



NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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Council Elections

Each three years after the local body elections, the fourteen members of the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum who represent the local authorities of the region on the Museum Council are elected or appointed. This process is underway as we write, and the newly elected Council members will take office in early March. However, those appointed by their authorities have already taken office. Auckland City Council has appointed Councillors Elisabeth Currey, Phil Warren and Lorraine Wilson as its representatives, Manukau City has appointed Ewing Stevens and Ken Hyland, Takapuna City Councillor Peg Phillips, and Waitemata City Councillor Carl Harding.

Councillors Currey, Hyland and Phillips were already members of the Museum Council, and we are pleased to see them return. We extend a warm welcome to new Council members Warren, Wilson, Stevens and Harding. Councillor Wilson is a former member of the Museum Library staff who currently heads the MOTAT library, Councillor Warren is a member of the Board of MOTAT and Councillor Harding is a long serving MOTAT volunteer, so we are assured of their considerable museum interest and experience — we don't think it's a MOTAT takeover. Councillor Stevens is new to museums, but his professional activities at Radio Pacific make him keenly aware of the value of community organisations like ours.

We'll let you know in the next **News** who the other new members of the Museum Council will be for the next three years.

Another Honour

We mentioned in **News 27** that Past President and Honorary Life Member Dr Lindo Ferguson had been honoured by the University of Auckland through the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Laws, and tendered him our congratulations. Now we have further congratulations to offer Lindo, on the occasion of his having been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen. Dr Ferguson was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) in the New Year's Honours List. The award was made in recognition of his services to education in particular, as well as to medicine and local government. We are sure that his long and continuing contribution to the work of Auckland Museum was not unnoticed by those who selected him for the honour. Congratulations, Dr Ferguson.



Photo: New Zealand Herald

Queen Margrethe

The Museum was pleased to receive a visit from Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and his Royal Highness Prince Hendrik during their recent tour of New Zealand. Museum President Sheila Weight and Director Stuart Park met the royal couple and conducted them on a tour of the Maori and Pacific display galleries. A Maori

welcome was accorded the visitors by the Waka Huia group which performs in the Museum, with a speech of welcome by Assistant Ethnologist Te Warena Taua. Both distinguished visitors were very interested in the displays, and showed a keen appreciation of what they saw.



Photo: Virginia Bennett

Assistant Director

Auckland Museum has appointed its first full-time Assistant Director.

Sherry Reynolds, 36, has been the Museums Liaison Officer at Auckland Museum since 1981. She holds a Master of Arts degree with honours in Anthropology from the University of Auckland, and a Diploma of Teaching.

As Assistant Director, Mrs Reynolds will be closely involved in the management and development of many aspects of the Museum. Previous Assistant Directors have also held curatorial responsibilities within departments of the Museum, but the demands of the Museum and the public it serves have grown too large for that to continue satisfactorily.

Sherry Reynolds' work as Museums Liaison Officer has involved her in a very wide range of museum tasks, offering advisory services and access to information to museums throughout the northern North Island. She is a member of the Board of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, a Council member of the Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand, and serves on the Boards of the Auckland Heritage Trust and the Civic Trust Auckland.

"This senior position in New Zealand's largest museum attracted applicants from

throughout New Zealand and from overseas", said Museum President Mrs Sheila Weight. "The competition was very strong, but the Museum Council was delighted to accept unanimously the recommendation of its Appointments Committee that Mrs Reynolds should be offered the position".

This is one of a very few senior museum posts in New Zealand to be held by a woman. Two museums in smaller centres have women as Directors, but none of the major metropolitan museums or art galleries has a woman in a senior managerial position.

Mrs Reynolds took up her duties in January. Inevitably, a new position like this will take a little time to become fully established, and details of the Assistant Director's exact working relationships with other senior members of the Museum staff are not yet finalised. Council plans to keep specific aspects of the job description under review during this initial establishment period. Already however, Sherry Reynolds' work in her new position is being appreciated by staff and public alike.

Sherry has of course resigned her position as Museums Liaison Officer, and we are currently seeking a replacement for her.

Staff News

Curator of Applied Arts Brian Muir had an unfortunate fall just after Christmas, resulting in several weeks in hospital with a badly broken leg and a neck injury. We are pleased to report, however, that he has been making a very good recovery, and we are looking forward to his returning to work. In Brian's absence, Assistant Curator Justine Olsen has been holding the fort in an admirable manner.

We've been enjoying a visit recently from Lady Aileen Fox, the Museum's Honorary Archaeologist, now living in retirement (her third or fourth retirement that would be) in England. Aileen has come out to spend the northern winter in New Zealand, visiting friends and renewing acquaintances, both personal and archaeological. She spent a little while at the Raupa excavations of Nigel Prickett, mentioned elsewhere in this **News**. Nigel is the current E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist at Auckland Museum, a position Lady Fox held from 1974 to 1976 while the former Vaile Archaeologist Janet Davidson was on leave as a Rhodes Fellow in Britain.

Botany Technician Susan Asplin has left us to take up a full time position at Auckland University. We're sorry to see her go, but wish her well for her new position. Her job at the Museum is currently being advertised, and we'll let you know when an appointment is made. Ethnologist Roger Neich recently spent two weeks in Samoa, on a UNESCO contract offering advice on the development of museums and cultural centres. Roger has conducted ethnological fieldwork in Samoa, and his wife Seni is Samoan, so with his wide museum experience he was well placed to undertake such a consultancy.

We printed in our last issue a photograph of long serving members of the Museum staff. In the back row at the right was Bert Cadman. Bert started work at Auckland Museum as Education Officer in February 1957 — staff recently feted him at morning tea to celebrate his thirty years on the staff. Bert is due to begin a well earned retirement at the end of this term, after a museum teaching record that few can match.



Bert Cadman's room — 30 years of museum teaching. Drawing by Juliet Hawkins.

Under a special arrangement with the Department of Maori Affairs in Whangarei and with the support of Te Runanganui o Te Tai Tokerau, Ropata Eruera has been working in the Ethnology Department and in the Museum Library. He is compiling an inventory of all North Auckland Maori artefacts in the collection, and a listing of the rich resources of manuscripts, photographs and published materials relating to the people of the North.

Raupa

The Museum's Vaile Prickett has been on the riverbank pa, Raupa, this summer. The history from Catchment work, so the oppo find out something is destroyed.

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These notes are the end of the ex results so far hav Approximately 2 have been exca surviving centra (much of Raupa destroyed).

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AUCKLAND MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS 1987

Mujehadeen: Freedom Fighters

Auckland Museum regularly receives proposals for interesting special exhibitions, and we are keen to follow these up wherever we can. One of the more unusual suggestions was made to Richard Wolfe, Curator of Display, in 1982. A young New Zealand photographer Terence White who was about to visit Afghanistan asked whether we would be interested to display his photographs upon his return. Richard said indeed we would, but heard no more until last year when Terence White reappeared with some 70 superb images of the Mujehadeen freedom fighters of Afghanistan, and the exhibition could be scheduled for March 1987. White then departed for another trip to an equally dangerous and war torn part of the world, but this time his adventures made front page news in Auckland newspapers.



On January 29th, the **New Zealand Herald** reported the arrest in Thailand of 38 year old New Zealand photographer Terence White. He had been arrested, together with an Australian journalist, while re-entering Thailand after crossing illegally into Burma to interview and photograph the opium warlord Khun Sa. It was suggested that the pair would be deported from Thailand, but at the time of writing the **News** it was not known what the outcome would be. We are obviously hoping that all is well.

In the meantime, the show goes on. "Mujehadeen: Freedom Fighters" will be on view in the Special Exhibition Hall at Auckland Museum from March 7th until the 22nd. The photographs document aspects of the present war in Afghanistan, illustrating

Terence White's considerable personal commitment to the peoples of Asia and their struggles. The exhibition will also include textiles and jewellery from Afghanistan, drawn from Auckland Museum's own collection. It will thus present artifacts of an ancient and endangered culture alongside a very personal interpretation of the present war.

Terence White was born in Gisborne, and graduated B.Sc. (Hons.) in Zoology from Auckland University. Since 1972 he has travelled extensively throughout Asia and Iran. An exhibition of his work toured New Zealand in 1976, and his photographs of Kampuchean refugees in Thailand have been exhibited at the Western Australian Institute of Technology (1981) and Real Pictures Gallery, Auckland (1983). "Mujehadeen: Freedom Fighters" was displayed at Exposures Gallery, Wellington, in February before coming to Auckland.



Photo: Terence White

7 - 22 March

MUJHADEEN: FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Photographs of Afghanistan by Terence White

2 - 12 April

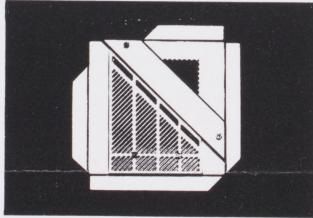
COLOUR AND FORM FROM SWEDEN

A collection of graphic art by 6 leading Swedish artists, as well as examples of modern and traditional knitting in wool.

1 April - 4 May

AMERICAN JEWELRY NOW

110 items by 57 prominent American jewellers represent the richness and diversity of this art form in the 1980s.



2 - 17 May

KIMONO

Traditional Japanese art expressed through the kimono of Hongo Taidenshi

18 May - 21 June

THE APOTHECARY SHELF

European drug jars from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, including examples from the Auckland Museum collection. Exhibition organised by the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia

30 May - 14 June

1987 FLETCHER CHALLENGE POTTERY AWARD

The international pottery award, arranged in association with the Auckland Studio Potters

4 July until February 1988

TE AHO TAPU: THE SACRED THREAD

A major exhibition showing the richness and variety of traditional Maori weaving. 60 garments from the Museum collection

Swedish Exhibition

In April, Auckland Museum is presenting the special exhibition **Colour and Form from Sweden**, a collection of graphic art and handcraft in wool. The prints are contemporary works by six leading Swedish artists, including Mr. Evert Lundquist, one of the most senior of the country's 5000 professional artists. The other half of the exhibition reflects the tradition of Swedish knitting, one of the most popular national hobbies. Examples of early knitted garments will be exhibited alongside recent work by artists in wool.

Simultaneous with **Colour and Form from Sweden** there will be a festival of recent Swedish films shown in Auckland. Seven films, including two for children, all made in the last three years, will be screened. The most famous Swedish film director, Ingmar Bergman, will be represented by a documentary on the making of his "Fanny and Alexander". These films can be seen at Charley Gray's Pictures, Capitol Cinema, 610 Dominion Rd, Auckland (Ph. 602-599).



Ham

Just in case so (doesn't every mention an item issue which is Auckland". Ur Ham Sandwich

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Hamming It Up

Just in case some of you don't read **Metro** (doesn't everybody?), we would like to mention an item in the section of the January issue which listed "The Pleasures of Auckland". Under the heading "The Best Ham Sandwich", **Metro** wrote:

"Not even mother made them this good. Layers and layers of skinny-sliced ham between slices of dough-fresh bread and not another thing more unless you want mustard. They're at the museum. The secret, so the proprietor says, is always to use ham off the bone, rather than the pressed variety. And for this king among sandwiches? A mere 85 cents for the man-sized version."

Of course, we, and you, have always known the Museum Coffee Lounge made the best ham sandwiches in the world, but now the world knows too (or at least that part of the world that reads **Metro**). Coffee Lounge Manager Cathy Bader and her staff are rightly proud of their ham sandwiches, which are an institution within our institution, and their other delicacies too — keep up the good work, people! We do wonder though, Mrs Bader, where **Metro** got the idea you were the "proprietor"? Is this a takeover bid?

We might also mention another entry in the same **Metro**, under the heading "The Best Best-Selling Post Cards at the War Memorial Museum". They write: "Despite the fact that



Mary McSweeney and Jeanne Mellamphy with the "King among Sandwiches."

the museum haven't printed any new postcards for some 20 years, they still sell more than 1000 in a good week." Sorry, **Metro**, your research has let you down. Quite a number of new images have been produced as postcards in recent years, including the moa card you mention, as well

as the Pacific canoe hall, the Landscapes volcano model, Kave, the Zero and others. We are currently planning to produce more, using Brian Brake's photographs from **An Introduction to Auckland Museum** published recently.

Fact and Fiction

We don't usually pass on comments about books Museum staff have been reading, but Museum Director Stuart Park has been enthusing about a book he read over the summer holidays. Since Museum Council member Michael King has described the book in a review as "our best-ever historical novel set in the 19th century", since the book is written by a longstanding member of the Auckland Institute and Museum, and since it has a link with a Museum display, we thought we could mention it in the **News**.

Season of the Jew by Maurice Shadbolt is a novel set in Auckland, Poverty Bay and Wellington between the years 1863 and 1869. It follows the fortunes in war and in love of one George Fairweather, a character

Shadbolt himself describes as "a composite character in these pages, yet far from fiction." The author's ability to blend documented historical fact with skilful characterisation and gripping plot is the key to the novel's success. Characters in the novel include Te Kooti, Generals Cameron and Whitmore, Major Ropata Wahawaha, Major Reginald Biggs, Sir William Fox, all well known historical figures. There are also some lesser known "real-life" characters like Hamiora Pere, Robert Herrick, Mrs Newman, together with some fictional ones.

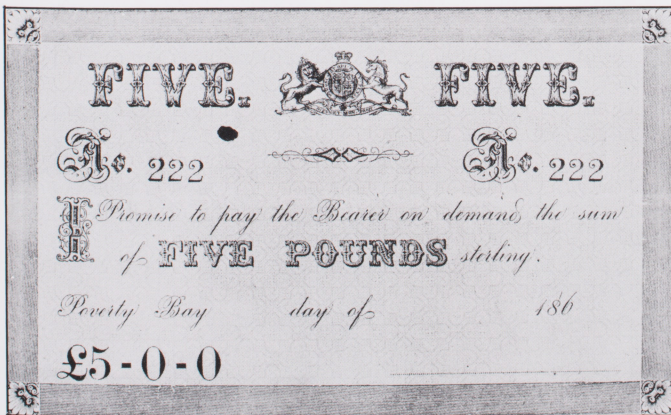
Shadbolt's previous historical New Zealand novel, **The Lovelock Version**, was full of references to historical characters and events, yet rather irreverent in its respect for "truth". The same cannot be said of **Season of the Jew**. Examining the historical records

again after reading the novel reveals how clever Shadbolt has been in his intertwining of fact and fiction.

One of the characters who appears "larger than life" is Trader Read, the pakeha trader whose early arrival at Turanga (later Gisborne) had given him both wealth and power in the fledgling settlement. In an afterword, Maurice Shadbolt notes that Captain Read was in fact an historical figure, though the only trace of him in Gisborne is the riverside Read's Quay.

Captain G.E. Read has a place however in Auckland Museum. In the display on the history of New Zealand currency are two "bank notes" printed and issued by Read in Poverty Bay. According to Sutherland's **Numismatic History** and Hargreaves' **Beads to Banknotes**, the One Pound and Five Pound notes were issued in the 1860s, as an advance to pay troops in the War, although they are said to have circulated among local Maori as well. The use of the Royal Crest on the notes suggests that they may have had official sanction, but it would seem more likely that was just a liberty Read took. All of the notes which survive are unsigned and unissued, suggesting that perhaps none were in fact ever used as currency. They remain as a numismatic rarity, and a visible link with a fascinating character from New Zealand's past, whom Maurice Shadbolt has brought very much to life in **Season of the Jew**.

Do read **Season of the Jew**. And when you have, Witi Ihimaera's **The Matriarch** presents a fascinating contrast in examining some of the same events from a very different perspective. Both books are available in the Museum Library, though their authors, and the Museum, would be pleased if you purchased them from the Museum Shop.



Raupa Excavation

The Museum's Vaile Archaeologist Nigel Prickett has been excavating at the old riverbank pa, Raupa, near Paeroa this summer. The historic site is under threat from Catchment Board flood protection work, so the opportunity has been taken to find out something about the place before it is destroyed.

The dig has been largely financed by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, with gear and equipment from the University of Auckland and some additional funding from Auckland Museum. More than sixty volunteers have worked at Raupa for periods ranging from one to six weeks. The results of the work will be submitted for publication in the Museum **Records**, our annual scientific publication.

These notes are written two weeks before the end of the excavation season, but results so far have been exciting. Approximately 200 square metres of the site have been excavated in several parts of the surviving central area of the 2 hectare site (much of Raupa has already been destroyed).

Artefacts recovered include hundreds of chert and obsidian flakes — used as ever ready knives for cutting and scraping tasks, several stone adzes, fragments of bone fishhooks and pieces of a patu onewa (basalt "club") and patu muka (flax beater).

Several midden and cooking areas have been excavated which throw light on the subsistence of the people who lived at Raupa. A long rectangular storage pit was found, and what at the time of writing shows every prospect of being a substantial dwelling.



This last is of particular interest: the missionary Samuel Marsden remarked in his journal that when he visited Raupa in June 1820 he was accommodated in one of several houses which were "... much larger and better built than any I had seen in New Zealand." If one of these large houses has indeed been found it will be an important addition to archaeological knowledge of the early nineteenth century in the northern part of New Zealand.

The excavation team has been housed at Te

Pai o Hauraki marae near Paeroa. The kindness of Ngati Tamatera in making available such excellent facilities and their interest in the work has added another dimension to the excavation experience of many of the volunteers, a large number of whom had not stayed on a marae before.

Our photo shows Archaeologist Nigel Prickett discussing the work with Hugh Fraser, one of the Museum's Volunteer Guides who assisted at the dig, and Carolyn McGill of Dunedin.



Photo: Virginia Bennett

Tongan Expert

The Museum Ethnology Department is currently hosting Mrs Tupou Posesi Fanua. Mrs Fanua is a very distinguished Tongan

who received extensive training in the history, traditions and material culture of Tonga from her father and mother and her grandmother. In 1959 Tupou was seconded by Her Majesty Queen Salote to work for the Tonga Traditions Committee. From 1959 to 1986, Tupou carried out research into Tongan traditions, travelling to villages to interview people, compiling an archive of tape-recordings and publishing collections. She is currently writing a book on Tongan weaving.

During a visit to Auckland by Mrs Fanua last year her co-researcher Wendy Pond suggested that Tupou's immense fund of knowledge about Tongan material culture would be of great value to the Museum. It was arranged that Mrs Fanua would return to Auckland for two months early in 1987, to work with the Tongan collections of the Auckland Museum, documenting the history and use of many of the pieces here, and recording their method and materials of manufacture. This information will form part of the permanent records of the Auckland Museum collection, and will prove invaluable to researchers into Tongan history and culture in the future. At some time when Tonga establishes a museum of its own, it is also intended that this information will be able to be returned to Tonga for the benefit of future generations.

Mrs Fanua was of great assistance to Museum Botanist Anthony Wright and Ornithologist Brian Gill during fieldwork they carried out in Tonga last year, providing

hospitality, information and logistic support. The costs associated with Mrs Fanua's research at Auckland Museum are being met from the C.H. Worth Memorial Research Fund established under the will of the late Mrs L.E. Worth for the support of research work at the Museum.

Volunteer Guides

Our volunteer guides have continued their busy programme of guiding at the Museum. We have had many complimentary remarks on the pleasure they bring to many Museum visitors, as well as being great ambassadors for New Zealand when talking to those from overseas. Locals still tend to think they don't need a guide because they know all there is to know. However, we've had a couple of appreciative notes from local people who were "rescued" by a VG when they got out of their depth showing around an overseas relative or business colleague.

Our guides undergo a thorough training programme before we let them loose on our visitors. This training is conducted annually, often beginning about April. This year, because of other guiding activities and some reassessment of the training programme, the start of the course has been deferred, probably until about July. We'll keep you informed.

Attendant Comment

Some of the most important, and certainly the most visible staff members to our visitors are the Museum Attendants. So it's only natural that visitors wishing to make comments, ask questions or pass on a compliment should do so to these men and women. Deputy Senior Attendant Jack Watson began to write down some of the more memorable comments a year or so ago, and other attendants have been following suit. Comments requiring a response are passed on to the appropriate staff member for action, but other comments just present a more humorous or sometimes revealing situation. Several members of staff have enjoyed reading these comments, so we thought we might share some of them with you too.

There are those that are good for the ego:

14/10/86 "Marvellous place you have here. I have been here 23 years ago, it has changed very much" Middle-aged German man

13/1/87 "What a superb place! I could have stayed here for a week. We only had time to see one floor. everything is so beautifully displayed" Middle aged lady

23/1/87 "You've got a great Museum here. We sure enjoyed it" American man

26/1/87 "Wonderful museum. We will be back. We only had 45 minutes" American man

Some comments are humorous:

19/8/86 Jack Watson was asked by an elderly American woman "Do you speak English?"

16/11/86 "Is that the boat the May-oris came in to New Zealand" (meaning the war canoe). American visitor

1/1/87 6 year old boy, on hearing the shell trumpet begin the Maori welcome, turns to brother and says "That must be the elephant"

5/1/87 Small girl asks Merv Lockley for directions to "Cowboy City" Did she mean Centennial Street?

There are some remarkable coincidences some days:

28/12/86
1045 Children enquiring for large dinosaurs
1050 A different family enquires for dinosaurs
1330 Elderly lady enquires for dinosaur skeleton
(dinosaurs are frequently asked for)

Some criticism of the displays is inevitable, and is usually helpful. The coin displays come in for most comments about inaccuracies — are they our most inaccurate display, or are they the part most visitors know something about?

3/8/86 "Amphora shaped pots have two handles — those one handled pots are not

amphora"

25/11/86 "There is a United States silver three cents coin listed as a 10 cent piece. I'm a numismatist, and I know what I'm talking about" American man

28/12/86 "I'm not impressed with that jewellery ["Cross Currents" display] — the real craftsmanship is to be seen in the watches and clocks on the same floor" New Zealand lady

Some comments we are not so pleased to receive — they reflect poorly on the society in which we live. The donation box in the foyer seeks donations to further the Museum's display development in the Maori Gallery:

1/1/87 "Where do I make a donation to the Museum?" When shown the donation box: "Like Hell, I'm not giving anything to Maoris" Middle-aged New Zealand woman

4/1/87 "Have you a separate box from the Maori one?" Visitor

Whether visitors are complaining or praising, our attendants give them all the same high standard of service, in what is sometimes not a very easy job. They do appreciate it (as do the rest of us) when a

visitor passes a comment to make our day:

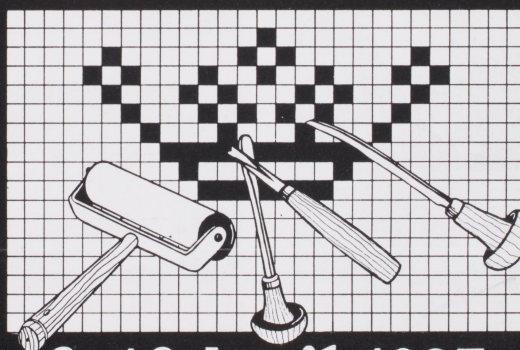
2/1/86 "I've never spent this long in a museum in my whole life! And I will be back." Canadian lady

Help Wanted

We don't usually run a classified advertisements column, but we could certainly use some help. Staff of the Applied Arts Department would love to find an enthusiastic volunteer (or two) who could spare a couple of hours a week to assist in the care and upkeep of the Applied Arts collections. In particular, the impressive wax polish on the furniture in Disney Hall of English Furniture requires quite a lot of effort to maintain, and Brian Muir and Justine Olsen would greatly appreciate some assistance. The job isn't all elbow grease, either, and an interesting opportunity to work with these and other wonderful objects is assured. If you would like to get in touch (literally) with collections such as the furniture, then Brian or Justine would love to hear from you at the Museum (phone 390-443).

Colour & Form from Sweden

GRAPHIC ART AND HANDCRAFT IN WOOL



2~12 April 1987
Auckland Museum

Auckland War Memorial Museum was erected in the Auckland Domain in 1929 and extended in 1960 as the Memorial to those from Auckland Province who died in two World Wars. It is administered by the Auckland Institute and Museum, whose origins go back to the first Auckland Museum of 1852. **Auckland Museum News** is issued free to members of the Institute and Museum, a group of friends and supporters of the Museum.

