

# AUCKLAND MUSEUM NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum  
Private Bag, Auckland. Phone 30-443  
Registered at Post Office Headquarters

Number two May 1980

*Members of the Institute have reacted favourably to the first issue of the News, and the response has been gratifying. Several members wrote making the requested suggestions for additions and improvements to the News, and these were appreciated. Not all of them are able to be incorporated, but many will be adopted in this or future issues. One feature in particular which was requested by several members was the inclusion of a list of recent accessions to the Museum Library. Use of the Library is one of the special privileges of membership of the Institute, and members are therefore*

*naturally interested in its accessions. It is not possible to list all the recent accessions to the Library, as these number many hundreds each quarter. However, we will draw to the attention of members items of special interest and major acquisitions by the Library. Mr Thwaites and the Library staff arrange regular displays in the Library of recently acquired books, and of books related to topical themes. Watch for these displays when you visit the Library, to keep in touch with the Library's growth.*

G.S. Park  
Director

## Exhibitions

With the last **News** members received a copy of the schedule of temporary exhibitions to be held in the Museum during 1980. Those coming up soon include "George Forster", a travelling exhibition from Germany on the life and works of this scientist who sailed on the second voyage of James Cook. Forster and his father, J.R. Forster, who also accompanied Cook, have been rather ignored by scholars of Pacific science, and the exhibition aims to set the record straight, showing the important work of these German scientists in its setting. It also examines the philosophy and politics of the younger Forster, who returned to Germany and a brilliant career as a philosopher and early democrat. Accompanying the panels of text and illustrations which form the exhibition are a range of Pacific artefacts from the collections of the Ubersee Museum in Bremen and the Museum fur Volkerkunde in Frankfurt.

Following the Forster exhibition, opening on June 1st is the 1980 Fletcher Brownbuilt Pottery Awards Exhibition. This annual show is one of the highlights of the craft scene in Auckland, and presents selected entries from this New Zealand wide competition. Not to be missed if you want to keep in touch with the latest and best on the pottery scene. The exhibition runs until June 15th.

"Von Tempsky" opens on June 21st and runs until July 17th. This major travelling exhibition prepared by the Waikato Art Museum presents the life, the art and the adventures of early New Zealand's best known soldier of fortune. The exhibition includes paintings by Von Tempsky not seen in New Zealand since the 1870s, as well as several of his works from Auckland Museum's own collection.

Showing for less than ten days, from July 19th to 27th is a fascinating and beautiful exhibition from the New Zealand Academy of Arts, entitled "Wilderness 5". Five graphic artists and photographers each look at nature in New Zealand from their own special perspective. The exhibition was immensely successful when shown at the Academy in Wellington last year; its brief appearance in Auckland was



*This painting by G.F. von Tempsky is in the Auckland Museum. Von Tempsky's life and art are the subject of a special exhibition in June.*

the only time available before the works in it are dispersed. It really is stunning, and members should make every effort to visit the Museum during its brief appearance.

## Art of New Guinea

An "exhibition" of a slightly different sort is on view in the Museum Shop. A collection of authentic works of art from New Guinea, especially the Sepik River area, has recently been selected expressly for the Museum Shop by Mr B. Darcey whose first selection proved very popular last year. The works for sale have all been approved for export by the National Museum of Papua New Guinea, and present a rare opportunity to purchase well authenticated objects of New Guinea art.



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## Museum staff

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Mention was made in the last **News** of the retirement of Jeanne Goulding from the position of Botanist at the Museum. At its recent meeting Council was pleased to appoint Mr Anthony Wright as her successor in the position.

Mr Wright, who is 25, is a graduate of the University of Auckland, where he is currently completing studies for his M.Sc. degree. He has already undertaken a variety of botanical projects, and has published a number of scientific papers, as well as contributing specimens to the herbaria at the Museum and the University. He was for several years editor of **Tane**, the journal of the University Field Club, and has also served as student representative on the University Council.



Anthony Wright, recently appointed as Botanist at the Museum.

Mr Wright's work at the Museum will involve caring for, researching and adding to the herbarium in the Museum's Botany department, as well as taking part in the Museum's display and education programmes. The Museum Council was certain that he brings to these duties the necessary qualities and skills to make him a most valued member of the Museum staff.

Anthony Wright will take up the position when he has completed his thesis work, but will work in the Museum part-time until then.

The death occurred recently of a former member of the Botany department staff, Mrs P. Hynes. Mrs Hynes was Associate Botanist along with Miss Goulding under the curatorship of both Bob Cooper and Tony Orchard. The number of botanical specimens she added to the herbarium is said to approach that of the collection's founder, T.F. Cheeseman. Mrs Hynes had many friends among the Museum staff and the members of the Institute, and she will be missed.

A new member of the Museum display team is Peter Gossage, who joined us in March. Peter has had considerable experience in television graphics and design work, and has written and illustrated two books for children.

He is already well immersed in the work of the Museum, assisting with the development of the Auckland Landscapes Installation.

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## Maori Place Names of Auckland

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Museum Ethnologist, Dave Simmons, published two papers on Maori place names of Auckland in the latest issue of the **Museum Records**. Edited from the manuscripts written by George Graham which are held in the Museum Library, the papers are full of fascinating information about the place names of Auckland and their origin, meaning and history. Since it is believed that these will have an interest for a wider group than those who subscribe to the **Records**, the papers have been published separately as a booklet, available from the Museum Shop for \$2.95. Look up Orakei, Otahuhu, Owairaka, Oranyplace you can mention (well nearly) and find out about the past of your part of Auckland, and why it is so named.

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## New Zealand Amphibians and Reptiles

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Another publication well worth examining next time you're in the Museum Shop is "New Zealand Amphibians and Reptiles" by Professor Joan Robb, a member of the Council of the Institute and Museum. Writing from a lifetime of study of reptiles in New Zealand, Joan Robb presents clearly and succinctly a wealth of information on these rather ignored members of the New Zealand fauna. The book is well illustrated, and even contains hints on keeping some of the commoner of these animals as pets.

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## Window Replacement

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Members who have visited the Museum recently will have noticed a great deal of activity at the front of the building, with scaffolding, workmen and some disruption to the displays. The work is part of the programme to replace the metal windows of the original part of the building, which have corroded badly since their installation over fifty years ago. The special appeal launched to support the work, and greatly assisted by donations to the Door Appeal, has enabled work to be undertaken on the windows along the main frontage of the Museum; work on the remaining side windows will proceed as finance allows. The disruption to the displays is regrettable, but the work will be of relatively short duration, and order should be restored soon.



George Forst



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## Maori Cases

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Another disruption to the Court, where the display cases of treasured items, cases made of wood, meant that a display fraught with difficulty has now been hung in the display in the Savings Bank.

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## Library

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There have been some changes in the past month.

**Petrus van der Merwe** by T.L. Rodney Goodwin. This is an immense relief. **C.F. Goldie**, 1870-1900, by Alister Taylor. Reproductions of the work of Alister Taylor in this Museum. **World**, by James H. Wilson. An important work.

Other interesting items included: **A history of the Maori and Porpoise** sculpture, by Alister Taylor. **Other related items** from the Southeast Asian collection. **pictorial history**



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View of the  
travelling exhibition,  
"George Forster",  
in the Special  
Exhibition Hall,  
19 April to 18 May.

## Maori Court Carving Cases

Another disruptive activity has been occurring in the Maori Court, where modifications have been in progress to four display cases used to display some of the Museum's most treasured items of Maori art. Previously, rear access to the cases made effective display of these items difficult, and meant that access to them for study and photography was fraught with difficulties. The glass fronts of the cases have now been hinged, and access is greatly improved, as will be the display in the near future. The support of the Auckland Savings Bank for this work is gratefully acknowledged.

## Library Accessions

There have been several outstanding accessions during the past month.

**Petrus van der Velden, 1837-1913, a catalogue raisonne**, by T.L. Rodney Wilson, has been presented by Mr J.W. Goodwin. This is the definitive work on an artist who has immense relevance to New Zealand art history. A copy of **C.F. Goldie, 1870-1947; prints, drawings and criticism**, by Alister Taylor and Jan Glen has been donated by Mr Alister Taylor. This second volume on Goldie includes colour reproductions of several of the original works by Goldie held in this Museum. A third major donation is **Hérons of the World**, by James Hancock and Hugh Elliott, and this important work has been presented by Mr R.B. Sibson.

Other interesting and important additions to the Library have included:

**A history of textile art**, by Agnes Geijer; **Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises**, by R.M. Lockley; **The heritage of Thai sculpture**, by Jean Boisselier; **Chinese celadons and other related wares in Southeast Asia**, published by Southeast Asian Ceramics Society; **British book plates, a pictorial history**, by Brian North Lee.

Of many outstanding new New Zealand books only a few can be mentioned: **New Zealand adrift**, by G.R. Stevens, gives a fresh viewpoint on continental drift theories; **The geology of New Zealand** is a comprehensive two volume work published by the N.Z. Geological Survey; **New Zealand amphibians and reptiles**, by Joan Robb is sure to be in heavy demand; Capper Press have issued a reprint of **The Albertlanders**, by Sir Henry Brett and Henry Hook, originally published in 1927; finally, mention should be made of Miss Una Platts' noteworthy publication **Nineteenth Century New Zealand artists**, a work which will be an invaluable research aid.

Because of their value and importance, not all of these books will be available for borrowing by members, but they may be consulted in the Library.

## Institute Meetings

Members will know that the usual Syllabus card has not been received. Council has decided not to issue the card this year, but to publish through the medium of the **News** details of the year's programme. The full Syllabus was published in number One, but a reminder of forthcoming events will be given in each issue.

The speaker for the meeting on Monday, May 26th will be Dr W.M. Hamilton, whose subject is "Little Barrier Island". Dr Hamilton, a former Director-General of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has had a long involvement with Little Barrier. He compiled a book on the Island published in 1937, and a second edition in 1961. In talking about the Island, Dr Hamilton will refer to its birds, plants and history, including the involvement of the Auckland Institute and Museum over many years since 1886.

Dr A.F. Mark of the Botany Department of the University of Otago will deliver this year's Cockayne Memorial Lecture of the Royal Society of New Zealand on Monday, July 14th. Dr Mark, who has undertaken considerable research into New Zealand's grasslands will speak on the subject "Progress in Tussock Grasslands Research Since Cockayne's Day".



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## Historic Photographs

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Auckland Museum has a large and important collection of historical photographs. Inevitably, some are unidentified, though their subjects are often very interesting. The **News** will publish examples from the collection from time to time — members' help in identifying these would be much appreciated. No prizes, just the satisfaction of adding to our knowledge.

*This photo (right) has been labelled "Blockhouse, probably at Avondale South, Auckland". Research suggests this is not correct — can you identify this photograph?*



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## Annual General Meeting

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Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum will be held in the Museum Auditorium on Monday June 30th at 8 p.m. Business will include consideration of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, and a motion to raise membership subscriptions. Notice has been given of intention to move at the next Annual General Meeting that subscriptions be raised to Ordinary \$10, Life \$100. The motion comes as a recommendation from the Institute Committee of Council; a paper regarding the motion will be circulated to members before the meeting. Business at the meeting will also include the ELECTION of FOUR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. The following members retire and are eligible for re-election: Dr H.V. Coop, Mr J.M. Print, Miss J. Robb.

Nominations are called for the election of Councilors elected by members of the Institute and Museum. Nominations must be in writing, be signed by the nominator, seconder and nominee who must all be members of the Institute. Nominees are invited to forward with their nominations the following information to be circulated with the voting papers: name, address and occupation, posts held and other relevant qualifications. Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by Friday, May 30th, and should be addressed to The Secretary, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland.

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, a wildlife film will be screened.

G.S. Park  
Director

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