



Auckland War Memorial Museum

NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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EXHIBITION NEWS

Medals and Medallions from New Zealand and Europe

Currently on display in the Furniture Hall is an exhibition comprised of European and New Zealand medals drawn from the museum's numismatic collection.

The display is a response to exhibitions on the medallic arts recently held at the Auckland galleries, Fingers and Star Art. Whilst these focused on the work of contemporary New Zealand medallists, the museum's display spans more than three centuries, the earliest piece being a gilt memorial medal commemorating Charles 1, made in 1649. The most recent pieces on display are two art medals, both made last year, one by British born Ron Dutton, titled 'Stonehenge', the other by the New Zealand born medallist Marian Fountain, titled 'Graziano as Christ'.

The extent and diversity of the collection has allowed us the freedom of focusing on a number of different themes, all of which highlight the traditional role of the medal as a vehicle of commemorative sentiment and of artistic expression.

Of the various themes explored in the display, is one which looks at medals commemorating both New Zealand and British exhibitions. This includes medals by the New Zealand silversmiths Anton Teutenberg and G. Coates. It also features a rare boxed set of bronze medals, presented to the New Zealand government by the Commissioners of the Great Exhibition held in London in 1851.

A group of medals relating to Captain James Cook includes an important recent acquisition, a silver 'Resolution and Adventure' medal of 1772, which



Anne Carpenter

commemorates Cook's second voyage to the Pacific.

Two curious pieces with a naval theme, are a German medal and British copy which commemorate the sinking of the 'Lusitania' a British passenger liner, by a German submarine, on May 7th 1915. The discrepancy between the date on the medal, May 5, and of the actual sinking of the vessel, provides evidence that the attack was premeditated

Included in the display are two medals which were presented separately to Sir George Grey in the nineteenth century. The earliest is a simple but beautifully engraved New Zealand made silver medal mounted in Australian gold, which was presented to Grey by the 'Artisans of Wellington' in 1853. The other more detailed medal (pictured), was presented to Grey by the Zoological Society of London in 1860, 'in acknowledgement of numerous valuable donations of South African animals'. Grey's interest in exotic wildlife extended to his famous private menagerie on Kawau Island which, from the 1870s, included zebra and monkeys.

The exhibition will continue into August. *Angela Lassig*

Museum Photographs Wanted

The Museum has recently engaged a conservation architect Mr Clive Lucas to undertake a Conservation Plan on the Museum building. The Museum is of national architectural and historical significance and is classified 'A' by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

The Conservation Plan will assist the Museum staff to ensure that future development and maintenance programmes recognise, enhance and protect the significant qualities of the building. Part of the work for the plan involves documenting the history of the building.

The Museum Library has a number of interior photographs but Library staff would also be interested in seeing any photographs that Members might have illustrating the building's interior prior to 1970. Please contact Ian Thwaites or Gordon Maitland in the Library if you have any photographs.

Rare Medal Bought by Members

A rare silver medal has been purchased for the Museum, using funds provided by our Members for the purchase of Museum objects.

The "Resolution and Adventure" medal is one of only 106 silver specimens struck, and it represents a highly significant addition to the collections.

In 1772, Sir Joseph Banks arranged with his friend the noted industrialist and medallist Matthew Boulton to produce medals for presentation to people he would meet on the second voyage of exploration of James Cook. Banks had been an enthusiastic trader on the first voyage, and he wanted to have suitable items to use to trade with on the next voyage. He also wanted to commemorate the voyage, since as well as the 2,000 bronze medals he ordered, he also had made 2 in gold and 106 in silver.

In the event, Banks did not go on the voyage, but some of the medals certainly did. Some of the bronze medals have been found in countries including New Zealand which were visited during Cook's second and third voyages, since some left over bronze medals were also taken on the third voyage. The gold and silver medals were given to Banks' friends and associates in England.



Only one of the 2 gold medals survives, in the British Museum, and not all of the 106 silver medals survive. Three others are known to be in collections in New Zealand, but this example is the only one in the northern North Island, and an important acquisition. The medal was bought at auction in Sydney.

The medal shows the head of King George III and his titles as king on the front, and a view of the two ships Resolution and Adventure on the reverse, with the legend "Resolution Adventure sailed from England March 1772". This reverse view is what gives the medal its name. Because of delays in preparing the ships, some of which contributed to Banks' decision not to accompany the voyage, Cook did not in fact depart until July 1772.

During the voyage, which was designed particularly to explore the existence of a great southern continent, the expedition spent quite a lot of time in New Zealand waters, and bronze medals were distributed in both Queen Charlotte Sound and Dusky Sound. Although the silver medals were not carried on the voyage, the silver specimen purchased for the Museum is a very fine example, and provides a notable link with an early phase of European contact with New Zealand.



Museum Planetarium

The Museum Council has agreed to give its Planetarium projector and related equipment to the Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust, for installation at the Auckland Observatory at One Tree Hill.

In 1959 Farmers Trading Company presented to Auckland Museum an American Spitz Planetarium projector, and generously assisted with the expenses involved in setting it up in the Museum. Over the last thirty years the sixty seat Planetarium has brought education and enjoyment to many Museum visitors, especially the school groups which have made considerable use of it to study the night sky as part of their lessons.

However, the projector is approaching the end of its already extended working life. Few people today would use a television, a gramophone or a computer which they purchased in 1959, because technology has made enormous advances since that time. The same is true for Planetarium projectors. Major refurbishment four years ago allowed its use to be extended, but both its component parts and its capabilities had been superseded long ago. Although the projector could be expected to remain useable for a little while yet, consideration of other space requirements within the Museum have led the Museum Council to the decision to close the Planetarium.

In particular, the need to ensure that the Museum can continue to generate a significant portion of its own revenue through the activities of the Museum Shop was seen by the Council as being very important. At a time when all our funding bodies are looking to keep their costs to a minimum, the Museum must be seen to be willing to help itself as much as possible.

Discussions were held at the time of the refurbishing four years ago with the Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust, which owns and operates the Auckland Observatory on One Tree Hill. It was agreed that once the Museum's projector reached the end of its life, the Trust would aim to establish a Planetarium as an adjunct to its Observatory facilities. The Museum Council's decision has brought that time forward a few years from the date originally anticipated, but the Trust is enthusiastic to establish a planetarium. To that end, it asked the Museum Council to give to it the Spitz Planetarium projector and associated equipment such as the specialised seating, to use in the meantime until such time as sufficient funds can be raised to purchase a

Annual Meeting

Notice is here... Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum held at the Museum on September 2nd. Note, not September 1st, as suggested in...

Business will be considered at the Annual Report and Accounts (to be presented by members before setting of the 1990-1991 accounts). Election of the Vice-President representative to the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum business.

Call for Nominations

In accordance with the Auckland Institute and Museum Act 1962, seven representatives of Members on the Auckland Institute and Museum Meeting. Accordingly, we hereby call for nominations to the Council.

The retiring members are Dr H Coop, Dr G Law, Mr G Law, Mr G Law. They are all retiring. However, Dr G Law is being re-elected by the Council. Vice-President membership that office. This does not need to be a Member.

There is no limit on the number of nominations made in writing and second nominations are current financial year. Auckland Institute and Museum nominee, who is a member, shall be the nominator. Voters, nominators, and particular consideration for suitability for the office with the voting.

Nominations should be sent to Mr G. S. Park, Auckland Institute and Museum, Auckland. The meeting is later than 4pm on September 1989.

modern projector.

The Planetarium will close at the Museum at the end of the second school term, on Wednesday August 23rd 1989. The date of its re-opening at the Observatory is not certain, since a number of matters such as related fund-raising and town planning permission have still to be resolved. What is certain is that Auckland will continue to enjoy good facilities for astronomical education, with prospects for a considerable improvement when the Observatory and Planetarium Trust is able to acquire a modern Planetarium projector.

Although Auckland Museum will no longer be involved directly in astronomical education, it will continue to teach its visitors, both school pupils and others, about the astronomical and navigational skills of the Maori people of New Zealand and their ancestors, who explored the Pacific Ocean using a variety of navigational techniques. The Auckland Observatory will continue and strengthen the astronomical education work with school classes and the general public which it has been developing over the last several years.

Kia Ora, Sir Hugh

Our warmest congratulations are extended to Council member Sir Hugh Kawharu, who was knighted for his services to the Maori people in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

As Sir Hugh noted in the Press, he has been very active in many organisations, including the Museum, in helping all New Zealanders achieve an improved awareness of each culture by the other. Although Sir Hugh's service to the Museum was not specifically referred to in the citation, we know that his service to the Maori people and to New Zealand through many avenues, including his work for the Museum, was being acknowledged.

Sir Hugh was elected to the Council as a representative of the members in 1967. He resigned in 1970, to move to take up the chair in Social Anthropology at Massey University. On his return to Auckland, he was again elected in 1985 as a members' representative, a position he still holds.

E Ta Hiu, tena koe. To Sir Hugh and Lady Freda, our hearty congratulations.

Lunchtime Concert Series

The concerts given by the Auckland University Music School are proving to be extremely popular and the recital held the first Monday in June was enjoyed by a large audience. The programme included arias from operas by Mozart, Rossini, and Verdi ending with the delightful 'Serenade to Music' by Vaughan Williams. The conductor was Harry Coghill and the singers were accompanied on the piano by Colleen Rae Gerrard.

Following the July concert, future performances will be the first Sunday in the month. The time 12.15-1.00pm in the Furniture Hall. The recitals are free and everyone is welcome to attend.

The Collard and Collard piano in the collection has been described as 'magnificent' and 'a joy to play' and

Colleen Rae Gerrard who gave the first public performance on the piano last year, welcomes each opportunity to play in the gallery. The piano is dated 1876 and was brought to New Zealand by the McFarlane family when they left Scotland in 1953. The piano was sold to Lewis Eadys, subsequently repaired, and presented to the museum by Mr. L. Alfred Eady in 1964.

The Collard and Collard piano is a typical design of the period and has a seven octave range. Early pianos had only a five octave range and pieces by Mozart, Haydn and early Beethoven were written for these instruments. Gradually piano makers added half octaves and had increased to six and a half by Beethoven's time. Modern instruments have seven and a half octaves.



Mr Turbott Honours

The Museum's E. G. Turbott Q.S. received the Farallone award commending his contribution to ornithology by the Ornithological Society.

Mr Turbott took part in the anniversary celebration of the society, and other founding members of the meeting to share their knowledge of ornithology.



Library

In recent years there has been a significant growth in literature about New Zealand's military history, which is now well served by the Auckland's military history society who were known as the New Zealand Fencible Society. The Society has been publishing a newsletter, *The Tamaki City Librarian*, which is a feature of Fencible Society research which has done a great deal of work. Shirley Kendall, the Librarian, has an appropriate volume.

Mr Turbott Honoured

The Museum's Director Emeritus, Mr E. G. Turbott QSO, has received the Falla Memorial award for his contributions to ornithology. The award commemorates the late Sir Robert Falla, one of the country's foremost bird-watchers, and is bestowed for outstanding contributions to New Zealand ornithology by the council of the Ornithological Society.

Mr Turbott took part in the recent 50th anniversary celebratory conference of the society, at which he and a few other founding members addressed the meeting to share their memories of ornithology a half century ago.

UNESCO Appointment

The Director General of UNESCO Professor Federico Mayor visited the Museum during his short tour of New Zealand recently. Professor Mayor showed a keen interest in the Maori and Pacific displays of the Museum, which he was shown by the Director. Later the Director of the Auckland Museum, Stuart Park attended a meeting of the National Commission for UNESCO with the Director General and the Parliamentary reception for him. Mr Park was elected as Deputy Chair of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO at that meeting.

Enlistment Rolls for both 1NZEF and 2NZEF are available on microfiche. Two new books for genealogists are **Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History**, by James Ryan and **How to Trace your Military Ancestors in Australia and New Zealand**, by R.H. Montague.

The Library continues to receive many interesting and significant manuscript items. Recently a large group of records was donated by the Auckland Gas Company, closely following similar donations by Arthur Yates Limited and Farmers Trading Company. Two quite different accessions are the papers of the late Miss Lucy Moore, the well-known New Zealand botanist and the papers of the late Dr. A. W. B. Powell, who was for many years conchologist of this Museum.

Auckland District members of the Ancient Order of Foresters have gathered together a large collection of photographs, certificates, badges, sashes, uniforms and many other items and these have been donated to the Museum. In recent years many similar benefit societies have gone out of existence and it is pleasing that such a comprehensive record is available in this case. It is to be hoped that a display of these attractive items may be possible at some future date. Thanks are due to A. O. F. members Joe McKenna and Bernie Turner who have provided information which has assisted greatly with identification.

The Members Library Purposes Fund has provided funds for the purchase of a copy of the facsimile edition of the first book printed in the Antarctic. This is Sir Ernest Shackleton's **Aurora Australis**, first published at the winter headquarters of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1907-1908. The facsimile reproduces the original binding and covers of twine, packing cases and seal-skin. Only 100 of the original edition were printed. We are also grateful to long-serving Museum volunteer Mr Olaf Peek who has donated a copy of the definitive book about British aircraft carriers, **British Carrier Aviation**, by Norman Friedman.

Periodicals and Interloans Librarian, Mrs Mary Fitzgibbon has just returned from a six week visit to Canada and the U.S.A. Mary managed to visit 16 libraries, many of which have publication exchange agreements with our own library. Important contacts were made with such libraries as the San Diego Society of Natural History and the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Mary was especially pleased to find great interest shown in our library and in New Zealand materials generally by the Librarian at the B. P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

Ian Thwaites

Library News

In recent years there has been a rapid growth in literature about New Zealand's military history. One group which is now well documented are Auckland's military pensioner settlers who were known as the Royal New Zealand Fencibles. A Fencible Society has been in existence for some time and it publishes its own newsletter, **The Fencible Bugle**. The Tamaki City Library has also made a feature of Fencible research. One researcher who has brought together a great deal of Fencible material is Mrs Shirley Kendall, of Peshurst, N.S.W. The Library has bound her files into appropriate volumes and shown

above with these items are the Librarian, Ian Thwaites and former long-serving library staff member Mrs Rie Fletcher who is well-known to many for her genealogical expertise.

The Library's rare set of the newspaper **Rodney and Otamatea Times, 1911-1952**, has now been filmed by the National Library of New Zealand. A previous gap in our holdings of the **New Zealand Herald**, 1950-1967 has also been filled with microfilm copies.

There is good news for genealogists and military historians now that the



Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 121st Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum will be held at the Museum on Monday **September 25th 1989 at 8 pm** (please note, not September 11th, as suggested in the Syllabus card).

Business will include the consideration and adoption of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (to be distributed to members before the meeting), the setting of the subscription rate for 1990-1991 and the declaration of election of the President, Vice-President and seven representatives of the members on the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum, as well as general business.

Call for Nominations

In accordance with the rules of the Auckland Institute and Museum, seven representatives of the Members on the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum retire from the Council at the Annual General Meeting. Accordingly, nominations are hereby called for seven vacancies on the Council.

The retiring members are Mr A Berry, Dr H Coop, Dr L Ferguson, Dr M King, Mr G Law, Mr M Print and Miss J Robb. They are all eligible for re-election. However, Dr Coop has been elected by the Council to the position of Vice-President, which entitles him to membership of the Council through that office. This means that he does not need to be elected to the Council as a Member's representative.

There is no special form for nominations, but nominations must be made in writing, and must be made and seconded by people who are current financial members of the Auckland Institute and Museum. The nominee, who must also be a current member, should signify acceptance of the nomination. For the guidance of voters, nominees should include brief particulars of their experience and suitability for office, to be distributed with the voting papers.

Nominations should be forwarded to Mr G. S. Park, Secretary, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland. They must reach him no later than 4pm on Monday August 28th 1989.

Forthcoming Lectures

Monday July 17th 1989 1.00pm.

Professor Raewyn Dalziel The Legacy of the Pioneer Woman

Professor Dalziel has taught history at Auckland University since 1972. She chairs the Advisory Committee to the Government's Historical Branch and the recently established New Zealand History Research Trust. Professor Dalziel is also on the University's Advisory Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities and was a member of its Committee on the Status of Academic Women. Professor Dalziel has published a number of papers on New Zealand political history and womens history.

The address will focus on the way New Zealanders have created a picture of the 'colonial women' - the strong, enduring, courageous woman who battled against hardship and odds - and how that view has influenced our notions of womanhood and appropriate female behaviour.

Monday August 7th 1989 1.00pm.

Professor Kevin O'Connor Alien Animals in New Zealand Grasslands

Professor O'Connor, Professor of Range Management at Lincoln College has been appointed the 1989 Cockayne Memorial Lecturer by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The lecture reviews some of the important advances in understanding animal behaviour and impact in New Zealand grasslands since the pioneer work in these fields of Leonard Cockayne.

Tuesday September 5th 1989 1.00pm.

Grace Cochrane The Contemporary Arts and Crafts Movement: some links between Australia and New Zealand

Grace Cochrane is from Hastings, New Zealand and has lived in Australia since 1972. An artist and arts administrator, she worked in Tasmania for most of this time. She returned to study to gain a BFA in 1984 and an MFA in 1986 at the Tasmanian School of Art, University of Tasmania. Grace has been involved in the crafts movement in Australia through the Crafts Councils network since the early 1970's, and has also been a member of both the Crafts Board and the Visual Arts Board of the Australian Council. She has

been researching and writing the history of the contemporary crafts movement in Australia since early 1986, and is currently a Curator in Australian decorative arts and design, post-1945, at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (which includes the Powerhouse Museum) Sydney.

Ms Cochrane's lecture will suggest that despite the historical and traditional similarities of both Australia and New Zealand, craft practice is one way of expressing personal identity and a sense of place.

Monday 18th September 1989 1.00pm

Dr. Anne Salmond Tipua Goblins from the Sea.

Monday 25th September 1989 8.00pm
Annual General Meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Members are asked to note three important changes to the Institute Lecture Series.

The Annual General Meeting new date Monday September 25th 8pm.

The Institute Lecture schedule for Monday October 2 will now be given by Dr. Ranginui Walker.

Dr Michael King will now give address the Institute members on Monday 13th November at 1.00pm.

Following a request from the Museum, Professor Walker has kindly agreed to bring forward the date of his address **Maori Perspectives on Colonisation.** The new date set for the November Lecture by Dr Michael King will coincide with the Auckland release of his book, **Mori - A People Rediscovered.**

The Institute Lecture Series to date this year have been extremely well attended, and we are sure the above lectures will be of great interest.



Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award 1989

Jeff Mincham, Winner of the Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award 1989

Jeff Mincham has won this award for the second time with a work called 'Neoteric' Vessel. Jeff first won the Award in 1985. The following year he accepted an invitation to judge the Award upon which occasion the winner was Steve Fulmer of Nelson. With a background of teacher training Mincham has lectured part-time in South Australia at institutions such as the South Australian School of Art, and has undertaken schools workshops and lectures in all Australian States and Territories. His work is well known in Australia and he has exhibited internationally at venues in Italy, France, Holland and Japan. With three

other Australian potters his work is currently on show in Los Angeles. He lives and works in Cherryville in the Adelaide hills and much of his contemporary work is either Raku or wood fired. It takes, mostly, the form of vessels which are strong and dominating and in the case of the winning piece has associations with history, ancient bronzes, or ritualistic practices.

The combination of surface treatments, texturing, together with the use of oxides, slips and fuming agents make the pieces sculpturally expressive.

The Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award is a well established and important international event. It was originally called Fletcher Brownbuilt Pottery Award and instituted by Trevor Hunt in 1977 who at that time was the Managing Director of Fletcher Brownbuilt. Trevor Hunt had a strong interest in pottery and the award was a result of discussions that he had with members of Auckland Studio Potters. Following the retirement of Trevor Hunt from Fletcher Brownbuilt in 1986,

the responsibility for the Award moved to the parent company Fletcher Challenge Properties who provided the finances to enable it to be mounted, and the management to Auckland Studio Potters. The award has, subsequently become known as the Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award. The percentage of offshore entries has been steadily increasing as the award becomes internationally better known. This year 24% of the entries came from overseas.

The close association with Auckland Studio Potters remains and the Centre benefits financially from the door sales, catalogues and the commission upon the work which is sold. This enables the Centre to be run providing classes for students together with kilns, workshop facilities, library etc. Facilities are also available to members as a venue for summer schools and for visiting overseas artists. This year for the first time Auckland Studio Potters offered guided tours of the Exhibition, which proved to be popular and worthwhile with visitors and potters alike.

Auckland War Memorial Museum was erected in the Auckland Domain in 1929 and extended in 1960 as the Memorial to those from Auckland Province who died in two World Wars. It is administered by the Auckland Institute and Museum, whose origins go back to the first Auckland Museum of 1852. **Auckland Museum News** is issued free to members of the Institute and Museum, a group of friends and supporters of the Museum.

