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Auckland.
NEW ZEALAND.

A. G. M. A. N. Z. NEWSLETTER NO. 37

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The President and Council wish members the compliments of the Season.

VISIT OF MR. N.S. BROMMELLE

A tentative itinerary for the visit of Mr. N. S. Brommelle, Keeper of Conservation, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, has been circulated to Directors and Council members. Mr. R. N. Hollyer, British Council Liaison Officer, British High Commission, Wellington, is completing details of the tour, which is under the auspices of the British Council. It is hoped that Mr. Brommelle will attend the Annual Meeting of the Association, at Dominion Museum, Wellington, on 9th - 10th April, 1968.

10th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 1969

In Newsletter No. 34 of June 1967, members were asked to indicate their wishes before Council accepted one of the invitations. Forms were sent to 55 Art Galleries and Museums and 109 members of staffs, etc., a total of 164. Replies were received from 63. The voting for Auckland, Gisborne and Wanganui was very close. Accordingly, the Council decided on 13. 11. 67 to accept the invitation from Wanganui Public Museum. The Council is most grateful to the Auckland Institute and Museum, Gisborne Art Gallery and Museum and the Wanganui Public Museum for extending invitations to the Association.

RATES

On 13. 4. 67 Mr. H. C. McQueen and the Hon. Secretary attended a meeting of the Local Bills Committee to present submissions asking that the words "land used for public art galleries and museums" be added to the First Schedule of the Rating Bill 1967, so that these institutions would be exempted from paying rates. The Bill has since been passed by Parliament. The exemption sought was not granted.

CAPITAL SUBSIDIES

On 13. 11. 67 a deputation from AGMANZ met the Visual Arts Committee of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand. Members of the deputation were Dr. R. R. Forster (President), Dr. R. S. Duff (Vice-President), Mr. J. W. Brodie, Dr. R. K. Dell and Mr. J. S. B. Munro (Council Members), and Dr. R. C. Cooper (Hon. Secretary). A formal record of the discussion should be available

shortly and further submissions will be made then to the Minister of Internal Affairs.

GOVETT - BREWSTER ART GALLERY

The Local Authorities Loans Board has deferred a decision on the application of the New Plymouth City Council to raise a loan of \$50,000 for the proposed Govett-Brewster Art Gallery at New Plymouth. The reason given is "current economic circumstances". Mr. H. Eastgate, Secretary of the Loans Board, said in a telephone interview with the Taranaki Herald on 10. 11. 67 that, although there were some special cases, the Board's general policy was that application would be granted only for essential works.

The decision is not unique. The Otamatea County Council, Paparoa, was granted only limited permission to extend the Otamatea Kauri and Pioneer Museum at Matakohe despite the fact that they had adequate funds in the bank from donations and local loans. The Wanganui Museum's tangle with red tape was described in Newsletter 25 of February 1966.

Since 1951, visitors to New Zealand public art galleries and museums have more than doubled in number. Further spectacular increases, especially from tourism, are expected in the next few years. Galleries and museums cannot play their part in education, research and tourism if additions and new buildings are classed as "non-essential".

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In April 1966 the Annual Meeting of the Association resolved that a subcommittee should prepare a document for vocational guidance and career officers on employment opportunities in art galleries and museums. Drafts were circulated in Newsletter 32, and considered by members at the Biennial Conference at Southland Museum. It was decided to refer the drafts back to Council to prepare a fresh draft. The Hon. Secretary reported to Council on 13. 11. 67 that it is impossible to produce a useful leaflet at present. There is no intake of trainees to Museums, and only 5 trainees have been appointed to Art Galleries (Auckland City Art Gallery) in recent years. Vacancies occur rarely, and then are filled with experienced workers from other institutions, or graduates or non-graduates with an appropriate hobby interest. The Council decided to delay preparation of a leaflet until a more opportune time.

GUIDE

During the year the manuscript of the new edition of the Guide to New Zealand Art Galleries and Museums has been altered and now includes more than 100 entries. It was submitted to Paul's, Publishers, for an opinion on the text, photos and maps, and for a second price for printing. Devaluation has delayed the price. Paul's have given a preliminary report, and it seems that the manuscript is too long to make into a cheap, attractive, tourist booklet. The Guide is now a solid reference book, but sales to libraries will not be sufficient to justify the cost of publishing it. Paul's final report should be available shortly.

MUSEUMS FUND

On 18.5.67 AGMANZ Council considered proposals from members for the future use of the Fund. There is a full report of the long discussion in Newsletter 34. Mr. David Peters, Director of the Arts Council, attended the meeting and said that the fund was limited and that the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council would prefer that it be used so that benefits result to the whole museum movement rather than to a local activity.

On 13.11.67 AGMANZ Council received further proposals from the Auckland City Art Gallery, the Hamilton Art Gallery, and the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum. Following the discussion of each suggestion, the President, Dr. R.R. Forster said that none of the proposals is national in scope. AGMANZ Council cannot avoid the difficult task of selecting some local activities as likely to be of greater general benefit than others. Dr. R.S. Duff commented that lack of expert staff is a common factor.

The Council considered applications for grants and approved the following subsidies:

- \$500 for travelling expenses of Mr. R.H. Riccalton, Asst. Preparator, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, to assist the Cook Islands Library and Museum with displays. The Canterbury Museum is contributing Mr. Riccalton's salary, and the Cook Islands Library and Museum is providing about \$1,200 for other expenses.
- \$ 50 for travelling expenses for experts to assist the Pukekohe Historic Places Committee with the identification of items in their collection.
- \$110.40 for air fares and accommodation for Miss E. Rundle, of the staff of Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth, to train for two weeks at Canterbury Museum. Taranaki Museum will pay salary during the training period.
- \$ 35 as a two-thirds subsidy towards the cost of restoring a portrait of Sir George Grey at the Whangarei City Council Museum.
- \$126, being the fee for restoring three Lindauer paintings at the Wanganui Public Museum. The Museum has spent \$540 already, and seven other works will have to be done.
- \$200 towards the cost of photographic displays at the Otamatea Kauri and Pioneer Museum, Matakoho. The Museum's contribution is \$500.

An application for \$2,000 to catalogue a Museum collection could not be approved on the information supplied by the member. In considering past applications for help with cataloguing, members of Council have expressed the view that cataloguing is a day-to-day job of the staff. Subsidies have been approved to bring an existing catalogue up to date (Taranaki Museum, Otago Museum and Palmerston North Art Gallery) and to assist in a crisis (i. e. at Wanganui Public Museum where the floor collapsed and material had to be rescued and re-identified). Grants were limited to 50% of the salaries involved and did not cover "other expenses" such as catalogue boxes.

Applications will be invited again in February and dealt with at the next Council Meeting on the 8th April, 1968.

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS
AND HISTORIC SITES

The Rome University Faculty of Architecture offers a course in the conservation and restoration of monuments and historic sites for architects, archaeologists and art historians with university degrees. Applications to attend should be sent to the Executive Secretary, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, 256 via Cavour - 00184 Rome. Scholarships may be sought through the UNESCO National Committee or the Italian Embassy. A booklet giving fuller details is available from the Hon. Secretary of AGMANZ.

FRIENDS OR AMIGOS

A society, Amigos de los Museos was founded at Barcelona in 1933 to assist Spanish Museums. It has now decided to hold an International Congress of Friends of Museums at Barcelona from the 22nd to the 26th April, 1968. Members interested should write to the Organizer of the Congress, Amigos de los Museos, Palacio de la Virreina, Rambla de las Flores, Barcelona (2), Spain.

HOTEL, AIR AND OTHER BOOKINGS

The firm, Atlantic and Pacific Travel (Auckland) Ltd., 77 Queen Street, Auckland, has offered to make hotel, air and other bookings for members travelling within or outside New Zealand. The Travel Agency has branches in Wellington and Christchurch. It is difficult sometimes to obtain hotel bookings in Wellington, and the service could be of use to members attending Annual and Council meetings. The firm has also offered to seek group travel concessions if sufficient members advise that they are travelling to an Annual Meeting or Conference.

PUBLICATIONS NOTED

Brawne, Michael 1965 The New Museum . . . 208pp. illus. Frederick A. Praeger, New York. \$US 20-.

Twenty years ago someone devised "The New Morphology". Critics commented immediately on the naivety and errors of the new faith, and it ceased to be a fashionable branch of botany. The New Museum suffers from some of the faults of the New Morphology. Need we be told that "Museum storage occupies a considerable proportion of the total floor area", or that "Labels . . . provide certain factual information" or that "Open air Museums are not restricted in the size of the object they put on display"?

The book is described as a "World-wide survey" of contemporary Museum architecture, but does not include the exciting new Museums of Israel, Mexico or Tahiti. In fact, it is a discussion of fifty Museums, in Europe, the United States, and the Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro, the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, and the Ghandi Memorial Museum, Ahmedabad.

The illustrations are excellent and the text contains a great amount of information in compact form. Even at \$20, it is a good buy.

Praed, J.M. (editor) 1967

Preservation in Local History,
Proceedings of the University
of New England Seminar,
January 1967. 98pp.
The University Printery, Armidale.
\$NZ 2-.

This book contains papers read at a seminar for historical societies, arranged by the Department of University Extension of the University of New England, Armidale, N. S. W., Australia. The papers deal with writing local history, collecting family and genealogical records, studying pictorial records, what to look for and collect, and the preservation of transport exhibits.

It is a common assumption that the Museum collection belongs to those who happen to occupy seats on the Board or posts on the staff, but the notion is attacked by one writer in these Proceedings, who comments: "Local pride is one thing, but practices which interfere with the proper use of material in the most convenient and well equipped places by people who are qualified to make proper use of it, are indefensible." Stimulating reading, and a very good buy at \$2-.

TAXIDERMY

A Schluter KG, German Biological Supply, 7057 Winnenden bei Stuttgart, Western Germany, has forwarded an illustrated pricelist of taxidermic specimens, skins, skeletons and skulls, of mammalia, aves, reptilia and pisces, to the Hon. Secretary of AGMANZ.

MEMBERSHIP

At the Council Meeting held on 13. 11. 67, the following were elected:

Individual Membership:

Miss Janet Davidson, E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist, Auckland Institute and Museum.

Mrs. N. Munro, Hawke's Bay Art Gallery & Museum, Napier.

Mrs. Margaret J. Neilson, Hon. Secretary, Manawatu Museum Planning Society, P.O. Box 153, Palmerston North.

Mr. John Wadham, Extension Service Officer, Auckland Institute & Museum.

Institution Membership:

The Invercargill Public Art Gallery (Inc.) C/- 104 Islington Street, Invercargill.

The Vincent County and Dunstan Goldfields Museum, C/- Miss E. L. Annan, Hon. Secretary, Dunstan Cottage, Clyde.

TRAVEL GRANT

On 13. 11. 67 the Council approved a grant of \$1, 000 from the De Beer

Fund to assist Mr. J. S. B. Munro to visit U. S. A., Great Britain and Europe in 1968. Mr. Munro will attend the Annual Meeting of the Museums Association in July and the 8th International Conference of Museums at Cologne and Munich in July and August 1968.

The De Beer Fund was set up in 1964 when Dr. Esmond de Beer and his sisters made the gift of \$600 a year for 10 years to provide auxiliary grants for members of staffs of New Zealand Museums to travel overseas.

PUTARURU MUSEUM

The Putaruru Jaycee Inc. has produced a report, plans and estimates for a Timber and Forest Industries Museum. It is proposed to form a Putaruru Museum Society to raise funds and build the Museum, which will be situated in or near the Domain and facing the Auckland - Wellington Highway.

WAIHI ARTS CENTRE AND MUSEUM

The new cabinet for additional mineral specimens has been completed. This was made possible by a grant received from the Mines Dept., last year ... Classes of school children and Rock and Mineral Groups from Auckland and as far south as the Hutt are still availing themselves of our facilities for study. They have all expressed their appreciation of our collection ... From Newsletter 15 of the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum Association (Inc.), November 1967.

Robert Cooper,
Hon. Secretary.