



Auckland Museum NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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Annual General Meeting and Election of Council

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum will be held in the Museum Auditorium on Monday, September 21, 1981, at 8 pm. Business will include consideration of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, which will be circulated to members in due course, before the meeting. Business at the meeting will also include the ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. Mr R.B. Sibson retires this year at the conclusion of his three-year term and is eligible for re-election. Mr H.M. Horton, who was appointed by Council to fill a vacancy during the year, is required under the Rules to offer himself for election. Accordingly, nominations are called for the election of Councillors elected by the members of the Institute and

Museum. Nominations must be in writing and be signed by the nominator, seconder and nominee, all of whom must be members of the Institute. Nominees are invited to forward with their nominations brief biographical details to be circulated with the voting papers for the information and guidance of members. This should include name, address and occupation, posts held, and other relevant qualifications. Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by Monday, August 24th, 1981, and should be addressed to The Secretary, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland.

G.S. Park
Director

Council Activities

Members will know that as well as those members of Council elected by members of the Institute, the Museum Council also includes fourteen representatives of local authorities who support the Museum financially under the terms of the Museum's controlling Act. Following the Amendment to this Act last year, the representation of these local authorities changed and, accordingly, there are quite a number of new local authority members of Council. These members have joined with the Institute members of Council in becoming closely involved in the activities of the Museum. In order to familiarise themselves with this large and complex institution and the many people with varied tasks who work here, Council has been undertaking a series of tours of the non-public areas of the Museum, meeting staff and discussing their work, inspecting the work and storage facilities and generally becoming familiar with the Museum. One of several papers prepared to assist members of Council in this learning process introduced and described the experience and duties of members of the Museum's curatorial and administrative staff. This information is being reprinted here so that members who are not familiar with the work of the Museum staff may also gain a better understanding of what, and who, makes the Museum tick. In addition, we list below the membership of Council so that Institute members will know who the new local authorities representatives are and so that, in making nominations for Council, members will know who their present representatives are:

Museum Council

President Dr R.H. Lindo Ferguson
Vice-Presidents Mr R.E. Thomas, Mr G.W. Frater,
Lt Col A.R. Hughes
Past President Dr J.D. Atkinson

Representatives of the Members of the Institute and Museum:

Dr P.J. Brook	Mr S.G. Brooker	Dr H.V. Coop
Mr H.M. Horton	Mr W.A. Laxon	Mr J.M. Print
Miss J. Robb	Dr D.B. Robertson	Dr J. Rogers
Mr R.B. Sibson	Dr M.J. Taylor	

Representatives of Local Authorities:

Appointed by Auckland City Council: Mr G.D. Barnaby, Mr I.W. McKinnon, Mrs C.A. Tizard

Appointed by Takapuna City Council: Mrs P.E.M. Phillips

Appointed by Manukau City Council: Mrs N.B. Lewis, Mr P.C. Yearbury

Appointed by Waitemata City Council: Mr W.R.M. Haresnape

Elected to represent the City of Mt Albert, and the Boroughs of Henderson, Glen Eder and New Lynn: Mrs E.A. Wylie

Elected to represent the Cities of Papatoetoe and Papakura, and the Boroughs of Howick and Otahuhu: Mr K. Flavell

Elected to represent the Boroughs of Onehunga, Mt Roskill and Mt Eden: Mr J.D. Auckram

Elected to represent the Boroughs of Ellerslie, Newmarket, One Tree Hill and Mt Wellington: Mr I.D. MacKinlay

Elected to represent the Cities of East Coast Bays and Birkenhead, and the Boroughs of Devonport and Northcote: Mr M.H. Pritchard

Elected to represent the County of Franklin, and the Boroughs of Pukekohe, Tuakau and Waiuku: Mr D.M. McCartie

Elected to represent the Counties of Rodney and Waiheke, and the Borough of Helensville: Mr O.E. Walker

Museum Display

One of Council's current activities is the consideration of statements of future policy for the Museum. An area of particular interest, since it represents the visible face of the Museum, is the question of display policy. At its meeting in July, Council considered a discussion paper from the Director on the Museum's displays and priorities for their redevelopment. The paper outlined the history and development of the Museum's present displays and established priorities for their future development. Space in this issue does not allow full discussion here, though full details will appear in subsequent issues. However, members will be interested to learn that Council adopted the Director's recommendation that the first priority in display development be given to the Maori

displays. In arguing the case for this, the Director made the following comments:

'Auckland Museum's Maori collections are the finest in the world, but its displays are certainly not. The Maori displays are a prime focus for Museum visitors, whether those visitors are tourists from overseas seeking an introduction to the history and society of New Zealand, New Zealanders, and particularly Aucklanders, seeking to understand an important part of their cultural heritage, or Maori seeking a more particular appreciation of the skills, the artistry and the *mana* of their *tupuna*. While the collections have the potential to satisfy all these groups, the present displays will fail each of them in many respects. The great art treasures in the collections are not shown to advantage (consider the present display of items like Kaitaia and Patetonga); the displays illustrate the history and development of Maori society in New Zealand, but only for those who are already familiar with that history; they say little of the impact on each other of the two cultures now present in New Zealand, and only very rarely describe anything later than a remote 19th century period. The Museum's collections of Maori objects, the expertise of its staff and the standing which it enjoys in the Maori community all suggest the enormous potential that exists for a display of major significance in the life and culture of the people of Auckland, and of New Zealand, today. I believe it would be a grave mistake to allow this opportunity to pass. The development of the Maori displays will require much careful planning, much study of the existing resources of objects, knowledge and skills, and much consultation of others in the community of their thoughts and ideas. The final display should aim to portray the origin and development, the life, culture and art of the Maori people of New Zealand, from their oceanic origins and their settlement of New Zealand to the present day.'

Council has taken steps to prepare for the display development programme which is anticipated. As mentioned in the last News, a Display Development Fund has been established, using as a nucleus the generous bequest of Miss A.Z. Dixon. In addition, Council has approved the appointment of an additional assistant in the Display Department to assist Richard Wolfe and Peter Gossage. Even with this addition, a display staff of three (with additional assistance from Preparator, Leo Cappel, and Exhibitions Assistant, Audrey McBirney) is still very small to cope with the display demands of an institution the size of Auckland Museum. At the time of writing, an appointment has not been made but details will be included in the next issue.



Kaitaia Lintel

Museum Lectures

As advised in the last **News**, the lecture at 8 pm on Monday, August 24 will be a joint meeting with the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry which is celebrating its Jubilee. Prof. M.C. McGlashan will lecture on 'The Role of the Chemist in the Energy Upheaval'. What will happen when the oil runs out? For a few more decades we can depend on coal. Nuclear (fission) energy has become unpopular. Even if we learn to control the fusion of hydrogen, the chemist will still have to find out how best to produce the hydrogen and how to dispose of the by-products. But there will remain many chemical sources of energy, and some non-chemical ones, if sufficient chemists, engineers and physicists are trained to develop them. The price we must all pay for peace and comfort is to solve these problems. The topical nature of this lecture will make it of great interest to all members.

The last lecture in the 1981 series will be given by Mr Ronald Lockley, on the subject 'Endangered Species of New Zealand'. Members will recall that Mr Lockley has recently written a book with a similar title, with paintings by Mr Noel Cusa, which has been very popular. Mr Lockley writes regularly for the **Auckland Star**, and is an eminent author and lecturer on natural history subjects, widely known in Britain and New Zealand. Mr Lockley's last lecture to the

Institute was greatly enjoyed by members, so be sure you hear him on October 19 at 8 pm in the Museum Auditorium. Finally, a reminder about the additional lecture on Wednesday September 30 when John Longworth of the DSIR will lecture on 'Current Trends in Insect Pest Control'. This is a joint lecture with the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Entomological Society and will be at 8 pm in the Museum Auditorium.



Photograph Copyright N.Z. Herald

Museum Librarian, Ian Thawaites, consults a volume from the set of the Lyttelton Times for 1880-1929, which has recently been presented to the Museum, together with the Christchurch Times for 1929-35 and the Christchurch Press for 1935-41. The papers were a gift from the Library of Lincoln College; freight costs from Lincoln were met from donations to the Members Library Purposes Fund. This major acquisition is the only large holding of a Christchurch newspaper in any Auckland library.

American Exhibition of Maori Art

As had been mentioned from time to time in the press, discussions have been underway for almost two years between representatives of American art museums and New Zealand agencies concerning a proposed exhibition of Maori art to be shown in New York, Chicago and San Francisco in 1983-4. In June, Auckland Museum received a visit from Douglas Newton, Curator of Primitive Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Mr Newton is involved in the selection of objects to be included in the exhibition, which will be drawn entirely from New Zealand museum collections. While in New Zealand, Mr Newton held discussions with Museum staff and controlling authorities, with representatives of Maori communities and with Government officials.

Following these discussions, a formal approach for specific objects will now be made. In many cases, this Museum will probably agree to the request, although there are a few objects whose fragility, state of preservation or cultural significance make them unlikely to be included. In addition, it was stressed to Mr Newton that, in all cases, approaches would also have to be made to the Maori groups whose relatives and ancestors carved the objects concerned, seeking their approval for the loans. Once both the Museum and the Maori group concerned have given their consent, then each object will finally be checked by a conservator to ensure it is able to withstand the rigours of travel and exhibition during the year it will be away.

While it is accepted that there will be some unease and even some opposition to these great treasures of Maori art leaving the country, it must be remembered that this temporary loan will enable many thousands of people to see and enjoy Maori art who would otherwise be unlikely to be able to do so. In addition, a prestigious exhibition in venues like the 'Met' will ensure that Maori art achieves its due from the art lovers of the world. Thirdly, the exhibition is a form of international goodwill, a *koha* in response to the generous loans of art objects from overseas New Zealand has received in recent years.

Who's Who A Guide

ADMINISTRATIVE

Director: Stuart... the University Association of Anthropologists responsible to Museum's activities

Accountant: E... Chartered Secretary of Wellington. joined Auckland the Museum, in investments co... Accounts Clerk Assistant, he is expenditure wh... capital assets

CURATORS

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Who's Who at Auckland Museum:

A Guide to its Curatorial and Administrative Staff and their Duties

ADMINISTRATION

Director: Stuart Park has a Master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Otago and holds the Diploma of the Museums Association of Great Britain. From 1968-1979 he was Anthropologist at Otago Museum. At Auckland since 1979 he is responsible to the Museum Council for the whole range of the Museum's activities.

Accountant: Bruce Robertson is a Chartered Accountant and a Chartered Secretary with a B Com degree from Victoria University of Wellington. Previously he worked for several local bodies and joined Auckland Museum in 1973. Responsible for the accounts for the Museum, including the shop and coffee lounge as well as the investments controlled by the Museum Trust Board. With his Accounts Clerk, Clerical Assistant and a part-time Clerical Assistant, he is responsible for the Museum's revenue and expenditure which both exceeded \$2 million in 1980-81, and its capital assets valued at nearly \$3 million.

CURATORS

Applied Arts: Brian Muir has a Bachelor's degree in History and a Diploma of Teaching. Previously Director of the McDougall Art Gallery in Christchurch and of the Manawatu Art Gallery, he came to Auckland in 1978. Responsible for the collections of Applied Art, a broad term embracing pottery and glass from Asia, Europe and New Zealand, European clocks, furniture, silver and jewellery, craft pottery and textiles. He also acts as Curator of Colonial History, responsible for all objects associated with New Zealand's colonial history. Assisted by several honorary staff (especially in furniture and textiles) and a part-time technician.

Archaeology: Nigel Prickett has a Master's degree in Anthropology from Otago University and a Bachelor's degree in History from Victoria University in Wellington. He has recently completed a thesis for a PhD degree at Auckland University. Formerly Director of Taranaki Museum, he was appointed to Auckland in 1979. As the E Earle Vaile Archaeologist, Nigel has responsibility for the archaeological collections from New Zealand and the Pacific and a brief to undertake archaeological research in the same areas. His salary and expenses are paid entirely from the Vaile Endowment. A one person department.

Botany: Anthony Wright holds a Bachelor's degree in Botany and Geology from Auckland University, and is completing research for a Masters in Botany. He was appointed in 1980 on a part-time basis, and took up full time duties in 1981. Responsible for the Museum's botanical collections of live and preserved plants, especially in the herbarium (place for storing pressed dried plants for reference and study) founded by the Museum's first director, T.F. Cheeseman. A one person department.

Conservation: Leo Cappel holds a degree in Industrial Arts and Crafts from Amsterdam. He came to New Zealand in 1959 and was Art Technician at Canterbury Museum Education Department from 1960 until he came to Auckland in 1964. His position is a dual one, doing preparatory work such as casting and making models and dioramas, as well as undertaking some conservation work. A one person department.

Display: Richard Wolfe holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Auckland. He was at Canterbury Museum from 1973 until 1977, when he came to Auckland as Staff Artist. He became Curator of Display in 1978. Responsible for planning and execution of all new displays in the Museum, both temporary and permanent, and for maintenance and upkeep of existing displays. Two assistants and part-time technical help.

Education: Struan Ensor (Senior Education Officer), Bert Cadman and David Reynolds, the Museum's three Education Officers, are all trained teachers. They are employed by the Auckland Education Board and appointed to the Museum. They have an art technician and a part-time teacher's aide, also employed by the Board. Responsible for all school class visits to the Museum, for material circulated to schools and for teacher training at the Museum.

Entomology: Keith Wise was formerly an entomology technician with the DSIR and worked voluntarily at the Auckland Museum in the 1950s. He was Entomologist with the Bishop Museum, Hawaii, from 1961 to 1965, when he joined the Auckland Museum staff. He is now Senior Scientist. Responsible for the collections of insects and other land invertebrates (except snails) from the whole world, but especially New Zealand. He also edits the Museum's Annual Report and its scientific publications. He has one part-time assistant.

Ethnology: As well as being Ethnologist, David Simmons is Assistant Director. He has a Master's degree in Anthropology from Auckland University and Diplomas in French and Celtic studies from the Sorbonne and the University of Rennes. He was Anthropologist at Otago Museum from 1962 until 1968, when he came to Auckland. He is responsible for the Ethnology collections — those things made by the indigenous peoples of New Zealand and the Pacific, Australia, Africa and America, some Asian material and collections of archaeology of the Old and New Worlds. He is also active in liaison between the Museum and the Maori community, and is author of many research publications, both popular and scientific. He has an assistant and a part-time clerical assistant.

Extension Service: John Wadham has a Bachelor's degree in Botany from Auckland University and was a school teacher until appointed to Auckland Museum in 1967. He is responsible for the Museum's circulating displays to museums, libraries and local authority offices throughout the province. He also controls auditorium bookings, publication orders and some public relations and tour work. He acts as Curator of the War Collection, being responsible for all the military collections. Two one-man departments, in one.

Liaison Officer: Sherry Reynolds has a Master's degree in Anthropology and, until she was appointed to this new position in 1981, was a primary school teacher. Her duties involve liaison work with local museums in the northern part of the North Island. The position attracts a subsidy from the Department of Internal Affairs.

Library: The Library has a staff of two trained librarians, a library assistant currently in training and a clerical assistant. The Librarian, Ian Thwaites, has a Bachelor's degree from Victoria University in Political Science, holds the Diploma of the New Zealand Library School and is an Associate of the New Zealand Library Association. He joined the staff at Auckland in 1970, having previously been at the General Assembly Library and the Turnbull Library in Wellington. The Library provides reference services and current periodicals to all the Museum staff in support of their activities. It is a major historical resource for Auckland and New Zealand and has important science and museum holdings not held elsewhere in the country. It is also a Library for the members of the Institute and Museum.

Malacology: Walter Cernohorsky has a degree in architecture from Brno, Czechoslovakia. Before his appointment to Auckland Museum in 1968, he was Honorary Conchologist to the Fiji Museum. His brief at Auckland is the care of the collections of shells, both fossil and modern, and the carrying out of research and fieldwork related to those collections. He has published extensively on Pacific shells, both in scientific journals and in popular books. Dr Baden Powell, the former Assistant Director of the Museum, is Honorary Research Associate in Mollusca, but Mr Cernohorsky is essentially a one-man department.

Marine Biology: Brett Stephenson has a Master's degree in Zoology from Auckland University. He joined Auckland Museum in 1966 and has care of the collections of all marine animals (other than shells), such as fish, whales, seals, crustacea and other marine invertebrates. He also assists in the oversight of the reptile and mammal collections, for which no curator exists. In addition, he is Curator of Maritime History, with responsibility for all the collections of objects related to the sea. Two one-man departments, in one.

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Ornithology: Mrs Sylvia Reed is Associate Ornithologist, employed two days each week, since 1971. She has charge of the collections of birds, with some responsibility for reptiles and mammals, for which there is no curator. A part-time department.

Planetarium: Gary Freeth conducts the school and public sessions in the Planetarium, drawing on his knowledge of astronomy.

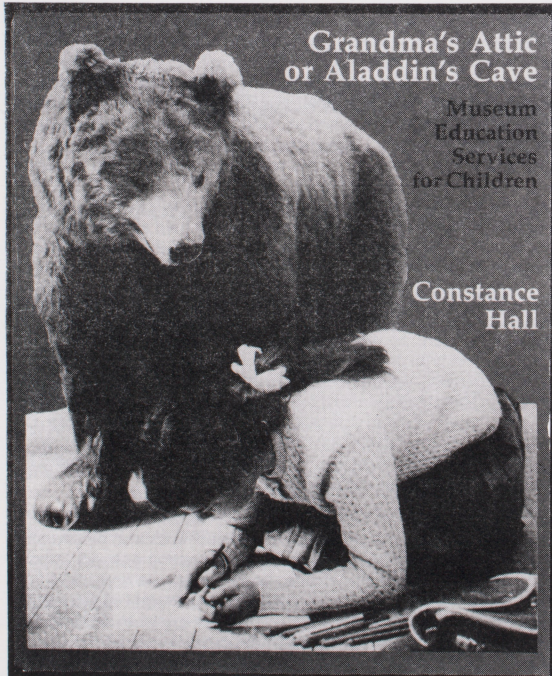
Museum Education

Second only to their role in the collection and preservation of objects, museums exist for education. Museums' educational functions are carried out through their displays, their publications and research, and not least through their formal educational activities with school children.

Auckland Museum has since the 1930s played a leading role in the development of educational activities in New Zealand museums. The early experiments carried out under the impetus of Gilbert Archey lead to a system of museum education which was literally an example to the world. Now, Constance Hall, a former Education Officer at the National Museum, has written a history of education services in New Zealand museums which will interest anyone concerned with museum education, whether as a former pupil, a present teacher, educator or museum staff member, or as someone interested in better understanding the educational work of museums.

Mrs Hall's book is not, however, mere history. She critically evaluates the museum education system as it exists today and points to many areas for potential improvement. She suggests that New Zealand's former position as a world-leader has been eclipsed, not for want of dedication on the part of the museum teachers, or of willingness on the part of museums themselves, but through an inflexible system and a combination of circumstances which have not allowed adaptation to changing needs. This book must be an important milestone for museum education in this country and will be of great interest to all who are concerned for museum education.

'Grandma's Attic or Aladdin's Cave: Museum Education Services for Children' by Constance Hall, is published by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, and is available from the Museum Shop, price \$10.50. A copy is also available from the Museum Library.



Photograph Copyright N.Z. Herald

Assistant Director, David Simmons, and Preparator-Conservator, Leo Cappel, hold one part of the recently discovered carved Maori door lintel, currently being treated at the Museum.

The lintel was found in two pieces, on opposite sides of the Waihou River, near Thames, several months apart. The finders, Clive Smith of Puriri and Greg Way of Turua, have both indicated that they wish the lintel to be deposited in Auckland Museum under the provisions of the Antiquities Act.

Disabled Access

To coincide with this International Year of the Disabled Person, the Museum has been taking action to improve disabled access. Several years ago, a ramp was constructed at the Museum's front steps, following an appeal which was generously supported by many people, and the Auckland Savings Bank. Now the Auckland Savings Bank has again provided generous assistance to the Museum to improve disabled access within the Museum building. Work is currently underway to provide a toilet facility for the disabled, to allow Museum visits to be undertaken in much greater comfort. The more difficult problem of providing ramp access to the interior parts of the Museum has been the subject of much detailed consideration by the Museum Council, staff and the architect, Mr Draffin. At the time of writing, plans have not been finalised, but it is anticipated that this work will also be carried out during the present year.

Lunchtime Lecture

A special additional lecture in the Institute series will be held in November to help evaluate the demand for lunchtime lectures. Messrs Park, Simmons and Muir of the Museum staff will talk on 'Treasures of the Auckland Museum', describing and giving the history of several of the Museum's greatest objects. Following the lecture there will be an opportunity for members to look at these objects in the Museum galleries, perhaps with a new insight following the talks. If this lunchtime lecture is successful, others may follow next year. The lecture will be held at 12.30 pm on Tuesday, November 3, in the Museum Auditorium (entry by the West Door). Members may like to come early and lunch in the Coffee Lounge beforehand.