

AUCKLAND MUSEUM NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
Private Bag, Auckland. Phone (09) 30-443

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This issue of the News is rather later than intended, since it has been delayed in order to be able to give members the latest information on progress with the amendment to the Museum's controlling Act, mentioned in the last issue. After its advertisement, the Bill was introduced to the House, and given its first reading. The Bill was referred to the Local Bills Committee for submissions, and a delegation lead by Museum President, Dr Lindo Ferguson, went to Wellington to appear on behalf of the Museum. The Committee subjected delegation members to close questioning, but were fully appreciative of the Museum's difficulties, and sympathetic in their search for a solution. At the time of writing, the Bill is awaiting reporting back to the House from the Committee, and subsequently

Stop Press

The Museum Amendment Bill passed through all its stages in Parliament in mid-November, and now awaits only the Royal Assent before becoming law.

the Second and Third readings and the Committee stages of the Bill. The Museum remains hopeful that the measure will be enacted this parliamentary session.

Members of the Museum Council and the staff have been appreciative of the support for the Museum which has been forthcoming from members of the Institute and Museum at this difficult time. In particular, the response by members to the appeal for contributions to the special funds for specimen purchase and for library purposes has been most heartening. Ordinary members donated \$800 at the time that subscription renewals were made, and more recently following a special appeal to Life Members, a further \$2,100 has been given towards these funds, which are used to further the work of the Museum in these two areas. Members are reminded that donations to the Museum of more than \$2 are tax deductible.

G.S. Park
Director

Auckland Landscapes — Past and Future

A new installation occupying about 180 square metres of exhibition space will be officially opened in the Auckland War Memorial Museum on Thursday, 20 November 1980. The exhibition entitled "Auckland Landscapes — Past and Future" will give an introduction to the natural history, Maori and colonial sections of the Museum and at the same time give Aucklanders and visitors an overall idea of the geology, volcanoes, plant and animal life, and the Maori and European history of the city and district. All the exhibition methods available to the modern display worker have been used in the installation. The story of Auckland's most recent volcano, Rangitoto, is told by a model of the volcano in eruption. The model is made in fibreglass, and complete with glowing lava and sound effects. Bird song is played from tapes in the plant and animal section, and the Maori mythology of the fishing up of the North Island and the appearance of Auckland's volcanoes is heard in sound. A general view of the Auckland area will be given by means of a 6-minute helicopter film which will be projected at intervals in the centre point of the display.

The exhibition concludes with a section on "Auckland's Future" which has been prepared by the Auckland Regional Authority Planning Division.

The installation was originally planned by the former Director of the Museum, Mr E.G. Turbott, and Mr Turbott has returned to supervise the installation since his retirement in August of last year. The installation's designer is Mr John Maynard, and display workers have included members of the Museum's Display Department and additional assistants under contract. The work of modification of the corridor containing the display and actual installation of the various exhibits has taken about 2½ years.

A number of scientific advisors including members of the Auckland University Geology Department have co-operated in the preparation of the material for the exhibition, and several volunteers have worked on special aspects.

The cost of the installation (approximately \$150,000) has come mainly from two major donations (of \$60,000 each) from the Sir John Logan Campbell Trust and the Auckland City Council Improvement Trust. A number of metropolitan and provincial local authorities have also contributed, and a special donation of \$20,000 was received to make the helicopter film.



Museum Shop

An anniversary which occurs at this time is the tenth birthday of the Museum Shop, which opened its doors on 20 December 1970. From very small beginnings the Shop has grown into the very successful enterprise it is today. Congratulations for this success are due to a number of people; to members of the Museum Council for their foresight and support, to Graham Turbott and the Museum staff, but most of all to the Shop manager, Mrs Alexander, and her team of assistants. Myra Alexander has guided the development of the Shop over the years and the very high standard she has achieved does great credit to her, as well as to the Museum. The Shop enjoys a unique position in New Zealand museums, and is looked to enviously by institutions overseas. It makes a valuable contribution to the financial support of the Museum, as well as providing a service to our visitors by offering additional information on objects in the Museum's displays, postcards, slides and other souvenirs, and a range of art and craft items and replicas relating especially to the Museum's Maori and Pacific collections. Remember the Museum Shop when you are next seeking an unusual or appealing gift.

Conchology Section Jubilee

As well as the main activities of the Institute and Museum, a number of sections of the Institute carry out a full programme of activities during the year. Members will see reports from these sections in the Annual Reports, but otherwise may be unaware of their activities. One of the oldest sections of the Institute, and certainly one of the most active is the Conchology Section, which this year celebrates its Fiftieth Jubilee. The occasion was celebrated at Labour Weekend with a meeting which, as well as including papers and fieldtrips, had a session to honour the founder of the Section, Dr A.W.B. Powell, and to hear early members of the Section relate its history.

In addition, to mark the anniversary the club has produced a special number of its journal *Poirieria* which includes a history of the Section, an account of its major activities, aims and aspirations and other interesting information. A copy of the journal can be seen in the Museum Library, but some extracts from it will be of interest to other members of the Institute. When Dr A.W.B. Powell gathered together five small primary schoolboys on 11 October 1930 and formed a Boys Club to study natural history in general and shells in particular, he little thought that he was laying the foundation of what was to become one of the largest shell clubs in the Southern Hemisphere . . . During the next five years this little group flourished. On one of their frequent fieldtrips a boy named Fleming (now Sir Charles Fleming) found a very rare shell which he gave to Dr Powell. By 1935 the original members were no longer schoolboys, and it was decided to form an adult club, including also junior members. The club has existed in this form since that time, apart from a break during the War. In 1953 the club became a section of the Auckland Institute and Museum, establishing a relationship that is valued by both the Section and the Museum. The Conchology Section has today over 300 members. From the tributes paid to him at the Jubilee by many members (including Sir Charles Fleming, one of the founding schoolboy members) it is obvious that the Section as well as the Museum owe a great debt to the contribution made and still being made over all its fifty years by Dr Powell.

Flora of New Zealand

The Museum's Botanist, Anthony Wright, notes that the recent appearance of the third volume of the *Flora of New Zealand*, by Arthur Healy and Elizabeth Edgar of the Botany Division, D.S.I.R., Christchurch, marks another milestone in the study of New Zealand's flora. The complete flora is expected to comprise five volumes, the remaining two being in preparation.

Auckland Museum is playing its part in this important undertaking in a number of ways. The Museum Botany Department acts as host to visiting scientists from Botany Division studying plants in the herbarium; the first duplicate of any exchange material from the Museum herbarium is sent to the Botany Division herbarium; close correspondence is maintained, and preliminary checklists published in the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* are carefully compared with the Auckland herbarium holdings; many historic specimen sheets (particularly the collections of T.F. Cheeseman, one of the five pioneering Botanists to whom Volume 3 is dedicated) are exchanged on loan by request. Acknowledgement is made in the volume of the help of the Auckland Museum Botany Department and its former Botanist, Dr Tony Orchard, and many of the specimens cited have an AK prefix, denoting that the Auckland Museum specimens are the first New Zealand collections; a number are cited from the papers of Associate Botanist Ted Bangerter in the Museum *Records*.

Volume 3 of *Flora of New Zealand* describes the introduced monocotyledonous plants — a "weed" flora, as the book itself says. It is available from the Museum Shop, price \$18.50.

How Maui Found His Father

Peter Gossage, Display Artist on the Museum staff, has just had published his second book for children based on the Maori myth cycle of Maui-tikitiki-a-Taranga. Entitled *How Maui Found His Father and the Magic Jawbone*, it follows the earlier volume, now out of print, entitled *How Maui Found His Mother*. Both books are interestingly written and delightfully illustrated; Peter is to be congratulated on this work. Both may be seen in the Museum Library, and *How Maui Found His Father* is available from the Museum Shop for \$6.95. Further examples of Peter Gossage's skill as an artist and illustrator are to be seen in the Auckland Landscapes installation.

Scientific Research Grants

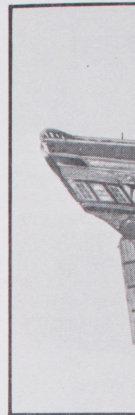
Two members of the Museum's staff have been successful in recent applications for research grants from the Scientific Research Distribution Committee of the Lottery Profits Board of Control. Malacologist Walter Cernohorsky has been granted \$1,000 to assist in travel to museums in the eastern states of Australia to study collections to complete research work on the molluscan family *Buccinidae*. This work was carried out in early November. Entomologist, Keith Wise, was granted \$1,500 for travel and accommodation to enable him to visit the South Australian Museum in Adelaide to complete a programme of research on *Collembola*, the order of insects known as spring-tails. Mr Wise will be undertaking this study shortly, when the necessary arrangements are finalised.



Tsutsumu on display at Auckland Museum

Special Exhibitions

As promised in the last *News*, the exhibition *Tsutsumu*: the art of the Japanese package proved to be the highlight of the Museum's special exhibition programme for this year. A host of intricately wrapped and packaged items, ranging from the most simple arrangement of dried fish wrapped in straw to the most elegant of packages for confectionary from Kyoto proved a real eye opener for New Zealanders used to thinking of packaging only as something extraneous to be discarded. The exhibition has proven very popular with Museum visitors, and this is in no small measure due to the most attractive display arranged by Richard Wolfe, the Museum's Keeper of Display, assisted by Mrs Audrey McBirney. Mention must also be made of the time given by a teacher of Japanese in



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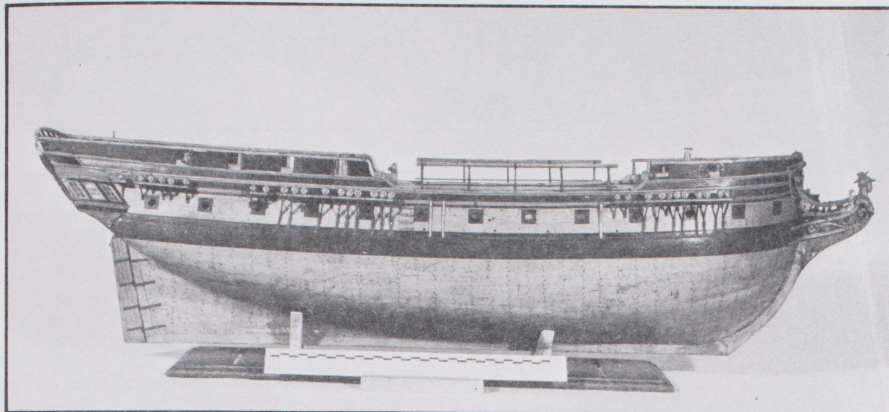
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Model of frigate from the
Butler Maritime Collection at
present on display near to the
Furniture Hall.

Auckland, Harada san, in helping to correctly identify the objects in the exhibition and write labels for them.

Tsutsumu will be a hard act to follow, but the Auckland Photographic Society always present an interesting and exciting display in their Annual Photographic Show, which begins on November 30 for a fortnight. Come and see the work of some of the best of Auckland's photographers.

Commencing on 20 December is another travelling exhibition from Japan, **Traditional Japanese Fabric Dyeing**. This exhibition which is being sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the Crafts Council is being brought to New Zealand by Tamotsu Ngakagawa, an eminent Japanese artist craftsman and living cultural treasure. Ngakagawa will be giving an illustrated lecture-demonstration on his work at the Museum on December 3, and then showing the exhibition over the Christmas period. The visit by Ngakagawa is an event of outstanding importance to New Zealand craftspeople, and his presence along with the exhibition should be immensely stimulating and rewarding.

Following Ngakagawa in January an exhibition from Italy will be shown, made available by the Italian Embassy. **Valcamonica Rock Art** traces man's development through 10,000 years of history by means of copies of rock engravings from the Valcamonica in the Italian Alps. This is an unusual exhibition and one which should prove of interest to many Museum visitors.

New Museums

The Director and several members of the Museum staff attended the opening in October of the new museum at Warkworth. In a magnificent setting beside the Parry Kauri Park the museum building is a skilfully designed "concrete block colonial villa" which will be able to be used to advantage to display the museum's collections. Some of the displays are at present only temporarily installed, but are planned to concentrate on the local history of the Warkworth district, in order to give the museum a distinct character of its own.

Another museum with a distinct local flavour is the Huntly Mining and Colonial Museum, which was opened in early November. Set in a converted mine manager's house, the museum reflects the importance of mining to the history and development of the Huntly district. One of the leading organisers at Huntly has been Mrs D.M.E. Clark, who is a member of the Institute and Museum Council, representing southern local authorities. Auckland Museum staff have been pleased to be able to offer advice and assistance to both these museums during their planning and development, and look forward to a continuation of this co-operation.



Butler Maritime Collection

A collection of models and documents associated with the life of a British privateer has been placed on loan with the Museum, and is currently on display. The collection has been loaned to the Museum by two of Butler's descendants, Mrs C.W. Russell and her son, Evan Butler Russell.

John Butler was born in New Shoreham, Sussex in 1755. He entered the nautical school at Shoreham, and also trained at Dieppe. After serving on his family's vessels, he became Master of the family revenue cutter **Hound**; two paintings of the **Hound** are part of the collection, and its journals give intriguing accounts of privateering and revenue activities in the English Channel in the late eighteenth century. The model of the frigate is perhaps the focal point of this unusually complete collection of closely related documentary material. The maker of this model of a late eighteenth century frigate is unknown, though there are good grounds for suspecting the modeller might have been Butler himself. Certainly he prized the model highly, as does the Museum which is very grateful to the Russell family for the opportunity to display it and the collection.

Council Membership

In the last **News**, the present membership of the Museum Council following the Annual General Meeting was listed. An embarrassing omission was the failure to list the Immediate Past President, Dr J.D. Atkinson, as a member of Council. Under the Rules he is of course a member of Council; our apologies for the error.

Maori Place Names of Auckland

Members will recall that a booklet of **Maori Place Names of Auckland** was published earlier this year. Edited by Museum Ethnologist, David Simmons, from the manuscripts of George Graham held in the Museum Library, the booklet has proven very popular with those interested in the Maori past of their city. In conjunction with this, the Museum has now produced facsimile prints of a map showing these place names. Drawn by Leslie Kelly from George Graham's lists, the original map has recently been placed on display in the Museum. The print makes a most attractive and interesting companion to the booklet; copies are available exclusively from the Museum Shop.

Library Accessions

A number of interesting accessions have been made to the Library recently; some of these are listed here, while others may be seen in the displays in the Library.

Three large collections of music and theatre programmes for the Ephemera Collection were presented in August. Such material forms an invaluable record of social and artistic history in New Zealand. The programmes range in date from 1919 to the 1960s, and the Museum is very grateful to Mrs R.K. Whittome, Mrs K. Fletcher-Jones and the estate of Mr A.R.E. Messenger for their donations.

The Library continues to make a feature of the acquisition of publications on museum studies, including the conservation and handling of all types of museum objects. For example, a wide range of publications issued by the American Association for State and Local History has been purchased, and these include such subjects as small museum management and registration methods. In addition the American Association for State and Local History has issued over 130 technical leaflets, most of which are available in the Library.

Four of the many recent New Zealand accessions should be mentioned. Peter Gossage's book is referred to elsewhere; the other three are notable because all of them are by members of the Institute, and two have resulted in part at least from research carried out in the Museum Library. **Aerated Water manufacturers of Eden Crescent, 1845-1964** by K.G. Rusden presents a fascinating and detailed history of the soft drink industry in Auckland. J.P. Webster's publication on **Ewelme Cottage**, Publication No. 10 of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, is the definitive work by the Trust's curator of this property in Ayr Street. **Harper's mother** by Wendy Simons is a first novel by this local author.

It was pleasing to read of the recent donation to the Auckland Public Library of a large collection of bookplates by Miss Hilda Wiseman. Mention should be made of the P.N. Barnett Collection of bookplates purchased by the Museum Library in 1956. Percy Neville Barnett was one of the foremost collectors of this century, and a world authority on bookplates. The Museum is indeed fortunate to have his collection of over 5,000 examples, since it is indispensable to the student of the art of the bookplate. A selection of examples from the collection is currently on display in the Museum Library.

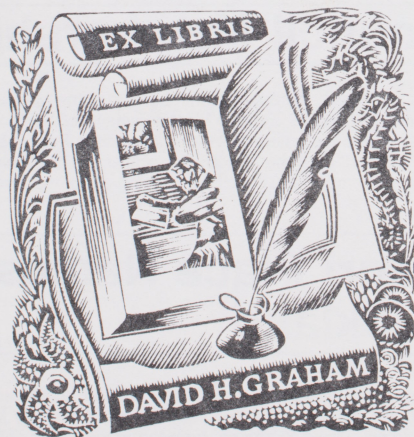
C.H. Worth Memorial Fund

Mrs L.E. Worth, who died in November 1979, left to the Museum a bequest of \$12,000 to be used to provide a memorial to the service in World War I of her late husband, Conrad Haviland Worth; the form of the memorial was left to the discretion of the Museum Council, though Mrs Worth did indicate what she considered an appropriate memorial. Having considered the question, Council has decided to establish the C.H. Worth Memorial Fund. The income from the Fund will be applied to the support of research by staff or research associates of the Auckland Institute and Museum into New Zealand and Pacific natural and human history. Such research should be capable of yielding results in a form suitable for publication in the **Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum**, or other scientific publication, where the source of the research grant would be acknowledged.

The Museum is most appreciative of Mrs Worth's generosity in providing this memorial, and believes its use in this way will serve the dual purpose of providing a tangible and permanent memorial to the late Mr Worth which will have lasting value, and affording much needed support for research by Museum staff.

Honorary Staff

At its October meeting Council was pleased to make a further appointment to the Museum's honorary staff. Members will know that Jeanne Goulding retired as Museum Botanist in April; the issue of the **News** that reported this expressed the hope that her retirement would not mean the end of her long and happy relationship with the Museum. Happily, this has not been the case, and Jeanne is continuing to work, both at home and in the Museum, on a number of research and publication projects in botany. In recognition of this continuing association, and of Jeanne's long involvement with the Museum, Council appointed Jeanne Goulding as Honorary Research Associate in Botany.



Two examples from the P.N. Barnett Collection of Bookplates, being designed by E. Mervyn Taylor (above) and Miss Hilda Wiseman (right).

