



AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

# NEWS

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## LETCHER CHALLENGE CERAMICS AWARD EXHIBITION

This award has been sponsored by Fletcher Challenge for 15 years and has grown steadily in reputation and prestige. 1990 saw a substantial increase in international entries. This applies even more so for 1991, with work coming from USA, UK, Australia, and Japan in strength, but also from Germany, Israel, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Italy, France, Norway and Czechoslovakia feature. A strong entry from New Zealand will balance and give a lively and interesting exhibition.

While much attention is given to the piece winning the Premier Award of \$10,000 and the Merit Awards valued at \$1000 each, just being part of this international show is a goal aimed for by most New Zealand potters and their best work is saved, sometimes for many months, in order to gain acceptance.

The judge this year is an eminent American ceramic artist, Ron Nagle, Professor of Art from Mills College, San Francisco. He is considered one of the founders of modern American ceramics who has pioneered

the use of low-fired brightly coloured glazes and enshrined what seemed to be a vanishing

Starship among others]. He has also produced sound effects for movies such as "The Exorcist".

Of his dual careers Nagle says he alternately prefers one or the other and that the link, for him, "is the romance and the human". He couldn't survive without both. He will deliver a Lecture on Tuesday 28th May at 1pm in the Museum School Room outlining the development of his own work within the context of the West Coast American Movement that started in the late fifties. This will give insight into this important period of ceramic history and allow a feel for how this particular judge viewed the exhibition and some of the criteria for selection.

The Fletcher Challenge Ceramic Award exhibition will run from 31st May - 30th June,

with tours by potters on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Queens Birthday Monday at 10.30, 11.30 am, 1.30 and 2.30pm. Parties of viewers at other times can arrange a special tour by telephoning the Auckland Studio Potters Centre 643-622.



species - the ceramic cup. His involvement with this form over the last twenty-five years has resulted in his own highly resolved, sophisticated and yet still humorous pieces. As well as ceramics, Ron Nagle has had a parallel career as a musician, playing keyboard for bands, writing and producing albums [he has work recorded by Barbara Streisland and Jefferson



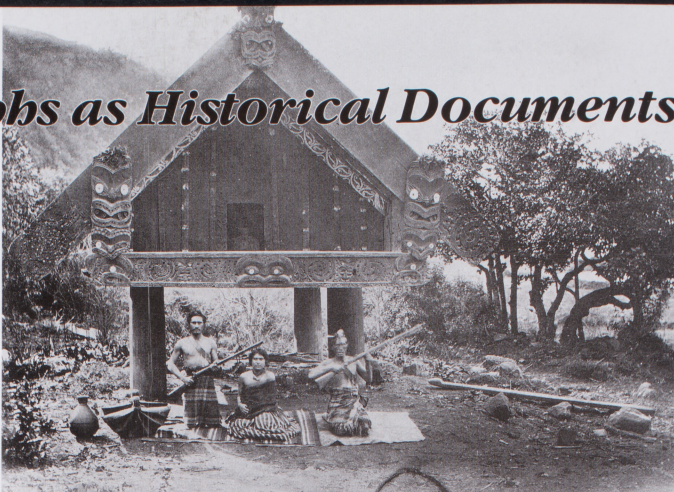
## Old Photographs as Historical Documents

As a museum ethnologist interested in the history of Maori art, I am always careful to look at details of any Maori carvings that appear, however incidentally, in early New Zealand photographs. Just occasionally, by spotting a carving in a field photograph, we are suddenly provided with definite historical information on the date, location and purpose of an enigmatic carving in our collection. Hopefully, this usually confirms our stylistic intuitions about the carving. Happily, this has happened several times recently with undocumented carvings in Auckland Museum.

Working in the carving store one day, two carvings hidden under their thick coat of "museum red" paint caught my eye and triggered off a memory of early photographs showing the famous pataka or storehouse named Hinana, owned by the Te Heuheu family, at Waihi, near Tokaanu on Lake Taupo. Sure enough, a careful comparison with the photos confirmed that these were the two amo of Hinana pataka, once designated as one of the pillars of the Maori King Movement, Nga Pou o Te Kingitanga. The carvings of this vanished treasure are now scattered through the length of Aotearoa, with the paepae or threshold in Canterbury Museum, the tekoteko on the mausoleum of Te Heuheu Tukino V at Waihi and now these two amo in Auckland Museum.

When selecting the carvings for the new Nga Tupuna gallery of tribal arts, an unusual storehouse door in Wanganui carving style seemed a perfect choice, but its origin was totally unknown. Therefore, it was very exciting to discover in the Turnbull Library, Wellington, a photograph taken by Ensign B.G. Haines of the XVIII Royal Irish Regiment during the New Zealand Wars, showing this very carving on a semi-subterranean kumara storehouse at Putiki Pa, Wanganui.

*Pou rahui carving from Otiria. Photo © Alexander Turnbull Library*



*Hinana pataka, Waihi, Lake Taupo. Photo: Auckland Museum.*

Another undocumented fragmentary carving purchased at auction in 1928 had always impressed me with its fine quality in the style of Raharuhi Rukupo, the Rongowhakaata master-carver of such treasures as Te Hau-ki-Turanga meeting house now in the National Museum, Te Toki-a-Tapiri war canoe now in Auckland Museum, and the original church at Manutuke commenced in 1849 but burnt down with all its carvings in 1910. A few pieces of the original carvings intended for this church were left out of the final building and there, in a recently published photo by William Crawford [Gisborne Exposed. The Photographs of William Crawford 1874-1913, Te Rau Press, Gisborne 1990] is the Auckland Museum carving, leaning against the fence of the

Manutuke Church.

In a few rare cases, it is the carving that can identify the photograph, as happened with an unrecorded Turnbull Library photo showing a rare pou rahui carving from Otiria, north of Auckland, deposited in Auckland Museum in 1929. As a result of an interview at Kawakawa with Walter Ngawati, the grandson of the man who sent the carving to Auckland, most of the people in the photograph are now identified by name, and the date and place of the photo has been established.

Detective work like this gradually helps to build up the documentation on which a detailed art-history of New Zealand Maori carving can be constructed. **Roger Neich**



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Winter 1991

## Archaeology Lecture Series

In July and August this year there will be a series of three lectures on archaeological subjects presented at the Museum. The lectures are designed for a general audience and provide an opportunity for Institute members and others to keep up with recent work in New Zealand and Pacific archaeology.

The venue will be the Museum Schoolroom, entry by the West Door (overlooking the playing fields). The lectures will begin at 7.30 pm and end before 9 o'clock. Entry by donation.

Wednesday 24 July

### *Excavations at Raupa, near Paeroa, 1987-88*

Nigel Prickett,  
Auckland Museum

Archaeological excavations at Raupa, where the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers used to meet, have revealed something of the arrangement and history of this once large Ngati Tamatera pa. When Samuel Marsden visited Raupa in June 1820 it was a major settlement, with larger houses than he had yet seen anywhere in New Zealand. Less than two years later it was attacked by Nga Puhī, and to judge from the archaeological evidence was taken and destroyed. The talk will be illustrated by numerous slides showing excavations and finds.

Wednesday 7 August

### *New developments in Lapita archaeology*

Roger Green,  
University of Auckland

The Lapita culture, identified by archaeologists as ancestral to Polynesian cultures, can be found in the western Pacific at sites more than 3000 years old. Since completion of the 'Lapita Homeland Project', new problems have emerged which suggest that the origins of the culture are more complex than researchers had previously assumed. The project and its findings will be summarised and the new research questions and developments will be discussed by a leading worker in the field of Lapita archaeology.

Wednesday 21 August

### *Windows on an inland past*

Atholl Anderson,  
Otago University

Recently a distinctive archaeology has been emerging in the inland South Island which reflects an adaptation in Maori lifeways to an environment of unusual demands and opportunities. In this talk the special archaeological character of the region will be discussed and illustrated by slides of sites and artefacts from across the span of prehistory: from moa-hunter butcheries and blade-making quarries to sites of parrot-hunting, rock art and caches of personal property left by ancient travellers.



*Raupa, 17th June 1820  
(Chris Gaskin)*

Auckland Institute and Museum

## Geology Lecture Series

In July and August this year there will be a series of three lectures on geological subjects presented at the Museum. The lectures are designed for a general audience and provide an opportunity for Institute Members and others to become more familiar with Auckland's geological make-up.

The venue will be the Museum Schoolroom, entry by the West Door (overlooking the playing fields). The lectures will begin at 7.30. Entry by donation.

Wednesday 31 July

### *Auckland's Distant Past - of Gondwanaland and Oceanic Plates.*

Peter Ballance, Senior Lecturer,  
Department of Geology,  
University of Auckland.

The underpinnings of Auckland originated between 300 and 25 million years ago, first as voluminous sediment in an ocean trench adjacent to Gondwanaland, and later as a sheet of sediment around the newly separated New Zealand continent. Illustrated with slides.

Wednesday 14 August

### *Auckland's Tumultuous Past*

Bruce Hayward,  
Auckland Museum.

Most of the rocks of the Auckland region were formed during an unusually active period of earth movements and volcanic eruptions, 24 to 16 million years ago. Major subsidence formed the deep marine Waitemata Basin, deep seated earth movements pushed giant sheets of older rocks hundreds of kilometres southwards into the Basin and eruptions formed a massive volcano (twice the size of Ruapehu-Tongariro) west of the Waitakeres. Illustrated with slides.

Wednesday 28 August

### *Living with Auckland's Volcanoes*

Les Kermode, DSIR Geology and Geophysics, Auckland.

Aucklanders live their daily lives surrounded with the evidence of a land that has experienced an explosive past and numerous volcanic cones and explosion craters give the city its "unique and peculiar landscape". This talk will introduce you to Auckland's local volcanoes and the story of their eruptions in the last 60 000 years. Illustrated with slides.



Associated Field Trips for both Geology and Archaeology will be announced at a later date.

July



December

Special

**AUCKLAND MUSEUM**

Exhibitions

1991

*Special Exhibitions*

1991

5 July - 28 July

**JAPANESE DYED TEXTILES**

Contemporary textiles from various parts of Japan.

14 August - 22 September

**GLOBE THEATRE HANGINGS**

Four hangings designed by New Zealander Raymond Bruce, which will be presented by the Wellington Shakespeare Society to the new Globe Theatre in London.



Two of the Shakespeare hangings, Atlas and Hercules.

17 August - 1 September

**LEVENES ARTITURE**

Innovative and original furniture by contemporary New Zealand designers.



7 September - 29 September

**FOOTROT FLATS**

The life and times of Wal, his dog and other creations by cartoonist Murray Ball.

3 October - 5 October

**SOCIAL STUDIES EXPO**

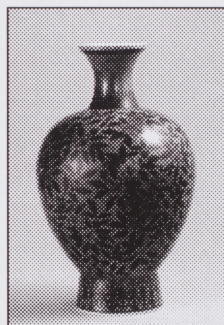
An exhibition of work from Auckland Primary and Secondary Schools related to the theme of Challenge.

12 October - 27 October

**AUCKLAND STUDIO POTTERS**

**27th Annual Exhibition**

In conjunction with this years exhibition there will be demonstrations by well known potters during Labour weekend.



A vase by the 1990 guest exhibitor and Living Treasure of Japan, Mr Imaizumi.

19 October - 24 November

**AUCKLAND LACE MAKERS**

**& EMBROIDERERS GUILD**

**21st Anniversary**

Selected works from the Guild, and the textile collection at Auckland Museum.



November - February

**MUSEUMS OWN SHOW**

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## **Auckland Museum Collection Policy**

A museum's collections are central to its purposes and functions. Defining the boundaries of those collections is thus a vitally important task for any museum. For Auckland Museum, perhaps like most museums in New Zealand, the collection policy has been allowed to develop over the years, changing and evolving from the only previously published policy, established by the Museum on its foundation in 1852.

This developing policy has been reasonably well understood by the Museum Council and the staff, but since it was not formalised there was opportunity for confusion, and little ability for public comment on the directions the Museum was taking in its collecting.

For these reasons the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum has considered, adopted and published a formal Collection Policy. The publication of the Policy is designed both to make the Museum's Collection Policy widely known, and to allow the people we serve to comment on that Policy. We view as especially valuable in that regard the comments of our Members. Comments will assist in the further development of the Policy, and of the Museum's collections

Copies of the Auckland Museum Collection Policy have been distributed to public libraries and museums throughout the Auckland region and more widely, and of course copies may be consulted in the Museum Library.

Copies may also be purchased, at a price of \$4.90, from the Museum Shop, or from the Publications Officer, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland [post and packing \$2.00].

## **Lest we forget: The Battle of Crete, May 1941**

The Auckland Museum military collection includes a plaque inscribed with the New Zealand Division's Crete battle honours, dedicated to the 'New Zealand heroes' who fought with such tenacity during the German airborne invasion of Crete in May, 1941.

In May, 1991, the New Zealand Government is sending a seventy-strong contingent of those veterans back to Crete, to take part in the 50th Anniversary commemorations. They will re-visit some of those 'far away places with strange sounding names' on the memorial plaque: Agyia, Agia Marina, Aliakmon, Canea, Galatas, Maleme, Rethymnon, Heracleon, Souda Bay, Sfakia ...

Galatas, where New Zealand troops hastily drawn from a number of different units, including the Kiwi concert party, charged uphill through the darkness with 'bloodcurdling shouts and battle-cries (hakas)', and for twenty unforgettable minutes swept all before them.

The Germans erected a memorial in the village to both their own men and the New Zealanders who fell there: 145 New Zealanders of all ranks. 71 Greek soldiers and 10 armed civilians fell beside them. After the war, the New Zealand Crete Veterans Association with the help of the R.S.A. presented the people of the area with a tractor to help cultivate the inhospitable ground ... yes, some of the veterans will go to Galatas.

Crete, only 160 miles long and less than 40 miles wide at its widest point, is nevertheless dominated by four mountain ranges rising to between 5,000 and 8,000 feet. The best harbours, including Souda Bay, are on the north coast - those on the south coast are very small, and exposed to sudden gale-force

winds. One main road runs beside the sea along the north coast: tracks through the mountains either did not go right across the island, or led only to small bays.

The main battles were fought on the gentler slopes and narrow coastal plain of the north-west coast between Canea - the capital, and Maleme, which was the site of the best of the two modest airstrips on Crete. From high ground adjacent to the airstrip, 'Hill 107', the New Zealand 5th Brigade defended Maleme throughout four days of continuous aerial bombardment, as wave after wave of elite German paratroopers and gliderborne troops landed.

The Germans were surprised at the ferocity of the defence: some of their crack units were annihilated, and over 6,500 of their best men lost. The veterans remember Maleme.

Allied air support was not possible, reinforcement by sea was hazardous in the extreme: the Allied withdrawal from Crete began.

Sfakia: a 'nowhere place' on the south coast that became Crete's 'Dunkirk'. A mere cleft in the cliffs, where the houses stand on each other's shoulders, and fishermen pull their boats up on the little crescent of steeply shelving beach. Behind the village a rough road climbs into the precipitous White Mountains, (only 2,000 feet lower than Mt Cook), en route to Souda Bay, less than thirty miles away on the north coast - as the crow flies. Along this narrow, tortuous alpine road the Allied forces withdrew.

In the last three days of May 1941, Royal Navy ships, in which many New Zealanders were serving, evacuated some 17,000 Allied troops from the tiny beach at Sfakia. Thousands had to be left behind. Of these, nearly 300 New Zealanders, who were sheltered and aided by Cretans in spite of German reprisals, eventually made their way back to Egypt.

7,702 New Zealanders had been

evacuated safely to Crete from Greece at the end of April 1941, but by the end of May 671 of them were dead, 967 wounded and 2,180 (including 488 of the wounded) were prisoners-of-war.

Victoria Crosses were awarded to Sergeant J D Hinton during the earlier evacuation from Greece in April, and to Captain Charles Upham and Sergeant A C Hulme on Crete during May ... but the veterans of the Battle for Crete all wear the laurels of victory, for never again did the Third Reich attempt a massed airborne invasion: the cost was too high.

Sheila Gray Museum Volunteer

## Members' Cards for Library Users

Like many other libraries in New Zealand, the Museum Library has been experiencing a loss of books being stolen from the Library. The Museum is tackling this problem in a number of ways, one of which is to ask people issuing books from the Library to produce their Institute Member's Card.

This is fine for Annual Members, who are issued with a new Member's Card each year, but it

has caused some difficulty to Life Members, many of whom can no longer locate the card they were issued with when they became Life Members, in some cases many years ago.

If you are a Life Member who borrows books from the Library, and you need a new card, [or you're an annual member who has lost your card], on your next visit to the Library please ask the Library staff to arrange for a new card to be issued to you, or call the Director's Secretary, Mrs Prasad, who will post one to you.

## INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES AND MUSEUM PROGRAMMES

### Music in the Museum

Once again Monthly Concerts will take place in the Museum, on the first Sunday of every month beginning on the 2nd of June. The concerts will be given by performance students from the University of Auckland Music School and start at 12.15pm in the Furniture Hall. Each concert will last approximately 45mins and a limited number of seats will be placed in the Furniture Hall. Admission is free. Concerts in the past have proved to be very popular, come and join us and enjoy a range of chamber music, choral and solo work presented by talent young people.

### HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HERITAGE TOUR

7 - 21 Sept 1991

This unique tour to the Hawaiian Islands of Oahu, Hawaii (the Big Isle) and Kawai (the Garden Isle) is being guided by John Burns, Former Assistant Director of the Historic Places Trust and Dr Don Hibbard, Director of the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Office. The very reasonable cost is \$3450.00 per person. Bookings to date indicate this will be a popular tour. Full details are available from Travelworks NZ Ltd, Tel (09) 522 0330 or write to Box 28440, Auckland 5.

### Institute Lecture Series

#### ▶ A Personal Journey

*An illustrated address*

Ron Nagle

1991 Fletcher Challenge Ceramics

Award Judge

Tuesday 28 May, 1pm Schoolroom

Ron Nagle will outline the development of his own work.

#### ▶ The Dating Game: Where Age is No Barrier

Dr Roger Sparks

Nuclear Science Group

DSIR Wellington.

Thursday 6 June, 1pm Schoolroom

Locating an event, or object, in time is a problem that crops up in almost all fields of study. Radiocarbon dating is one of the oldest and best known examples of the application of a physical technique to the problem of dating a wide class of objects. This talk takes a broad look at radiocarbon dating: what it is, why it is possible in the first place, how it works and what it is used for.

#### ▶ The Crisis Continues:

#### Who will save our Ozone layer?

Dr Tom Clarkson

Meteorology Department

DSIR

Tuesday 16 July, 1pm

Since Tom Clarkson addressed members 2 years ago on the problems of the ozone layer, there has been considerable advance in both science and the responses of governments and industry. The Montreal Protocol was strengthened in 1990 and over 70 nations ratified it. 1991 analyses show that ozone is depleting faster than earlier predicted. The ozone hole has become a regular feature of the Antarctic spring atmosphere. We remain vulnerable to surprises while so much chlorine remains in the stratosphere. What will a large volcano do? Is the 1990 Protocol enough? Dr Clarkson will address these issues.

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 the 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 to the Museum. Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland, Phone 0-9-309 0443.