



Auckland
War Memorial
Museum

NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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EXHIBITION OF MAORI ART TO TOUR USA



Auckland Museum is to loan 51 major pieces from its collections for an exhibition of Maori art to tour the United States of America in 1984 and 1985. **Te Maori** will open in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in September next year, and will subsequently be shown at the St Louis Art Museum and the de Young Museum of Fine Arts in San Francisco. The exhibition will be the largest Maori art show ever assembled, and draws on the combined collections of twelve museums in New Zealand: Auckland Museum is the largest single contributor.

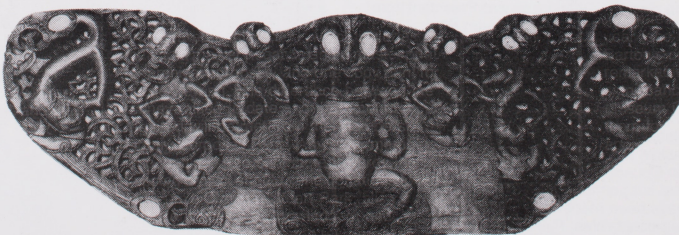
The pieces from Auckland Museum include several of its greatest treasures, such as the Te Kaha pataka panels, the magnificent Patetonga Lintel and the Pukeroa gateway which features on the Annual Report this year (see **News** 12 for an account of Gerry Barton's conservation work on this remarkable piece). Because of the significance of these pieces, the Institute and Museum Council gave its permission for them to be included only on condition that approval was given by the Maori tribal groups whose **taonga** or heirlooms these pieces are. Council was also careful to ensure that every possible security and conservation precaution would be taken with these irreplaceable objects.

The decision to allow these pieces to travel was not lightly taken, but bore in mind the very large numbers of people who will see the exhibition in America, and the much increased prestige this will create for New Zealand, for the Maori people whose **taonga** these are and for the museums of New Zealand. Although the absence of these major pieces will be disruptive of this Museum's displays, the disturbance will be lessened by the fact that the redisplay work in the Maori galleries would have meant that some of these works would have had to be removed from display for the renovations in any case.

Arrangements for the exhibition are being coordinated in New Zealand by a

Governmental committee representing the departments of Maori Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Internal Affairs, as well as the Queen Elizabeth II and Maori and South Pacific Arts Councils. In the United States, the exhibition will tour under the aegis of the American Federation of Arts, with support from U.S. Federal agencies.

The New Zealand planning committee is hoping to be able to tour the exhibition to several venues in New Zealand on its return here, to allow New Zealanders too the opportunity to see this unparalleled collection of their national heritage. While this will lengthen the time the Auckland pieces are out of the Museum, we certainly hope this tour will take place.



Royal Society Publications

As many members will know, the Auckland Institute and Museum is a member body of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and membership of the Institute and Museum implies also membership of the Royal Society. Institute members are able to subscribe to the Proceedings and the Journal of the Royal Society, by writing direct to the Society. The Proceedings are the annual report to members of the affairs and activities of the Society. The Journal is the only international periodical published in New Zealand through which authors can address readers of all scientific disciplines. The Journal's traditional coverage has recently been expanded to include expedition reports, book reviews and notes and comments.

The annual subscription for 1984 for the Journal is \$48 post paid, **BUT** members of the Royal Society and its member bodies (which of course includes members of the Institute and Museum) can subscribe at the special members' rate of only \$25 post paid.

The Member's subscription rate for the Proceedings volume 111 1983 is \$7.50 (normal price \$18.00).

Members wishing to take up these offers should write to the Executive Officer, The Royal Society of New Zealand, Private Bag, Wellington, giving their name and address, enclosing their subscription and mentioning their membership of the Auckland Institute and Museum.

Retiring Officers

We reported in the June **News** that a new President and Vice-President had been elected by Council. At the Annual General Meeting in September, Russell Thomas assumed the office of President and Sheila Weight that of Vice-President. Following these changes, Dr Lindo Ferguson became Past President and Dr Atkinson and Lt Col Hughes ceased to be Past President and Vice President respectively. Dr Atkinson and Col Hughes had been members of Council since 1960. Col Hughes was President between 1970 and 1973, and had been Vice-President from 1973 until the time of the meeting. Dr Atkinson was President from 1976 until 1980, and had been Past President since that time.

As we noted in the last **News**, four new Council members were elected at the Annual General Meeting. At the time of writing, ballots are underway for the representatives on Council of some of the local authorities that support the Museum, and appointments have been made of other local authority representatives. Full details of these members of Council will be given in the next **News**.

Volunteer News

Regular readers (we assume there are some!) will recall mention over the last few issues of the development of a scheme to train volunteer guides at the Museum. There was a very good response to our call for trainees, and thirty five people have been attending the weekly sessions run by the Director and his staff since September. They have all shown immense enthusiasm for the project. The trainees have worked very hard to cope with the large amounts of new information produced for them, but in spite of that their attendance at training sessions has been uniformly high. Guiding began in a limited way in October, and after some initial difficulties and a little nervousness nearly all of them have taken to this work like old hands. By the time you read this, our first guides will have fully qualified, and will be offering tours to casual visitors and organised groups on a regular basis.

Inevitably, in choosing a particular time to offer the training sessions we excluded some who wanted to train but were unable to come at that particular time. Understandably, some of these people were rather disappointed, and we would apologise to them for that. However, we hope they won't have been too discouraged, and that they will be able to take part in the series of training sessions that will be offered next year. These will probably take place on a

weekend day or an evening, to cater for those who have been unable to attend on Tuesday mornings.

Further information will be given in a later **News** but if you would like to be sure that we contact you about these sessions, please write to Stuart Park, the Museum's Director, advising him of your interest, and telling him a little about yourself, especially any particular subjects at the museum which you know something about (if there aren't any, don't worry, as our training should give you all the information you need).

Special Exhibitions

We enclose with this issue of the **News** your copy of the Museum's Special Exhibition Calendar for 1984. As usual, the Museum has been keen to arrange an interesting and diverse range of exhibitions. We will draw your attention to highlights from the calendar through the year, but we must mention here the Museum's own exhibition **About Face** to be shown over the Christmas holiday period. This exhibition follows the pattern of our highly successful **Animals A-Z** last summer, and draws on the Museum's reserve collections to present a miscellany of human images from a wide range of places and periods. We're sure it will prove very popular with our holiday visitors.

Japan Visit

As we mentioned in the last **News**, the Museum's director Stuart Park was awarded a short term visitor's grant from the Japan Foundation earlier this year. Stuart was able to visit Japan for a fortnight at the beginning of November. He spent this time examining Japanese museums and historic places such as temples and shrines, as well as simply gaining an insight into the Japanese people, their history and culture. He reports that he had a most successful visit, as well as a most enjoyable one — Japanese food is

wonderful, he tells us.

Stuart insists that it was hard work, though the photograph we show here suggests that he was able to mix work with pleasure at least some of the time. We understand that Suzuko was one of several geisha who entertained guests at a dinner given for Stuart by Mrs Aya Kiuchi, of Asahikawa in Hokkaido. Mrs Kiuchi is the Japanese weaver whose generous gift of examples of her weaving was reported in an earlier **News**. As you will see from your Special Exhibition Calendar in this issue, an exhibition of Mrs Kiuchi's weaving will be held at the Museum in February, prior to its touring other museums and galleries throughout the country.



War Posters



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War Posters



Mrs B. Westwood recently presented the Museum with an outstanding collection of posters from the Second World War. Almost all the posters in her collection are items which were not formerly in our poster collection. The collection consists of British, American and New Zealand posters in almost equal proportion, and we are very grateful to her for her generosity. One of the posters is shown here.

Staff News

It is pleasing to be able to report the appointment of several new members of staff. Pride of place must be given to the appointment of Trevor Bayliss as Honorary Curator of Asian Arts. Trevor will be known to many members, since he was a member of staff at the museum from 1957 to 1978. Mr Bayliss was appointed originally as the Museum's Extension Service Officer, but in view of his expert knowledge of ceramics and other decorative arts he was the obvious choice in 1964 for the newly created position of Curator of Applied Arts. He became Assistant Director in 1971, and also undertook the further post of Curator of Display in 1972. In addition he acted as the curator of the War History collections. Thus, when Trevor retired in 1978, the Museum Council had to make appointments to no less than four positions!

Trevor has continued his association with the Museum, by participation in seminars in his specialist areas and by readily providing information to the newer staff who replaced him. However, Council became concerned that these links with the Museum were not expressed in any formal way, and accordingly resolved to create the new position of Honorary Curator of Asian Arts. Council and the Museum staff were delighted that Trevor readily accepted this new position, and they look forward to a

Those Telephones

As the number of staff at the Museum and their workload, increases, the pressure on the Museum's telephone system has also increased. Several members have commented that they have had difficulty in

contacting a staff member, because the exchange is continually busy. To help alleviate the problem, we have installed an additional outside line, but unfortunately, this has not been able to be linked with the Museum's existing number.

If the Museum telephone number (30443) is busy, therefore, members may well find they can get through on the additional number 30361. Indeed, since this number is not in the telephone book, and has only been advertised through the **News**, you can consider it as your private "hot-line" to the Museum.

continuing happy relationship with him.

Mr Karel Peters has been appointed Senior Conservator at the Museum. Karel has been working in the field of conservation in New Zealand for many years, particularly in the treatment of waterlogged wooden carvings from swamp deposits. Until his appointment here Karel was Senior Technical Officer in the Anthropology Department at the University of Auckland. He is however no stranger to Auckland Museum, having carried out quite a number of conservation projects for the Museum over the years: the most notable is no doubt the consolidation of the Nukuoro figure Kave. Karel has rapidly settled in to his work here, and he and Gerry Barton, the Assistant Conservator, have combined to form a most effective team.

Rosemary Gilbert and Dawn Hendry have been appointed on a half time basis to positions as technicians in the Entomology and Botany Departments respectively. These appointments follow consideration by Council of the need to provide better technical support for the Museum's curatorial staff. Several of the Museum's "departments" are one person departments, which inevitably means both that necessary work cannot be done and also that curatorial staff spend time doing tasks that should be handled by a technician.



Karel Peters working on a Moriori tree carving. These Polynesian people from the Chatham Islands will be featured in a display in the new Maori galleries.



Kave Goes Too



By a curious coincidence, whilst the Museum Council was considering the request to allow Maori pieces to tour the United States, it also received a request from the Museum of Modern Art in New York to loan another of this Museum's masterpieces for an American tour. MOMA is planning a major exhibition to explore "Primitivism in 20th Century Art", the influence of tribal art on European painters such as Gauguin, Picasso, Brancusi, Modigliani, Klee and others. To accompany the 80 paintings the show will include some 160 of what MOMA hope will be the finest examples of tribal art from museums throughout the world.

Among these, they quite naturally include the statue of the goddess Kave from Nukuoro in the Caroline Islands which has pride of place in the Pacific Hall at the Auckland Museum. Indeed, they value Kave so highly that they intend using her on the posters for the exhibition. Council agreed to the request only after careful consideration. Again, it believed that the benefits to the hundreds of thousands who will see the exhibition, and also to this Museum outweighed the disadvantages. After New York, Kave will travel with the exhibition to showings in Detroit and Dallas, returning to Auckland at the end of 1985.

Nelson Letters

Mention was made in the last **News** of the recent bequest from the late Mrs J.C. Wasey of two letters apparently written by Horatio Lord Nelson to his daughter Horatia. These have been on display in the Recent Accessions case in the entrance foyer, and have attracted attention from many museum visitors. As mentioned earlier, it was not certain whether the letters were in Nelson's own hand, though there was no doubt that their contents were his. Now, advice has been received from the Director of the National Maritime Museum in London.

Dr Neil Cossons (the former director of the Ironbridge Gorge Trust Museum, who addressed the Institute and Museum at the beginning of this year) writes that the originals of these letters, in Nelson's handwriting, are in the collection of the National Maritime Museum. However, he adds that in the opinion of the Maritime Museum's specialists the two letters presented to Auckland Museum are copies of the letters in Horatia Nelson's hand. Both Horatia and Emma Lady Hamilton her mother devoted considerable effort in attempting, unsuccessfully, to obtain for Horatia the pension from the Crown that they believed she was entitled to as Nelson's daughter. It seems likely that Horatia made these copies of her father's letters to her in support of this campaign. How they came to be in New Zealand, and in the possession of the Wasey family remains a mystery, however.

Library News and Activities

The library continues to receive a steady flow of donations, including large collections of manuscripts, maps, photographs and ephemera. Three such collections which have been received recently are the papers of the late Mr J.M. Totich, Honorary Yugoslav Consul in Auckland, the late Mr H.D.B. Dansey, prominent in many spheres of Maori Affairs, and the late Mr Arnold Baldwin, Managing Director of Universal Business Directories. Existing shelving arrangements are inadequate to house these new accessions and considerable re-arrangement will be necessary to deal effectively with this influx of material. The new library opening hours are a great help in providing the necessary time to sort, catalogue and shelve these new accessions.

Even more welcome are the two new library staff, Edmond Sun and Victoria Bell, and real progress in cataloguing and many other tasks has been possible since their arrival. Each year several large collections of manuscript papers are lent for photocopying and Victoria has been able to take the work-load off other staff in this respect. Eddie has relocated several hundred 19th

century New Zealand books from the open shelves to closed stack areas, where their security is more assured.

With Adrian Beasley, who has again joined us as a vacation student assistant, Eddie has also re-organized the entire sequence of the Rare Books section of the library's General Collection. This sequence includes many natural history and ethnology works in addition to books, pamphlets and folio atlases relating to the discovery and exploration of the Pacific. Over 60 special deep shelves have been purchased to house our atlases and folio works more satisfactorily.

Members will have read in an earlier **News**, and more recently perhaps a newspaper report referring to long overdue library books. Ian Thwaites is pleased to report that the recent exhaustive survey of overdue books has resulted in a good response and prompt return of many titles. It is, in fact, a very small percentage of members who offend in this way and it is hoped that their actions will not penalise the majority of members who are most co-operative in their use of our resources.

Flying School Film

In **News Thirteen** mention was made of the Museum's efforts to raise the funds necessary to have copied onto safety film the negative of a film made in 1917 of the Flying School operated at Kohimarama by the Walsh Brothers. Because it is on nitrate film stock, the film is dangerous, and is currently stored in the New Zealand Film Archive's ammunition bunkers in Wellington. It has however immense local and national interest, and the Museum has been anxious to find ways of having it copied, both for public showing and for its own preservation.

A number of members responded most generously to this reference by making donations towards the project. In addition, it was suggested that an approach should be made to the New Zealand Aeronautical Trust. The Trust responded with a most generous grant of \$1,000 from its Walsh Memorial Trust. Together with this sum, the total raised was \$2569. This strong support for the project has meant that we have been able to indicate to the Film Archive that we are able to pay for the copying to be done, thereby "jumping the queue" of films waiting to be processed from the archive's own limited resources. Even so, the film has to wait its turn to be copied, but its wait will now be a much shorter one. As mentioned in the earlier **News**, members will be advised when the copying has been carried out, and a special viewing will be arranged.

The total funds required for the copying project are about \$3,500, which includes making a master negative and a master print for archival purposes, and one copy print for public viewing. The difference between the money raised to date and the amount required will be met from the Members' Library Purposes Fund. Any other members who would like to contribute towards the copying project should send donations to the Museum's Director, Stuart Park; all donations will be acknowledged, and receipts issued for income tax purposes.