



AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

NEWS

highly popular

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Auckland Museum's recent special exhibition, 'Kiwi & Moa', proved a popular success, attracting some 94,000 visitors. Its main aim was to highlight the endangered state of the kiwi, but there is little doubt the star of the show was the moa. The Museum's 3.3 metre tall reconstruction of *Dinornis maximus* was brought down from the New Zealand Bird Hall for the event and placed on open display for the first time. Early Museum records indicate that this eighty-year-old bird is no stranger to admiring audiences.

Auckland Museum's reconstructed moa photographed in a 1937, by L.T. Griffin

The origins of the reconstructed moa are linked to another of Auckland Museum's treasures, the Te Kaha carvings from the East Coast. In 1911 these 'ancient historic Maori carvings' were offered to the Museum for 425 pounds by an Auckland collector, Mr Spencer. Lacking such funds the Museum decided to appeal for public assistance. At the same time it determined to seek additional donations to cover the cost of

'obtaining and preparing a large group of flight-less birds, including a restoration of a Moa and a skeleton of one of the large species, a mounted specimen and the skeleton of an Ostrich, an Emu, and a Cassowary etc.'

The anticipated cost of this group of rarities, including a 'plate-glass showcase', was 250 pounds, and so the appeal target was set at 700 pounds. Public response was swift and generous, with 681 pounds and 2 shillings being subscribed within a month. Such public munificence encouraged the Government to provide a subsidy of an additional 200 pounds. In the same year the Museum was also the recipient of a fine specimen of a locally grown male ostrich in full plumage, from the Helvetia Ostrich Company of South Auckland.

Proceeding with its plans, in 1912 the Museum purchased 'a fine model of

the skeleton of *Dinornis maximus*', from a London dealer, Mr Damon. Work also began on the restoration of a moa. This was undertaken by Mr L. T. Griffin, Museum Assistant and Preparator of Specimens. He had recently joined the professional staff, then consisting of the combined Secretary and Curator, Thomas Cheeseman.

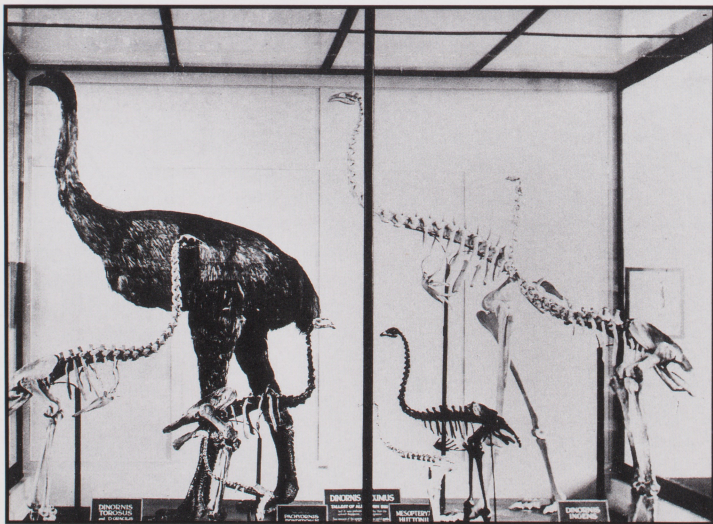
Unfortunately there appear to be no records of Griffin's Herculean task of constructing a giant moa from scratch. We can only assume that the big bird consisted of a wooden frame with, perhaps, quantities of chicken wire (appropriately), plaster of Paris and papier maché. Griffin had previously worked in museums in Capetown and Pretoria, so he may have already had some practical experience with ostriches.

In 1913, the Auckland Museum completed its flightless birds display, which it regarded as 'the most noteworthy improvement for the year'. This rati group appears to have more or less followed the original plan, and was positioned in the centre of the main hall of the Princes Street building. All the work was credited to Mr Griffin, and the results were, in the muted praise of the Annual Report, 'exceedingly satisfactory'.

Another major ornithological addition to the Museum during the same year was a display of 37 specimens of Birds of Paradise. Most of these were purchased from overseas, presumably allowing Mr Griffin to concentrate on his rati case. Nevertheless, this did not prevent him from also preparing mounts or skins of 9 mammals, 19 birds and 24 fish - in addition to other duties - in what must have been a rather busy year.

To mark the completion of these new displays, the Museum Council decided to hold a conversazione on the evening of October 8 1913. This was a most

continued next page



successful event, attended by 550 members and their friends, and supplemented by a display of 'Maori articles' from private collections. The general public also flocked in to view the new attractions with 1,329 visitors on the following Sunday being the greatest daily attendance for the year. The world's tallest bird may have been extinct, but was still capable of breaking records.

Richard Wolfe

kiwi activity centre takes flight

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society considered the Kiwi Activity Centre so successful that they sponsored a full-time staff member during the time that it was open. More recently the society has organised sponsorship to tour the displays around the North Island. Congratulations to all those who worked so hard to make the centre such a success.



Children watching Mark O'Brien T.V personality sketching at the Kiwi Kids Activity Centre. Photo: Katrina Stamp

museum magic

When I volunteered Point Chevalier Primary School for helping provide activities for the Kiwi and Moa exhibition, I had not appreciated how much work the school would commit itself to and how much pleasure the children would gain.

Normal school programmes were put aside and the whole school set about making activities, books and artwork for the Kiwi Activity Centre. We all learnt so much about Kiwis!

The Community Education Officer organised training for about 80 children to be 'Kiwi Kids' in an intensive days workshop at the Museum. The children helped in the activity centre showing others the activities, reading aloud books to smaller children, escorting adults around the Kiwi and Moa exhibition and helping out with the many organised events such as kite making. Along with children from the Kiwi Conservation Club they carried out this responsibility for 2 months during the school holidays.

The 'Kiwi Kids' thoroughly enjoyed their role as guides. For many of them it was their first introduction to the Museum. It was an ideal opportunity to become familiar with the Museum, its display and how it works.

Point Chevalier pupils represent many cultural groups. It was exciting to observe the way they involved their parents, responded to the challenge, and their pride in being part of the Museum. An exciting event for us all and one that has started a lifetime involvement with the Museum.

Kathryn Seagrave
Point Chevalier School

Museum Development Project

Planning for the Museum Development Project is progressing very well.

Management Team: The Project Management Team includes the **Project Director:** Dr Lindsay Sharp and the **Project Manager:** Barry Potter, as well as consultants, appointed to the Project, as follows: **Architects:** Boon Smythe Goldsmith Cox **Quantity Surveyors:** Rider Hunt Holmes Cook Ltd **Building Services Engineers:** Murray-North Ltd in association with Bassetts **Business Planning:** Coopers & Lybrand **Market Research:** MRL Research **Legal Advisors:** Davenports, Brookfields and Price Brent **Structural/Civil Engineer Services:** Holmes Consulting Group **Display Design:** Nick Coffill and Leigh

Raymond

Together, this Project Team has been involved in considerable discussion with members of the Museum staff, as well as outside interests and consultants to meet the aims and objectives of the Project.

Milestones

The programme for work to be undertaken this year includes several milestones, including the following: mid-December 1991: Presentation of the "Draft Display Masterplan" and "Questionnaire" to Museum staff, volunteers, and Museum Council members. This document presents a summary of exhibition ideas, proposals, and themes for future displays in the Museum and solicited feedback for assimilation into the final plan, mid-April 1991: Presentation of the interim planning report to Council, end of June 1991: Presentation of the final concept plans and reports to Council.

Business Plan

The Business Plan is being prepared by Coopers & Lybrand. Progress is being made in market research as one of the key foundations of the business planning effort.

Architectural Concepts

The architects have been working in close liaison with the consultants and museum staff to develop draft layouts for the Museum. A number of alternative options are at present being pursued.

Responses to "Draft Display Masterplan"

A summary of responses to the "Draft Display Masterplan" has been prepared by Nick Coffill and Leigh Raymond. Generally, the reaction has been favourable to both the development of the Museum and the proposed exhibitions. The next phase involves additional consultation, revision of proposals, and the undertaking of market research.

Barry Potter
Project Manager



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Trevor Nash interested in air father, he saw K Zealand visits i

This began a which he fostered extensive collection aviation books.

During 1991 Nash, donated Museum Library ranging collection well-known authors of rare booklets display of the M a good deal of

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The Nash collection displayed in the Museum Library. Photo: Anne Carpenter

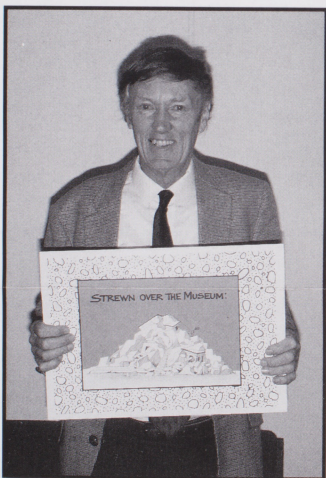
the series of 2/ Identification P published by the Aeroplane. The nearly complete Italian and Japanese recognition book memories to so grey today of ex on a screen at 1 furry out-of-focus darkened Rotor Brighton lecture amazingly, eight be correct, later the stakes were

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STAFF NEWS

Mr **Steven McLean** has been appointed to the position of Manager, Finance and Administration, and took up his duties in the New Year. Mr McLean has a strong background in financial management, and a familiarity with the tourism and leisure industry, having worked more recently with the Sheraton Hotel Group. His skills will be of great benefit to the Museum, both in its current operational activities and in the Museum Development Project.

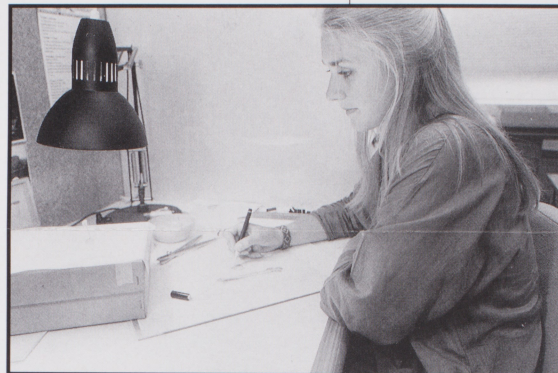
Mr **John Early** has been appointed as Curator of Entomology, a position left vacant by the retirement of Mr Wise. Mr Early is currently a senior tutor in the Department of Entomology at Lincoln University, where he has been closely involved in Lincoln's Entomology Museum. As well as his curatorial skills, Mr Early has undertaken research on a wide range of New Zealand insects, including especially Hymenoptera. Mr Early will take up his appointment in March.



Struan Ensor at his farewell breakfast.
Photo: Juliet Hawkins

Struan Ensor, Senior Education Officer at the Museum since September 1979, will take early retirement from the end of March 1992. Over the twelve years of Struan's work here, a great deal of progress has been made in the educational work of the Museum. Under his leadership, the School Service has provided many new

programmes, activities and services to teachers and students, and has achieved very high standards in its work. We are grateful to Struan for his work for the Museum. Mrs **Dorothy Ensor**, who has assisted the Schools Service as a teacher aide will also resign at the same time. We wish them both well for the future.



third year student at Middlesex Polytechnic. To satisfy the practical experience requirement of this course Joanne chose to work at scientific institutions in Auckland. She has

DRAWING ON OUR RESOURCES

For the second successive year Auckland Museum is providing studio space for an English graphic design student specialising in scientific illustration. Joanne Liddiard, from Buckinghamshire, is a

already spent some 6 weeks at Mount Albert DSIR Entomology Division. During that time one of Joanna's subjects was an unidentified stick insect from Vanuatu, and her illustration of this was published in the 'New Zealand Herald'. At Auckland Museum Joanna has drawn specimens from various scientific departments, her highly detailed pointillist interpretations including a Lacewing and the tarsometatarsus from a Brown Teal duck. ■

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Two new members were elected to the Council in the elections held at the Annual General Meeting, and four sitting members were returned. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Dinah Holman and Mr Garry Law to their first meeting of the Council in December, and to greet Dr Brook, Mr Ingram, Sir Kawharu and Mr Schischka on their re-election.

Eagle-eyed members will note that six members were returned to the Council, when only five vacancies were anticipated. Just prior to the election Dr Lindo Ferguson tendered his resignation from the Council, creating an extra vacancy which was filled at the election.

Dr Lindo Ferguson's retirement ends over 23 years continuous service as a member of the Council, though not, we are confident, his close association with the Museum. Lindo was first elected to the Council in 1968, and he has served continuously until now. First appointed as a representative of the Auckland City Council, in 1975 he became an elected representative of the Members of the Institute. He was elected

President in 1980, and served until 1983, when he became Past President. He was elected again as a Members' representative in 1986. In 1985, in recognition of his outstanding service, Lindo Ferguson was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Auckland Institute and Museum. He was elected to the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board in 1988, and he continues as a member of the Board.

The other member of the Council who did not seek re-election was Mr Rob Fenwick. At its November meeting the Council placed on record its appreciation of Mr Fenwick's work for the Museum, especially on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Joanne at work in the Ornithology Department
Photo: Ken Dawkins

Mordenars Bay (Murderers or Massacre Bay) in Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien (1726)

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Tasman's discovery of the Auckland Islands celebrated its 200th anniversary with a refurbishment of Tasman's own collection.

On December 13, 1770, Tasman and his crew, including the New Zealanders, marked the 350th anniversary of his discovery.

To bibliophiles, information became known through an interesting article to historians.

In 1694, a name of one John Narbro of several late Discoveries included a translation of the Dutch Verhael... the based on Tasman's years later the Melchisedec Divers Voya

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Joanne at work in the Ornithology Department
Photo: Ken Dowling

We have named this land The Staten Land.



Mordenaars Baai (Murderers or Massacre Bay) in
Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien (1726)

The commemoration of the 350th anniversary of Abel

**Tasman's discovery of New Zealand
the Auckland Museum Library will
celebrate its reopening following
refurbishments with a small display
of Tasman related manuscripts from
its own collections.**

On December 13th, 1642, Abel
Tasman and his crew sighted 'a great
land, uplifted high', the west coast of
New Zealand's South Island. This year
marks the 350th anniversary of that
discovery.

To bibliographers, the story of how
information about Tasman's expedition
became known to Europeans is as
interesting as the voyage narratives are
to historians.

In 1694, a collection identified by the
name of one of the contributors, Sir
John Narbrough, entitled: *An Account
of several late Voyages and
Discoveries to the South and North...*
included a translation by Robert Hooke
of the Dutchman van Nierop's *een kort
Verhael...* the first published account
based on Tasman's own journal. Two
years later the Frenchman
Melchisedech Thevenot's *Relations de
Divers Voyages Curieux* produced the

French version of van Nierop, while
reasserting the need for France to
challenge the Dutch in the search for
undiscovered Southern lands for the
greater glory of the nation.

Francois Valentijn's *Oud en Nieuw
Oost-Indien* (1726) with drawings
based on sketches by Isaac Gilsemans,
marked an important stage in the
history of the literature of Tasman's
voyage for Valentijn used the archives
of the Dutch East India Company as
source material. Two further
eighteenth century compilations
included accounts of the voyage.
Prevost d'Exiles' 20 volume work
Histoire generale des Voyages... (1753)
appeared and the dull prose of the
seaman's log received a little French
flair. Three years later Charles de
Brosses' *Histoire des Navigations aux
Terres Australes* included an account
'Abel Tasman en Australasie', which
was the first use of the name to
describe the area lying to the south of
Asia.

Alexander Dalrymple, the Scot first
selected to lead the 1769 expedition to
observe the transit of Venus, published
in 1771 a translation of Valentijn in *An
Historical Collection of the several
Voyages and Discoveries in the South
Pacific Ocean*. James Burney's *A*

Nearer to home, in 1895, William
Pember Reeves, then Minister of
Education, was the driving force behind
a publication for 5th and 6th standard
classes entitled *The New Zealand
Reader*, which included in log form, a
translation by Basil Stocker of part of
Swart's edition of Tasman's journal. In
September of the same year Thomas
Hocken presented a paper 'Abel
Tasman and his Journal' to the Otago
Institute. Hocken had translated from
Swart that part of Tasman's journal
relating to the discovery of New
Zealand.

Three years later Jan Ernst Heeres,
Professor at the Dutch Colonial
Institute, Delft published "the first
facsimile edition and full English
translation" (according to Eric
McCormick) of Tasman's journal.
Heeres' source was the text of the *State
Archives Journal*, the only manuscript
endorsed with Tasman's signature.

In 1942 the New Zealand
government commissioned a translation
of the New Zealand portion of the
journal. Prepared by M. F. Vigeveno,
the text aimed to give "the closest
possible English equivalent".

Three hundred years earlier, Tasman
left the shores of New Zealand and set a
northerly course towards the Tongan
archipelago. For bibliographers and
historians the transmission of accounts
of his three weeks' expedition are as
circuitous as the tracks on any nautical
chart.

Janice Chong

NEW FAX NUMBER

After the 27th March 1992 the
facsimile number for the
Museum will be: 379 9956

Auckland Museum Private Bag 96018
Auckland
Telephone: 309 0443

THE NASH COLLECTION OF MILITARY AVIATION BOOKS

Trevor Nash first became interested in aircraft when, with his father, he saw Kingsford-Smith's New Zealand visits in the late 1920's.

This began a life-long passion, which he fostered by building an extensive collection of military aviation books.

During 1991 his widow, Mrs Jean Nash, donated his collection to the Museum Library. It is a most wide-ranging collection, including titles by well-known authors as well as a series of rare booklets. Earlier this year a display of the Nash collection attracted a good deal of attention.

Older Institute members will recall

books of greater expense and better detail - *War Planes of WW2* by William Green. A recent series of 16 issues of aircraft monographs from the excellent Squadron/Signal publishers are included, covering both RAF and American aircraft.

Many will recall the HMSO publications on the progress of the War written by the Air Ministry. Some of these, such as the *Air Battle of Malta* and *RAF Middle East*, are in this collection. The hardy annual *Observer's Book of Aircraft*, is often seen and could almost be expected in this accession, but to find 25 of the annuals was a welcome surprise.



The Nash collection displayed in the Museum Library. Photo: Anne Carpenter

the series of 2/- booklets 'Aircraft Identification Friend or Foe' published by the weekly magazine *Aeroplane*. The set of these must be nearly complete, giving details of even Italian and Japanese float planes. Looking at some of these aircraft recognition books will bring back memories to some of the bald and/or grey today of exams of slides, flashing on a screen at 1/25 sec, yes 1/25, of furry out-of-focus fleeting shapes in darkened Rotorua, Winnipeg or Brighton lecture rooms. More amazingly, eight of ten answers would be correct, later they had to be correct, the stakes were high.

Similarly there are 11 pocket-sized

Owen Thetford's productions are well-known for being authoritative reference books and amongst these books he spans the two of the Services, *Aircraft of the RAF since 1918*, and *British Naval Aircraft since 1912*.

The Senior Service too is well-represented in the bequest. A selection of the 26 accessioned titles include *Fleet Air Arm at War*; *Aircraft Carriers*; *Naves of World War II*, *Encyclopedia of the World's Warships, 1900 Onwards*; and *The Mighty Hood*.

There is something for everybody with a services interest in sea or sky, thanks to the generosity of the Nash Estate.

John Barton

LIBRARY CLOSURE

The Museum Library will be closed from 2 March to 21 April. During this time, library staff will erect new shelving stacks, rearrange our New Zealand collection and Armed Services Collection and move part of our General collection. New work areas are being built for Library staff and volunteers.

This essential library maintenance and storage work was approved by Council last December. Already, preliminary work has progressed smoothly - in January the storage collection of books was inventoried and moved off-site, and in February the newspaper collection was indexed, crated and moved.

We look forward to opening to our readers on 22 April in the knowledge that we will be able to provide a more efficient service.

A second stage of upgrading - involving the Library's photographic collections - is planned for the second half of the year. We will keep members informed of progress.

Can You Help Us?

The Auckland Museum is seeking your assistance in gaining material for an exhibition. In July 1992 Auckland Museum will be opening an exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the visits of United States Troops in New Zealand from 1942-1944. The exhibition will focus on life in the camps, the people involved and their social life.

The Museum is interested in borrowing any photographs, party invitations, clothing and other items associated with Americans at this time for the exhibition.

If you can help please telephone Sherry Reynolds at the Museum Auckland 3090443.

INSTITUTE LECTURES & FORTHCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

The Forest at Night

■ **Tuesday April 14 1992 7pm**
Geoff Moon: Author and Photographer

An illustrated lecture taking a close look at birds, insects and other forest inhabitants. This lecture will also address some conservation issues facing us.

Endangered Animals in New Zealand

■ **Tuesday May 19 1992 1pm**
**Dick Veitch: Threatened Species Unit
 Department of Conservation**

Threatened Species and their management is of considerable importance to New Zealand. This illustrated address will identify specific areas of concern and highlight ways in which we can all play an important role in protecting the environment.

Music in the Museum

Regular monthly concerts by students from Auckland University Music School will begin on **Sunday April 5th at 12 noon**. The series begins with an exciting programme of Baroque Music. Please note Concerts are held the first Sunday in every month and performed in the Furniture Hall.

Spinning at the Museum

We are pleased to announce that spinning demonstrations will be given at the Auckland Museum. Members of the Handweavers and Spinners Guild, Auckland Inc., have kindly agreed to give demonstrations twice monthly. Displays will take place in the main foyer and begin **Sunday April 5 from 2pm until 4pm** and on **Wednesday April 22 1pm until 3pm**. Spinning attracts a good deal of attention from New Zealanders and overseas visitors and welcome you to come and observe experts at work and try out your own skill.

Conchology Section

The late Dr Powell first formed the Shell Club in 1930. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the month in the schoolroom at the Museum. Entry is by the West door between 7:15 and 7:30 pm.

Members bring in recent finds or exchanges. Help is given with identification and where and how to look. Speakers cover a range of topic such as the scientific aspects of shells, marine biology, land snails and conservation. Field trips are arranged.



Visitors or intending members are most welcome. For further information, phone: **Tony Enderby: 814-9012 evenings or Margaret Morley: 576-8323**

RUNNING WITH THE BALL - A RUGBY FOOTBALL CENTENARY EXHIBITION

Legend has it that rugby football was born when an enterprising English soccer player picked up the ball and ran with it. It is known that the person who carried the idea to New Zealand was 19 year old Charles Monro, returning from studies in Finchley, England. At his suggestion this country's first game of rugby was played between two Nelson teams on May 11 1870. The code quickly caught on, and a few years later an Auckland team undertook a national tour - losing all five matches. 1879 provincial unions



were formed in Wellington and Canterbury, and the idea of a national body was eventually realised with the inaugural meeting of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union in 1892.

This year the NZRFU is marking its centenary with an exhibition at Auckland Museum. An extensive collection of rugby memorabilia will be on display in the first floor Logan Campbell gallery from 28 March to 3 May. Fundamental to the game is, of course, the distinctive oval ball, and the exhibition includes specimens autographed by All Blacks and visiting teams. In addition, there is a wide range of souvenir programmes, photo-

graphs, jerseys, caps and silver ferns. An unusual memento of New Zealand rugby abroad is a touch flag from a match played in Cairo in 1940. But perhaps most significant of all is the item that once ensured this country's rugby supremacy - Don Clarke's (right, size 11) boot. ■

The History of Rugby in New Zealand

■ **Wed 22 April 1992 7.30pm**

JOINT ADDRESS by

N.A.C McMillian:

co-author of Men in Black

& Wilson Whineray:

**former N.Z Rugby Union Representative
 and longest serving N.Z Captain**

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 the 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 to the Museum. **Auckland Institute and Museum, P.O. Box 92018, Auckland, Phone 0-9-309 0443.**