



Christchurch City Council



The Robert McDougall Art Gallery

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Robert McDougall Art Gallery
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bulletin



Russell Clark, The Avon at Dallington on loan from the Canterbury Society of Arts.

Important Loan Agreements

An indication of the excellent professional relationships existing between the Gallery and other Canterbury cultural institutions are recent longterm loan agreements arrived at between the McDougall, the Canterbury Society of Arts, the Canterbury Museum and the University of Canterbury Classics Dept.

Recently an important group of paintings has been transferred to the McDougall's care from the Canterbury Society of Arts. Once rented out in the Society's picture hire service, but now too valuable and historically important to be used for this purpose are some thirty works placed within the Gallery for safekeeping and display. These add to earlier works loaned by the Society and significantly fill out the McDougall's holdings of Canterbury art. Works by Russell Clark, Tony Fomison, Quentin Macfarlane and Richard Lovell-Smith strengthen our representation of art of the fifties while Alfred Baxter, Edwin Bartley, Menzies Gibb and Margaret Stoddard are among artists whose work dates from earlier periods.

The Canterbury Museum has over the years acquired a substantial collection which, because of pressure of space, it has been unable to display or adequately store.

Around 200 of these works have now been placed on longterm loan with the McDougall, among them images of early New Zealand by L. W. Wilson, Nicholas Chevalier, Thomas Cane, John Gibb and John Gully. Notable among the European works are etchings by Rembrandt and Van Ostade and engravings by Cruikshank.

Some classical Greek objects in the Gallery's collection have led a lonely life in storage with no material even vaguely related historically to give them some context. The Gallery has therefore loaned two red figure pots from the third century B.C. and two small sculptured works, a head and a torso, to the University of Canterbury's Classics Department where they will be in happier company in the Logie Collection of Classical Greek and Roman objects and readily available to students for study.

The Italian Watercolours W. A. Sutton Gift

In 1973/4, the Canterbury artist W. A. Sutton spent several months in Italy, mainly in Venice, Rome and Florence. At that time Senior Lecturer in Painting at the Canterbury University School of Fine Arts, the artist spent his sabbatical leave immersed in the visual splendours of the great Italian cities furthering his deep interest in the art and architecture of the

Renaissance by making numerous pencil and wash studies.

Close on 100 virtuosi watercolour drawings of the Venetian, Roman and Florentine cityscapes, sculptural fragments, ruins and architectural details. A selection was published as a book by the Canterbury University and the McDougall has, on two occasions, presented selected works in exhibitions, the last supporting the Canaletto – Master of Venice exhibition.

It was W. A. Sutton's intention to bind the original drawings into a single volume, but realising this would preclude their further exhibition he left them unmounted. Instead, in a typically generous gesture, he has decided to present the drawings to the City of Christchurch. A long time supporter of the McDougall, and for many years a Patron of the Friends of the McDougall, the major gift, is another of many, Mr Sutton has made. The Gallery now possesses a considerable resource of working drawings for portraits and landscapes and many references to the artist's many productive years, given by



W. A. Sutton, *St Peters and Castelo S Angelo, Rome 1973.*

Mr Sutton.

The Italian watercolours have now been placed in mylar slips for protection, safe handling and viewing.

The Gallery is delighted to receive, on behalf of the people of Christchurch, this important group of drawings.

Pre-Raphaelite Photography July 21-August 13

Just as the Pre-Raphaelite painters commenced their challenge to the grandiose atmospheric depictions of high 'Academic Art' so, at the same time, began the 'photographic arts'. Michael Bartram in the catalogue essay to this exhibition expounds the close links he sees between Pre-Raphaelite painters like Rossetti, Madox Brown and Mills and mid-Victorian photographers like Oscar Rejlander, Lewis Carroll or Julia Cameron.

Some painters, like Rossetti for instance, were also photographers and many of the painters and the photographers were personally linked within the social network and by a kinship of shared ideas. In the heady years of the 1850's and 60's both the Pre-Raphaelite painters and the 'wet-plate' or collodion photographers moved towards a significant broadening of the traditional subject matter for art. The Pre-Raphaelites did so as a way to state their independence from what they considered moribund academic traditions; the photographers because now they could capture non-static subjects and create images, albeit still in black and white, of amazingly clarity and detail.

Thus it is perhaps not too surprising that both movements converged on a remarkably similar range of themes. It is these connections that concern this exhibition of 76 early English photographs. They were selected by the British Council with the assistance of the Royal Photographic Society, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the National Portrait Gallery and are toured in New Zealand by the N.Z.A.G.D.C.

Following the official opening of this



Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Mrs Jane Morris, 1865.*

exhibition on July 20, 7.30 p.m., Bill Main, Director of the Exposures Gallery, Wellington, will speak on 'Photography in New Zealand 1850-1880'.

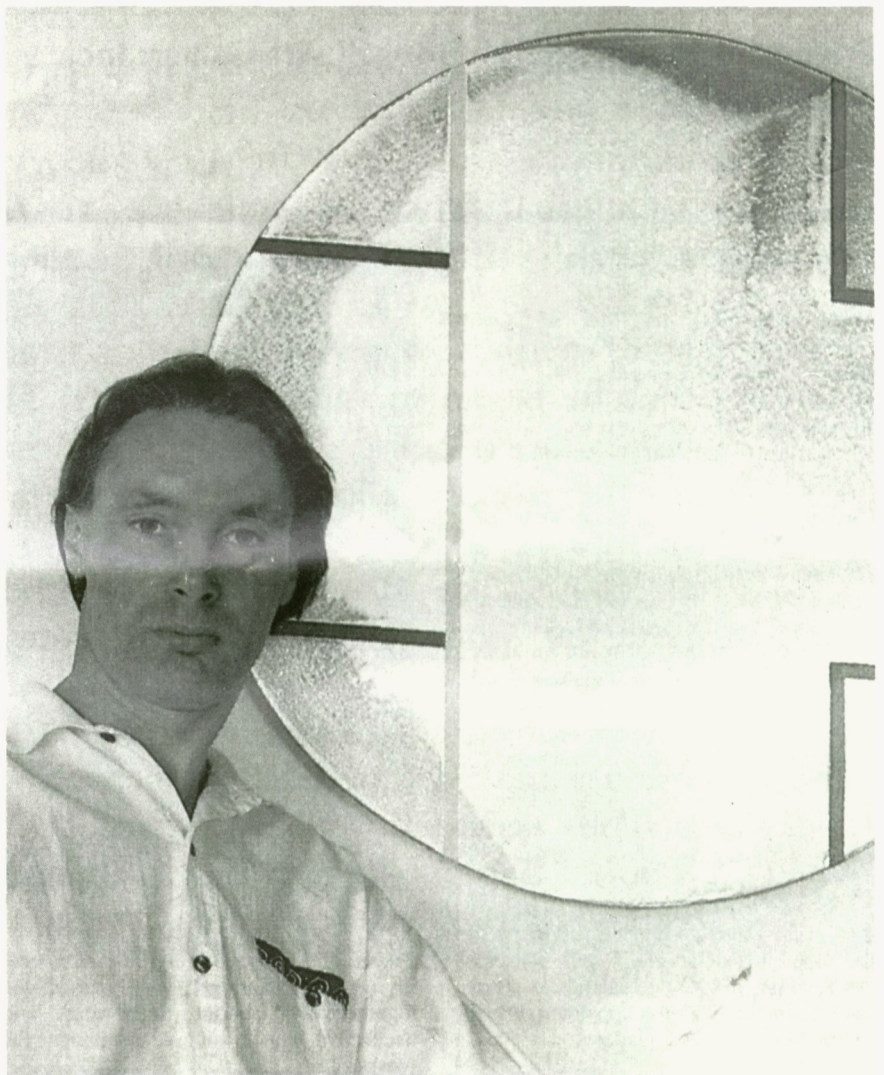
Moët & Chandon Touring Exhibition 1989

August 31-October 1

This national touring exhibition is part of a very generous art sponsorship scheme launched in Auckland last August by the Hon. Russell Marshall, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Moët & Chandon, the French wine company, have now established a New Zealand Foundation along with similar successful ventures in Australia, Canada, Spain and Italy.

Part of the Foundation's annual activity is to organise a touring exhibition from among the two hundred or so works submitted for the Fellowship. Thirty five works related via 'thematic links' have been chosen to tour to Auckland, Wanganui, Wellington and Christchurch. This show involves paintings, sculpture, photography, mixed media and video works by artists such as Bing Dawe, Judy Darragh, Andrew Drummond, Greg Fox, Paul Hartigan, Kura Rewiri-Thorsen, Marie Shannon, Merylyn Tweedie and many others. It is seen by the Foundation as a chance, not only to promote our artists' work nationally, but also as "a reflection of the diversity of current art practice in New Zealand". Selected by a panel comprising Wystan Curnow, Mary Barr, Gordon Walters, Helen Lloyd and John Hurrell, this will be a particularly interesting show to see in Christchurch.

Of perhaps more significance to the New Zealand art community however is the Moët and Chandon Artist's Fellowship awarded annually to a selected early career artist. The fellowship for this inaugural year has gone to Stephen Bambury. With this Fellowship he receives a \$25,000 cash grant, air travel to France and 9 months studio and accommodation in Hautvillers in the heart of the Champagne district near Epernay. From this rural retreat Paris is



Stephen Bambury with the award winning work.

merely one hour away by train.

Stephen Bambury was born in Christchurch in 1951 and graduated from Ilam in 1975. In 1983 he was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council Grant and

travelled to the USA and in 1987 he was Artist in Residence at the Victoria College, Melbourne. Currently he lives and works in Auckland but come July he'll be off to France.

Susan Wilson

August 3-September 24

Susan Wilson is a New Zealand-born artist who is, according to the news reaching us, making an increasing impact on the art scene in Britain. Newly appointed as a tutor at the Royal Academy Schools in London she has also been the Fellow in Painting at Cheltenham School of Art, Gloucester and the 1985 winner of the Richard Ford Scholarship to Spain and is recognised as one of the promising young painters in Britain.

Originally from the Canterbury town of Waikari, Susan Wilson spent most of her youth in Auckland before arriving in London in 1976 where she took art courses at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts. Writing from London in April this year she says, "I grew up in Southland and North Canterbury and although I left long ago, the memory remains fresh. I now live in inner London by the Portobello Road. I

began to paint when I first moved here and it was here that I went to art school, giving up my job as a nurse in the intensive care unit at St Thomas's Hospital.

"Now in the steely cream white canyon rows of neoclassical terraces – the streets full of market flotsam and jetsam, bottles, cards and old shoes, I dream of the open plains of Spain and of the South Island valleys where long ago and far away I ran as a child.

"I made these paintings in my back room studio in London. Last August, when I was home, as I went about the country I made these drawings."

There will be a special viewing and an opportunity to meet the artist at the Gallery on Tuesday, 19 September at 5 p.m. All welcome.



Susan Wilson, Jose Garcia: *The Migrant Dreams of La Mancha* 1986.

McDOUGALL ART ANNEX

Arts Centre, Worcester Street
P.O. Box 2626 Christchurch
Telephone 650-915

Hours 10 a.m.-1.00 p.m. 1.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m. daily

Recent Work

Graham Bennett

July 8-August 13

Opening to the public on 8 July this exhibition comprises ceramic sculpture, paper constructs, prints, drawings and photographs and centres around the overlay of stasis on motion, manufacture and natural growth, destruction and construction. It highlights Bennett's interest in the north/south running boulder bank situated in Nelson harbour, the geographical centre of Aotearoa/New Zealand. This unique 13km long natural landmark, believed to be 5 million years old, has been threatened with human modifications since the beginning of this century thus summoning the protection of environmental groups.

John Freeman-Moir in a recent article says "Bennett's work is an investigation of the paradoxes and contrasts of surface, edge and void in relation to three parameters. These parameters are used to explore the connections between the desires/needs of individuals to make something (shelter)

and the land (natural growth) and the social values that determine what we make and why."

There will be a Preview to this exhibition on Friday July 7 at 5 p.m.

'Canterbury Belles'

Margaret Dawson, Julia Morison, Mary Kay

August 19-September 11

'Canterbury Belles' is an artist-initiated show with the curator, Shona Smith, acting as a facilitator rather than a guiding or critical force. The artists themselves have selected the works which best contribute to a collaborative statement made through their individual styles and mediums.

Julia Morison explores in her work the body as a machine in relation to the body's idealism: her concerns are the constructions of mythologies and their compatibility, or otherwise, with physical mechanics.

Margaret Dawson and Mary Kay are also

concerned with the construction of mythologies – the mythologies of gender. Margaret Dawson manipulates the photographic codes used to relate social roles while Mary Kay's work examines cultural codes that construct the female role.

This exhibition will tour venues throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand with the assistance of the N.Z.A.G.D.C.

There will be a Preview on 18 August at 5 p.m.

Art Annex needs more Volunteers

If you can spare up to 2 hours during a weekday and are willing to assist at the Annex with minding the desk, answering the phone etc please contact the Annex 650-915. They will be very pleased to hear from you.

Assistance with this, as with other Gallery volunteer work, entitles you to join in the special Volunteers' Morning programme at the McDougall. This is held on the last Friday each month at 10.30 a.m.

Acquisitions

The following works have been purchased:

Robin Kahukiwa

Tena I Ruia

Acrylic on canvas

Michael Armstrong

Figure on Three Levels

Acrylic on wood construction

Doreen Blumhardt

Untitled

Stoneware

Nigel Brown

Marae in the City

Linocut 1/10

Roger Hickin

Untitled, 1989

Kauri/Matai/Brass

Russell Clark

Salvation Army Band Recital, Street Corner

Watercolour

Charles Meryon

Le Ministere de la Marine

Etching v/vi

Henry H. La Thangue

Femme Portant des Fagots c1890

Lithograph

Robin White

Te Puke. Time to go

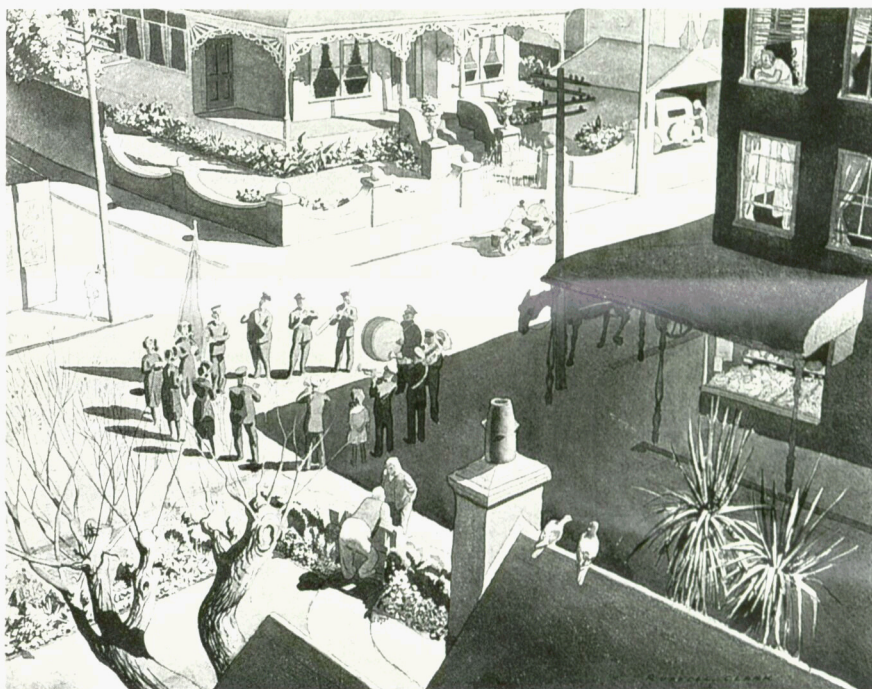
Tarawa. Towards Makin

Set of 12 prints 4/10 1988

Barry Cleavin

A Series of Allegations, 1988

Etching/Aquatint 2/20



Russell Clark, *Salvation Army Band Recital, Street Corner*.

The following works have been gifted to the Gallery by Mr William A. Sutton:

Miss Fairbairn

Pencil Study

Sir Hamish Hay

Pencil Study

John Godfrey, 1985

Pencil Study

Judge Roper, 1985

Pencil Study



Gordon and Sylvia Ducker at their farewell dinner at the Gallery.

Retirement of Mr Gordon Ducker

Gordon Ducker, the Gallery Custodian since 1979, retired in April. A genial presence presiding at the Gallery entrance, Gordon had the happy knack of keeping a sharp eye on visitors while making them feel welcome. His many friends and colleagues gathered for a farewell dinner in the Gallery's centre court to mark his departure. After a north countryman's meal of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding with plum duff dessert, tributes were paid to his unflinching good humour, outstanding capability, caring attributes and his total indifference to cuisine other than British. The Gallery's best wishes for a long and happy retirement go to Gordon and his wife Sylvia.

New Staff

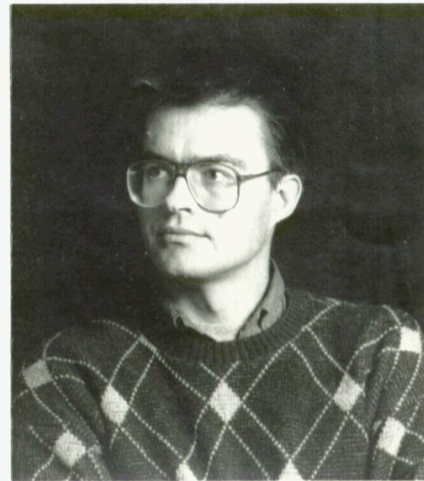
The Gallery recently welcomed two new permanent staff members.

Mr Hubert Klaassens, who has been appointed Exhibitions Officer, in fact rejoins the staff after three years in Nelson. In his previous role he was exhibitions technician and so, is familiar with the operations of the area he now controls. Trained as a graphic designer with considerable expertise in computer graphics, Hubert is keen to develop the exhibition design aspect of his position.

Mr Gerrard Mitten has been appointed the Gallery Custodian. Gerry is an ex-army officer with wide experience in building management and security. He has already put the staff through their fire drill paces and found the source of a puzzling leak above the Centre Court.



Gerard Mitten.



Hubert Klaassens.

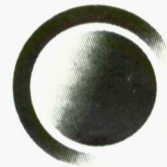
Coming Events

- July**
- 1 **A Harbour View** – until August 28
 - Artists on the Avon** – until August 28
 - Alfred Walsh & Friends** – until August 30
 - Russell Clark Illustrations** – until July 7
 - Chris Booth South Island Rock Pillars** – until July 5
 - Kinsey Before the Lens** – until July 16
 - Muka Studio Lithographs** – until July 30
 - 1 **Saturday Club 10.30 a.m.** Art Appreciation club for adults.
 - 5 **The Social Rule of Art Lecture Series** – Session 7. A personal overview of the NZ School prescriptions for New Zealand art since 1945 and the effects these courses may have on the future role of art in New Zealand Society. Speakers: Bronwyn Taylor, Penny Orme, Jonathon Smart 7.30 p.m. Admission \$10.00.
 - 8 **Continuing Club** – 10.30 a.m. Art Appreciation club for adults.
 - 10 **Poster display for the 'Bicentennial of the French Revolution'** – until July 23.
 - 19 **Friends Speaker of the Month** 10.30 a.m. Pamela Nunns, lecturer in Art History, University of Canterbury will speak on 'The Pre-Raphaelite Movement'. Coffee served \$1.50.
 - 20 **Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m. Gallery club for physically disabled visitors. All welcome.
 - 20 **Pre-Raphaelite Photography**, Exhibition opening 7.30 p.m. Bill Main, Director of Exposures Gallery, Wellington, will open the exhibition and speak on 'Early Photography in New Zealand 1850-1890'.
 - 23 **Slide Lecture**. Joachim Klos will speak on 'Contemporary Stained Glass Designs in Western Germany and Europe', 3 p.m.
 - 26 **Wednesday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art Appreciation club for adults.
 - 28 **Volunteers Morning** 10.30 a.m. A social morning and guided tour for Gallery volunteers.
 - 30 **Slide Lecture**. Jonathon Mane, lecturer in Art History, University of Canterbury will speak on 'Photography, Nature and Pre-Raphaelitism' 3 p.m.
- August**
- 1 **Pre-Raphaelite Photography** – until August 8
 - A Harbour View** – until August 28
 - Artists on the Avon** – until August 28
 - 3 **Susan Wilson** – until September 24
 - 5 **Saturday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art Appreciation club for adults.
 - 6 **Slide Lecture**. Pamela Nunns, Lecturer in Art History, will speak on 'The Pre-Raphaelite Movement'.
 - 12 **Continuing Club** 10.30 a.m. Art Appreciation club for adults.
 - 13 **Concert**. Orpheus presents a programme of English, French and German instrumental and vocal music, 3 p.m.
 - 16 **Friends Speaker of the Month** 10.30 a.m. Hilary Langer will speak on 'Indonesian Textiles'. Coffee served \$1.50.
 - 17 **Kilmarnock Club** 10.30 a.m. Gallery club for disabled visitors. All welcome.
 - 17 **Laurence Aberhart Photographs** – until September 19.
 - 23 **Wednesday Club** 10.30 a.m. Art Appreciation club for adults.
 - 25 **Volunteers Morning** 10.30 a.m. A social morning and guided tour for Gallery volunteers.

Exhibition dates and programmes could vary slightly.

Friends of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery Inc.

President – Ian Miles 519-955
Treasurer – Chris Brocket 557-133
Secretary – Gwen Wilton 663-675



Brian Muir 1943-1989

Many Friends of the McDougall will remember with fondness Brian Muir, the Director of the McDougall 1969-1978 and the founder of the Friends of the McDougall. It is with deep regret that we learn of his recent death in Auckland after a long illness.

Mr Muir was born in 1943 at Waiuku, where he received his primary and secondary education. He obtained a bachelor's degree in history and fine arts from Auckland University and spent a year at Auckland Teachers College before becoming a teacher at Pukekohe, near Auckland. A year later he left teaching to join the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation's news service team based in Auckland.

From an early age Mr Muir collected Maori artefacts and colonial objects. In 1966 he opened the Waiuku Museum, housed in a disused fire station turned over to him for the purpose by the Mayor. He did the Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand in-service course, and in 1967 was appointed director of the Manawatu Art Gallery.

In 1969 he moved to Christchurch to become director of the McDougall Gallery, on Mr W. S. Baverstock's retirement. He instituted changes at the gallery which he saw principally as an



Brian Muir at a Gallery Function.

educational institution, establishing rooms in which paintings were associated together with period furnishings and decorative objects to give context to the works of art.

With a small staff, he initiated important touring exhibitions surveying New Zealand art history. His influence in the gallery's programmes began a steady

improvement in the gallery's attendances.

In 1978 he resigned to take up the position of curator of decorative arts at the Auckland Institute and Museum. He continued in this post until a serious accident in 1987 forced an early retirement.

Mr Muir is survived by his wife and two sons.

Why not be more involved with your Gallery this year?

The Friends Committee wishes to invite all our Friends to become more involved with the Gallery this year and with the many activities associated with the Friends of the Robert McDougall.

Examples of the existing voluntary participation of Friends within the Gallery's activities already include a wide range of activities. Some assist with the serving of food and drinks at Gallery exhibition openings. Others help one Wednesday morning each month with the process of folding and mailing the Bulletin. Others help on the third Wednesday each month with serving the coffee at the very popular 'Speaker of the Month' sessions. Some are members of the Gallery's very hard working Gallery Guide Team and others help as security assistants at the McDougall's Art Annex in the Arts Centre.

Commitment to many of these activities can be either on a long or a short term basis and in return the Gallery organises a

special Volunteers' Morning on the last Friday each month when coffee and a special guided tour of recent exhibitions is provided for all our Gallery volunteers.

If you would like to join in with one of these activities you are most warmly invited to contact the Gallery 650-915 or Sam Beveridge at 793-090. They will be pleased to talk with you about your involvement with these Friends' activities and perhaps enroll you for the team.

Speaker of the Month – April Rena Jarosewitsch – Stained Glass Designer

A good audience followed Rena's talk and glorious slides with rapt attention. Her main contention was that architectural glasspainting, and its relationship to its context in space, is most important as a means to transform rooms. Important also is that the chosen medium be appropriate for the idea at hand.

Rena brilliantly sustained her objective of illustrating how successfully and sensitively stained glass windows integrate

with the architecture without being a mere embellishment or decoration. She also showed us innovative examples from West Germany, France, Great Britain, Canada, U.S.A. and New Zealand.

Speaker of the Month – May Don Peebles

To a large and most appreciate audience, Don Peebles gave a most interesting account of his recent visits to the studios, 'painting territories' and homes of Cezanne, Renoir, Matisse and Monet. It was fascinating to see slides of the personal buildings and gardens used by these famous painters and to see how they related so closely to the well known works.

New Members

D.B. & S.J. Morgan
K. Morgan
C. Morgan
M. Tait
Julie Sigley
P.L. Dennis – life member
Mrs P.G. Scott