

AUCKLAND MUSEUM NEWS

Number one March 1980

Members of the Auckland Institute and Museum, of whom there are some 1900, both Life and Ordinary, have a special relationship with the Museum. They attend the Institute's lectures and functions, they use the Library, and through their interest generally support the work of the Museum. However, except by receiving copies of the Annual Reports, members are not kept closely in touch with the doings of the Museum in its many activities. A newsletter was produced sporadically by the Museum in the 1950s and 1960s, but the last issue

appeared in 1965. Auckland Museum News is an attempt to keep members in touch with events at the Museum, to make them better informed about the people who work at the Museum and what they do, and from time to time about ways in which members can be of assistance to the Museum. I hope the News will fill a need, and encourage members to continue their much valued support for the Museum.

G.S. Park
Director

Museum staff

Members will be aware that Graham Turbott, Director of the Museum since 1964, retired in August 1979. However, not everyone will know that, at its meeting in November, the Museum Council was pleased to appoint Graham Director Emeritus in honour of his long and valued service to the Museum, and as a way of expressing the hope that his association with the Museum will continue for many years to come.

At the same meeting, Council was pleased to make two further appointments to the Honorary staff of the Museum. Janet Davidson, the Museum's first E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist, who has married and gone to live in Dunedin, is continuing her archaeological research work. Janet's work was recognised by appointing her Honorary Research Associate in Archaeology. Lady Aileen Fox, a distinguished British archaeologist who was acting Vaile archaeologist in 1974-76 has continued her archaeological work based at the Museum, a situation formalised by her appointment as Honorary Archaeologist at the Museum.

Over the last year or so there have been many changes in staff at the Museum. Future issues of the *News* will introduce to members some of the staff whom they may not know, and describe some of their activities.

In January Gordon Maitland returned to take up the position of Assistant Librarian, after successfully completing the Diploma course of the New Zealand Library School. Gordon is now well settled in the Library again, and has already been of great assistance to Library users. During Gordon's absence, the Library was very fortunate to have the services of Mrs Lorraine Wilson; our pleasure at Gordon's return was saddened only by Lorraine's departure.

March will see the retirement of Jeanne Goulding from the position of Botanist. Jeanne's association with the Botany department goes back over many years of voluntary service, and her more recent full time appointment. We hope that her retirement will not mean the end of this long and happy relationship.



This photograph of an 18th century Tongan goddess figure in Auckland Museum is one of the illustrations in "Art of the Pacific".

Art of the Pacific

A magnificent illustrated book "The Art of the Pacific" is shortly to be published by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council in conjunction with Oxford University Press. Much of the text and the captions were written by this Museum's Ethnologist, Mr D.R. Simmons, and many Auckland Museum artefacts are amongst those illustrated; the photographs, in colour and black and white are by noted New Zealand photographer, Brian Brake. Essays by James McNeish on Pacific people today round out a superb publication. Because of the strong links this book has with Auckland Museum, we believe it will be of particular interest to our members. Accordingly we have arranged a special discount for members, for copies ordered or bought from the Museum shop before March 20th. A brochure explaining the offer is enclosed; please complete the form and forward it to: Mrs M. Alexander, Shop Manager, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland, to reach her no later than March 20th. Copies will be available from the Museum shop from March 6th, but a copy is available at the Shop for inspection now.

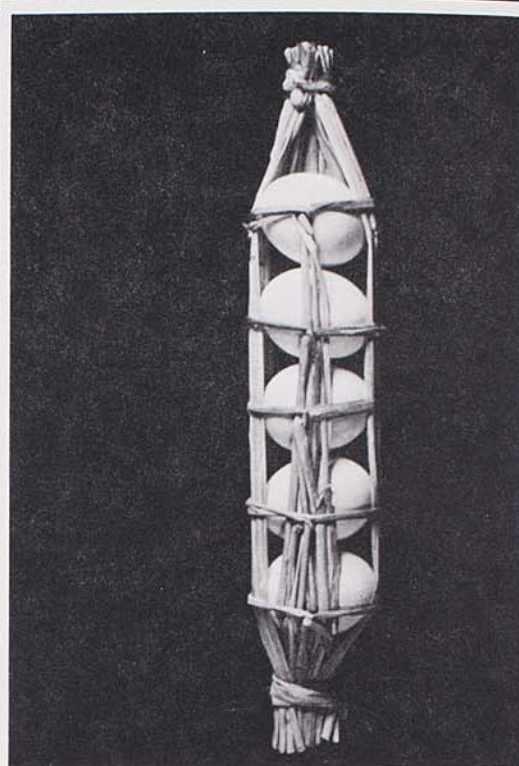
New Zealand Mollusca

Another recent publication of interest to members will be "New Zealand Mollusca", by A.W.B. Powell, an Honorary Life Member and long time member of staff of the Museum. Dr Powell's book is the culmination of a life-time's work studying the shellfish of this country, and is clearly going to be the standard work on the subject for many years to come. Copies of this book may also be obtained from the Museum shop.

Exhibitions

Enclosed with the *News* is the calendar of exhibitions to be held at the Museum this year. An interesting and varied range of exhibitions is planned, and we are sure members will find them of interest. Besides these temporary exhibitions, the main thrust of the Museum display programme at present is on the installation "Auckland — Past and Future Landscapes".

This display will present in a graphic and exciting way the story of the physical setting of Auckland, from its origins in the remote geological past, to more recent geological activity, the arrival of man and his settlement to the present day, and then attempt to examine the future as well. The project has been the inspiration of Director Emeritus, Graham Turbott, and he is continuing to guide and direct the team of designers and display people working on other installation.



Five eggs packaged in a rice straw container, from Tsutsumu, *The Art of the Japanese Package*. Special Exhibition Hall, 18 Oct. to 16 Nov.

Institute Syllabus

The Syllabus for the Institute for the 1980 session is shown on the back page of this issue of the *News* — members may like to keep this aside for future reference. Details of the first lectures in the series are as follows.

Monday, March 31st "Fertilisers in the New Zealand Economy" Dr John Rogers.

Dr Rogers who is a member of the Institute and Museum Council is shortly to retire after fourteen years as the Director of the N.Z. Fertiliser Manufacturers Research Association. He has a long association with the fertiliser industry in this country, and will discuss in his talk the history and development of the fertiliser industry in New Zealand. New Zealand's agricultural economy has been built largely on the availability of large supplies of cheap fertilisers. This situation is now changing, with no shortage of supply but a greatly increased cost, as cheap sources are used up. Dr Rogers will examine the implications of this for New Zealand, and also discuss the nitrogen fertiliser industry, based on the production of ammonia-urea. Dr Roger's address will be given in the Museum Auditorium at 8.00 p.m.

Monday, April
the University

On several occasions and Museum has marae ceremonies part of other functions non-Maori speakers and even tedious the style of oral tradition good knowledge problem, but it is the form of the ceremony is happening among members of the demonstrate the etiquette in interesting even held in the Museum Auditorium as well as proceedings with meeting in the conjunction with section of the Institute

Monday, May
May lecture, to "Little Barrier Island plants and birds" something of the role in its acquisition will be given in

Records Auckland and M

One important curatorial staff in collections. The forms, for example through popular scientific audience contribution here series, under the appears annual research of the carrying out research papers are aimed there are also members. The appeared. It covers archaeology, etc subjects range from Auckland, local in the Museum waters, and a series of copies of the *Records*

Monday, April 28th "Marae Etiquette" Mr Bob Kerr and the University Maori Club

On several occasions recently members of the Institute and Museum have found themselves taking part in marae ceremonial in the Maori Court of the Museum, as part of other functions held at the Museum. For a non-Maori speaker such occasions can be bewildering and even tedious, since the form of the ceremony and the style of oratory is quite unfamiliar. Ultimately only a good knowledge of the Maori language will solve this problem, but it is possible to gain an understanding of the form of the ceremonial, what is happening and why it is happening at a particular stage. With the help of members of the University Maori Club, Mr R. Kerr will demonstrate the form of a marae ceremony, and explain the etiquette involved. A most informative and interesting evening is anticipated. The meeting will be held in the Maori Court of the Museum, and not in the Auditorium as usual. Entry will be by the main door, and proceedings will begin at 8.00 p.m. This will be a further meeting in the Roger Buddle Memorial series, held in conjunction with the Anthropology and Maori Studies section of the Institute.

Monday, May 26th — Advance notice is given of the May lecture, to be given by Dr W. Hamilton, entitled "Little Barrier Island". Dr Hamilton will examine the plants and birds of the island, as well as discussing something of the island's history, including the Institute's role in its acquisition as a sanctuary. Further information will be given in the next *News*.

Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum

One important aspect of the work of the Museum's curatorial staff is to conduct research into objects in the collections. The results of this work appear in many forms, for example through the Museum's displays, through popular publications, and in papers for a scientific audience. Auckland Museum's major contribution here is the publication of its *Records*. This series, under the editorship of Entomologist, Keith Wise, appears annually and presents the results of the research of the Museum's staff, or of other people carrying out research into the Museum's collections. The papers are aimed at a scientific audience, but most of them are also likely to be of interest to Institute members. The latest issue, volume 16 for 1979 has just appeared. It contains eleven papers on aspects of archaeology, ethnology, botany and zoology. The subjects range through studies of Maori place names of Auckland, local archaeology, Maori pendants, to plants in the Museum herbarium, shells of local and Pacific waters, and a study of a local genus of gecko. Most copies of the *Records* are sent to other institutions in

exchange for their publications, which increases the holdings of the Museum Library, but copies are available for sale to individual members of the Institute. The price of volume 16 is \$18.50, while earlier volumes are also still available. Copies may be obtained from the Museum shop, or the Museum Library.

Know Your Museum

In recent years the Museum has been offering a series of ten talks entitled Know Your Museum through the Workers Educational Association (W.E.A.). Held weekly at 1.00 p.m. the talks are given in turn by the Museum's curators, who describe their section of the Museum, its displays and the work it does. These have proved so popular that this year two courses are being offered. The first begins on Tuesday, 26th February and enrolments may be made through the W.E.A. (phone 372030). The second series will be held later in the year — watch the *News* for further details.

Members' support for the museum

As mentioned above, members support the Museum in various ways. Most important perhaps is the support offered to the Museum through an interest in its activities, but members have also offered financial support over the years. Income from subscriptions has



A.K. Johnston's coloured lithograph map of New Zealand, published in Edinburgh in 1849 was recently acquired for the Museum from the Members Library Purposes Fund.

been one form for this support, though currently the subscription barely covers the costs of membership. However, members have also been generous towards two funds established to enable additions to be made to the collections of objects that would not otherwise be able to be obtained. A recent purchase from the members' Library Purchases Fund has been two early maps of New Zealand, not previously held by the Library (see photo).

Recent accessions

The Museum's collections are growing all the time. Additions come from the collecting activities of the staff, from purchases made from bequest funds, or the members' special funds mentioned above, but most importantly they come from friends and supporters of the Museum, who donate objects to the collections. Many of these gifts are small, and perhaps seem insignificant, but they are all welcome as part of the growth of the Museum. Some of the more noteworthy recent

accessions have included several pieces of early New Zealand pottery by Luke Adams of Christchurch, O.C. Stephens of Dunedin and J. Rancich of Auckland; seven pieces of contemporary German studio pottery, presented by the N.Z. Society of Potters; twelve pieces of jewellery presented in memory of George Wooller; a superb eighteenth century builder's model of a frigate, on loan from Mrs D.W. Russell; a Webley Mark VI revolver, Mr R.W. Murphy; a collection of Rotuman handcrafts, Mrs S. Samson; and the uniforms of Brigadier H.S. Kenrick, Director Medical Services, 2nd N.Z.E.F., from Mrs B. Worley.

Your comments please

We would be interested to hear from members if they find this form of presenting *Museum News* worthwhile. This first issue is experimental, and we would be grateful to receive comments or suggestions for improvements.

INSTITUTE SYLLABUS 1980

March 31st

"Fertilisers in the N.Z. Economy"

Dr J. Rogers, M.Sc., Ph.D.(Cantab.),

F.N.Z.I.C., M.A.I.M.E., M.Aust. I.M.M.

Research Director, N.Z. Fertiliser

Manufacturers Research Association

April 28th

"Marae Etiquette" (Roger Buddle Memorial)

Mr R. Kerr, Anthropology Department,

University of Auckland

May 26th

"Little Barrier Island"

Dr W. Hamilton, C.B.E., M.Agr.Sc., D.Sc.,

Hon. D.Sc., N.D.H., F.N.Z.I.A.S., F.R.S.N.Z.

Formerly Director-General, Department of
Scientific and Industrial Research

June 30th

Annual General Meeting

July 14th

"Progress in Tussock Grasslands Research
Since Cockayne's Day" (Cockayne Memorial
Lecture)

Dr A.F. Mark, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.N.Z.

Botany Department, University of Otago

August 25th

Medical Association Lecture

September 22nd

"What is a Museum"

Mr G.S. Park, M.A., A.M.A.

Director, Auckland Institute and Museum

October 20th

N.Z. Dental Association (Auckland Branch)

Tiwha Bennet Memorial Lecture