman and Managing Director of Messrs. Milne & Choyce Ltd., which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 1966, has announced the gift of a period display of an early colonial street to the War Memorial Museum. The cost will be about £7,000. The firm will pay all expenses incurred in research and architectural work and the designing and construction of the street, and contribute for 3 years to the salary of the museum staff needed to take charge of the display.

The War Memorial Museum has been asked to provide a regular changing display of Maori crafts and artifacts at the Auckland International Airport to open later this year.

Mr. K.A.J. Wise, who has been based in Canterbury Museum for the last 4 years, working each summer with Operation Deepfreeze, has been appointed Entomologist, Auckland War Memorial Museum, and will take up his new position on October 1st.

Other recent appointments are:-

Mr. T.J. Bayliss, Curator of War Relics and European Applied Arts;
A.F. van der Meijden, Assistant Education officer; Edna M. Stephenson, Recorder (Old Colonists); Lois J. Bishop, Recorder (Zoology);
Betty Blow, Clerical Assistant

The U.S. National Science Foundation has awarded Dr. A.W.B. Powell, and a Hawaiian colleague, 55,000 dollars for a two-year survey of land snail populations in Pacific Islands, Botany students, with a knowledge of Pacific plants, will be employed to assist with the fieldwork.

WAIUKU:

The Waiuku Museum Society, formed recently to establish a museum in the town, has the offer of part of the old fire station for premises. Members are preparing displays of the history of the district. The President is Mr. R.M. Green, and the Secretary is Mrs. M. Ruthe.

HAMILTON:

The Waikato Museum Society was formed in 1961 to establish a museum in Hamilton. As a result of discussions with the Hamilton City Council and the Waikato Winter Show Association, the Society has obtained one half (5,000 square feet) of the top floor of the William Paul Hall, near the centre of the City. The City Council will pay the rental, and the Society is now planning displays.

The Society has applied for membership of the Association, and the President, Mr. Turbott, and the Secretary, Dr. Cooper, attended the fourth annual meeting, held in the attractive Art Gallery on 29th July. The President extended a warm welcome and best wishes to the new museum. The President of the Waikato Museum Society is Mr. C.S. Fraser and the Secretary is Mr. G.C. Henry, 529 Grey Street, Hamilton.

CAMBRIDGE:

The Cambridge Historical Society is seeking more suitable accommodation for the storage of bulkier articles of its museum collection. At present the collection is stored under the stage of the Town Hall.

TE AWAMUTU:

The Gavin Gifford Memorial Museum has been placed on the Tourist Department's list as a tour attraction, and parties of overseas tourists have visited the museum to view its treasures. The President is Mr. H.A. Swarbrick, P.O. Box 54, Te Awamutu.

ROTORUA:

The Rotorua Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand is finalising plans for a museum in a building in Tutanekei Street. Mr. J. Healy is Chairman of the Committee concerned with planning the museum.

WHAKATANE:

The Whakatane District Centennial Museum Committee is raising funds for a museum building to be erected in the Whakatane Domain in 1967. The building of 5,200 square feet will include a lecture hall, kitchen, store and workroom. In May the young people of the town raised £26 for the fund at the Ohope Skating Rink, with skating exhibitions, a performance by the Rangitaiki Pipe Band, and a Queen of the Jeans contest.

In Newsletter 22 it was mentioned that the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council lacked funds for capital grants, and it is to be hoped that the Government will provide more lottery money to enable the Council to resume capital grants to match the splendid efforts which Whakatane and other small communities are making.

NORSEWOOD:

The Norsewood and Districts Pioneers' Memorial Cottage Committee has bought the former Lutheran Pastor's residence and moved it to a new site alongside the Norsewood library. The N.Z. Historic Places Trust granted £200 towards the cost. The Manse will be opened as a museum before Christmas 1965 and will show the Scandinavian history of the district. The Chairman is Mr. J.A.N. Halford, and the Secretary is Mrs. K.B. Clayton, P.O. Box 50, Norsewood.

DOMINION MUSEUM:

In July 1965, Dr. C.A. Fleming, President of the Royal Society of New Zealand, announced that Dr. R.K. Dell, Assistant Director, Dominion Museum, Wellington, would be one of the New Zealand scientists to participate in the expedition of the Royal Society, London, to the Solomon Islands protectorate. Dr. Dell was awarded the 1965 Hector Medal for his researches on marine animals.

The Dominion Museum has received the gift of about 200 Maori artifacts, a number of Pacific Island objects, and 4,000 negatives from Mrs. E.M. Adkin of Evans Bay, Wellington. They were the property of the late Mr. Leslie G. Adkin.

BLLENHEIM:

The Marlborough Provincial Museum Trust is seeking support for a modern museum in Blenheim. Local authorities of the Province are being asked to consider rating proposals to provide £3,000 a year for the running costs of a museum.

MURCHISON:

In May 1965, Mr. J.R. Eyles, Director of the Nelson Provincial Museum, addressed a public meeting called to form an historic society and museum in the town.

KAIKOURA:

A local museum is being set up and is arousing much interest.

(Christchurch Press, 22.5.65).

HORNBY:

The Canterbury Museum of Science and Industry has been formed to display the spectacular development of the pure and applied sciences. A site in Garvins Road, Hornby, has been acquired; exhibits are being sought; and opening date is set for October 9. The President is Mr. M.A. Connelly, M.P., and the Secretary is Mr. J.F. Williams.

CANTERBURY MUSEUM:

In May 1965, the Canterbury Museum Trust Board considered suggestions for an extension to the museum building to mark the centenary in 1970. The proposed "Hundredth Anniversary Wing" will provide display space, storage facilities, a passenger and goods lift, and enable the museum to develop on the present site for some years.

Recent appointments include:

Mr. M.M. Trotter, Field Archaeologist and Assistant Ethnologist; and Miss Marie Buchler, B.Sc., Assistant Keeper of Zoology.

A superb collection of pieces of furniture and European, Chinese and Japanese artifacts has been bequeathed to the museum by the late Mr. Heathcote Helmore, who was a member of the Trust Board from 1952 until his death in 1965.

TIMARU:

In May 1965, the Mayor, Mr. C.E. Thomson, announced that work would begin immediately on the erection of the new building for the South Canterbury Historical Museum in Perth Street, Timaru. The contract of £47,540 is to be completed by March 1966.

WAIKOUAITI:

The Bank of New Zealand has given a former bank building to the Waikouaiti Early Settlers' Association for use as a pioneer museum. Special displays will be shown this year. The President of the Association is Mr. C. McCallum.

ALEXANDRA:

The Alexandra District Historical Association is raising £5,000 to erect a new building as the present museum premises are too small. The new building will be a memorial to the late Sir William Bodkin. The President of the Historical Association is Mr. S.F. Bringans and the Secretary is Mrs. Noel Hannah, Bridge Hill, Alexandra.

OTAGO MUSEUM:

The U.S. National Institute of Health have granted the Director, Dr. R.R. Forster, 12,500 dollars to continue his researches on spiders; 500 dollars are for a microscope and 3,000 dollars a year for 4 years are to support technical assistants. Mr. C.L. Whilton has been appointed to assist Dr. Forster in the project.

In June 1965, the Otago Museum Trust Board decided to ask the educational authorities for a grant towards the increased running costs of the museum education service.
