



Auckland War Memorial Museum

NEWS

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Auckland Museum is in every way the result of the generosity of the citizens of Auckland and elsewhere. Those founding spirits who created the Museum in 1852, and who gave it renewed life as the Institute and Museum in 1868, gave their time, their subscriptions and their gifts of exhibits to the establishment of the Museum. Their example has been followed over the ensuing 133 years by countless other benefactors of the Museum. Some have given major collections of objects, or substantial endowments of money, while many contributed lesser gifts according to their resources.

The Citizens Committees which raised money for the erection of the War Memorial Museum building and its extensions tapped amongst the people of Auckland Province an immense willingness to create a memorial as a fitting tribute to those who had died. This generosity towards the Museum continues to the present, and is most heartening to the Museum Council and staff, since without such support the work of the Museum would be impossible - indeed, without the gifts of objects for the collections, and money to house, maintain and exhibit then the Museum would not exist.

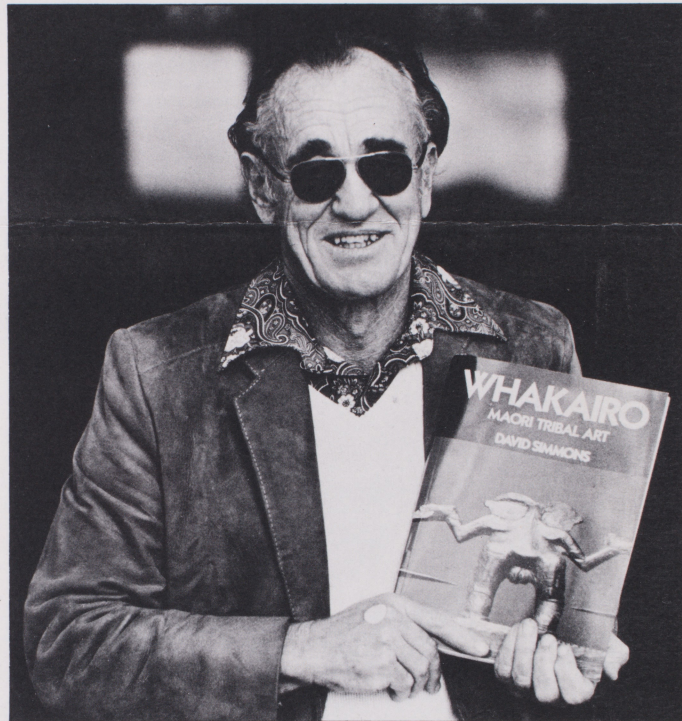
Rather by coincidence, this issue of the News discusses several aspects of this continuing generosity of the Museum - the Vaile and Spedding bequests, the grant from the Auckland Savings Bank, the contributions which preserved the Walsh film, and the gift from Mr Cyprian Bridge, among others. It's one way of saying, to all our benefactors great and small, thank you.

G. Stuart Park
Director

Museum Education

Auckland Museum Senior Education Officer, Struan Ensor was invited by the United States Information Agency in New Zealand to attend a multi-regional project "Education in Museums" from May 12th to June 8th. Museum educators from the United States and around the world met in Washington to consider a wide range of issues and practices in Museum Education. As well as making use of many of the museums of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, the group also visited museums to examine educational practices in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Santa Fe and San Francisco.

At the time of writing Mr Ensor had not returned from this project, but it will have



Photograph: Alan Leatherby

David Simmons M.B.E.

David Simmons, the Museum's Assistant Director and Ethnologist, was recently awarded Membership of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.), in recognition of his services to ethnology and the Maori people.

Mr Simmons joined Auckland Museum's staff as Ethnologist in 1968, following the retirement of Vic Fisher. He was appointed Assistant Director in 1978. Dave is the author of many books and articles on Maori

and Pacific peoples, their art, archaeology and history. He collaborated with Brian Brake and James McNeish in the production of "Art of the Pacific", which though currently out of print is due to re-appear shortly. He has also recently written "Whakairo", to be published in July, which is a major study of symbolism and tribal variation in Maori carving.

provided him with a wonderful opportunity to examine many aspects of museum education, and will prove of great benefit to Auckland Museum and to other museum educators in New Zealand. Auckland Museum is very grateful to the USIA in New Zealand and the United States for selecting its staff member to participate. Mr Ensor was granted leave by the Auckland Education Board to allow him to attend the programme.

In addition to this scholarly work, Dave has maintained a very close relationship with the Maori people. He is always willing to pass on tribal lore and information which he has been entrusted with, and to offer guidance to those seeking answers to genealogical and land ownership questions. He is often to be found showing taonga in the Museum's collections to groups of young Maori carvers or weavers in order to provide information and inspiration which may be helpful in their creative work. The Museum extends its congratulations to Dave Simmons on this richly deserved Honour.

Rare Takahe for the Museum

Auckland Museum has been given a magnificent mounted specimen of the rare New Zealand bird, takahe (*Notornis mantelli*). The bird is on display in the Museum foyer, and will later be incorporated into the Museum's Hall of New Zealand Birds.

The takahe is a large relative of the pukeko, and has similar bluish plumage with a bright red beak and legs. Sub-fossil bone finds have shown that the takahe was once widespread in New Zealand, but by the time the Maori arrived the species was already declining and restricted in distribution. The introduction of rats, stoats and other

predators by Europeans was thought to have caused the species to become extinct, since it was known only from four specimens caught last century.

However, in 1948, a population of 200 pairs was discovered in Fiordland. Even there, in their remote valleys, the birds were threatened by stoats and had to compete with Red Deer for their vegetarian diet. By 1960 only about 120 birds survived. The Wildlife Service of the Department of Internal Affairs now intensively studies and manages the takahe in a bid to save the species from extinction.

The Museum's takahe is an immature female bird which died of natural causes in Fiordland in 1983. Apart from this bird, only four other specimens of takahe are on display anywhere in the world. The Museum is delighted to be able to show this rare bird. As well as informing our many visitors of the bird's appearance, and telling them its history, we hope its display will ensure adequate support is given to the protection and preservation of the birds in the wild.



Photograph: N.Z. Herald

Auckland Savings Bank Grant

The Museum has recently been granted \$7,000 by the Auckland Savings Bank in its annual award of grants to charitable, educational and welfare organisations. The grant is to assist in the development of the new Maori Gallery displays, a project to which the bank has made donations in two previous years.

The Auckland Savings Bank has a proud record of support to community organisations in Auckland, and the Auckland Institute and Museum is one of its most longstanding beneficiaries, and we are sure, its most grateful. Without the Bank's support, the Museum would certainly not exist in its

present form today.

Following a special Act of Parliament, the ASB made its first grant in 1908, to support the erection of what is now the Auckland Technical Institute. The Bank made a major grant of \$100,000 to the Citizens Appeal to raise money for the erection of the Auckland War Memorial Museum building, opened in 1929. A further major grant of \$103,000 was made to the appeal for an extension to the War Memorial Museum following the Second World War, and \$26,500 was given for the completion of this project with the erection of the Museum Auditorium.

In addition to these major grants, the Auckland Savings Bank has made many smaller grants for specific developments at the Museum, in display, in storage and in the provision of services — these are detailed in the list of benefactors in the Museum Annual Report each year. The Bank's total support of the Museum over the years amounts to \$326,200, a magnificent record for a Bank which also supports so many other community organisations. Thank you, A.S.B.



Museum Budget

After the determination of the policy and direction of the Museum, probably the main task of the Museum Council is to ensure that the Museum has adequate resources to carry out its tasks. Members of the Council take this task very seriously, especially as they examine the Museum's accounts each year and set the Museum Budget for the ensuing year. Council has just completed this task, and has set a budget for 1985-86 involving expenditure of \$1,790,000.

Budgeting for the Museum is always a balancing act between ensuring the funds available are adequate, and ensuring that the burden on ratepayers in the Auckland region is not too great. Ratepayers interests are protected through the representation of local authorities on the Museum Council — fourteen members of Council are elected or appointed by local authorities. Local authority representatives have a majority on the Museum's Finance Committee which recommends the Budget documents to Council, and sets the amount of the levy on local authorities in the region.

Council was pleased to be able to hold the amount of the increase in the levy this year to 9.6%, which is lower than the rate increases being set by most local authorities. Because of variations in the population and valuation figures used to calculate the levy, increases to individual authorities vary from an increase of 2 percent to one of 19 percent.

The Museum has been helped in achieving this low increase by a substantial increase in income from non-levy sources during the last financial year. In spite of a period of disruption while the Shop and Coffee Lounge were being refurbished, with a consequent loss of trade, the net profit from these two enterprises returned \$165,000 to Museum funds last year.

Council has made provision in its estimates for support of the major display redevelopment in the Maori Gallery: \$70,000 has been transferred to this fund. The Museum has been successful in obtaining grants for this work from the New Zealand Lottery Board, the Sir John Logan Campbell Trust and the Auckland Savings Bank (see story elsewhere in this issue), and will continue to seek sponsorship as the work proceeds, but local authority support is essential to the success of this major programme. Associated with this development is a much needed improvement to the storage facilities provided to house and care adequately for the Museum's reserve, reference and study collections. Allocations have been made for this work, as well as for continuing maintenance work on our large and complex building.

Having set the Budget, Council will now monitor the Museum's performance during the year, as well as continuing to explore all avenues for ensuring the Museum is adequately supported.

Flying Film

Members will recall the story of the *News* that Vivian Walsh gave money for the copying of a rare film, "Flying Skies" was made by a "well-known cine" according to the shows fascinating operated at Kohi Mission Bay) by

The Walsh's flying in a plane they which he taught none of them had. In 1915, they est using flying boat themselves to tra Corps. Vivian W aeroplane in flight solo!

The Museum's fil the training of the engineering achie represented. It co footage of Auckla the air, showing and farmlands, w subdivision.

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Turin Photo Exhibit

July promises to Auckland Museum exhibitions on the Sculpture" and th Exhibition. There display, a photog the shroud of Tu the Botany Hall,

Mackelvie Exhibition and Lecture

The Institute Lecture in July will be given by Mr John Stacpoole, who as well as being a member of the Institute and Museum is Chairman of the Mackelvie Trust Board.

The Mackelvie Trust was established in 1885 under the will of James Tannock Mackelvie. He bequeathed his collection of pictures, prints, bronzes, curiosities and other works of art, together with a sum of money for the erection and maintenance in Auckland of a museum to display the collection and any additions to it. The money available has always been too small to allow a museum to be developed. With the approval of the High Court and an Act of Parliament it was agreed that the collection would be housed and displayed jointly in the Auckland City Art Gallery (paintings, prints and so on), the Auckland Public Library (books and manuscripts) and the Auckland Institute and Museum (for decorative arts objects).

Since 1985 is the centenary of the bequest, the Board of Trustees resolved to mark the occasion with an exhibition of the Mackelvie collection, and the publication of a catalogue of the collection. The exhibition will show many of the works originally bequeathed by Mackelvie, together with works purchased by the Trustees to add to the collection over the years. The Exhibition will open on June 30th, at both the Art Gallery and the Museum simultaneously. Whilst almost all of the objects shown have been displayed before, and some of them are well-known features of both Gallery and Museum, this will be the first occasion all of these objects will have been displayed together as one collection, albeit in two locations. The Auckland Public Library has also just concluded an exhibition of Mackelvie works in its collections.

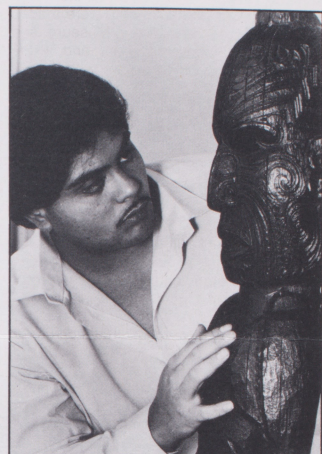
We are sure many members will find the exhibition here and at the Gallery to be of great interest. We are also sure that John Stacpoole's Institute lecture will be of equal

New Assistant Ethnologist

Following the retirement of Mrs Nola Arthur, the Museum advertised widely the new position of Assistant Ethnologist. Several candidates of high calibre applied, and the choice between them was not an easy one. The Museum was delighted however to be able to appoint Te Warena Taua to the position.

Te Warena, who is 24, is of Kawerau, Wai o Hua and Ngati Whatua descent through his father, and of Ngati Mahuta and Ngati Te Ata through his mother. Although a young man, he has had a considerable education from his elders, especially his grandparents, in the history and culture of the Maori people of northern New Zealand. He has for some time been involved in the preparation of a book concerning the history of the Manukau area and its whakapapa (genealogies) for his family. This incorporates information from written sources such as those in the Museum Library, as well as oral information from his elders, who have entrusted him with much tribal lore and history.

Te Warena has a keen interest in the taonga (heirlooms) held in the Museum, and is enthusiastic to broaden his knowledge and experience in this and related areas. He has been involved in teaching Maori history and tribal waiata of the Manukau, and has recently completed a year as supervisor and



Photograph: N.Z. Herald

language tutor for a kohanga reo at Makaurau marae.

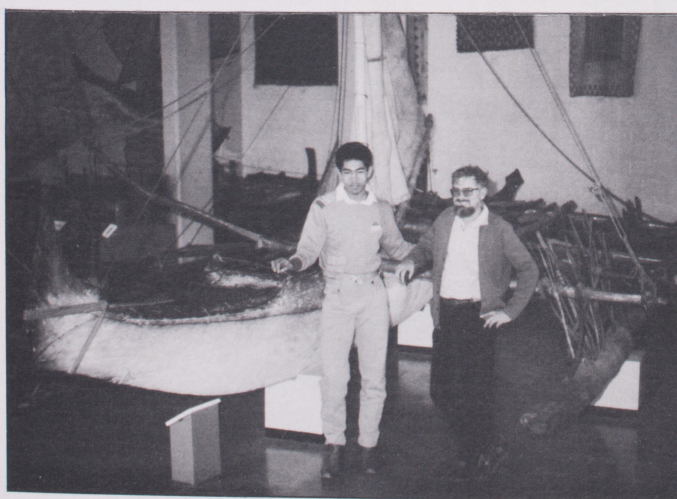
The Museum is confident that the knowledge and experience he brings to the position, as well as his enthusiasm for the work will enable him to serve the Museum, the Maori community and the wider public very well.

interest. He will be lecturing on "James Mackelvie, a 19th century collector" on Monday 22nd July at 8pm in the Museum Auditorium. This will afford members and friends of the Museum an opportunity to learn more of Mackelvie, this great benefactor of Auckland who has perhaps not achieved the recognition he deserves.

The Institute Lecture in August is the Annual Lecture arranged by the Auckland Medical

Association. The lecturer this year is Dr R.B. Ellis-Pegler whose title will be The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — AIDS.

Dr Ellis-Pegler is Physician in Clinical Microbiology at the Auckland University School Medicine. We are sure the lecture will be a most interesting and informative one, and because of the topicality of this subject it is certain to attract a good audience.



Tikopia Canoe

Recently the museum was visited by a student from Tikopia in the Solomon Islands who has been studying for bursary examinations at New Plymouth Boys High School. Francis Nori came particularly to see the Tikopian canoe, Te Ingoa o Pu which once voyaged between Tikopia and Anuta. The canoe was built about 1900 by Pu Auekote for Ariki of the Taumako clan and brought to New Zealand by Bishop Woods of the Melanesian Mission in 1916. Francis had heard about the canoe as his uncle was one of the Tikopian men who re-rigged it in the Museum in the 1930s while on a visit to New Zealand. Francis is pictured beside the canoe, with museum assistant Mick Pendergrast, who taught Francis at school in Tikopia while working with Volunteer Service Abroad.

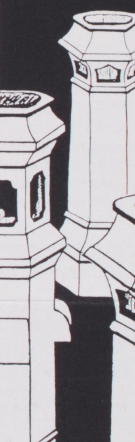
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In 1983 Peter gar... the subject of his fu... Archey Lecture is a... sponsored by the M... the life and work of... Gilbert Archey, in v... scientist discusses... field of endeavour...

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Hail, Fellows

Two members of the Institute and Museum have recently been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society. This high distinction is a recognition of their worth by the scientific community in New Zealand. It is particularly pleasing in both these cases that the nominations for the Fellowship were made by the Auckland Institute and Museum, and both the new Fellows have long and close associations with the Museum.

Dr Peter Brook is the chairman of the Institute Committee of the Museum Council. He has been a member of the Auckland Institute and Museum since 1954, and a member of the Council since 1964. Peter is Director of the Plant Diseases Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at the Mt Albert Research Centre. He joined Plant Diseases Division in 1951, and has carried out a great deal of research into fungi, and in particular the ecology of fungi in relation to diseases in food plants.

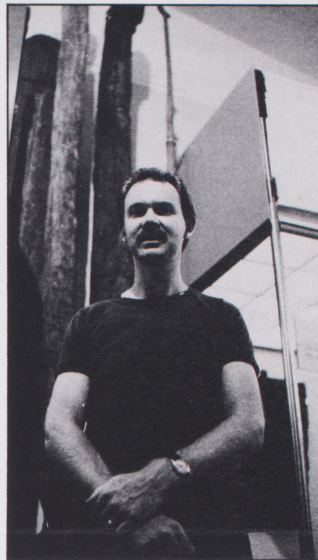
In 1983 Peter gave the Archey Lecture on the subject of his fungal research. (The Archey Lecture is an annual lecture sponsored by the Museum to commemorate the life and work of former Director Sir Gilbert Archey, in which a distinguished scientist discusses research in his or her field of endeavour with senior secondary

school students from Auckland schools). Dr Brook holds M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of New Zealand.

Janet Davidson, also a previous Archey Lecturer, was appointed the first E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist at Auckland Museum in December 1965 (the creation of this position was another legacy of E. Earle Vaile — see story elsewhere in this issue). During her thirteen years in the post, Janet carried out a wide range of archaeological field work in various parts of northern New Zealand, as well as in Nukuoro, the Solomons and Samoa in the Pacific. Additionally, she was very active in public archaeology, promoting the protection and rescue archaeology of sites threatened by development work.

Since moving to Dunedin to marry in 1979, Janet has devoted her time to the analysis and reporting of earlier excavation work, as well as raising a daughter. She also found time somehow, to write a major book "The Prehistory of New Zealand" which presents a lucid and detailed account of the first thousands years of New Zealand's history, as revealed by archaeological excavations.

The Museum's heartiest congratulations are extended to these two new Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand.



Photograph: Alan Leatherby

Angus Mackenzie of the Display Department photographed in front of an installation of Pallisade Posts, a section of the Maori Court under redevelopment at present.



Photograph: N.Z. Herald

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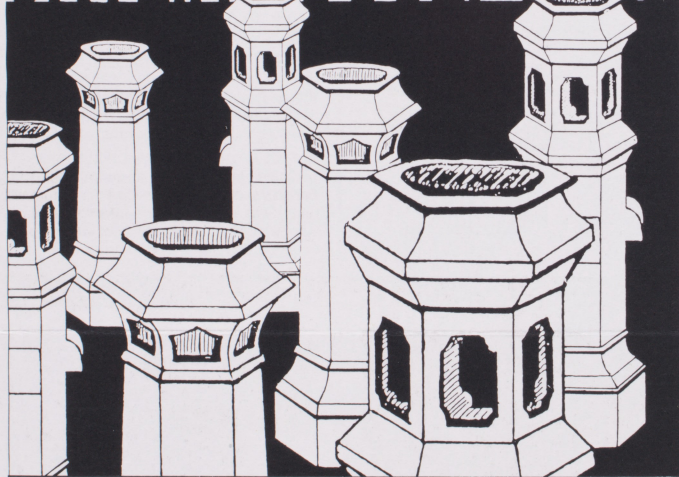
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SKYLINE SCULPTURE



SPECIAL EXHIBITION
Chimney Pots
of Early Auckland
22 June - 14 July

AUCKLAND MUSEUM

Magnificent Bequest to Museum

The Museum Council received notice recently of the bequest to the Museum of the late Dr Leslie Spedding. Dr Spedding was a surgeon, who had lived in retirement in Remuera for many years prior to his death in 1975. Although Dr Spedding was born and educated in Dunedin, his late wife was a member of an old Auckland family which has had a long association with the Museum.

Dr Spedding's estate was left jointly to the Museum and the Crippled Children's Society, subject to a life interest by his sister. Miss Spedding died last year, so that the estate is now able to be divided between the two beneficiaries.

The Museum is fortunate in that it is quite frequently the recipient of the generosity of citizens of Auckland, in making gifts and bequests to it. What does not happen so frequently, however, is the receipt of a bequest of the size of Dr Spedding's. The estate is currently invested in a wide ranging portfolio of shares, stock and other investments. The Museum's share of the bequest is valued at some \$150,000.

The Museum must regret its inability to express its gratitude to Dr Spedding in person. We are of course most grateful, and proud that he should have seen the Museum as a worthy beneficiary.

The Museum Council is currently considering ways of putting the bequest to a fitting purpose, in order to ensure that Dr Spedding's generosity will be appropriately recognised in the Museum, now and in the future.



Flying School Film

Members will recall reading in earlier issues of the **News** that the Museum was raising funds to enable the preservation and copying of a rare movie film in the Museum Library. This film, entitled "Auckland from the Skies" was made in 1917 by C.F. Newham a "well-known cinematograph photographer" according to the newspapers of the day. It shows fascinating detail of the Flying School operated at Kohimarama (these days called Mission Bay) by Leo and Vivian Walsh.

The Walsh's flying career is a remarkable story. Vivian Walsh's first flight was in 1911, in a plane they had built themselves and which he taught himself to fly — incredibly, none of them had seen a plane flying before. In 1915, they established the Flying School, using flying boats they designed and built themselves to train pilots for the Royal Flying Corps. Vivian Walsh had never seen an aeroplane in flight until his first pupil flew solo!

The Museum's film is a remarkable record of the training of these pilots, and the engineering achievements that their aircraft represented. It contains some interesting footage of Auckland's eastern suburbs from the air, showing acres of rolling paddocks and farmlands, where all is now expensive subdivision.

Thanks to those members and friends who gave money for the copying of the film, most notably the Walsh Memorial Trust of New Zealand Aeronautical Trusts Ltd, and the International Military Arms Society, the film is now available for viewing. A preview was held in May for all those who had donated money for the purpose, and others connected with the Walshs or with flying in New Zealand. Now it is your turn. We will shortly arrange screenings of the film at the Museum, to enable the people of Auckland to view this remarkable film. Watch your newspapers for details.

Turin Shroud Photographic Exhibition

July promises to be particularly eventful at Auckland Museum with two special exhibitions on the calendar — "Skyline Sculpture" and the Mackelvie Centenary Exhibition. There is now to be a further display, a photographic documentation of the shroud of Turin, which will be shown in the Botany Hall, first floor, from 17-31 July.

New Saturday Library Hours

Saturday mornings are a popular time for some members as well as the general public to use the Museum Library. To meet the demand, we have now arranged that there will be two Library staff on hand to deal with enquiries, instead of the previous one. Additionally, the Library will open at 9.30 am

in future, and close at noon.

Even though there will now be additional staff, they will not be able to deal with complicated reference enquiries on Saturdays, or get out material from the manuscript or newspaper stacks. Members wishing to use such items on Saturdays should make arrangements in advance to gain access to this material — write or telephone the Library a few days before.

Museum Library Hours: Monday to Friday 1 pm to 5 pm, Saturday 9.30 am to Noon. Use of the Library is available to all, borrowing privileges are restricted to members of the Institute and Museum.

Historic Silver Gift to Museum

Mr L. Cyprian Bridge of Taupo and his family have presented to the Museum a magnificent silver inkstand. This bears an inscription showing that it was presented to Mr Bridge's great grandfather Colonel Cyprian Bridge on the occasion of his retirement from the 58th Regiment in 1860. The term "inkstand" rather fails to do justice to the gift, since the solid silver stand is in the form of a model of Gibraltar Castle, and is flanked by four silver sphinxes — Gibraltar and Egypt were amongst the battle honours of the 58th, though these later also included New Zealand.

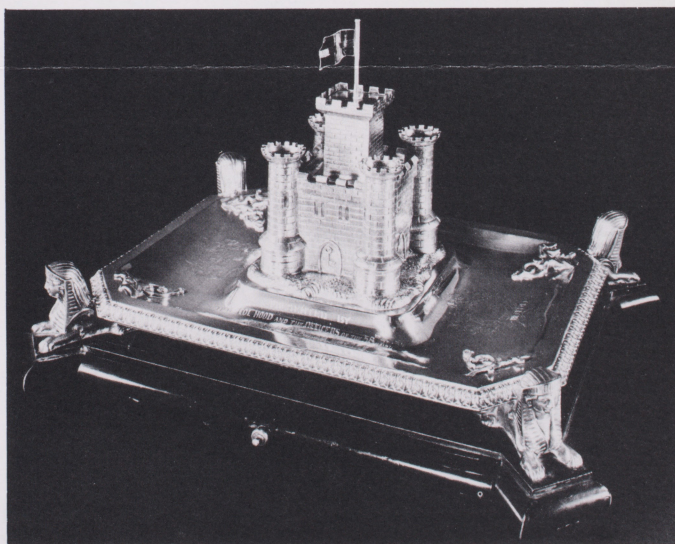
Colonel Bridge served in New Zealand with the 58th Regiment in 1845 — 1846, and 1847 — 1858, initially as a Major under the command of Lt-Cols E.B. and R.H. Wynyard, and subsequently as Lieutenant Colonel and then Colonel of the Regiment. He returned with the Regiment to England in 1858, retiring there two years later. The commemorative inkstand remained in England for several decades, before

returning to the Bridge family in New Zealand.

As well as the inkstand, Mr Bridge has presented a number of other items associated with his great grandfather — his swords, his New Zealand War medal, a pennant, papers and photographs, and a moving artefact of the war in the Bay of Islands. This is a New Testament in Maori, printed in London in 1842, which was taken in the Kapotai pa at the head of the Waikare Inlet in the Bay of Islands. The pa was burned by the Headquarters Company of the 58th Regiment under Major Bridge on the 16th May 1845. The Testament was found by Captain W.E. Grant, and presented by him to Mrs Bridge who was on board the troop transport ship at anchor in the Bay. Captain Grant was subsequently killed and ritually cannibalised in the assault on the pa at Ohaeawai on July 1st 1845.

Auckland Museum already has a number of items associated with Colonel Bridge and the 58th — uniforms of Bridge himself and Colonel Wynyard, a silver epergne presented to Col. Wynyard, and the Colours of the Regiment itself.

This most notable gift is of outstanding importance in its own right, but is made all the more relevant to the Museum because of the associated material which is already here. The Museum is very grateful to Mr Bridge and his family for their generosity.



Photograph: Alan Leatherby

Carving Purchased by Vaile Trust

The Museum recently bought at auction in Auckland a most important Maori carved wooden tekoteko or ancestor figure. The carving style reveals that the figure was carved in the Gisborne district, probably in the middle of last century or even earlier.

It is believed to represent the son of Porangahua, the principal ancestor of the Rongowhakaata people. The price paid, \$5,900, reflects the interest in the piece, but the Museum is very happy to have been able to obtain the carving.

The carving was bought from the trust funds provided for the purchase of such objects from the estate of the late E. Earle Vaile. Mr Vaile was a most generous benefactor of the Museum. He established in 1945 the Vaile Trust, to which he gave a number of commercial properties. The Trust was further augmented by the bequest under his will of his residuary estate, following his death in 1956. The Trust Deed provides that the income from the investments of property are to be used for the purchase of books for the Museum Library, the purchase of Maori and Pacific objects for the collections, and the support of archaeology. The Vaile Trust provided income of some \$55,000 for the Museum last year, and without this support, many areas of the Museum's activities would be curtailed.

The Museum Trust Board, which administers the Museum's investments of both property and money reinvested the Vaile Trust Funds in a building at Manukau City in 1979, as the original Vaile investment properties had reached the end of their economic lives. One of the original Vaile properties was retained, however, even though it returns no income to the Museum at all. Mr Vaile lived, farmed and worked for many years at Broadlands, south of Rotorua. Much of this country was little more than valueless desert when he took it up, but by dint of much hard work in forestry, horticulture, dairying and farming, he made of it a considerable success. (The story is told in Vaile's book: "Pioneering the Pumice".)

It is most fitting therefore that Earle Vaile should be commemorated at Broadlands. At the intersection of Earle and Vaile Roads with the Rotorua — Reporoa — Taupo road stands a monument to Vaile, noting the important contribution he made to the development of the area, and marking the spot where his ashes are laid. On their recent journey to Napier for the Art Galleries and Museums Association Conference, Museum staff members Stuart Park, Sherry Reynolds and David Reynolds were delighted to be able to visit Broadlands and record the monument to one of Auckland Museum's greatest benefactors.



Photograph: Stuart Park

New Zealand's Own Machine Gun

In August 1915 the machine gun was King. The great armies in France had settled down to organised slaughter and it would be hard to imagine a battleground more suited to machine gun warfare — or perhaps the battleground had been created by the machine gun. Whatever the cause machine guns were in great demand.

On 26th August 1915, Mr E H Hiley the General Manager of New Zealand Railways set in motion what must have been a pet project for him. He borrowed a Maxim machine gun from the Army to see if the Railway Workshops at Petone could make one and perhaps many more, so that New Zealand forces would be independent of arms supplies in England. He also asked for plans and specifications for the parts and in particular, specifications for the types of steel needed. Cables were sent to England asking for this information but apparently no reply was ever received.

By the 20th October a gun had been made, except for the barrel and fusee spring. These parts were borrowed from the Army and a test firing carried out. 700 rounds were fired

and the armourers reported on a number of defects, mainly dealing with the hardening and tempering of some of the parts and the fit of others. The Locomotive Engineer reported on 22nd October that the parts were being rehardened and complained that no information had been obtained from the English manufacturers. He also said that he had made a barrel to the "rough turned" stage, out of tyre steel but, on verbal advice from a person employed in an arms works that tyre steel was quite unsuitable, he had abandoned that part of the project. The defects were attended to and another test was carried out in which there was a stoppage which was attributed to the packing of the barrel being rather too tight. Probably at least one other trial was carried out.

As a result of enquiries by various departments the following information was given by the Railways Chief Mechanical Engineer:

"The cost of the gun (without barrel)	£247.17.04
Special tools made or bought	£241.11.05
Estimated cost of manufacturing 12 guns ea.	£185.00.00

Shortage of staff and pressure of railways work makes such manufacture impracticable.

If staff were available guns could be produced at the rate of three every four weeks."

The gun was sent to Trentham camp for testing on 13th November and the test was carried out on 15th January 1916.

In the test the Petone-made machine gun was matched against a 1901 Vickers Maxim. Both guns fired a series of six tests. The Petone gun measured up quite well although it had a number of troubles mainly associated with friction in the working parts.

Following the tests the commander of NZ Military forces, Brigadier General A M Robin, sent a memorandum to the Minister of Defence in which he pointed out that the barrel and fusee spring were still the imported ones and that these were the most difficult parts to make, that Vickers were now making a gun which was one third lighter, and that the Imperial Government had said that they could now supply sufficient guns for our forces at the Front.

On the 15th February following a cabinet meeting the Minister of Munitions and Supply notified Mr Hiley that no further action would be taken in the manufacture of these guns. There followed a number of letters expressing admiration for the work of the Railways staff and regret that circumstances made it impracticable to proceed with the manufacture of the guns.

In April 1921 the one gun made at Petone was transferred to the Trentham Camp School Museum, and in January 1951 the gun was given to Auckland Museum.

The New Zealand gun has the serial number Pet. 1. (Petone Number 1). Together with two Vickers Maxims New Zealand's only locally made machine gun is part of Auckland Museum's military history displays.

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.

