



Auckland Museum NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
Private Bag, Auckland. Phone (09) 30-443
Registered at Post Office Headquarters
ISSN 0111-2252

Number five
March 1981

The Christmas-New Year period is a restful time of quiet for many people, but not for the Museum and its staff. This is one of the busiest periods of the year for visitors to the Museum, since the Museum is obviously a highlight of the visit to Auckland of many people on holiday, be they urban or rural Aucklanders, New Zealanders from other parts of the country or overseas visitors. During 1980, over one and a half million visitors came to the Museum, an average of 4,100 on each of the 364 days the Museum was opened last year. In fact, of course, on some days this average figure was greatly exceeded. On Auckland's Anniversary Day this year 10,100 visited the Museum, and as well as enjoying its displays were happy to be able to patronise its shop and coffee lounge.

The Christmas period is a time to plan for the year to come. This copy of the News contains details of the year's programme for the lectures of the Institute, which it is hoped will be well supported by members. The Institute Committee

tries to arrange an interesting programme for members, and feels sure that there is something of interest for most people in the programme for this year. Members should not forget that this programme is arranged for them, and are asked to support these activities by a good attendance.

Other planning currently underway concerns the future development of the Museum. Members will read below of the use to which the bequest of Miss Dixon, mentioned in News three, is to be used. Plans to encompass the whole development of the Museum and its displays over the next several years are in preparation, and will be presented to the Museum Council for discussion and approval in the months to come. Members will be kept in touch with these plans, as it is felt that many of you will want to be as closely involved as possible in the growth of your Museum.

G.S. Park
Director

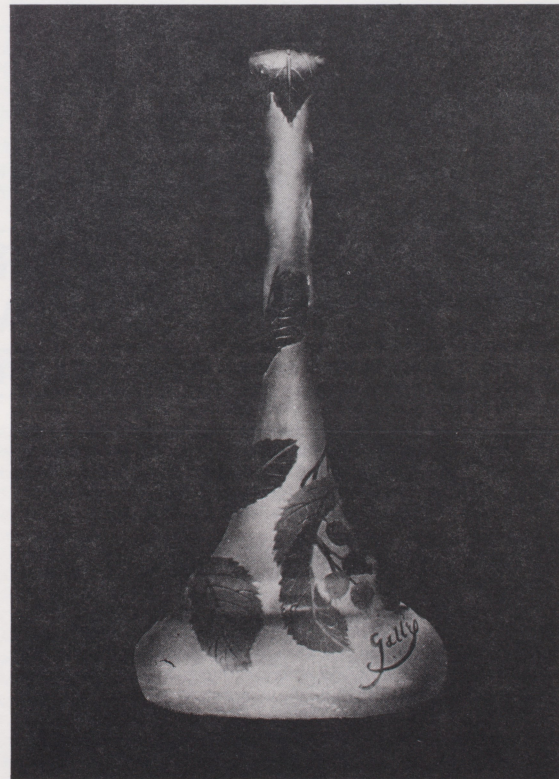
Galle Glass Gift

The Museum has been very pleased to receive, as a gift from the estate of the late Mr H.N. Pountney, a fine example of the glass work of the eminent French craftsman, Emile Galle. Galle's glass is itself very beautiful, and is of considerable importance in the development of the modern craft of glass-making. The Museum has a small but very fine collection of glassware, including several examples of the burgeoning New Zealand craft of glass blowing. It is delighted, through the generosity of Mrs Pountney, to be able to add to its collection a piece by an acknowledged master of the glassmaker's craft.

Special General Meeting

Notice is given that a Special General Meeting will be held on Monday, April 27th in the Museum Auditorium at 7.30 p.m., prior to the Institute lecture that evening. The business is to consider a change to the Rules of the Institute. The meeting will receive a recommendation from the Institute and Museum Council that the word "June" in Rule 17(a) be deleted, and the word "September" be substituted. The effect of this alteration will be to allow the Annual General Meeting to be held in September each year, rather than in June.

The reason for this change arises from discussions between the Museum and the Audit Department. The auditors have been concerned that the accounts printed in the Annual Report, and presented to members for adoption at the Annual Meeting are un-audited. Care has been taken to stress this fact at the meeting,



and in recent years there have been no differences at all between the audited and unaudited accounts. However, the Audit Department has indicated a strong preference that the accounts should be audited before they are printed and circulated to members for adoption.

The present timetable for the preparation, printing and distribution of the Annual Reports is tightly circumscribed in the Rules, and does not allow sufficient time for the accounts to be audited before printing. The proposed change would allow sufficient time for the accounts to be prepared, audited and printed before circulation to members for an Annual Meeting to be held in September. Council believes the change will ensure that members are kept accurately informed of the state of the Museum's affairs, and recommends that members approve the change.

Since the proposed change has not yet been approved, however, the enclosed Syllabus shows a June date for the Annual Meeting, as the Rules currently require. If the Rule change is approved, the dates of the Annual Meeting, and Mr Prickett's lecture in September will be exchanged; advice concerning this will appear in the next News.

AGMANZ Diploma in Museum Studies



For some time museum professionals in New Zealand have been concerned at the lack of formal training in Museum studies available in this country. Museum staff have only been able to learn the curatorial side of their work through "on the job" experience. This lack of formal training has led the Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand to establish a course of training for museum staff leading to the award of the Association's diploma. (Further details may be found in **AGMANZ News** 11 No. 4, November 1980, available in the Museum library.)

Auckland Museum is closely involved in the diploma. The Museum library, which has good resources of periodicals and monographs on museum studies will be the central resource library for the diploma, and the Museum's Director, Stuart Park, is one of the examiners for the Museum Theory component of the diploma. The Museum also hosted the first seminar held as part of the diploma course, during which a visiting American museum designer, Barnes Riznik, lead a course of study on the interpretation of history through museums and historic sites. Diploma students were set an exercise, to be carried out throughout this year of planning for the use of the Melanesian Mission Museum in Mission Bay. The Museum is now under the control of the Historic Places Trust. The

Trust is developing its own plans for the Mission, but is likely to draw on suggestions which will be made by diploma students as part of their work. The accompanying photograph shows diploma students at work in the Melanesian Mission during the course of their exercise.

Museum Visitors

As mentioned above, the Museum is visited by hundreds of thousands of people over the Christmas-New Year period. All these visitors are important to the Museum, but amongst them were some most distinguished visitors who should be mentioned here.

Mr and Mrs Joseph Hirshhorn of Connecticut visited the Museum as part of a Pacific cruise. Mr Hirshhorn has devoted his life to the collection of works of modern art, and in 1966 presented his magnificent collection to the people of the United States. The Hirshhorn Museum in Washington now contains a magnificent collection of modern art, as part of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museums of the United States. Mr and Mrs Hirshhorn were most interested to explore Maori and Pacific art, something they had previously been little exposed to.

The Museum's Maori collections were also an attraction for Mrs Killen, the wife of the Australian Defence Minister, who visited the Museum in the company of Mrs Thomson, her New Zealand counterpart, and Mrs Anderson, the wife of the New Zealand chief of the Defence staff. Another distinguished Australian visitor was the Victorian Premier, Mr Hamer, who also spent some time looking at the Museum's Maori collections, with the Institute's President and the Director.

Mr Keith Pallot, the Director of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, visited the Museum during a visit to New Zealand to discuss the work of the Commission. He was interested to visit the Museum's Halls of Memory, and was interested to discuss the attitude of Museum visitors, and particularly the young to these memorials and to the displays of military items in the Museum. The Auckland Museum experience reflects that noted by the Commission, of a growing interest among young people who have never experienced war in the history of the major conflicts in which their fathers and grandfathers participated. Mr Pallot sees the work of the Commission, and places such as the Museum as being both commemorative of the fallen and providing a lesson to the living.

At the end of February, a delegation of European Parliamentarians visited the Museum as part of a New Zealand tour. The Museum's President, Dr R.H.L. Ferguson and Assistant Director, Mr Simmons, met the group and conducted them on an inspection of the Maori collections.

Another visitor was Mr Lloyd Herman, Director of the Renwick Gallery, part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. Visiting New Zealand on a Churchill Fellowship, Mr Herman was interested to discover New Zealand's crafts and crafts-people, and used the Museum as an introduction, looking both at the Maori collections with the Director and at the collections of New Zealand ceramics, weaving and glassware with Mr Muir.

Museums Liaison Officer

The Museum has just advertised for a new staff position, that of Museums Liaison Officer. This position arises from a Government subsidy offered to allow major museums to assist local museums in their areas with advice on matters of display, storage, conservation and general care of their collections. The advertisement has attracted a high calibre of applicant, and Council expects to be able to make an appointment shortly. This position should enable the Museum to improve the service it has been able to offer to local museums, and should strengthen our links with these important local institutions.

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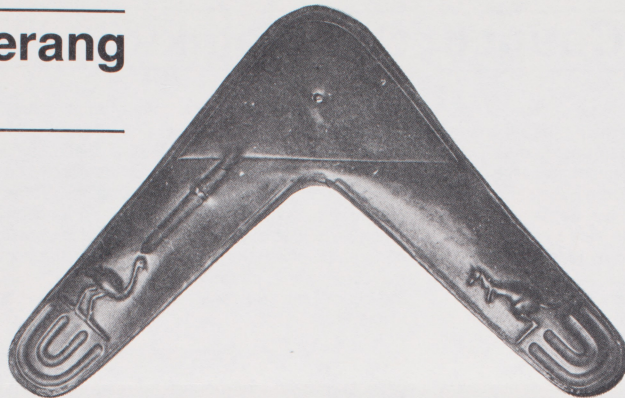
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Boomerang Bomb



The care and storage of the Museum's collections involves the staff in continual inspection of the collections and improvement in their documentation. During this process many interesting facts about previously unrecognised objects come to light. During his work on the military collections, John Wadham has discovered a curious item with an intriguing history.

War time is a period when many inventions, some ridiculous, some sensible, are presented to Governments with the object of shortening the war and making the inventor rich. One such device in the Museum's collection which has been the subject of recent research, was presented as an Australian Boomerang Bomb. The implications of a Boomerang Bomb make it sound like something that would have delighted the hearts of early movie directors. This object, made of light sheet metal, decorated with Australian animals, and with a patent number on it, seemed most unmilitary. Serious doubts were held about the correctness of its identification. It seemed much more like a toy.

The Australian War Memorial had no knowledge of a Boomerang Bomb but as a result of much correspondence with the Australian Patent Office Mr Wadham at length found that the object is indeed an Australian Boomerang Bomb. The cavity inside was to be filled with explosive and pellets and a slow fuse inserted. With skill, which the inventors said was easily acquired, it could be made to fly around the corners of buildings and over high parapets. The inventors also said that its design was such that its returning qualities were restricted so that it would never land closer than thirty yards from the thrower.

As with all boomerangs its flight path was flat with a rise at the end of its trajectory as contrasted with a non-aerodynamic object such as an orthodox grenade where the highest point is halfway along its trajectory. This factor would have certainly aided in placing such a missile over fortifications. All in all it seems quite a good idea — for some reason however it was never adopted! After patents were issued for it in 1916, it seems to have disappeared from sight, only to surface again in Auckland Museum.

Mr Wadham has arranged an interesting display of the Boomerang Bomb and the documents associated with it, in the Military History section of the Museum's displays.

Institute Lectures

The first lecture in the 1981 Institute series is Mr Theodore Cohen, an eminent American museum designer, whose visit to New Zealand is being sponsored by The American-New Zealand Educational Foundation. Mr Cohen's displays at Oakland Museum and elsewhere have been outstanding, and his discussion of American and New Zealand displays promises to be of interest to all those connected with museums, as visitors, members or staff.

Our April lecturer needs no introduction to members, and his topic will be of considerable interest. As well as being Director Emeritus

of this Museum, Graham Turbott is an active member of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board, and has had a life-long involvement in the natural history of the islands of the Gulf. "Islands of the Hauraki Gulf" will be an evening not to be missed.

Dr H.J. Percival who is the lecturer in May was until recently Director of the Pottery & Ceramics Research Association. Dr Percival's subject "Earth & Fire: the chemistry of pottery" gives a taste of what promises to be a most interesting evening.

Special Exhibitions

Two rather different but equally exciting exhibitions begin in the Special Exhibitions gallery in April. **Woven Treasures** presents **ikats** and other woven textiles from Island Southeast Asia drawn from several private collections in Auckland and Singapore. The exhibition will present a rare opportunity to view some superb examples of this little-known textile tradition.

Image and Idea is a travelling exhibition from the British Council which presents a view of contemporary ceramics in Britain. The exhibition has just finished a well-received Australian tour, and should present a new perspective on British ceramics.

This is followed by a major exhibition of our own potters' art, the **Fletcher Brownbuilt Pottery Awards 1981 Exhibition**, which begins on 31 May.

Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum

Each year the results of some of the scientific work carried out by members of the Museum staff, or by other people studying its collections, are published in a volume of scientific papers. Volume 17 of the **Records** was published on 17th December 1980. Once again the usual high standard has been maintained, and congratulations are due to authors of papers, as well as thanks to members of the editorial committee and especially to Editor, Mr Keith Wise. This volume of the **Records** includes contributions on the archaeology of Taranaki **pa**, the Chatham Islands and the Coromandel, new plant records from the herbarium, the geology of Auckland City, new shell species from the Pacific, a new marine parasite, South Pacific dragon-flies and a study of the dispersal of Monarch butterflies in New Zealand. One paper, that by Mr Prickett, on the archaeology of the Oakura and Omata districts of Taranaki, has also been published separately, for sale to local people interested in their history. Members may consult copies of the **Records** in the Museum Library, or may purchase copies (price \$16) at the Museum shop.

Membership of Council

Members will be aware from a previous **News** that a vacancy has existed on the Institute and Museum Council since the last Annual Meeting. After much deliberation, Council has appointed Mr H.M. Horton, a Life Member of the Institute, to fill the vacancy. Mr Horton has strong links with the Museum Council, since his mother served as a Council member for several years, and his stepfather, Dr Holland, was Council member, President and Vice President until his retirement from office recently. Mr Horton, who is Managing Director of Wilson and Horton Ltd, also brings to Council his considerable business acumen and knowledge of the business community. Under the Rules, Mr Horton will have to offer himself for re-election at the next Annual Meeting, but members hope he will have a long association with Council.

Hilton Bequest

The Museum has recently received a most welcome bequest of \$22,000 from the estate of Mr E.F. Hilton of Sydney. Mr Hilton was an avid collector of shells during his life, and this interest brought him into contact with Dr Baden Powell of the Auckland Museum, a foremost authority on the malacology of this part of the world. Through this contact, Mr Hilton decided to leave the residue of his estate to the Museum for the purchase and display of shells. The Museum Council has decided to invest the money and to use the income for the purposes specified in the interim, whilst developing plans for the eventual redisplay of the Museum's shell collections. Members will be aware that these displays have been displaced to make room for the Auckland Landscapes installation, and the receipt of the bequest is therefore most opportune.

Honours

It was pleasing to note in the New Years Honours List awards to two members of the Institute. Dr A.W. Baden Powell was awarded the C.B.E. for his contribution to marine science, and also, the Museum believes, for his long contribution to the development of the collections, the displays and the activities of the Auckland Museum. The honour was occasioned by the recent publication of Baden's *magnum opus* "New Zealand Mollusca", but this is only the culmination of a long and distinguished career.

Also honoured was Mr Hamish Keith, recently retired Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand. Hamish has made a remarkable contribution to the arts in New Zealand during his tenure of this important post, and all those associated with the arts and with the Museum movement in New Zealand will welcome this recognition.

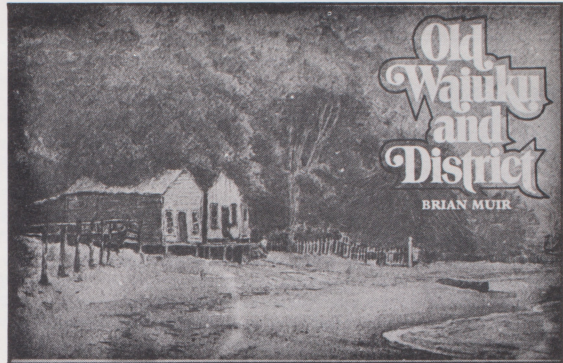
Detail from
original box
for Waterbury
Duplex pocket watch,
c. 1900.



Watch It

Old Waiuku

Brian Muir, the Museum's curator of Applied Arts, has had a lifelong interest in the Waiuku district and its history. He has recently published a pictorial history booklet based on his studies, drawing on photographic resources which include those of the Auckland Institute and Museum. Museum Director, Stuart Park, was delighted to be able to be present at a function in the Waiuku Museum held to mark the publication of the booklet, and to add his congratulations to the many received on that occasion by Brian and his wife, Valerie, on the excellence of their publication. Copies of the booklet may be consulted in the Museum library, or purchased at the Museum shop.



Smith and Caughey Donation

Members will be aware that as part of their celebrations of their Centenary, Smith and Caughey Ltd made several generous donations to a number of Auckland institutions, including this Museum. Council has now decided that an appropriate use of Smith and Caughey's gift would be to upgrade the Museum's facilities for special exhibitions. These exhibitions in the Special Exhibitions Hall are an important part of the Museum's display programme, and are seen by a large number of people each year. Improvements to the display screens and to the lighting will heighten the enjoyment of these visitors. The Museum is very grateful to Smith and Caughey for their generosity, and pleased to be able to use their gift in this way.

The Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Horological Institute is currently presenting a small but fascinating display in the Furniture Hall of the Museum. The Horological Institute was founded in 1937 to provide a central organisation for horologists, and to secure for them a recognised professional status. In addition to attempting to provide a uniformly high standard of craftsmanship it has published a trade journal since its foundation, which has served admirably the purpose of informing members of recent developments in their field and as a vehicle of communication between members. In addition, the Auckland Branch has accumulated a collection of largely obsolete horological tools through donations from members and friends. This collection forms the principal part of the present display. The purpose of the collection is to preserve items which played a humble but important role in the development of horology in New Zealand, from which almost every New Zealander now enjoys the benefits. The Museum is most grateful to the Branch and to other lenders of material for the opportunity to show to Museum visitors these fascinating implements, and the story they have to tell.



SYLLABUS 1981

Supplement to Auckland Museum News 5
March 1981

**Auckland Institute
and Museum**

SYLLABUS 1981	All lectures in the Museum Auditorium at 8pm
Thursday, March 26th	Mr Theodore Cohen, Museum Designer, Oakland Museum, California "Display and Museums"
Monday, April 27th	Mr E.G. Turbott, Director Emeritus, Auckland Institute and Museum "Islands of the Hauraki Gulf"
Monday, May 25th	Dr H.J. Percival "Earth and Fire: the Chemistry of Pottery"
Monday, June 29th	Annual General Meeting (may be moved to September 21st)
Monday, July 27th	Annual Medical Association Lecture
Monday, August 24th	Professor Max McGlashan, New Zealand Institute of Chemistry Jubilee Lecture "Energy Policies in Great Britain and New Zealand"
Monday, September 21st	Mr Nigel Prickett, E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist, Auckland Institute and Museum "The Archaeology of the New Zealand Wars" (may be brought forward to June)
Monday, October 19th	Mr Ronald Lockley "Endangered Species of New Zealand"

ASTRONOMICAL SECTION

Hon. Secretary: Mr O.H. Skarsholt, 203a Godley Road, Titirangi, Auckland 7.
Meets in the Auckland Observatory, One Tree Hill Domain, 1st Wednesday at
8 p.m. (Public Night, Observatory, every Tuesday, 8-10 p.m.)

CONCHOLOGY SECTION

Hon. Secretary: Mrs P. Town, 9 Otakau Road, Milford, Auckland 9.
Meets in the Museum on 3rd Thursdays at 8 p.m.

MARITIME SECTION

Hon. Secretary: Mr W.G. Perkins, 14 Mays Street, Devonport, Auckland 9.
Meets in Flying Angel Mission: Quay Street, 4th Thursday each month.
